

# COLLEGE**Matters**

**Beginning 2019 with**  
*the message of love*

**WELCOME TO KINDER & YEAR 7**

**OUR PILGRIMS ATTEND  
WORLD YOUTH DAY**

**LAUNCHING THE PARENT  
PARTNERSHIP CHARTER**



**MACKILLOP**  
Catholic College  
WARNERVALE





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# Welcome to 2019

*The spirit here is so palpable and alive, it reminds us all that we have a very special place here at MacKillop, College Principal, Steve Todd.*

**2019 HAS COMMENCED** in tremendous style with a hive of activity about the College. It is a joy seeing all the students, staff and families start off a new school year in such a positive way. The spirit here is so palpable and alive, it reminds us all that we have a very special place here at MacKillop.

We are all delighted to see so many new faces about the College. The Kinder and Year 7 students are an impressive group and they have all taken to the everyday scene of MacKillop with much enthusiasm. We were delighted to see our Kinders with their MacKillop teddy bears at our Welcome Mass on Sunday 17 February.

As usual, we have hit the ground running with lots of events and happenings across the entire campus. Lots of helping hands have supported the students and the College for the start of the year and for that spirit of cooperation we are most grateful to everyone.

This first edition of College Matters covers many of the beginning events and the details are contained in each article that follows in this first edition of the year.

I would like to mention an important leadership matter for parents as we have welcomed back our Primary Principal, Sue Dietrich, this year after spending 6 months working in the Newcastle Diocese last year. Mrs Dietrich has indicated to us this will be her final year as our Primary Principal before transitioning to retirement. There is much to acknowledge and recognize with Mrs Dietrich's leadership as our Primary Principal over the past ten years and we look forward to celebrating her journey here at MacKillop later in the year.

The level of achievement of our MacKillop students always impresses us and there are two events that will be covered in more detail in this edition of College Matters, which I would also like to mention in my reflection. The first event involves our students and staff attending and supporting World Youth Day (WYD) held in Panama in January. Ten senior students and three staff joined other pilgrims across the diocese of Broken Bay as the largest single group of school students to travel to Panama. The reports which have returned to us acknowledge just how impressive our students were for this significant event. We are extremely proud of this group of young women and men who represented us at WYD and their stories have been relayed with much enjoyment and pride back to the students.

The other event I would like to acknowledge is the NSW CCC Blues Awards held in Wollongong on Monday 11 February. For a school to have one recipient of a Blues Award is pretty special but to have three recipients in one year is most unusual and special. MacKillop has three students who have shone as exceptional sports people. We congratulate Annika Boyd (Golf), Nathan Ward (Swimming) and Jack Taylor (Softball) for receiving their Blues Awards for their outstanding performances in 2018. The College community is very proud of these students and we are keen to continue following their sporting pursuits in 2019.

Finally, I would like to advise our community that the College Matters publication will be available on our website to all families once a term in 2019. Enjoy the articles and recognition of our students throughout 2019.





# Starting our 2019 year ahead

*We look forward to the year ahead, as we work with parents in this important task of educating your child. Sue Dietrich, Primary Principal.*

**THANK YOU FOR** the warm return I have received to our MacKillop community. My time working with Maitland/Newcastle Diocese last year was very rewarding on both a professional and personal level. Meeting, working with and supporting many Principals across the Diocese as they forge their way with their communities, gave me an insight into a variety of leadership visions and styles. Personally, the part-time workload for the 6 months gave me some much needed space from full-time work and I was able to spend some wonderful time with my family and grandchildren.

I am both humbled and so appreciative of the College Leadership, Fr Vince and staff for supporting me as I made this decision and most importantly, I am so thankful to Mrs Ann Jackson for taking on the role of Primary Principal so admirably and capably during that time. I have heard so many positive comments on her leadership during that time from both parents and staff. Also, my thanks must go to Mrs Kerry Power and Mrs Allison Passafaro as they stepped up into the roles of Assistant Principal and REC, supporting Mrs Jackson during this time.

Now, here we are starting a new year ahead. We all look forward to taking the College into the year ahead, continuing to grow as a quality, respected, and faith-filled educational community.

We welcome our returning staff, Mrs Ashlee Garling, from

her family leave and Mrs Alicia Hanson, from her year working at Terrigal, and welcome new staff members, Miss Grania Pourbozorgi and Mrs Cindy Noah.

Welcome also to the 23 new children and their families in Years 1–6 and our 72 new Kindergarten children who joined us last Friday to begin their educational journey.

Congratulations to our Primary Captains, Jasmine Fisher and Ryan Mills, the Year 6 Leaders and Years 3, 4 and 5 SRC Leaders as they begin their journey as leaders of Primary. We look forward to working with them throughout the year.

