

ISSUE 22 | WEEK 8, TERM 4 2019

# COLLEGE**Matters**

**Year 12 finish with a**  
*spectacular celebration*

**WE FAREWELL PART OF THE MCC FAMILY**

**STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR WORK**

**STRENGTHENING OUR SPIRITUALITY**



**MACKILLOP**  
Catholic College  
WARNERVALE





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# A special Term 4 message

**College Principal, Steve Todd, welcomes Bishop Anthony and explains some new research with Aboriginal history.**

**I BEGIN MY** College Principal's Term 4 Message with a warm welcome to our new Bishop of the Broken Bay Diocese, Bishop Anthony Randazzo. I had the pleasant role of meeting Bishop Anthony in late October and to introduce the largest Catholic School in our Diocese to him. Bishop Anthony was genuinely interested in our College and our Parish. A friend of mine who is a Sister of St. Joseph reminded me that Bishop Anthony had come to Mary MacKillop Place to say Mass for AJASS Principals in 2016. My memory recalled a very relaxed person and a man with great affection for our Patron Saint, Mary MacKillop. This gives me great hope to now have a Bishop for our Diocese with such a strong affiliation with Mary MacKillop. Bishop Anthony was installed as the Fourth Bishop of the Broken Bay Diocese on Monday 4 November and we wish him every blessing for his important role in our Diocese.

In the later part of Term 3, I was on renewal leave finishing some research for a deeper awareness and better appreciation for Aboriginal history and for what that might mean for a Catholic School such as ours. I have presented my research to the staff at our Spirituality Day this term. It was wonderful to see that our staff were keen to know more about the oldest civilization in the world and that there have been significant errors in what has been passed on to us over the years about our First Nation People. It was a pleasure to also offer some insight into the myths around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples history at the recent Senior Retreat. I would recommend to parents the book 'Dark Emu' by Bruce Pascoe as a very insightful and well researched overview about the facts and evidence behind some historical events. I would also encourage parents to read my article on a

new era of Belonging in this year's yearbook. We are also very grateful to the Mission Team led by Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson, with the inspiring work of embedding indigenous stories with each of our Houses. Mrs Ferguson has also been tireless in finding mascot costumes for each House to be launched early in 2020.

As this year comes to a close, we have many people to thank for their contribution to the College over a period of time. We will be expressing our gratitude to our Primary Principal, Sue Dietrich, at our End of Year Mass of thanksgiving on Friday 13 December. Sue has been our Primary Principal for the past ten years and over that time she has seen the Primary school grow from a two-stream to a three-stream school of over 520 students. This has been a challenging task and we thank Mrs Dietrich for her pastoral and managerial role over these years and wish her well for the next chapter in her career at the CSO in 2020. A fitting tribute has been written for Mrs Dietrich in our Yearbook and I know many, many people will take the opportunity to say thank you to Sue over the final weeks of the year.

In this edition, we have a tribute for three people who have also been great assets to the College: Mick Bowman, Business Manager; his wife Kate, who has filled the role as College Archivist; and Kerry Power, our Primary Religious Education Coordinator. We wish them all great health and much enjoyment for the adventures they have planned for the future.

I take this opportunity to thank each and every student, parent, staff and community for their contribution to 2019 and I wish you every blessing for Christmas season.





# The journey of school life

*In her final edition of College Matters, Sue Dietrich, Primary Principal, celebrates the beginning and final phases of Primary school.*

**IN THESE FINAL** weeks of Term 4 we prepare many end of year elements. Student reports, staffing and 2020 classes are also being finalised. We also have many special events ahead of us including the Christmas Concert, Spelling Bee Grand Final, Swimming Carnival, Awards Assemblies, Year 6 Graduation Mass and Dinner and the K-12 End of Year Mass. Please feel welcome to join us for these events.

Two special events that have taken place this term include the Year 5 Leadership Day and the Kindergarten 2020 Orientation Program. For our community, they mark the beginning of the new journey for the little ones and the final phase of the Primary School journey for the older students.

Our Year 5 Leadership Day centred around the students taking part in activities to learn about the qualities of a good leader, to reflect and build upon their personal leadership qualities and abilities and to begin the process of selection of leaders for 2020. At the end of the day, the children completed their nominations for the various leadership positions next year and from here a group will move forward to the next stage in this process, a presentation of speeches. Staff and children in Years 3-6 then vote on their preferred

nominee and this, along with knowledge of their children and their contribution to the Primary community, will form part of the meritorious selection process taken to Fr Vince and the College Leadership for discernment. The announcement of the 2020 School Captains will be made at the Major Awards Assembly on Wednesday 4 December.

At the end of Week 3, we concluded our Kindergarten 2020 Program. This was a great way to meet the new families and members of the current families with new children starting at MacKillop in the year ahead. My thanks go to Mrs Jackson, the Kindergarten classroom teachers, the Learning Support Team, and Mrs Natalie Tunstead who helped in many ways during the program. We look forward to welcoming the new children and their families to our community next year.

Lastly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all families for your continuing support of the College and especially the Primary campus. It is such a rewarding experience for teachers and families to be able to share the journey of school life together – the achievements, those wonderful “ah-ha” moments, the trials, tears, the joy and laughter with the children in our care. Thank you.





# Staff development day

**Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson, explains that we belong to a community that acknowledges the stories of our ancestors.**

**WE ARE ALWAYS** so aware of the impact of pupil-free days on parents and students but in my article this term I would like to reflect on and inform you about our latest professional development day which occurred on the first day of this term.

Each year the Catholic Schools Office asks us to set one day aside for a Spirituality Day where all staff may be involved in some form of immersion where they may reflect on their spiritual growth and formation.

This year the entire staff spent the day at Rafferty's Resort at Cam's Wharf. The theme of the day was based on ensuring that we as a staff understand more about the first people of Australia and our sense of belonging to this land. The title of the day was 'We belong to a community that acknowledges the stories of our ancestors'.

The Mission Team has been working with the staff and students for the past two years on a project to connect our Houses to the first peoples and linking our students to a better understanding of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples.

On the day we were blessed with the presence of a number of special guests from our local Aboriginal community. We commenced the morning with a Smoking Ceremony and Water Blessing by Aunty Louise Campbell and Jonathon Wright. We were then enlightened by two excellent key note speakers, Mr Steve Todd who has been doing a great deal of research

on the topic of our First People, and Mr Stuart McMinn, an acclaimed cultural educator and international performer from the Dharug and Wakka Wakka Nations.

In the middle of the day the staff had the opportunity to select from a number of workshops. In these they not only were taught skills but were given a great deal of information by the presenters about their lives and how we can better cater for all our Indigenous students at MCC, as well as educating all our students. The workshops included weaving, Aboriginal Art, traditional dance, learning more about the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, exploring artefacts and culture, bushtucker and the connection between Catholic faith and Aboriginal spirituality. Pictured above is the final product of our weaving workshop that Aunty Danni turned into a coolamon (A carrying vessel used in a variety of ways including carrying babies, foods and heating food). We ended this special day with a beautiful Mass with Fr Phillip.

