

# COLLEGE**Matters**

**A festive welcome to**  
*our 2020 community*

**MACKILLOP HITS THE RED CARPET**

**MEET OUR NEW HOUSE MASCOTS**

**A VIBRANT DISPLAY AT THE COLOUR RUN**



**MACKILLOP**  
Catholic College  
WARNERVALE





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# College Principal's message

*Our College Principal, Steve Todd, writes a welcome to everyone for the 2020 school year.*

**IT IS WITH** pleasure that I welcome all members of our College community, including new students, families and staff, to the 2020 school year. We hope your adventure with our MacKillop family is one that offers you many rewards. Our school census indicates we have 560 Primary students and 905 Secondary students, giving us just under 1500 students across the College, meaning we remain the largest Catholic School in the Broken Bay Diocese.

This year has started well for the College with so many important beginning events such as the Senior Luncheon, Welcome Mass, Primary and Secondary Swimming Carnivals and the amazing Performing Arts USA Tour. All of these events, along with the settling into the everyday routines of school life have marked the start of another year here at MacKillop.

After what was a very challenging and disturbing summer with devastating bushfires, the continuing drought, then rain leading to floods, there was a yearning across our Australian community for something to celebrate. As it has amazingly displayed itself, it was our collective goodness and underdog spirit to care for others when they were down and out that saw amazing scenes of rescue and survival. We are appreciative of the leadership from people such as the Commissioner for the NSW RFS, along with various groups that inspired people to dig deep to contribute to appeals that will hopefully set up the lost infrastructures so that these communities can begin again. Sadly, there was loss of life too, and for those affected families, this summer was a tragedy that will need many prayers of comfort to come to terms with such a loss of loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers continue for these people and their families.

I somehow feel that the spirit of survival and goodness has kicked off our year together here at MacKillop. The amazing Welcome Mass allowed people to gather and celebrate what a Catholic Parish and College community can be. To see Kinder children cuddling their new MacKillop teddy bears in the company of their parents is such a great feeling. The Secondary students along with our staff organized a wonderful barbeque for families. I thank each and every person for their contribution to making the start of 2020 such a good one.

I take this opportunity again to welcome our Primary Principal, Frank Cohen. In the short time that Frank has been here, we can see he is keen to make students, staff and families feel very welcomed and connected. One of his

early innovations was to introduce Parent/Teacher goal-setting meetings and they have certainly gone down very well with parents and teachers alike. We look forward to Frank's leadership across a number of areas, especially in learning gains which he is very passionate about. Our Primary community have certainly made Frank very welcome.

Term 1 has seen our Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson, taking leave after spending the last 17 years here at MacKillop. Deb certainly has deserved the rest and we know when she returns in Term 2, she will be very enthusiastic to take up her leadership role again here at MacKillop. Whilst Deb has been on leave we have been blessed to have quality staff members step up to acting positions: I am very grateful to Mel McGuinness, Chrystal Price and Rob Copas for supporting our Secondary leadership team.

2020 has also seen the introduction of our next Strategic Plan 2020-2022, along with its associated School Improvement Plan (SIP) for 2020-2021. These documents are important blueprints for the College to assist further development in a positive direction, so as to ensure we remain a vibrant, happy, safe and colourful Catholic College serving our local community. I invite all our parents to be familiar with these documents and, where possible, discuss with your family and fellow MacKillop parents how we can support our development for the best possible outcomes for this College. Some of the highlights for the strategic direction include:

**Mission:** Linking our Catholic and Josephite story to honour our House indigenous stories and their mascot connections. The new mascots are included on these plans.

**Learning:** Developing student agency with motivation and desire for learning by ensuring the students skill levels is growing from year to year.

**Wellbeing:** Establishing a network team of parents to collaboratively support the ideals and planning of the College.

In today's world, parents are looking to schools like MacKillop to be positive and nurturing places for their children to learn. We endeavour to fulfil this desire by focusing our attention on the areas of learning, spirituality and pastoral care. If we can move forward together then there is much hope for the future.

So, it is with good spirit that we undertake all that lies ahead for us in 2020. Blessings.





**MACKILLOP**  
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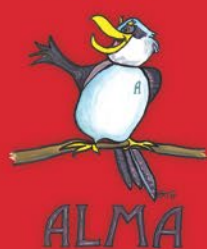
# STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-22



## M I S S I O N

*'Be a light to the world'*

- **House belonging pathway** - Linking our Catholic and Josephite story to also honour our House Indigenous stories and their mascot connections.
- **Spiritual formation opportunities** - Providing staff, students and parents with experiences of awakening and deepening faith.
- **Plenary Council outcomes** - Engaging with this process and responding with a positive mindset reflecting our Josephite heart.