In 2019, we are focusing particularly on writing as part of English learning. In order to do this, we will be holding hourly meetings each week with each grade in order to plan our teaching from the needs of the students. Whilst we have always done this, these Professional Learning Teams will tap into the collective wisdom of all teachers and planning from week to week will be informed through professional dialogue.

Another initiative we are trialing this year is a programme called Get Reading Right. This programme aims to assist with reading and writing and is a prescribed comprehensive program that will be taught every morning in every class from 9am until 9.20am.

We look forward to the year ahead, as we work with parents in this important task of educating your child.



# Come, Engage and Belong

**Debra Ferguson, Secondary Principal** *thanks all our parents for trusting us with the education of their children.*

**ON BEHALF OF** the MacKillop Catholic College staff I would like to welcome everyone back to 2019 and another exciting year. It is a privilege for me to work closely with our College Principal, Mr Steve Todd, and the Primary Principal, Mrs Sue Dietrich, as well as the College Leadership team to ensure that MCC remains a highly respected school where students are happy, challenged, successful and safe.

This year we welcomed 153 new Year 7 students who have settled quickly into high school life and who are already making an impact with their cooperation and enthusiasm. We also welcomed a number of new students into Years 8-11 and we thank their parents and all our parents for trusting us with the education of their children.

This term is always hectic as we have our Senior Mass and Luncheon, our Welcome Mass and barbeque, the Opening College Mass and Ash Wednesday, three secondary carnivals for swimming, athletics and cross country, a number of representative sports carnivals, excursions, Catholic Schools

Week, our Open Afternoon and the Kindergarten and Year 7 2020 Information Night. The dates for all these are on our website and we look forward to the joy all these events bring.

This year we will continue to develop with our staff and students a culture of thinking where they develop skills of independent learning and time management, cooperative learning, visible thinking skills and taking opportunities to be the best they can be. We will also target areas where the data has shown our students need assistance. These will be in the areas of inference and being able to write well written, succinct paragraphs and extended responses. Our partnership this year with Elevate (see article on this further on in College Matters) will concentrate on our and NESA's goal of "one year's growth" for every student over the next twelve months.

So, for 2019 we invite everyone to - "Come, Engage and Belong" whilst being a light to the world, to value learning and honour each other.







# The adventure begins!

*Welcome you to the wild world of kindergarten...* Cathy Whitmore, Alexandra Cooper and Cath Paholski.

**OUR LIVELY BUNCH** of Kindergarten children came to us full of excitement, curiosity and a pinch of nerves. Some approached the classroom with bright eyes and beaming smiles, while others couldn't hold back the tears (parents included). The first day of Kindergarten is always overwhelming but somehow, we all leave at the end of the day with big smiles and full hearts.

The children have settled into their classes beautifully and are showing lots of enthusiasm whilst learning and making new friends. There have been so many 'new' things to learn and explore, which can be quite overwhelming, yet our little cherubs have taken it all in their stride!

It was an exciting moment when our Kindergarten friends joined us in the Church for our Welcoming Mass. The highlight

was walking hand-in-hand and sitting with our families in the Church to celebrate becoming a part of the MacKillop family. We were so proud of the children's behaviour and ability to sit and listen quietly to all the important announcements. I am sure everyone enjoyed their child's beautiful singing and dancing too.

We have enjoyed borrowing books from the library with Mrs Martin and playing games with Mrs Denneman during sport lessons. All three classes have had time to play as a whole group and to practice our 'bucket-filling' behaviour such as sharing and using kind words.

It has been an exciting start to our new Kindergarten year. All three Kindergarten teachers cannot wait to see where this joyful group of children will take us next!







# Welcome to Year 7

*Year 7 start the year in a very positive manner, John McNamara.*

**A WARM WELCOME** to the students and parents of Year 7 2019. As the Year 7 Coordinator, it is my pleasure to be working with such a fine group of young people and their families. This year marks my sixteenth year at MacKillop Catholic College and I believe that the community spirit at MCC remains second to no other college on the Central Coast. Along with Mrs Kathleen Black, who is the Year 7 Assistant and Transition Coordinator, we look forward to working in partnership with you for 2019.

After various Transition and Orientation Days in 2018, it is hard to believe the speed at which Year 7 are moving through their first term of Secondary school. I would like to thank Mr Julian Legge for the tremendous work he did in transitioning Year 6 into Year 7. What a term it has been to date! Year 7 have started the year in a very positive manner and have represented the College, and themselves, with pride. The transition into Secondary school has been seamless for most, and their subject teachers are very happy with the progress they are making thus far.