Days such as these enrich our staff but also allow us all to experience true professional development that we can share with our students to be able to be the College we strive to be: A fully inclusive community where not only is everyone valued but where we also strive to understand and appreciate the history and spirituality of all cultures. In this case, we all walked away having learnt a great deal about our past and our connection to this land, Australia.





# Farewell Mick and Kate Bowman

**Steve Todd** offers our gratitude to Mick and Kate Bowman for the past decade at MacKillop.

**MOST DAYS OF** the year someone asks for advice on all sorts of matters relating to the College. Our default position has been for many years to seek the advice of our Business Manager, Mick Bowman. Mick has just about done everything in Catholic School education over a distinguished career of 47 years. When we need to seek feedback, further advice or for a measured response on something that may seem to be an unreasonable expectation, Mick offers much wisdom and encouragement for what we might best do. In all of this, he has humbly served our community and we now can look back and say 'thank you, Mick.'

Mick Bowman will retire this Christmas at 70 years of age with a long list of achievements that will offer him much satisfaction. Mick's wife, Kate, has also been our first College Archivist following on from a distinguished career as a Primary Teacher and Teacher Librarian having spent many years as a Teacher Librarian at St Peter's Tuggerah, St. Joseph's East Gosford and our own College. It is with much sadness that we say farewell to both Mick and Kate.

Mick began his career teaching at St. Edmund's College, Canberra in 1972 where he started a life with his wife, Kate. They were blessed to have three children in Canberra whilst Mick worked at St. Edmund's College for eleven years. In that time, Mick took on the roles of Year Coordinator, Maths Coordinator and then Assistant Principal Curriculum before Mick and Kate moved to Coffs Harbour. Mick was Assistant Principal at John Paul College for four years, during which they had their fourth child. The opportunity to be a Catholic School Principal brought Mick and Kate to the NSW Central Coast. Mick was Principal at Mater Dei College (now known as St. Peter's Tuggerah) for six years. After serving as a much-admired Catholic School Principal, Mick was the perfect choice to move into the Catholic Schools Office as Secondary Schools Consultant. Once again, Mick was not only well equipped to support school leaders he also had the fine quality of staying calm under pressure, offering wisdom to many school leaders. This led Mick to being the Acting Director of Schools for the

Broken Bay Diocese in 1995. Our Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson, worked with Mick Bowman when he was her Principal, Secondary Schools Consultant and Acting Director of Schools and not only has she many a good tale to tell but also, she speaks fondly of Mick as a man of great loyalty and integrity. It was these fine qualities that led Mick to being appointed the Director of Schools in the Newcastle/Maitland Diocese from 1996 to 2004 before retiring from that position for a well-earned sabbatical. It wasn't to last too long.

Mick is not the kind of man that would let the grass grow under his feet for long as he then started assisting a few schools in our Diocese with the New Scheme Teachers Program, as well as for being a Work, Health and Safety Officer. He was keen to support new teachers get off on the right foot and for our schools to be compliant with WH&S standards. On my arrival as College Principal at MacKillop in 2011, I could see that we needed Mick's assistance with the business operation of the College. Mick was only too happy to support us as our first Business Manager as he then organized budgets, established a finance committee and supported the College leaders with all staffing appointments including overseeing all our campus Support Staff. Mick has worked very closely with our leadership team, our Office Manager, Janine Silver, and our Finance Secretary, Penny Clift. Mick's Business Manager role was taken onboard by the CSO and implemented in all our Diocesan High Schools. Mick was blazing the trail again.

At present, we are all a bit weak in the knees as we ponder the future without Mick's everyday support. Yes, we will get by and the College will move into a new era. At the same time, we are enormously grateful to Mick and Kate Bowman for supporting us all and they leave us much the better for having them here at MacKillop.

I offer our entire community's gratitude to Mick and Kate Bowman and we wish them every blessing in retirement as they support their family and eleven grandchildren.

God bless you both!





# Congratulations Mrs Kerry Power

*Accepting an invitation to a pathway of faith that is strong and full of hope, joy, and peace, Sue Dietrich.*

**LAST TERM WE** made an important announcement that Mrs Kerry Power, our Primary Religious Education Coordinator, made a decision to change her career pathway for the remainder of this year, accepting a position at the Catholic Schools Office in the Mission Services Team. This appointment has now become permanent, which means we must say a sad farewell to our vivacious Mrs Power. Her new role centres around faith formation for school staff and evangelization for school communities. This wonderful opportunity will allow Mrs Power to expand on her invaluable passion and strengths, enabling her to share her wisdom, knowledge and expertise across the broader Diocesan context.

Before we bid farewell to Mrs Power, it is important to take a few moments to acknowledge the many gifts she has bestowed upon our community during the past five years. Mrs Power is a person who we rightly describe as a faith-filled person, the qualities of which she has generously shared with our children, staff, families and Parish community. She is a person who celebrates other people. Jesus taught that the second greatest commandment was to "love your neighbour as yourself." Mrs Power showed us this in her daily interactions with everyone.

Mrs Power believes that God loves me and you and everybody exactly as they are, unconditionally, and her living of her faith enables her to take all the relationships she has forged seriously. Mrs Power is the first person to do an extra duty for staff, to source and give much needed items for struggling families, to work for local charity organisations, to spend time with a distressed child, to loyally support the leadership of the College. She exemplifies servant leadership

as displayed by Jesus.

Who will forget the joyful way Mrs Power has led our students, parents and staff through Masses and Liturgies, especially when it came to supporting the singing of hymns with actions. I don't think we will ever sing "My Lighthouse" without remembering her happy smile and joyful actions.

We will miss Mrs Power, however, we know we will still have the opportunity to connect with her through her visits to MacKillop Catholic College in her new role and as she tells us all, 'God has positioned her where she now needs to be.'

We thank her for all she has given us through her years at MacKillop and wish her well for her future career.

God bless, Mrs Power.







# Year 12 finish in style

**Glen Taragel** *reflects on the final Year 12 celebrations for 2019.*

**WEEK 10 TERM 3** 2019, what a week for Year 12! Their final week after 13 years of formal education. The week started our traditional Charity Day. As usual, Year 12 entered into the spirit of the day with great enthusiasm and excitement, dressing up in many varied and wonderful costumes full of colour and character. The main focus of the day was to raise money for their chosen charities which were Kids with Cancer Foundation, Ocean Clean-up and the Sister Marea Foundation. Funds raised also contributed to the College gift, six College House plaques. Year 12 worked tirelessly collecting money from parents, teachers and the buses entering the College as well as having fun as they did it. A great day for everyone involved.