## L E A R N I N G

*'Value learning'*

- **Developing student agency** - For further growth and motivation for learning.
- **Embedding of the culture of thinking forces** - To strengthen support and offer resources for the cultural forces across K-12.
- **Ongoing literacy initiatives** - That support learning gains for all students.



## W E L L B E I N G

*'Honour each other'*

- **Student support** - Updating pathways and programs for supporting and managing students with a strong support link for mental wellbeing including students with disabilities.
- **Parent pastoral and support team** - Establishing a network team of parents collaboratively supporting the College's ideals and planning.
- **The compass framework** - Introduce and develop appropriate personnel and processes for engaging with a new administration and welfare program.





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# 2020-21 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

## MISSION *'Be a light to the world'*

### GOALS

- To celebrate and embed each House's pathway for a deeper sense of belonging.
- To provide continued formation opportunities for staff, students and parents.
- To explore the first two themes of the Plenary Council in this year of discernment through a Josephite heart and their challenge to our Mission at our College.



## LEARNING CULTURE *'Value learning'*

### GOALS

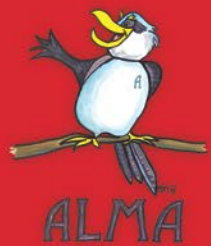
- To increase visibility of the Cultures of Thinking forces around the College.

#### PRIMARY

- Develop literacy progressions across the Primary Curriculum.
- Support both teachers and parents engagement with students' literacy development.
- Continue the professional learning team focus for both literacy and numeracy.

#### SECONDARY

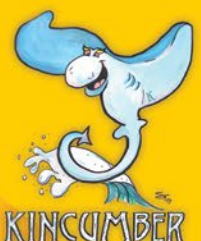
- To provide Professional Learning in Growth mindset as a vehicle to nurture student agency.
- To develop a hub that models student integrated learning endeavours and fosters enquiry, creativity and critical thinking.
- To provide cross-KLA opportunities to develop shared expectations and language around writing.



## WELLBEING *'Honour each other'*

### GOALS

- Update and implement guidelines to support the new Diocesan Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing Policy (2020).
- Engage with the Diocesan School Review Program to support the Wellbeing domain.
- Establish a Parent Pastoral and Support Team that assists with the College's overall profile.
- Provide a link between Primary and Secondary student leadership teams.
- Establish the Compass package to support the Pastoral Care profile for all students.







# New Primary Principal hits the ground running!

**Frank Cohen, Primary Principal** *recounts his experience of the first six weeks at MacKillop and provides a little insight into education from his perspective.*

**"NOTHING IN THIS** world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent, Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb." - Dr Seuss.

Quite possibly the greatest philosopher of all time is Dr Seuss. His popular children's books provide hidden gems of wise words we can all get something from.

Although I am an experienced Principal, it can be quite daunting to come to a new school with certain procedures and programs different to my previous experiences. I am, however, delighted in being able to join the MacKillop Catholic College family and want to thank everyone for making me feel very welcome.

I am passionate about education, but in particular children doing and giving of their best. Not all of us can win the gifted and most abled gene lottery and we have to persevere in order to achieve. Being the proud father of three children I know the struggles associated with having children who don't get things the first time around. I also know that school is not for everyone, but that everyone needs to go to school. What I do know is that every child can learn and every child can succeed. It is the goal for every teacher to achieve one year's growth as a minimum for each child.

The world of today is vastly different from the world when I was a child. In some respects, the innocence is gone and it

is a fast-paced time where innovations and technology are tracking at quicker rates than ever before. Children starting Kindergarten today are aptly named the Alpha Generation. These kids will see the 22nd Century in huge numbers and they are likely not to know what a fax machine or a DVD player are used for. They have access to machines such as iPads and smartphones that allow them to communicate to the world at the touch of a button and they can even stream worldwide events whilst sitting in their chairs at school.

These are exciting times requiring an education system that meets the needs now and well into the future. Teachers today must know the Zone of Proximal Development of learning for each child which is the zone where the teacher needs to take the child on the next step of the educational journey. Teachers must provide explicit instruction in key numeracy and literacy learning areas as well as facilitate learning in such a way to allow for students to engage with the subject matter. Search engines such as Google have replaced teachers when it comes to being all knowledgeable. Once a child is literate and numerate, the job of a teacher is to model discernment for the students so that each can justify understandings, collate and synthesise information and then apply it to the world in which each lives.