The theme for Year 7 2019 is a passage from Micah 6:8 '... to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' This is a constant reminder for the Year 7 students to always

do what is right, to show compassion and mercy to others and to be humble and prayerful people. I am proud of the way in which the Year 7 students have demonstrated these values through their enthusiasm to participate and their genuine concern for each other.

The students of Year 7 have been enthusiastic to become involved in the MacKillop community and have represented their cohort in various events and initiatives. These include: the welcome night, the forthcoming College carnivals, the MacKillop Place excursion to North Sydney, and representative sport. It's exciting to think about what Year 7 will achieve in a whole year if this is what they have achieved in the first half of one term. The main event for Term 2 is the Year 7 Camp to the Great Aussie Bush Camp for two nights and three days. This event takes place on the 1-3 May and is a compulsory school event for all Year 7 students..

I look forward to sharing with you the many exciting accomplishments of Year 7 2019. Should you have a question, wish to discuss an issue or raise any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the College or email me. I look forward to continuing to journey with you and your child over the course of the year in 2019 and beyond.

# Pilgrimage to Panama for World Youth Day

*"I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."* Lk1:38, Maisie Tenev.

**THERE ARE SOME** moments in life that are serendipitous, some would call it 'grace', and the 2019 World Youth Day (WYD) event in Panama was just that. With 52 other pilgrims from the Broken Bay Diocese, we left Sydney on the 16 January to fly into Mexico. The Broken Bay group celebrated Mass each day, visited significant basilicas and cathedrals, climbed ancient Aztec pyramids, danced to mariachi bands and even managed to do some shopping at the local markets.

Once we arrived in Panama it was 'all systems go' in preparation for the week of WYD. We had the opportunity to participate in many events that allowed pilgrims to engage in, explore and express their faith. The joy and openness of pilgrims combined with the welcoming nature of the Panamanians meant that the atmosphere was electric. The main events included an Aussie Gathering, the Opening Mass, Welcome Ceremony for the Pope, the Vigil and Closing Mass. Being present with thousands of other people from around the world meant that it was a feast for the senses and the excitement was palpable. The pilgrims came together with a common purpose and the Catholic Church was truly universal, living and dynamic.

There were many highlights from the pilgrimage including seeing Pope Francis within close proximity as he passed through the crowds of the faithful. However, it was the Vigil, sleep out and Closing Mass that proved to be the climax of WYD and was even more special, as it was also Australia Day.

Mr Damien Tomsett, Shari Towns, Ryley Small and Charlie Martin were part of a select group from the Broken Bay Diocese who spent the Vigil in 'Ground Zero'. This was an exclusive VIP section at the front of the stage and a once in a lifetime opportunity. The sleep out was an experience in itself and 700,00 pilgrims managed to get a couple of hours sleep before we were woken with a very loud and enthusiastic "Buenos Dias!" Once the Closing Mass was over we made our way to The Gamboa Rainforest Resort to 'retreat' and reflect on all that we had experienced on our pilgrimage. Amidst the busyness of the trip, there were many moments to participate in the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, for quiet prayer and reflection.

On behalf of the pilgrims, we would like to express our gratitude to the people who supported and prayed for us. The students were exceptional in their representation of the MacKillop community and we are so proud of their participation, enthusiasm and support of one another. It was a privilege to witness and share in the faith formation of all the pilgrims and the memories we have will be treasured for a lifetime. We have returned from a journey that has challenged us, inspired us and enriched us in more ways than we could have ever anticipated. To experience something like this was amazing and we are so blessed and thankful to have been a part of this pilgrimage.









# A place where you belong

**Kerry Power** *welcomes all to MacKillop.*

**SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY** was an amazing celebration for the new members of our community.

Kindergarten and Year 7 students, and new families, gathered at our College Church, St. Mary of the Cross, at Mass to celebrate Eucharist together. The Church was overflowing with families as the new members joined the existing congregation as a way to say, "Welcome!".

College Parliament and Primary Leaders assumed major ministries on the day as Welcomers, Readers, Choir and Collectors as well as a huge effort toward the post Mass BBQ. These students are a credit to the College and confirmed them as leaders within our community. The Kindergarten students performed the Thanksgiving Song 'Welcome to God's House' and encouraged the congregation, with their enthusiasm to

join in. In such a short time they have already learned so much, including the special place that is the Church.

Father Vince celebrated the Mass that concluded with a blessing for all new children and gifts to remember this first step into the MacKillop community. Kindergarten students received a teddy bear wearing a t-shirt depicting the College logo and Year 7 students received a keyring also with the logo. New students across other grades received a Mary MacKillop pin to remember the day.