Formalities began the following day with a beautiful Mass, created by Mrs Price and Year 12 students. Father Carmello led the celebration and was able to connect with the Year 12 students, staff and parents which made the Mass even more special. A meaningful slideshow was presented as Georgie Taylor sang really made the students realise their time at Mackillop is coming to an end. The rest of the College student body, along with the parents and staff gave a very special and memorable farewell to our graduating HSC Class of 2019.

Year 12 left the Mass under a guard of honour which was formed by the staff and students and seemed to stretch forever. Leading the students through the guard of honour were the traditional sounds of the bagpipes which forge a very special link between the College and Mary Mackillop herself.

Walking up between the guard of honour, Year 12 eventually made it back to their parents who were waiting for them at the end. The day was full of emotions and will be remembered for a very long time. Year 12 2019 are a very special group of young men and women who had a great sense of humour and always were willing to help and support the extensive Mackillop Catholic Community.

That evening, Year 12 returned for their final Awards Night ceremony. It was a very special night where countless awards were given to students who had excelled in their studies and community service. During the night the talent of the students was also on display with a number of students performing musical and drama pieces which were of the highest quality. Well done Year 12 for a great night. The amount and variety of achievements awarded to students highlight what a fine group of young men and women Year 12 are and I look forward to seeing how the students perform in their HSC examinations.

For the Graduation Mass and Awards Night to be so successful a large amount of work goes on behind the scenes. On behalf of Year 12, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the College Executive for their input and support at these events: Mr Steve Todd, College Principal; Mrs Debra Ferguson, Secondary Principal; Mrs Mel McGuinness, Secondary Assistant Principal; and Mrs Chrystal Price, Religious Education Coordinator. My gratitude extends to all the Secondary Leaders of Teaching and Learning and, of course, Mr Russell Jones, Leader of Curriculum.



Once the HSC was completed, the focus was directed towards the formal. It would be the last time Year 12 would come together as a year group. As always it is a wonderful night where the students, staff and families come together at Mingara Recreation Club for the biggest social event of the year. Year 12 filled the room with 349 patrons where we were all able to celebrate the outstanding achievements of this fine group of young men and women.

This Year 12 cohort is a very special group of people with their thoughtfulness, unique sense of humour, community spirit and loyalty towards each other. They always showed respect towards their College and all its members, themselves and the wider community.

To Lucy Pratt and Jack Baresic, our College Captains, the Senior Cabinet and House Leaders, I thank you for your leadership and contribution you have made this year.

To all the parents of Year 12, I thank you very much for trusting and allowing MacKillop Catholic College to play a very important role in the education, growth and development

of your child. You must feel very proud of your sons and daughters as they have reached this stage in their lives and have grown into such fine young men and women. You have made sacrifices over many years to provide the educational opportunity so often, it may seem taken for granted.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Pastoral teachers for Year 12: Mr John Heffernan, Mr Scott Wallis, Mrs Jennifer Walters, Mrs Yvette Herbert, Miss Shannon Mulder, and Mr Dennis Gasparotto. Your help and support in guiding and supporting Year 12 through to the HSC was very much appreciated by Year 12 and myself. You have made my job easier and you have forged strong bonds with your pastoral class.

The formal was a very fitting way to celebrate the end of 13 years of formal education. Now it's time to say goodbye to Year 12. I wish you all the best for your HSC and future endeavors.

Year 12 fulfil your dreams, it was a privilege to work with you for the past two years.

























# Meaningful projects create visual appeal

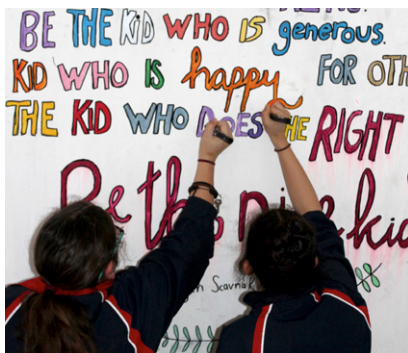
**Michelle Baxter and Belinda Wells** *praise the continued hard work of our JUMP students making change in our community.*

**TERM 3 WAS** a very busy one for our JUMP students. Two cohorts completed the JUMP program for the 2018/19 calendar year, with many participating in well over 50 hours of service opportunities both in our local and wider communities, and a special group who are on track to receiving the St Mary of The Cross Honour Award for 100 hours of service.

Students involved in the PAL (Primary Assisted Learning) Program completed a rock art installation which was proudly presented at a Primary Assembly earlier in Term 4. Every Primary family is represented as part of this artwork. Each rock has been painted in the house colour that they belong to and their surname written to symbolise their connection to the MacKillop community and story.

A group of creative artists in Year 8 revamped the Science Block female toilets over a 10 week period, transforming the drab space into a more appealing environment which also portrays a powerful message to each girl who enters. Words of inspiration, motivation and encouragement are displayed on each cubicle, with each one becoming its own work of art. They also created a large mural on the wall that adjoins the toilet block entry.

Year 7 started their JUMP journey at the beginning of Term 4. We welcome them to the program and look forward to another year where all our students live out our mission to 'be a light to the world', to strive for justice and to seek help for those who need it most.





# Spirituality alive with Year 9

**Robert Copas** *is delighted with how students embraced the Spirituality Day.*

**ON THURSDAY 14** November, Year 9 gathered for their Spirituality Day. We began by joining members of the parish for Mass in the morning. Mrs Tenev then led some fun games on the COLA including a mass game of rock-paper-scissors with a twist. Lots of lolly prizes kept student's energy levels up here! After lunch, students then participated in three social justice themed activities led by Year 9 RE teachers. Mrs Tenev and Mr Wallis led a session on 'looking beyond ourselves', in which students considered how they can assist people in need in the community. This included signing an affordable housing petition. Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Williams ran a 'Paupers Banquet' activity which gave students a 'taste' of what injustice looks and feels like. Some students were lucky enough to sit at the banquet table while others missed out, with some begging for food from the lucky selection at the banquet table. Mr Copas and Ms Doherty guided students through a slum

survivor simulation where students creatively put together makeshift tent style accommodation which was tested for its wet weather protection! Year 9 participated enthusiastically in these social experiences, and the day broadened their understanding of injustice in the world today.



## Introducing YMCC

**Maisie Tenev** *is excited about the new ventures of our Youth Ministry.*

**YOUTH MINISTRY HAS** been a hive of activity and we are proud to announce the launch of our new logo. The goal was to create something unique so that Youth Ministry at MacKillop would have its own logo and face within the community. Various drafts were created and with the assistance of Youth Ministry students and suggestions from the executive, the final design was approved. This new logo was launched by Mission Leaders at a College assembly.