I am really thrilled to be here and look forward to working with the beautiful families that call MacKillop home.





# Welcome to a new year and decade

**Acting Secondary Principal, Mel McGuinness, advises that grit is a desirable disposition.**

**AS WE START** a new school year it can be both an exciting and nervous time for students. For those new to high school there is always the thought of finding new friends along with the concern about getting lost in the new surroundings. I am pleased to say that Year 7 have settled in very well and that the transition days from the previous year have really set them up well to feel welcome and at home.

Starting a new year is always a great time to consider how we might do things more efficiently and more effectively in the months that lie ahead. This year we stand on the threshold of a whole new decade and that is exciting in itself. There is so much that has been planned for us as a College community and the buzz of energy around the campus is palpable. Our student leaders have made a great start to Term 1 with social justice ideas and supporting our carnivals, Open Afternoon, Welcome Mass and many day-to-day activities.

The staff are very engaged in organising meaningful and engaging learning activities, wellbeing initiatives, excursions, incursions, sporting and cultural activities and so much more. No doubt we are all getting used to the new Compass

platform which has much to offer and is keeping us on our toes as we learn the different processes and functionalities that are available. We ask that you stay up-to-date with the many activities that occur, through our various social media platforms.

On behalf of both Mrs Ferguson and myself, I wish to say a big welcome to this exciting new year of learning and growing as we work together with each and every one. We are honoured and privileged to walk alongside our families and support you and your children in their learning journeys and growth trajectories.

I would like to encourage every student to embrace the words of Albert Einstein, "It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer." To stay with a challenge is to develop grit. Grit is a very desirable disposition which will serve us all well in our lives. Duckworth and Seligman (2005, 2007) have demonstrated that grit, perseverance and self-discipline are reliable predictors of success. It is with this in mind that I encourage you all to keep on keeping on and never be afraid to ask for help.





# A warm welcome

**Frank Cohen and Mel McGuinness** *invite our entire College to join them in welcoming our new staff.*

**THIS YEAR WE** are blessed to be able to welcome to our vibrant and ever-growing community a number of new staff. As our community on the coast grows, we are privileged to be joined by talented and dedicated people who feel drawn to this community. These are people who identify with us and wish to come, engage and belong. This year, we offer a very warm MacKillop welcome to some new faces among our staff.

Belinda Johnson, who has joined our office staff. Jeanette Noonan and Christine Newall have joined our Primary staff. Lalit Buhagiar-Sharma, Candice Gorman, Paige Gray, Naleen Greenwood, Cathy Martin, Kellie-Marie McDonald, Bradley Peyser, Dana Platt, and Vanessa Williams have all joined our

Secondary faculties.

To all of these educators, we know that you will find a collegial home within your faculty and amongst the K-12 community. We hope you enjoy working with, amongst and for our vibrant community. Our staff, parents and students are welcoming and warm and we know that you will feel a strong sense of connection with our ever-evolving house system, and the many avenues that exist to bring us all together as a faith community. We thank you for choosing to join us and hope that you create many amazing memories along the journey of your time here. This is indeed a place where people feel connected and valued.



# Welcome kindy students and families

*Another year, another new group of beautiful faces, Ann Jackson.*

**AS WE BEGIN** a new school year, we are reminded of how very special that beginning is to our newest community members – our Kindergarten children and their families. Having been into the Kindergarten classrooms I have seen how really excited the children are at beginning this new stage of their learning journey. I know that this bodes well for 2020 and we are confident that the children will enjoy this year as we all work together to bring about successes for each and every child.

Children come to Kindergarten with many different skills and talents and at many different levels of readiness. And so, these first few weeks, we really spend a good deal of time getting to know the children and to determine where their individual learning needs lie. An enormous amount of learning happens in Kindergarten and we look forward to fostering their natural curiosity and to seeing the children grow, academically, socially and spiritually.

At MacKillop we strive to build a safe, friendly, happy learning environment. We believe that, when given the

opportunity, a child has the potential to achieve so much. It is our job to help each child develop at his/her own rate while providing a structured and safe environment in which to do so.

We are looking forward to getting to know the children over the course of this year and learning all that is wonderful and special about them.



# Welcome year 7 students and families

*Chrystal Price tells us how students have transitioned to high school with ease.*

**A VERY WARM** welcome to the students and parents of Year 7 2020. It has been a pleasure to watch the Year 7 students settle into College life at MCC with ease. 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. It is important to note the tremendous work of the Transition Coordinator Mrs Black and the Peer Support Leader Mr Legge, who have organised the Taster days, Orientation days and the peer support programs that have all contributed to the positive start Year 7 have had to the year.