Following Mass, students and their families mingled in the COLA meeting and making friends and enjoying a sausage sizzle and cake. It was a memorable celebration enjoyed by all.

Welcome and Blessings for 2019!









# JJAMM 2019

*Our College Captains, Lucy Pratt and Jack Baresic, reflect on their quality time at JJAMM.*

**THE JJAMM (JOSEPH, Julian and Mary MacKillop) Conference** was an experience of a lifetime where we were encouraged out of our comfort zones, stepping into an environment full of passionate Josephite leaders, bringing forward similar ideas and sharing similar visions. Being able to spend five days with such inspiring school leaders was an enormous privilege. We learned from other school leaders from across Australia and New Zealand, and built on our leadership skills during the many activities and challenges.

Upon returning from JJAMM, we look forward to introducing the new ideas and opportunities that we have taken from our time away, and hope that it will enhance the Josephite spirit within our school community. We were given insight into all our school communities, sharing a main focus in creating initiatives towards different problem areas in regards to social justice issues, ranging from asylum seekers and refugees, care for the environment, and caring for the homeless. Our aim is to find solutions to these actions and causes, to assist those who need it, within our own communities and beyond the gates of our school.

We felt extremely proud to share with the leaders of other Josephite schools, Sr Jan, and her team, our school values, initiatives and programs that are built on the very foundations of the Josephite spirit. We received a positive response regarding our school's JUMP initiative and towards our efforts

in improving housing affordability within our local area. Many shared our vision and are showing their support by attending a rally with their school on Thursday 14 March in Sydney that recognises the issue of homelessness. They also made a commitment to our goals by signing our petition, requesting that NSW politicians ensure a new supply of affordable housing areas will be assigned in new estates (minimum 15%). This petition is available on [change.org](http://change.org) for any who wish to join our cause.

We cannot express enough our gratitude towards the Sisters of St. Joseph who created this opportunity for school captains within Josephite schools, our school for providing us with the opportunity to attend JJAMM, and to Mrs Baxter for travelling this journey with us. We strive to continue the mission of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods by responding to our call for action and helping alleviate the needs of those suffering injustices. Ultimately, JJAMM has taught us both, that in order to be effective Josephite leaders we must utilise our ambition, skills and resources to not solely be individuals with a dream, but be the agents of change. This incredible experience has strengthened our leadership and allowed us to collaborate on new ways in which we can further appreciate and contribute to the Josephite Charism that exists at MacKillop.





# Exploring Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

**Chrystal Price** *explains how students reflect on what it means to be a MacKillop student.*

**IN WEEK 3**, Year 7 students and staff set off on a pilgrimage to MacKillop Place North Sydney and the Sisters of St Joseph Spirituality Centre Kincumber.

MacKillop Place is a special place for the Sisters of Saint Joseph as well as our College community. Whilst at North Sydney students embarked on a guided tour of the museum from a volunteer Sister of Saint Joseph accompanied by one of the HSIE teachers. The tour included a visit to Alma Cottage and the tomb of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Visiting the tomb of our patron saint was particularly a special opportunity for the students. It is here that they were able to pray together for their own intentions as well as the needs of our community.

Year 7 were also fortunate to participate in a workshop that explored the life of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. This workshop was led by Sister Annie and educator Veronica Rizk. In these workshops the students explored the connections of their house values to the current work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and how they can apply the charism of Mary MacKillop to their own lives today.

At the Spirituality Day at Kincumber the students visited the museum on site and went on a walking tour of the grounds

led by the volunteers. On the tour the students learnt about St Mary of the Cross and her passion to care for the poor orphans who lived at this historical site. Students also learnt about the history of the area and the importance of the work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in running the boys' home in the early nineteenth century. Year 7 also participated in a workshop facilitated by the Youth Ministry Leader, Mrs Elizabeth Reynolds. This engaging session allowed the students to reflect on what it means to be a MacKillop student and live out the core values connected to the house system. Fr Vince our Parish Priest then finished off the day with an engaging Q&A session with the students at the Holy Cross Church. This was quite an insightful part of the day and it was good to see so many students curious to learn about the Catholic faith and its symbols.

A special thank you to all the staff who attended and facilitated the organisation of the excursions. These two days were great opportunities for the students to gain an understanding of our patron Saint, make connections to their house values and learn about how they can live out their lives with a Josephite heart.