Youth Ministry at MacKillop Catholic College will now be otherwise known as YMCC. The name YMCC stands for Youth Ministry MacKillop Catholic College. You will notice in the logo that the M is in bold to double up on the M for Ministry and MacKillop. Keeping it to 4 letters means that it is short, sharp, and easy to remember. YMCC is going to be used to brand youth ministry in our community and give a sense of solidarity. This will hopefully encourage other students to become familiar with what youth ministry is about and what we do here at MacKillop.

The YMCC logo is simple yet effective and can be utilised in two different ways, to the left there is the school crest with the YMCC above it and so this can be used separately to the youth ministry on its right. The cross is used in bold and through both the words youth and ministry to highlight the strong connection we are trying to build on between Christ and the youth of our College. The stars emitting from the cross symbolise our schools motto "Christ our light", gives a hopeful message of us spreading that light and also represents the six house groups here at MacKillop.



Thank you to Charlie Martin of Year 12 and Mrs Alyssa Chilvers for their support and assistance.

In preparation for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), a diocesan session was held at the Light of Christ Centre at Waitara before Praisefest began. This formation session gave students the opportunity to reflect on the journey ahead of them, as well as meet other pilgrims from the schools of the Broken Bay Diocese.

Praisefest was another great evening hosted by Catholic Youth Broken Bay (CYBB) and included a barbeque dinner, games, music, prayer and reflection, singing and dancing. There was a real sense of community and joy throughout the course of the evening and was testament to the dynamic culture of youth in our diocese. It was wonderful to see some new faces attend from MacKillop and as usual, the students represented the College with so much pride.

Thank you to the staff and students that have attended various Youth Ministry events over the course of 2019. There is much hope and excitement of what 2020 will bring with Youth Ministry at MacKillop Catholic College.



# Indigenous pilgrimage

**Marilyn Fraser** *highlights the purpose of this trip for our students and the importance of understanding our history.*

**SEVEN MACKILLOP STUDENTS** went on a life changing Aboriginal Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Northern Territory. The journey involved 17 Aboriginal students from four secondary schools in the Broken Bay Diocese on the Central Coast. The group met at Wyong Train station before traveling down to Sydney airport and flying to Darwin.

In Darwin, the students visited Mindil Beach Sunset Market and the next day they travelled to Litchfield National Park where they swam in the clear waterholes. They had a day on the Adelaide River for the Jumping Crocodile Tour Cruise. It was one of the most popular cruises with Brutus the crocodile, who was 5 metres long!

Then onto Kakadu, where they explored the main Aboriginal sites at Ubirr and Nourlangie Rock a truly unique experience. The students enjoyed exploring the galleries and learned about the history of Aboriginal traditional life, including the importance of ceremonies and connection to the creation spirits. They spent an afternoon at Cahills Crossing a fantastic place to watch crocodiles in action and were lucky enough to spot 22 crocodiles.

Next stop was Bitter Springs, part of Elsey National Park and camped near the hot thermal pool swimming area. Here they saw freshwater turtles swimming in the crystal clear water in a tropical oasis of fan palms.

Students then travelled to Tennant Creek and visited the Daly Waters community. Here the students explored the main tourist attractions including the famous pub, decorated throughout with banknotes and other memorabilia left by visitors from every corner of the globe. The traditional land

owners of this area are the Warumungu people, and they visited a number of sacred sites in the area, including the region's most famous landmark – the Devils Marbles. They believe that these are the eggs of the Rainbow Serpent, a creature of the well-known Dreamtime story.

Next they travelled to Alice Springs and visited the Wallace Rockhole Community where Aranda Aboriginal Community local Elder Uncle Norman Elders gave them a tour of the local Aboriginal Rock art site which gave them an insight to the lifestyle of the community.

The group then travelled to Kings Canyon and watched the sun come up which offers spectacular views of the gorge and surrounding landscape below.

Their next campsite was at the Ayers Rock Campground, where they rose early to view the sunrise at Uluru and walked the base whilst taking in the cultural sites and ancient stories. The group also travelled to Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park where they visited the Cultural Centre which gave them an insight into the cultural significance of Uluru.

They had a day out to Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), an unusual conglomerate mountain formation. It was there that they completed the Walpa Gorge walk which is called the Valley of the Winds before returning to Uluru in time to watch the sunset.

The students visited remote Aboriginal communities that are poor and experienced the real-life issues our Aboriginal people face in our country. This adventure was, without a doubt, a turning point for our students where they start to understand their culture and consider their place within it





# High commendation assembly

*Acknowledging the academic achievements of our students, Russell Jones.*

**OUR PRIMARY FOCUS** is academia; the pursuit of developing each student's knowledge, skills and processes. In Week 1 the Secondary College assembled for this assembly to recognize students for their positive approach to learning in each subject as well as their personal and academic growth.

We acknowledge that every person is different and their learning experiences are unique to them, learning in their own way and at their own pace. Successes and challenges may be encountered with applying difficult concepts, mastering skills or even balancing commitments to be able to focus on their studies. To be an authentic learner a student needs to genuinely engage with learning activities, be open to new experiences and willing to take risks.

The recipients of the Highly Commended Awards are determined at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Each teacher considers which students have made a consistent and genuine effort with their learning throughout the term, irrespective of their starting point or academic progress. The students who received these awards have displayed a range of positive characteristic which foster learning. They are students who show resilience and perseverance with their learning

and seek assistance when required. They are determined to improve their knowledge and skills in that subject. These students are then forwarded to the Leaders of Learning and Teaching of each subject and were presented with an award.

The students should be extremely proud of their achievement and be assured that their efforts are worthwhile and valued.

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended our assembly. It is always wonderful to see our community embrace the achievements of students. I would also like to thank Mr Damian Clair for running the assembly in the Leader of Curriculum role.



# Reaching our max potential

*Kath Ardern highlights the wonderful work of our Year 11 students.*

**YEAR 11 STUDENTS** were given the opportunity to participate the Leadership program, Max Potential, which encourages students to complete a project which they are passionate about, working alongside an appointed mentor. During this program, students learn skills relating to leadership such as prioritising, time management, communication, teamwork, etc.

This year, four students completed the program and presented their projects at a showcase at Wyong Leagues Club. Pyper Denneman enabled Lakes Grammar students to participate in a friendship day held at MacKillop, Eliza Ellis explored an environmentally friendly way to incorporate plastic bottles into building materials for outside furniture, Ebony Glynn was involved with a community garden in her locality, and Thomas Drake initiated a friendship day at the tennis



courts, enabling people to socialise, play tennis as well as interact during the barbeque.

The students were all presented with certificates to acknowledge their dedication in completion of their projects.