At MCC we are blessed to have fantastic Leaders of Pastoral Care who look after the wellbeing of our students. Mr Glen Taragel has worked tirelessly with his amazing Pastoral Team to also ensure that the Year 7 students are navigating high school life with some confidence and he has given his testimony of welcome below.

"Year 7 2020, what an exciting and busy start to the year. As the Year 7 Leader of wellbeing I can't wait to start working

with such a fine group of young men and women. After various Transition and Orientation days in 2019, it is hard to believe Year 7 has almost finished their first term of secondary schooling. They have started the year in a very positive manner and represented themselves and the College with pride. The transition into High School has been seamless for most and their teachers are happy with the progress they are making so far.

The students of year 7 have been enthusiastic to become involved in the MacKillop Community and have represented their cohort in a wide range of events and initiatives. These include the Opening Mission Mass, College Carnivals, Choir, Dance, Colour Explosion fun run and various representative sporting teams to name a few. Year 7 has achieved so much in just one term. The next big event for them is the Year 7 camp to the Great Aussie Bush camp at Tea Gardens in Term 2. If Term 1 is any indication of how enthusiastic and keen Year 7 are, I cannot wait for Term 2. Well done Year 7!" Mr Glen Taragel.



# Year 6 graduation

*As we walk across the bridge, we look back and remember all of the good times,*  
**Jodie Lewin.**

**WE BEGAN OUR** 2019 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 as they commence 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 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.









# Commissioning of senior students

*Serving with integrity, love and compassion, Robert Copas.*

**THE SENIOR MASS** has become a tradition at MCC and is a wonderful opportunity for Seniors to begin their year celebrating Mass together as young adults growing in their faith. Fr Vince presided over this Mass of thanksgiving where Year 11 students joined Year 12 students in wearing the white shirt. They were then commissioned as Senior students of MacKillop Catholic College. We are grateful for Jaz Denneman who shared her musical gifts leading the music ministry so beautifully. Year 11 students were presented with College leadership badges and were then joined by Year 12 students as they recited the Senior Student pledge. Part of this pledge

was a commitment by students to live by the example of Jesus in all that they do. They pledged to always try to serve others with integrity, love and compassion.

This Mass is an important event and tradition for our Senior students that pairs with the Senior Luncheon that follows, setting a positive tone for the new year. With inspiring speeches from our College Executive and special guests, including ex-student, Cirby Denneman, from HSC Class of 2012. Students are blessed as they embark on their final years of Secondary education and acknowledged formally as leaders of the College.



# A beautiful way to welcome all

**Tim Snelling** *welcomes all to MacKillop: A place where you belong.*

**ON SUNDAY 16** February, our College and Parish celebrated together to welcome all of the new students, staff members, families and friends to our MacKillop community.

Kindergarten, new families and Year 7 students gathered in our Church, St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, at Mass to celebrate the Eucharist together. The Church was overflowing with families as the new members joined the existing congregation of our community.

College Parliament and Primary Leaders assumed major ministries on the day as welcomers, readers, choir and collectors, as well as a huge effort toward a BBQ held at the conclusion of Mass. The student helpers on the day are a credit to the College and confirmed themselves as leaders within our community. Kindergarten students performed the thanksgiving song 'These Hands' and encouraged the congregation with their enthusiasm to join in. In such a short

time they have already learned so much!

Father Vince celebrated the Mass, which included a special blessing to our new Primary Principal, Frank Cohen, and concluded with a blessing and the distribution of gifts for all new members of our community to remember this first celebration at MacKillop. Kindergarten students received a MacKillop teddy bear wearing a t-shirt, and Year 7 students received a keyring, both depicting our College visual identity.

Following Mass, students and their families mingled in the COLA, meeting and making friends and enjoying a sausage sizzle, chips, lollies and cake. Our new House mascots even made a surprise visit, happily posing for photographs with our new Kindergarten students. It was a memorable celebration enjoyed by all.

Welcome and blessings for 2020!









# Ash Wednesday and opening mass

*A vibrant celebration to mark the beginning of Lent, Robert Copas.*

**ON WEDNESDAY 26** February, our College marked the start of the season of Lent and celebrated together as a K-12 College community for the first time in 2020 through our Ash Wednesday and Opening College Mass presided by our wonderful Parish Priest, Fr Vince Casey.

We particularly welcomed our new Kindergarten students to the K-12 community, and they were very quickly introduced to the MacKillop style of music ministry that is contemporary, loud, full of spirit and lots of actions!