# JUMPing straight into 2019

*Giving back to the local community, Michelle Baxter.*

**2019 IS GOING** to be an exciting year for our JUMP participants. There were many outreach opportunities in 2018, and this year looks to be no different. Volunteering at Coast Shelter is a fantastic way for students and their parents to give back to the local community. The Glen is a facility in Chittaway Point that assists people with alcohol and drug addiction. Students are taken on a tour of the site, experience a smoking ceremony and learn about the impacts addiction can have on the individual, family and friends, as well as the wider community.

Another opportunity exists for students to travel to Kings Cross. Students are invited to take a journey through the streets of the Cross with long-time resident Mr English who shares his personal experience of homelessness and hardship. Whilst these are only a few of the initiatives that students can partake in through the College, there are many other options throughout the year. Students are also encouraged to look for areas of need in their homes and the wider community.



## Stepping up to leadership

*Seniors advised on how to maximise their learning potential, Debra Ferguson.*

**IN WEEK 2**, MacKillop held its annual "Christ Our Light" Senior Luncheon. This commenced with a Senior Mass where we honoured our seniors as the leaders of the College community as well as developing into young adults. At the Mass the Year 11 students were presented with their senior badges by the Year 12 College Captains and all the students recited their senior pledge to the community.

Following the Mass the students and staff travelled to the Wyong Leagues Club where we all enjoyed a two course meal as part of our celebration and recognition of our senior students. During this celebration we also recognised our high achieving Year 12 students from the 2018 HSC including the top 10 ATAR students, those students who achieved first place in the Diocese in a particular subject and students whose major works have been nominated for HSC showcases. They were all invited, with their parents, to join us for this meal and to tell our senior students what they will be doing this year. Amongst our achievers we have students becoming lawyers, engineers, designers, teachers and careers in the armed forces.

Every year the Dux of the College addresses us all and gives advice to the students on how to maximise their learning potential. Our Dux for 2018, Sean Clair, spoke extremely well on the day giving wise advice.

We also invite an ex-student back each year to explain what they have been doing since leaving school and also to suggest positive ways forward as a young adult. This year, Daniel Langbridge, who attended MacKillop between 2009-2014, gave great advice on working hard and following your dreams.

This day is always such a great success and our students respond so positively and maturely to this step up into being young adults who now have their futures in their own hands.







# HSC Class of 2018: A promising performance

*It is with enormous pride that we congratulate the entire class of 2018, Mel McGuinness.*

**MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE**, Warnervale proudly welcomes a solid HSC result from the Class of 2018. There are many ways to examine data and data is best used when we ask ourselves questions and know the narrative behind that data. Our students have continued the fine performance of honour listings achieved by the last six HSC cohorts. We extend our congratulations to the entire HSC Class of 2018 and all our staff, as these achievements continue the impressive reputation of the College's learning culture.

A significant proportion of the candidature of the HSC Class of 2018 has recorded a very credible HSC performance with 94% of all HSC entries achieving Band 3 and above. The statistics are even more impressive with close to 68% of all listings representing Band 4 and above with a most commendable level of 24 of all listings representing the top two bands. It is worth noting the shift in the lower band ranges.

## HSC Results 2018 - All Courses N=124

Bands	6+E4	5+E3	4+E2	3	2	1
Listings	19	134	278	161	36	1
%	3	21	44	26	6	<1
Variation from 2017	-1.5%	-2.7%	7.8%	-3.3%	1.3%	-0.01%

What stands out for this HSC result is the close alignment

with the bands over the past three years. The statistics are closely mirrored with the bottom two bands at a very low level. There is much to celebrate with the all-round quality of the HSC performances at the College.

A significant number of HSC Courses achieved above the State Mean – 19 (54.5%) courses in total. Furthermore 50% of extension courses were above state average. A range of courses continue to be among our best performed courses with over 2 average marks above the State mean. MacKillop HSC students have performed well above the State mean in these courses:

Community and Family Studies	6.4
Dance 2 unit	1.27
Design & Technology	1.29
English Standard	2.41
English Extension I	1.87
Geography	4.66
Industrial Technology	18.69
Information Processes & Technology	4.14
Legal Studies	0.09
Mathematics Extension II	9.04
Mathematics General 2	0.38
Music 1	3.86
Senior Science	2.28
Studies of Religion 2	3.56
Textiles and Design	3.06
Business Services Examination	2.24
Construction Examination	7.19
Entertainment Industry Examination	4.11
Hospitality Examination	4.35



The College proudly acknowledges the top performing students with 12 individual students achieving 18 honour listings across 15 subjects. Sean Clair achieved 8 units at honour listing level. There were two honour listings in Ancient History, one in Community & Family Studies, one in Construction, one in Design and Technology, one in Extension I English, one in Geography, one in Industrial Technology, one in Legal Studies, one in Mathematics, one in Mathematics Extension I and one in Mathematics Extension 2, a further one in Mathematics General 2, three in Music I, one in Studies of Religion I & Studies of Religion II and one in Textiles and Design I.