# Learning together

*The Library is a place for our whole school community, Jackie Crowe.*

**THE LIBRARY HAS** been used widely this term by classes from K-12, and for a number of special activities. This term the Library has hosted HSC exams for our supported students, 2020 Kindergarten Playgroup storytime sessions, Year 7 Orientation and AGAT testing, yoga with Mrs Radford, Student Parliament meetings and staff training sessions for Apple Pencil and the Destiny Library Management System. Many of our students regularly visit the Library to read, borrow books, play games, draw, study and complete learning tasks. The Library is a space for our whole school community.

In collaboration with Mrs Marilyn Fraser, our Aboriginal Education Officer, we held a Second Hand Book Sale to raise money for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. We were overwhelmed by the generous donation of books from staff and families and had thousands of books to sell. We raised over \$430 which will help the Foundation buy culturally appropriate literature for Indigenous children in remote areas across Australia.

This term Book Club members were treated to an excursion to the State Library of NSW. It was a fabulous opportunity for them to explore Shakespeare drama with *As You Like it*, see

the Shakespeare room and take a tour of such a wonderful library. The Book Club students have also been focussed on editing their collaborative novel, 'Homesick', in preparation for publication. This has been a year long project which has engaged these students in the process of writing and publishing as a collaborative team. We cannot wait to read it!

Over 150 students from Kindergarten to Year 9 completed the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge this year. All these students will receive certificates for participation but those who have completed the Challenge for the fourth year (not consecutive) or seventh year (not consecutive) will receive Gold and Platinum certificates respectively. The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge is always a great opportunity for all students to read more widely from a great range of Australian literature.

Our Annual Christmas Book Fair was held in Week 7. For children, the Book Fair is a hands-on experience where they can get excited about books and ignite a lifelong passion for reading. The Book Fair was set up in the Library during the week and down at the hall during our Primary Christmas Concert.





# Students find a better fit

*We welcome the opportunity to provide 'a day in the life at MacKillop' for students considering enrolment, Debra Ferguson.*

**IT IS A** real privilege to share the MacKillop community with any family who would like to join us and become part of our wonderful school. It is also important that our community be an inclusive school where others have the opportunity to visit and see what MacKillop is like. Not only do we enjoy full numbers of enrolments, it also enables us to offer a full range of electives to our students.

On Thursday 17 October we had our first Taster Day for students considering enrolment for Years 8-11 in 2020. We had 16 students visit and each was given a buddy as they attended an introduction to the school and leaders, ice-breaker games, a tour of the College, classes and Thursday Sport.

It was an extremely successful day and I am very thankful to the students who assisted on the day and the teachers who catered for all our visitors. It was a great pleasure meeting these visiting students and getting to know them.



I wish to thank Mrs McGuinness, in particular, for all her help organising and advertising this day.

The majority of those students who visited that day have now enrolled for this term or for 2020 and we are truly looking forward to including them into our community.

## STEM challenge

*Jennifer Walters gives us an overview of the Aurecon Bridge Building Competition.*

**IN SEPTEMBER, TAYLA** Brooker, Tyarna Griffin and Ashleigh Witt from Year 9 competed in the Annual Aurecon Bridge Building Competition at the Art Gallery of NSW. The girls spent eight weeks planning, designing and building their bridge, based on a truss design, during lunchtimes as well as during some class lessons. During the planning stage the girls learned about the different joints such as lap joints, end joints and gussets. They learnt the physics of bridge design such as compression and tension forces and how members can buckle, stretch and crush and how to overcome these forces.

Supplied with 8 balsa wood sticks of 580mm length, 8 balsa wood sticks of 330mm length, PVA glue and 5 metres of string, they created a structure that would support as much weight as possible. The length of the bridge needed to be 700mm which included 25mm supports at each end, a maximum width of 140mm and no restriction was placed on the height. There was a depth restriction below the support frame of 180mm maximum and areas to allow load bars to be placed at least 20mm in height, 50mm wide and 30mm apart. The bridge also needed to allow for an 80mm wide roadway to be placed inside it and a total clearance height of 40mm so that a car of 30mm x 35mm could be passed through and along the bridge.

Meeting the above criteria, their bridge only weighed 120g but was able to support 10kg before collapsing. This meant

the bridge supported 83 times its own weight! Although the bridge did not support the greatest weight at the competition, the numerous weeks of hard work and the achievement was memorable. The aim of the project primarily was to engage girls in the area of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and Tayla, Tyarna and Ashleigh are to be commended on their effort.





# Primary spelling success

*Our K-6 students enjoy the opportunity to showcase their spelling ability, Ann Jackson.*

**I HAVE OFTEN** wondered why spelling has anything to do with little yellow and black striped insects. Is it because it is 'sweet' to know how to spell the written word? Is it the prospect of a 'stinging' rebuke when we fail to spell words correctly? My curiosity got the better of me and so I decided to do some research. Surprisingly, it actually comes down to the meaning of the word itself.

The word 'bee' is derived from the Middle Ages word 'bene' and refers to a gathering of people who come together for a common purpose. We are all familiar with working bees, sewing bees, and cleaning bees, just to name a few. Spelling bees have been called 'spelling matches', 'spelling fights' and 'spelling combats' in the past before the more common name of 'spelling bee' came to be used. Spelling contests have been recorded as far back as 1808.

Each year at MacKillop we celebrate spelling through a 'bee'. It always engenders excitement amongst the students and teachers, especially when it is time for the elimination and grand final rounds. Sometimes people ask, "Why have a spelling bee? Doesn't it really just showcase those children with good recall? Isn't it too stressful for children to have to spell under pressure in front of an audience?" The answer to these questions is a resounding, 'no!'

Competitors engaged in spelling bees learn valuable life skills such as self-management, confidence, and the capacity to win and lose with grace. Far from learning words by rote, spelling is a skill of pattern and meaning making, learning about the origins of words, the grammatical purpose of words, the function of prefixes and suffixes and using known patterns and meanings to spell new words. By learning to spell, vocabulary is increased and reading and writing is improved.

Whilst at the time of printing, we are yet to conduct the Grand Final for 2019, we can certainly celebrate those who have progressed from their class competition to their stage competition and finally to the Grand Final itself. I am sure that you will agree with me when I say it is a 'sweet sting' to 'bee' a competitor at this elite level.

Congratulations to:

Early Stage One	Jett Franke, Grace Anthes, Dean Felton
Stage One	Henry Sellwood, Hannah Craig, Julieanne Alquiza
Stage Two	Ryan Hain, Miya Jaise, Noah Young
Stage Three	Steve Johnson, Alyssa Jaise, Hailey Robertson

Not wanting to 'drone' on, 'swarm' wishes to all of the above as they create a buzz at the Grand Final event for 2019! We will formally congratulate them at our end of year awards ceremonies.