Throughout the Mass, our Senior students who attended ACYF (Australian Catholic Youth Festival) in Perth marked all of our foreheads with the ashes. As the ash cross was traced, we heard the words "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel", reminding us that the sacrificial death of Jesus leads to the good news of the resurrection and new life which we celebrate on Easter Sunday.

It was wonderful to see participation of so many students in both Primary and Secondary schools involved in various ministry roles from altar serving, readers, distributors of ashes, ushers, musicians and singers, the procession of symbols, the Gospel and the offertory gifts.

Traditionally Lent is a time that Catholics either 'give up or take up' as a physical reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. This year Pope Francis has urged Catholics to disconnect from phones and TV. This could provide an opportunity to 'take up' something like reading a book, or having face to face conversations with people instead of using social media or texting methods of communication. What can you do?



## Go further together

*Sharing the responsibility for taking care of each other, Chrystal Price.*

**PROJECT COMPASSION IS** Caritas Australia's annual fundraising and awareness-raising appeal, bringing thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Running through the six weeks of Lent each year, Project Compassion is an extraordinary ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of caring supporters, all in the name of justice and peace.

The theme for Project Compassion 2020 is "Go Further Together". MCC is part of the global Catholic community who believe in the importance of solidarity. It is imperative that we see each other as being part of one human family that share a responsibility to help each person achieve their full potential.

Throughout the Lenten season we ask that the students and families of the College join the Parish community, in helping to raise much needed funds for Project Compassion. By supporting this great cause, we can ensure that justice and dignity is upheld for all, especially the world's most vulnerable.

Already the Secondary students have participated in a gold coin collection that raised approximately five hundred dollars.

This is a great start; however, we need to raise much more funds for this cause.

Please think about how you could help to raise money for Project Compassion. Initiatives may include cake stalls, the selling of cans of drink or you may just wish to donate some money yourself by keeping the loose change you have at home and handing it in towards the end of Lent (there are collection boxes up at the Church).

By contributing whatever you can this Lent to Project Compassion, you will be ensuring that those living in extreme poverty will be given opportunities that will assist them to uphold their human dignity. So please give generously.





# YMCC corner

## *MacKillop students make the pilgrimage to Perth for ACYF, Maisie Tenev.*

**THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC** Youth Festival (ACYF) is a biennial event for young Catholic Australians. It is organised through the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and provides the opportunity for young Catholics to engage in their faith on a deeper level, meet other young people from around the country, learn how to be active and dynamic disciples of Jesus and encounter the vitality of the Church in Australia today. ACYF 2019 was held in Perth from the 8th-10th December and while there were over 300 pilgrims from the Diocese of Broken Bay, MacKillop Catholic College was represented by twelve students from Years 10 and 11 with three staff and Sr Jennifer accompanying the students on this pilgrimage.

The school and parish groups from the Diocese of Broken Bay met daily to pray together, engage in small group reflections and interact with one another before heading to the festival together. The program of the festival was full and there was an abundance of activities to choose from. Each day began and ended with a plenary in the main auditorium of the Perth Convention Centre where pilgrims were addressed by church and community leaders, musicians and influential speakers. Pilgrims engaged in various sessions, workshops

and presentations that encouraged them to consider others in our society and reflect on their own faith journey. There were also different areas inside and around the convention centre. Musicians performed in various places, there were multiple 'chill-out' zones and opportunities to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration.

The Closing Mass on the final day of the festival was held outdoors and Charlie Martin was allocated to be a part of the offertory procession. While it was a nerve-wracking moment for Charlie, the entire Broken Bay group were extremely proud of him. Our final day in WA was spent at a theme park called Adventure World. It was a wonderful way for the MacKillop group to relax after three full days of ACYF. The day was spent on rides, water slides, rollercoasters and swimming. ACYF was truly a pilgrimage experience where challenges were encountered and overcome. The MacKillop students represented our community so well and the staff were so proud of them. Many thanks to Mrs Chrystal Price, Mr Julian Legge and Sr Jennifer Canillas for their assistance and support of ACYF 2019.

Lastly, thank you to Ella Edwards of Year 12 for her beautiful artwork pictured below and now on display in the Ryan Centre.





# Wheelie important initiative

**Michelle Baxter** *provides an update on our JUMP program.*

**THIS YEAR WE** will have four year groups on the JUMP (Josephites Undertaking Mission Projects) program. Our current Year 10 cohort pioneered the program back in 2017 and have paved the way for younger students. Students have volunteered in many capacities and regularly participate in numerous initiatives and activities at the College, with students often volunteering in community events as well. Each year, the new cohort to begin JUMP display much anticipation and enthusiasm and we look forward to the Year 7 2020 group who will begin the program beginning in Term 4.