Eight of our students achieved first in the Diocese of Broken Bay in the following subjects:

Dance, Geography, Information Processes and Technology, Mathematics Extension I, Mathematics Extension II, Music I, Studies of Religion II and Construction Examination.

We congratulate the following 12 individual students for receiving 19 honour listings in the 2018 HSC:

<b>Edric Alejo</b>	Industrial Technology
<b>Gabrielle Baus</b>	Design and Technology
<b>Marcus Chijjoff</b>	Mathematics, Maths Ext 1&2, Studies of Religion I
<b>Sean Clair</b>	Ancient History, Geography, Legal Studies, Studies of Religion II
<b>Dena De Chellis</b>	Community and Family Studies
<b>Kayla Earle</b>	Ancient History, English Extension I
<b>Bonnie Fleming</b>	Textile and Design
<b>Kate Fullbrook</b>	Music I
<b>Monique Gilbert</b>	Music I

<b>Tearna Langbridge</b>	Mathematics General 2
<b>Tiarnagh Montague</b>	Music I
<b>Kyle Price</b>	Construction

#### TOP TEN ATAR STUDENTS

Congratulations to Sean Clair who achieved the highest ATAR of 96.95 and so deservedly becomes the College Dux. We join in congratulating the Top Ten ATAR students for the HSC 2018:

<b>Sean Clair</b>	96.95
<b>Marcus Chijjoff</b>	
<b>Gabrielle Baus</b>	
<b>Kayla Earle</b>	
<b>Kate Fullbrook</b>	
<b>Madeleine Magee</b>	
<b>Tearna Langbridge</b>	
<b>Joshua Lovett</b>	
<b>Dena De Chellis</b>	
<b>Heather Duffy</b>	

On 11 February 2019 our students were acknowledged and congratulated by the Catholic Schools Office for their outstanding HSC results. Seven of them placed first in the diocese in a subject or were commended by NESA for major works and performances. As a community we celebrate the ways in which our students apply themselves in all that they undertake and we wish them every success in the years ahead.

It is with enormous pride that the college congratulates the entire HSC class of 2018 and we wish each student every blessing in taking up the next stage of their individual journeys.





# The world's leading study skills partner

**Debra Ferguson** outlines how Elevate's seminars and resources help students of all abilities.

**THIS YEAR MACKILLOP** has engaged a group called Elevate to assist our students in their study and learning skills.

The organisation, ELEVATE, are providing programs in over 1000 schools across Australia. They have completed 17 years of research benchmarking and studying students from around the world allowing Elevate to identify the habits that differentiate the world's top students.

Elevate's seminars and resources help students of all abilities to develop and use these same habits, to facilitate more effective learning, improve learning outcomes and increase overall student performance. They do this by:

- Short, sharp sessions to workshop the nominated skill sets
- Using young presenters to which students can relate
- Providing practical skills that can be used immediately
- Follow up so it is more than a one-off presentation
- Providing engaging workshops in small, class-sized groups

- Supporting the staff and parents by providing a workshop for each group on how to support this program with the students

The school is providing this free to the students and this year we will trial the program by holding:

- A staff training session in Week 4 of this term.
- A parent training session informing them of all that is available including a student portal for all parents on Tuesday 2 April at 6.30pm
- We will have Year 7, 11 and 12 participate in this program in 2019 and look to including all years in 2020 if the program proves to be beneficial this year.

We are very excited about providing these opportunities for our students and urge all Year 7, 11 and 12 parents to attend the Parent Session and any other parent who might like to hear about this program.





# Artists in excellence

Jillian Young showcases Year 9 Visual Arts.

**INSPIRED BY ARTISTS** Carol Atkin's panoramas of the beach and rainforest landscapes, Year 9 explored negative space.





# Around the grounds in Primary

Kellie Denneman covers a brilliant start to 2019 in sporting achievements.

**AT ASSEMBLY EARLIER** this term we were able to announce the results from our fun-filled Swimming Carnival held at the end 2018. We celebrated the success of all of our Age Champions for 2019:

- 8 Yr Girls                Scarlett Clark
- 8 Yr Boys               Samuel Hill
- 9 Yr Girls               Scarlett Goody
- 9 Yr Boys               Jackson Grace
- 10 Yr Girls              Cora Logan
- 10 Yr Boys              Patrick Kyle
- 11 Yr Girls              Ava-Marie Carlson
- 11 Yr Boys              Kye Northey
- 12/13 Yr Girls          Jasmin Fisher
- 12/13 Yr Boys          Dylan Wightman

Temuka were clear winners of the perpetual colour house trophy for swimming

1. Temuka 1102
2. Alma 890
3. Fitzroy 789
4. Gesu 682
5. Penola 666
6. Kincumber 632

Thirty swimmers have qualified to represent MacKillop at the CCC Swimming Carnival at Mingara and we wish them all the very best of luck.