# Technique, the exhibition

*Celebrating the inaugural HSC showcase of Creative Arts and TAS students, Jillian Young and Damian Clair.*

**WE RECENTLY CELEBRATED** the inaugural combined HSC exhibition, 'Technique', with the Creative Arts and TAS Faculties. Our Year 12 classes of Visual Art, Design and Technology, and Industrial Technology - Timber classes enjoyed themselves at their formal exhibition which displayed their unique and clever talents to their families and the wider community. 'Technique' showcased a wide variety of products displaying the variety of

techniques our gifted students at MacKillop Catholic College used to create their bodies of work during their final year of secondary schooling. This night was well attended by families, friends and our local community, and we congratulate the Class of 2019 for their achievements in these creative and technical courses.





# Artists of excellence

*Highlighting the talented work of our HSC Class of 2019 in Visual Arts, Jillian Young.*



Isabelle Hannan



Rebecca Bosley



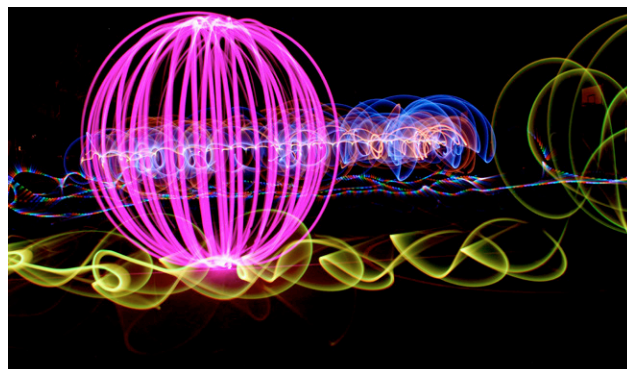
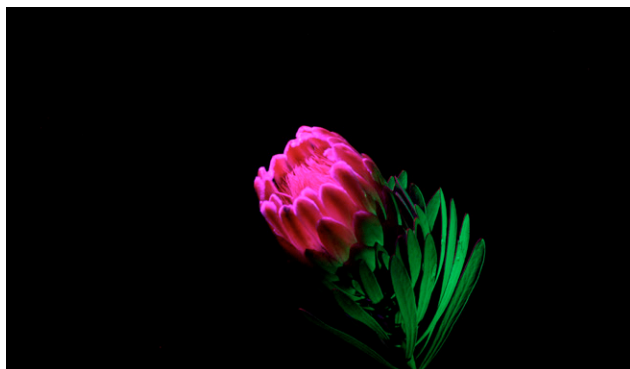
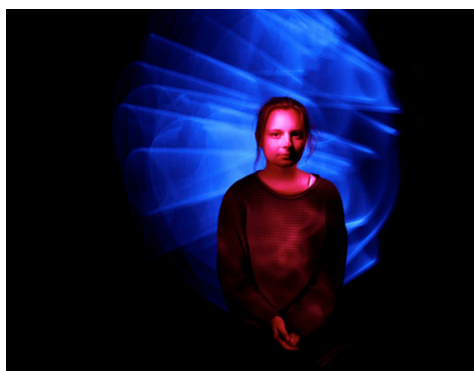
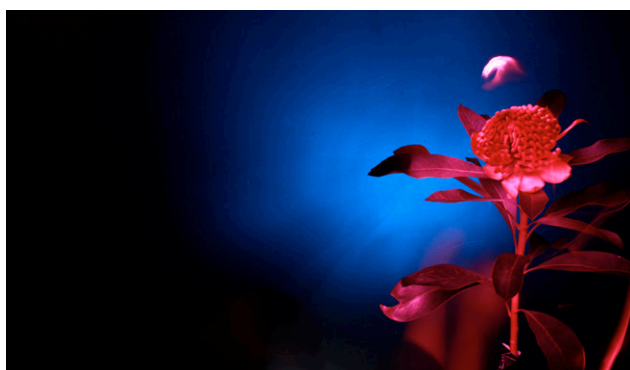
Iona McClean



# Students light up the school

Jillian Young *introduces students to Peter Solness and his light photography.*

**OUR FIRST MASTER** Art Class was a success! Students from years 7-11 participated in a workshop run by practicing artist Peter Solness. Peter Solness is a multi-award-winning photographer, artist, educator and writer who specialises in the photographic method of Light Painting. This involves working with cameras on tripods, in the darkness, using long camera exposures and illuminating the subjects using torches to create artworks with visual effects not generally associated with traditional methods of photography.





# Off to the gallery

**Jillian Young** *tells us about the latest art excursions.*

**STUDENTS IN YEAR** 11 and Year 9 Visual Arts classes had the opportunity to visit galleries in Sydney for an excursion. Year 11 students travelled to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) to view the 'Shaun Gladwell: Pacific Undertow' exhibition and while there, took part in a digital workshop using ideas

they gained from the exhibition. Year 9 students spent the day studying portraiture works and, in particular, the inspiring Archibald Prize exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW. Both cohorts found the excursions extremely informative and very enjoyable.



# Excellence in acting

**Sharon Baird** *proudly shares the highlights of the 2019 Junior Theatre Celebration.*

**THE JUNIOR THEATRE** Celebration Australia (JTCoZ) is a unique opportunity for lovers of musical theatre to showcase their talents in a weekend of adjudication and workshops at Civic Theatre, Newcastle. Following on from our great success at JTCoZ in 2018, this year saw the participation of Primary and Year 7 students. A small group of 20 students, who had been part of the College musical, *The Little Mermaid Junior*, performed a 10 minute adjudication piece and won the Award for Excellence in Acting. In addition to this, two of our Year 7 students, Josephine Rogencamp and Caitlin Weeks, were nominated to the Celebration Cast and performed in a special performance at the closing ceremony. This is an incredible honour as it recognises their developing performance skills and offers them the opportunity to represent Australia in the Aussie All-Stars cast that competes in the Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta in 2021.

Our second year at JTCoZ was a huge success and we are incredibly excited to be continuing this tradition in years to come. I would like to thank Mrs Grania Pourbozorgi and Mrs Iolanda Caruana for their excellent vocal instruction and participation. I would also like to acknowledge the Secondary students who assisted with the directing and rehearsals of the adjudication performance: Diana Beech, Caitlyn Duran, Charlotte Collins, Dorothy Bagley and Jorja Sadler.





# MacKillop students shine

*An entertaining evening at Josephites Got Talent, Debra Ferguson.*

**ON FRIDAY 30** August, Holy Spirit Catholic College Lakemba hosted the first ever talent quest for all schools who are Mary MacKillop or Josephite schools. This was a wonderful opportunity for some of our talented students to perform in front of a packed house. These students performed beautifully and are a real credit to our College:

- Tayla Brooker, Charlotte Hannan and Trinity Young (Group)
- Jaz Denneman and Dionne Mills (Duet)
- Skye Collier (Solo)
- Olivia Baldock (Solo)

During the night they also honored one student from each school with a 'Social Justice Recipient Award'. This special award recognizes a student who understands the meaning of the phrase 'never seeing a need without doing something about it' said by Mary MacKillop. Congratulations to Jackson Lantry on being presented with this award and medallion.