It has been a busy start to the year. JUMP students have been flat-out helping to ensure the smooth running of our upcoming Colour Explosion fun run, volunteering at Coast Shelter, serving pancakes to the College community on Shrove Tuesday, joining a permaculture group during Thursday sport time, and continuing to create amazing art for our school. This term, students in Years 8, 9 and 10 have come together to revamp the average wheelie bin in a creative manner. They hope to encourage their fellow peers to become more aware about the three R's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - by way of brightly coloured bins, to encourage correct rubbish management at the College. We're very excited to reveal the project led by Mrs Wells in the coming weeks.





# Colour explosion

*A fabulous day of colour and fun, Michelle Baxter.*

**AFTER MUCH ANTICIPATION**, and being postponed back in December due to hazardous air quality, our College community enjoyed their very first Colour Explosion fun run on Monday 9 March, despite a forecast for rain. Luckily, there was barely a cloud in the sky, instead bursts of colour showered the oval. It was an early start for many involved in preparation for the days events, but there were lots of hands on deck, ensuring that eager primary students could begin their session on time. Years 5 and 6 were awesome buddies to the younger students, helping them not only around the colour run course, but also at the stalls and with playing games. There was a wide variety to choose from including coin throw, quots and the very popular ping pong toss. Stalls included wrist bands from

Ethica fair trade, popcorn and cakes, with the face painting and hair braid stall extremely popular amongst both Primary and Secondary students alike. The atmosphere was electric, especially in the hall where students enjoyed a variety of dancing and limbo run by Senior Secondary Parliament. Many staff joined in on the fun as well, and like the students, were well soaked in the vibrant colour. There was tremendous support from our entire college community on the day who ensured the great success of this event. Our parent group were no exception and we are very grateful for their ongoing support. Thanks to our community, all fundraising from the Colour Explosion will assist the College to purchase new outdoor sporting equipment.













# Following in the steps of Mary MacKillop

**Glen Taragel** *details how Year 7 connected with our College identity on their recent excursion.*

**THE YEAR 7** students of 2020 have had a couple of big and exciting days visiting both MacKillop Place, North Sydney, and the Sisters of Saint Joseph Spirituality Centre in Kincumber.

MacKillop Place is a very special place for the Sisters of Saint Joseph as well as our College community. Whilst at North Sydney, Year 7 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 College and the tomb of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Visiting the tomb of our patron saint was a particularly a special opportunity for the students.

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 Mrs Baxter and Mrs Price at the Northside Conference Centre. 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 Sisters of Saint Joseph Spirituality Centre Kincumber, students had the opportunity to visit the museum and learn about the history of the centre. The students found the museum very interesting and were amazed about how the

boys lived there and how they were educated. Year 7 also had the opportunity to have a tour of the grounds and were told more about the history of the centre and how the boys loved playing sport and other activities on the grounds.

Following this, they participated in workshops and games facilitated by Mrs Tenev, Youth Ministry Leader. This allowed the students to reflect on what it means to be a MacKillop student.

The day ended with students gathering in the historical church where Sister Jennifer Canillas and Sister Marea Ross both spoke to them about their journeys in becoming a Sister and offered a Q&A session with the students.

A big thank you must go to all the students and staff who attended these two days and an extra big thank you to those who facilitated any of the workshops. This was a great opportunity for the students to see the importance of our patron Saint and how they can live out their daily lives with a Josephite heart.





# An assuring HSC performance

Mel McGuinness proudly provides a snapshot of the 2019 HSC results.

**MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE** proudly welcomes an assuring result from the HSC Class of 2019. Data is a useful tool for reflection and 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 previous HSC cohorts. A significant proportion of the candidature of the Class of 2019 has recorded a very credible HSC performance with 90% of all entries achieving Band 3 and above. The statistics are even more impressive with close to 64% of all listings representing Band 4 and above with a most commendable level of 26% of all listings representing the top two bands. It is worth noting the shift in the lower band ranges as well as the upper two bands.