Ava-Marie Carlson (Year 6) and Elouise Falconer (Year 6) represented the Broken Bay Diocese at Polding Summer

Sport Trials in Lismore during Week 2. Elouise performed admirably in the Girls Tennis squad despite a recent injury, falling just short of qualification to progress to the next level. Ava was selected for the 2019 Polding Girls Cricket Team and will participate in the NSWPSA Girls Cricket Carnival in Raby during Term 4. We are very proud that both girls were such fine ambassadors for our school and Diocese.

Primary students were lucky to have a visit from Sydney Swans Senior Players, Robbie Fox and Jack Maubaum, as part of the 2019 AFL Community Camp Program. At a special assembly Robbie and Jack spoke to the children about their personal journey into AFL, the benefits of being active, having fun and eating healthy. We learned that there is a Swans Red Rookie program allowing FREE entry to Swans games and that we can do Auskick or play local footy here on the Central Coast. Some lucky children even won prizes for answering quiz questions.

Wonderful school spirit was on display at the CCC Swimming Carnival at Mingara. Congratulations to our team of 30 swimmers who swam and cheered their hearts out on the day. MacKillop finished 7th overall on the points table. A special mention to the following students on individual efforts:

- Krystal Lees – 2nd place in 8Yr Girls 50m Freestyle
- Cora Logan – 3rd place in 10Yr Girls 50m Breaststroke
- Dylan Wightman – 1st place in 12Yr Boys Butterfly, Backstroke, 200m Individual Medley and 3rd place in 50m Freestyle

Dylan came very close to winning 'Swimmer of the Meet' finishing 3rd overall. We wish Krystal and Dylan the best of luck as they now progress to the Broken Bay Swimming Carnival in Week 6.





# Secondary sporting achievement

*MacKillop students shine as NSWCCC's finest Athletes, Rachael Elcoate.*

**THE NEW SOUTH** Wales Combined Catholic Colleges (NSWCCC) Blues awards recognises the most elite athletes across all sports in NSW Catholic Schools. To be selected for a NSWCCC Blue award, athletes must be the top 2 athletes in their sport and must fulfil the sporting criteria, often being selection in the NSW All Schools team and competing at the School Sport Australia tournament as a Year 10, 11 or 12 student.

In 2018, 64 students across NSWCCC schools were awarded Blues awards. Of these 64, 6 students were from the Diocese of Broken Bay and of these 6, MacKillop was so proud that 3 of these students were from our College. The Blue awards took place in early February this year in Wollongong and as a member of the NSWCCC Council (for Tennis) I had the privilege of reading each students citation, and our Director Mr Peter Hamill presented the athletes for our Diocese.

Annika Boyd received a Blue award in the sport of Golf. She won the NSWCCC Matchplay title, was selected into the NSW All Schools team where she placed 3rd at the Strokeplay championships and likewise at the School Sport Australia tournament. Annika was selected into the School Sport Australia Team of the Year for 2018.

Jack Taylor received a Blue award in the sport of Softball. He was recognised for his selection into the NSW All Schools team in 2017 and 2018. Jack was recognised for his skills in both defensive and offensive plays and his drive and determination to provide a positive impact to the team. Jack's 'never say die' attitude was recognised when he contributed to helping NSW turn a deficit into a Gold medal winning performance at the Pacific School games in 2017.

Nathan Ward received a Blue award in the sport of Swimming. He was recognised for his achievements in the stroke of Breaststroke and Freestyle. Nathan won the 50m and 100m breaststroke events at the NSWCCC and NSW All Schools championships. He was selected into the NSW All Schools team as the Vice-Captain to compete in Hobart where he won the Gold Medal in the 50m and 100m Breaststroke, 4th in the 50m Freestyle and a silver in the Medley relay.

The success of these 3 students was celebrated on the night with our Secondary Principal Mrs Ferguson and many families present. We are very proud of Annika, Jack and Nathan who achieved this success as Year 11 students in 2018. We wish them well in their sports this year as HSC students.