Four of our students were also invited as guests due to their fantastic and generous involvement in a Refugee Camp respite weekend: Ryley Small, Claudia McDonald, Kirra Duran and Thomas Drake.

On the night Holy Spirit also invited their newly arrived refugee families to come along and enjoy. These families often feel isolated and have been exposed to trauma in their birth



country as well as racism and many challenges when trying to resettle here in Australia so this provided a wonderful opportunity for them to enjoy an evening out.

I would like to thank Mrs Price, Mrs Tenev and Mrs McGuinness who aided with transport and supervision, as well as organizing a wonderful dinner for our group. We are looking forward to this event again next year.





# Around the grounds in Primary

*A fantastic final summary of the sporting year, Kellie Denneman.*

## ISABELLE KELLY CUP Girls Rugby League and Katrina Fanning NSW Finals

Our Girls Rugby League team have had a fantastic campaign in 2019. After smashing all comers to win the Isabelle Kelly Cup on the Central Coast, the girls were excited to continue training with Mr Sullivan and Mr Black to mix it with the best in the state in the Katrina Fanning NSW Finals. Travelling to Sydney with two Secondary teams who had also qualified, they came up against some well drilled outfits ultimately being outclassed. Congratulations to all the girls involved on their achievement - a first for Primary to win this event. The future looks bright for the school with these girls.

### Broken Bay Athletics

We had 17 students compete at this event where 11 students qualified for Polding Athletics next term. We finished runner up on overall school points score! Congratulations to Keira Carlson for winning Female Athlete of the Meet.

Records set:

- Keira Carlson - Jnr Shot Put
- Ava-Marie Carlson - 11 Yr Shot Put
- Lagi Brown - 12/13Yr Shot Put
- Fynn Sadler - 11 Yr High Jump

Individual qualifiers:

- Ava-Marie Carlson - multiple events
- Keira Carlson - multiple events
- Fynn Sadler - High Jump
- Markus Wolscher - High Jump and Long Jump
- Jasmine Amos - High Jump
- Nate Valamis - Shot Put
- Lagi Brown - Shot Put

Relay teams:

- Boys - Fynn Sadler, Diesel Warner-D'Avino, Eli Guest, Markus Wolscher
- Girls - Ava-Marie Carlson, Jasmine Amos, Tyra Field, Millie Timp

### NSWCPS Athletics

In hot conditions we had wonderful results and congratulate the following students who qualified for Polding at NSWPSA Athletics. We give special mention to the Girls Open Relay team who ran in blistering heat to qualify for the final Relay event just falling short of NSWPSA qualification.

- Keira Carlson - Junior Shot Put, Discus and 100m
- Fynn Sadler - 11 Yr Long Jump and High Jump
- Ava-Marie Carlson - 11 Yr Discus
- Lagi Brown - 12 Yr Shot Put
- Markus Wolscher - 12 Yr High Jump

### NSWPSSA Softball and Girls Cricket

Cameron Baxter and Ava-Marie Carlson both represented

Polding at NSWPSA Softball tournaments in Term 3. Cameron travelled to Tamworth and Ava-Marie played at Manly where she went on to represent Polding in a record 5th team in Term 4 playing Girls NSWPSA Cricket in Sydney. Congratulations!

### Year 3/4 Netball and Soccer Gala

A large number of teams trained hard in preparation for the Year 3/4 Netball and Soccer Gala Day in Term 3. We had so much fun on the day playing and making new friends from other schools. We thank the Secondary coaches and managers who helped on the day. Congratulations to the following teams on their success:

- Div 1 Girls Soccer - Winners
- Div 2 Girls Pool B Soccer - Runners up
- Div 3 Girls Pool B Netball - Runners up

### Year 5/6 Netball Gala Day

The boys led the way this year! The practice against the girls in the lead up to the day clearly helped with only boys teams taking out the honours on the day. Everyone had lots of fun and we thank the Secondary students who assisted Mr Lynch from St Cecilia's. Congratulations to the following teams:

- Boys Div 1 - Runners up
- Boys Div 2 MacKillop 2 - Runners up

### Surf Education

A highlight of the sporting calendar each year are the Surf Ed Days held at Toowoona Bay Beach. After school theory sessions we enjoyed fun in the sun on the beach developing our water safety skills. Unfortunately Year 4 missed their day due to the bushfire emergency but everyone else had a blast!

### Waratah Shield Cricket

Our cricket team played two games in this annual competition. We had a huge win against St Brendan's, bowling them out for 47 and then making the runs in 12 overs. Against tougher opposition in the second game St Mary's set MacKillop a target of 135 runs with only 2 wickets falling. Our boys were bowled out for 84 runs in a gallant effort after 19 overs. Congratulations to the boys on a super effort and fine sportsmanship. We thank Mr Colton for coaching and umpires, Ben London and Charlie Baresic.

### NSWPSSA Athletics

Five athletes represented Polding in individual events at Homebush competing against the best athletes across the state with outstanding results:

- Lagi Brown - Bronze Medal Senior Girls Shot Put
- Fynn Sadler - 8th 11 Yr Boys High Jump and 10th in Long Jump
- Keira Carlson - 5th in Junior Discus, 22nd in Shot Put and 100m Semi Final
- Markus Wolscher - 11th in Open Boys High Jump with a personal best of 150cm
- Ava-Marie Carlson - 18th in 11 Yr Discus



### Broken Bay Sport Outstanding Achievement Award

Three students have qualified to receive this prestigious award at a Gala Ceremony in Sydney in December. Students earn this award by being selected in a NSWPSA team, winning a medal at a NSWPSA event or being selected in two Polding teams in any given year.

A huge congratulations to:

- Lagi Brown - Bronze Medal NSWPSA Athletics
- Ava-Marie Carlson - 5 Polding Team Selections (Softball, Soccer, Rugby, Cricket and Athletics)
- Fynn Sadler - 2 Polding Team Selections (Soccer and Athletics)









# The wide world of Secondary sport

*A Term 4 snapshot of representative sport at MacKillop, Duncan Black.*

**WITH 2019 COMING** to an end, Term 4 delivered some outstanding result across different sports for the College.

## **BBSSSA Waterpolo**

Our girls had some very tough competition this year but remained confident against the more fancied girls from Brigidine, Mater Maria and St Peter's. While our girls did not win a game, they scored in every game and pushed the opposition to fight for their success.

Like the girls, the boys had a very tough day in the water. Unfortunately, they went down in every game as many have never played waterpolo, however, they will only be better for the experience.

Our coaches, Mrs Elcoate and Mr McNamara, were very proud of the students as they represented the College with such pride and competitive spirit.