## HSC Results 2019 All Courses N= 120

Bands	6+E4	5+E3	4+E2	3	2	1
Listing	19	133	219	149	40	11
%	3	23	38	26	7	2
Variation from 2018	0%	2%	-6%	0%	1%	2%

What stands out 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 – 57.1% 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. Our students have performed well above the state mean in these courses:

Ancient History	6.63
Community and Family Studies	3.76
Industrial Technology	5.75
Mathematics Standard 1	10.76
Studies of Religion II	2.93
Construction	7.85
Hospitality	3.95
Design and Technology	1.56
Drama	1.41
English Standard	1.29
Food Technology	0.06
Music 1	1.4
PDHPE	0.67
Visual Arts	0.93
IDT	0.46

The College proudly acknowledges the top performing students with 12 individual students achieving 19 honour listings across 11 subjects. Mitchell Christensen achieved 6 units at honour listing level. There were three honour listings in Studies of Religion I, two in Society and Culture, one in Physics, three in PDHPE, one in Music I, one notional in Mathematics

Extension 2, 1 notional in Mathematics Extension 1, one in Food Technology, four in Community and Family Studies one in Ancient History.

Many of our students achieved first in the Diocese of Broken Bay in Community and Family Studies, Food Technology, Maths Standard 1, Mathematics Extension 1, PDHPE and Society and Culture. We congratulate the following 12 individual students for receiving 19 honour listings in the 2019 HSC:

**Iona McLean**

Ancient History, Studies of Religion 1, Society and Culture Community and Family Studies Community and Family Studies Community and Family Studies Community and Family Studies Food Technology, PDHPE, Studies of Religion 1

**Jayden Baird**

**Tiarni Irvine**

**Rosemary Marks**

**Jade Noyeaux**

**Jade Kroemer**

**Mitchell Christensen**

Mathematics, Mathematics Extension 1, Physics, Studies of Religion 1

**Patrick Bagley**

**Zachary Chan**

**Anna Chenda**

**Bailie Stewart**

**Shari Towns**

Mathematics Extension 2

Music I

PDHPE

PDHPE

Society and Culture

## TOP TEN ATAR STUDENTS

Congratulations to Mitchell Christensen who achieved the highest ATAR of 95.80 and so deservedly becomes the College Dux. We join in congratulating the top ten ATAR students:

Mitchell Christensen 95.80

Iona McLean

Jade Kroemer

Shari Towns

Saumya Joy

Anna Chenda

Sarah Baresic

Bailie Stewart

Lucy Pratt

Zachary Chan

It is with enormous pride that the College congratulates the entire HSC Class of 2019 and we wish each student every blessing in taking up the next stage of their individual journey.





# MacKillop hits the red carpet

Sharon Baird *celebrates this fantastic skills development tour in the USA.*

**IN FEBRUARY 2020**, 18 students and 3 staff from MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale, embarked on a two week Performing Arts skills tour of California. Leader of Learning and Teaching – Performing Arts, Mrs Sharon Baird, was excited to see this finally come to fruition after two years of planning. The group visited iconic places such as Disneyland, Universal Studios, Los Angeles and Hollywood, sang show tunes on the bus trips to Sacramento and San Francisco, learned new skills at a variety of workshops, and performed at the Junior Theatre Festival, Sacramento (JTFWest).

One of the main purposes of the tour was skills development and it was very clear, even halfway through the trip, that MacKillop students were improving in all areas of performance: dance, drama and music. Participating in a show choir workshop with triple threat, Shelly Nichol, at Disneyland, the students learned her mantra, “full out, first time, every time, all the time”, and it stayed with the group throughout the trip. At Millennium Dance Complex, famous for choreographing dance videos for artists such as Britney Spears and N\*SYNC, our students took the challenge and learned a technically difficult jazz funk routine and shone brightly. From all of their tour workshops, not only have they grown in confidence, but students were able to refine their vocal and dance skills, to create more of a presence on stage.

The key element, or *raison d'être*, for the trip was MacKillop Catholic College's entry into the JTFWest, where over 2000 young performers from all over the world came together to celebrate musical theatre and performed excerpts from Broadway and Disney Junior musicals. MacKillop performed

an excerpt of *The Little Mermaid Junior*, a production that the group had been working hard on for the last two years. They performed under the adjudication of Jeff Calhoun (*Between The Lines*), Rob Rokicki (*The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*) and Amanda Flynn (actress, singer and musical theatre educator) in front of other international student theatre groups. They did themselves, MacKillop and their families proud drawing cheers from the crowd and a standing ovation.

During JTFWest, MacKillop was honoured to have four students acknowledged for their skills and talent: Trinity Young and Megan Trigg were selected as Festival All-Stars and performed ‘Freak Flag’ from *Shrek the Musical Junior* with other international All-Stars during the Awards Ceremony; Jade McDonald and Tayla Brooker auditioned with 300 other international students for a chance to be cast in a choreography video for upcoming Broadway Junior titles and were among 70 students selected for callbacks. To top it all off, Trinity Young received an Award for Outstanding Individual Performance, as one of only five students who were awarded this accolade.