# Animation in the classroom

*Year 10 Photographic and Digital Media students experienced a day as animators, Jillian Young.*

**YEAR 10 PHOTOGRAPHY** and Digital Media students participated in a Claymation workshop. This incursion allowed students to become an animator for the day as they experience what it is like to write, create characters from modelling clay, build sets, film and edit a short Claymation film. Using hi-tech computer equipment, students produced a 20-30 second film that includes music and sound for effect. It was a productive and enjoyable day for all involved with some valuable skills learned along the way.



# Greetings from the library

*What a wonderful place to be, Bronwyn Sandeman.*

**THE LIBRARY STAFF** at MacKillop are once again excited to embark on a wonderful year in 2019, engaging with the school community over the resources and services we provide. This year we have modified our senior study rooms to provide more efficient and flexible spaces not just for quiet learning but also for the more noisy collaborative activities. We now have seven small room areas that allow students and staff a choice of what will work best for their varying needs. Our weekly Secondary Book Club and Writing Club sessions are going strong with those involved keen to interact and share with others elements of stories they have read or written while enjoying a yummy hot chocolate. We warmly welcome any newcomers who wish to explore a love of literature. Our extensive resources, both fiction and non-fiction are continually growing and adapting

to best meet current needs. We have recently extended our ebook collection to include audiobooks via our eWheeler collection and hope that the school community takes advantage of what this has to offer. Our fiction genre area has grown to include Contemporary Fiction which focuses on themes of growing up and confronting personal and social issues, portraying characters in our contemporary world, helping readers better understand themselves and others. Our primary non-fiction area has also undergone change, developing into a much more usable area with new genres and layout. Our library team are constantly involved in a myriad of activities to make your experience easy and rewarding. If you have any questions regarding our services we encourage you to ask one of our lovely staff at the circulation desk.





# Meeting our teachers

*A time for the children to take charge and be the guide! Ann Jackson.*

**OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY** enjoys the annual Meet the Teacher afternoon which provides an opportunity for parents to come to the College in order to meet their child's classroom teacher for the school year. This afternoon was held recently with many parents coming along with their children to visit their classrooms and to meet their teachers. Children take great pride in accompanying their parents to school and showing them around their classrooms, where they sit and where they put their things, and helping their parents find out about class routines and what lies ahead for the school year. It is a time for the children to take charge and be the guide! It is an afternoon of great positivity and hope for the coming year. This was no less true this year where we had a good turnout of parents and who, at a recent grade meeting, suggested that this was an occasion that they really valued and would like to continue to see on the calendar each year. It is indeed a joy to stand back and watch the excitement with which our students participate in this informal setting.



## Parent Partnership Charter

*Natalie Tunstead tells us about the wonderful turnout for this launch.*

**WE HAD A** wonderful turn up of parents and students for the launch of the Parent Partnership Charter (PPC). The evening began with mums receiving a rose and dads receiving some chocolate on arrival. Our College Leadership Team and student leaders from Primary and Secondary then offered their own reflections on the Charter. One parent commented that they saw the charter reference as a bit like chartering a boat "we're all on the boat together".

There was such a lovely feel to the evening with the shared role of supporting the development of our students from Kinder through to Year 12. It speaks highly of the wonderful spirit we have here at MacKillop and we hope all parents find this document offering them guidance and encouragement for

their highly important role.

Our College Principal, Steve Todd, was thrilled at the support from parents, staff and students as the Charter will sponsor lots of good conversation between students and parents. A huge thank you once again to all those who were able to attend the launch.

Moving forward you will see and hear reference to the PPC in discussion, correspondence and online. A copy of the PPC can be found on the College website. If you would like a paper copy please collect one from the Front Office or the Library. If you have any questions or feedback about the PPC please email me at [natalie.tunstead@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:natalie.tunstead@dbb.catholic.edu.au)



# Year 6 Graduation

*As we walk across the bridge, we look back and remember all of the good times!*  
**Jodie Lewin, Catherine Brown and Luke Bondfield.**

**WE BEGAN OUR** 2018 Year 6 Graduation celebrations in fine MacKillop fashion. Students, staff and families came together in the Aitkin Hall to celebrate Mass as we wished Year 6 students all the best before they commenced the next part of their journey in faith and education.

Later in the evening, we came together for an evening of food and fun with parents and teachers held at Wyong Leagues Club. The venue was superb and it was a night enjoyed by all. The evening began with arriving in excitement

and having photos taken with friends. The students then proceeded to the function room ready to give a formal farewell to their primary schooling. Some teachers were emotional as they said their goodbyes to this amazing group of students who have made such an impact on MacKillop Primary.

We thank the wonderful team of parents for working in collaboration with the Year 6 teachers, in planning the party and ensuring that the venue was decorated impeccably. Their passion and enthusiasm was greatly appreciated.