## **Beach Volleyball**

On the day the girls played exceptionally well as a team while their competitive spirit came out individually. The girls made the final against Mercy College and the game went into the third set. Our girls dug deep and spiked for glory, winning for the third year in a row. Congratulations to Milla Evans, Bree Miller, Erin Kessler, Shona Carey, Pyper Denneman, Jaz Denneman, Eliza Ellis, Mackenzie Hupton, and Piper Kennedy.

Our boys had a tough encounter as the competition has increased in intensity over the years. Unfortunately, the boys narrowly missed out of going into the final by a point. Mr Tomsett and Mrs Werchon were impressed with how well the students performed and supported each other throughout the day.

## **BBSSSA Tennis**

Led by Mr Copas, the students travelled to Oxford Falls in Sydney. The Championship boys team consisting of Mitchell Hamilton, William Ellis and Joseph Merlino, made it out of their pool rounds and into the semi-final but lost their encounters and bowed out of the competition.

The Championship girls team consisting of Ashleigh Jones, Alana Telfer and Maya Ormsby played really well. Though competitive, they unfortunately lost all of their pool games. These girls were not deflated and were happy with the way they played, especially as they are Year 7 students and were playing against students up to Year 10.

The 17 years group of Thomas Drake, Lindon Selby-Smith and Harry Spek, topped their pool but then unfortunately lost in the semi-final.

The 14 years group of Alex Evans, Joshua Hyland and Caleb Pantos, played well through their pool and were up against some strong competition from Mater Maria and St Paul's. They won one pool game against St Peters, lost against St Paul's who won the final, and had a narrow loss in the third set to Mater Maria in their final pool game. Unfortunately they just missed out on the semi-finals.

"All students displayed wonderful sportsmanship and encouragement of each other," Mr Copas commented.

## **Silver for MacKillop!**

A special mention to Marcus Wall of Year 8 won the Silver medal for the Under 15 Under 40kg Australian Boxing Title on the Gold Coast recently. Well done, Marcus!









# Just keep swimming

Cathy Whitmore *promotes this fun and educational program.*

**KINDERGARTEN, YEAR 1** and 2 participated in the two week intensive swimming program at the end of Term 3. The children made major improvements in their swimming ability and water confidence which also increased their swim safety awareness.

The massive amount of energy expended during swimming often leaves children feeling exhilarated and exhausted and

therefore it is no surprise to find one or two students taking a well-earned nap on the trip back to school. No doubt there were some little swimmers sleeping very soundly each night.

We thank Mrs Kellie Denneman, Primary PE Coordinator, for organising this program to ensure it runs smoothly and to all of our swimmers for their participation and enthusiasm.





# Surf safety on a sunny day

**Keira Phillips, from 6 Wattle, tells us how beneficial Surf Awareness is.**

**ON 4 NOVEMBER**, Year 6 went down to the exquisite beach of Toowoona Bay. It was an amazing experience, especially because it was sunny all day. The people running this astonishing program always make sure that the students have an incredible time, whilst teaching them all they know about surf awareness. There were three activities throughout the entire day including the obstacle course, where students were separated into teams and raced against one another, the swim rescue, where they first practiced rescuing each other with

rescue tubes on the sand and then moved into the water, and the foam boards used to catch a wave back to shore. If we were lucky, the instructors would give us a wheelie just before you got dumped by the raging shore break. You could tell by looking at everyone's faces that they loved this program. We learned a lot of important safety practices from this day and will be able to live a safe and happy life on the beach, while having a bunch of fun because of it.





# Senior retreat

**Kath Ardern outlines this meaningful start for Year 12 2020.**

**YEAR 12 2020** commenced their final year of High School by attending the Senior Retreat which was held at Collaroy in early November. The goals of the retreat were to develop a greater individual spiritual awareness through reflection and activities, to develop growth in personal faith as well as to provide the students with an opportunity to further strengthen their bond as a Year group. Sessions were planned and facilitated by our excellent staff, with time for hands on experiences and reflection.

Mr Todd shared some of his recent discoveries around indigenous culture with the students before the house groups worked with Mrs Ferguson on the identification of our MacKillop Houses and links with indigenous dreaming identity. Other guest speakers included PJ Almendras, Father Philip and, of course, Mrs Tenev and Mrs Price.

Other highlights of the Retreat included the House challenge trivia night, being hotly contested and finally won by Temuka.

The Liturgy, held on the second night was an opportunity for reflection and participation in a variety of stations where student's faith could be strengthened as well as affirmation of others.

During each day, students participated in an organised team activity including giant swing, laser tag, high ropes, rock climbing, archery, flying fox, abseiling and drop pole, which promoted teamwork and cooperation. The physically challenging activities allowed the students to personally challenge themselves on a range of activities that encouraged them to step out of their comfort zone. It also enabled students an opportunity to gain a greater insight to themselves and their ability to set goals and work towards achieving them. The support and encouragement of peers for students who felt challenged was rewarding to witness. Our Senior Retreat should prove to be a very memorable event in the final year at MacKillop for Year 12 2020.





# Social media safety

**Rachael Elcoate** *welcomes Kirra Pendergast from Safe on Social Media to educate our community on the wide world of social media.*



**EARLIER THIS TERM**, the College invited Kirra Pendergast, a cyber-security expert from Safe on Social Media to present to staff, students and parents. Her sessions provided an educational opportunity for all to upskill themselves to be able to use technology effectively and in a safe manner. She covered a range of topics on the day such as social media apps, gaming, online grooming, deformation, posting photos and sexting, privacy and the law and identity theft to name a few.

Kirra's philosophy with using technology is not about 'not using' technology, but rather how to use it safely in accordance with the law.

Students, staff and parents walked away from the session blown away by her knowledge and understanding of the emerging issues and changes they can make to ensure they are kept safe.

## Parent news

**Natalie Tunstead** *ends the year on a high note.*

**OUR PARENT SESSION** presented by Safe on Social Media's Kirra Pendergast was incredibly well received by our parent community. So much so that we will be arranging for Kirra to return in 2020. Kirra is an expert in the field and offered insight into what is online and ways to protect our children and ourselves. Parents who attended the October session commented that they were surprised by the new information they learned from Kirra. I will continue to share information and links to resources from Safe on Social to our College grade Facebook group pages.

Kinder orientation has run smoothly with a large number of new families joining our community. Parents have given positive feedback about the orientation and playgroup sessions as yet another opportunity to make connections and build relationships prior to the start of school. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2020.

We were fortunate to have Central Coast Family Support come into our school to deliver the Triple P program for our families. All participants provided positive feedback and were able to name the positive changes they have been able to make and gave them insight into their parenting skills. In conjunction with Central Coast Family Support Services we will look to run this program again in 2020.

Coming up we have the Run 4 Fun Colour Explosion as our major fundraising event for the year and it has been wonderful to see everyone keen to be actively involved in making the day a success. What a great way to finish up the year!