Jade, Year 10, summarised the feeling across the whole student group, “It was such an amazing trip and all the opportunities that were provided, just wow...you certainly made my dream come true. I certainly won't forget any part of it”. Mrs Baird praised all 18 students for their consistent enthusiasm and quality talent as they represented the College, “I am one very proud Drama teacher!”









# Term exchange students

Helen Beech *thanks our amazing host families.*

**WE ARE VERY** fortunate at MacKillop Catholic College to be able to provide exchange student opportunities and this term saw the arrival of two students from Japan and two from Vietnam.

As we continue to foster our special relationship with sister school, Nihon Daiichi Junior High School in Japan, this is the fourth year of our Term Exchange program, as we welcomed Keigo Kawasaki and Misaki Arai. They received a shock upon arrival in January when Sydney hit 40 degrees after leaving 2 degrees in Tokyo! Misaki commented, "This is my first trip overseas. I have had a good time at MacKillop. Everyone has been friendly. I have enjoyed the Japanese classes and PDHPE. I have made many friends. The Lambert family have been very kind. Thank you for this opportunity."

Aira Nguyen and Jennifer Tran are cousins from Vietnam and have both settled in well in Year 7 at MacKillop. They arrived eager to make friends and learn more about Australia and have accomplished so much thus far.

These exchange students have been experiencing Australian school and family life, and activities. Their language has improved immensely and they have made life long friends during their stay. I would like to thank the Lambert, Lantry and

Hastings families for taking great care of the students during their visit.



# No shelf required

Jackie Crowe *encourages students to 'check out' the Library's extensive e-collection!*



**WE HAVE STARTED** our Library year with some very positive reading data. Borrowing statistics for our eBooks and eAudiobooks show a significant increase in popularity over the past twelve months. The infographic here provides information from February alone! Provided by Wheelers ePlatform, students can access this collection through the app on their iPads. Students can browse, borrow or reserve a wide range of genres and titles anytime. Students can even read and listen offline.

Also growing in popularity is our Library Book Club. Now being hosted on two days, we have a Year 7-8 group on Mondays and a Year 9-11 group on Wednesdays. Members enjoy the comfort of the Library, and the taste of hot chocolate, while discussing all things books and reading. One of the goals of our Book Club this year is to plan and implement a school based reading challenge. Together with the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge, this will give students the opportunity to grow and learn while expanding their reading repertoire.

Two special interest groups have started in the Library this term. On Tuesdays, we have seven teams of students in Year 7 and 8 participating in the Australian STEM Video Game Challenge. Over the next two terms they will be designing and creating a playable video game to enter into this national competition. We also have a very enthusiastic group of budding authors participating in a Writing Challenge. Together they will be collaboratively writing a joint text which we hope to publish and add to our Library collection.



# Acknowledging our culture

*Our rich Aboriginal history for all Australians, Marilyn Fraser.*



**WE WELCOME 2020** with gusto, with so many new and exciting programs, projects and events in the pipeline.

Already weaving Mary MacKillop's life's work through the six Sport Houses, recently MacKillop Catholic College introduced a new initiative sharing Dreaming Stories and Aboriginal totems from the historical places where Mary opened schools and an orphanage. Fitzroy, Penola, Alma and Kincumber all have a rich Aboriginal history.

The Ash Wednesday Mass was a spiritual gathering. Lachlan Bishop proudly commenced the occasion with the Acknowledgement to Country spoken in Darkinjung language and English, accompanied by the Deadly Didge Group with their ancient earthy tones rumbling through the hall.

All Year 7 students have the wonderful opportunity of working with Jonathan Wright in a Sports and Culture program for a term. These students are embracing Aboriginal culture through physical activities such as Indigenous games, learning Aboriginal dance movements, developing knowledge and use of Artefacts and learning the importance of Leadership. The program examines how cultural groups have influenced sport, how to maintain an active lifestyle and personal goals, identify barriers to physical activities and to problem solve.





# Artists of excellence

*A response to the landscape by Year 11 Visual Art students, Jillian Young.*

**YEAR 11 CREATED** these mixed media works using artist, Tracy Verdugo, as inspiration.





# Celebrating creative success

Jillian Young tells us about Rosie Vicich's selection into ArtExpress.

**ARTEXPRESS SHOWCASES THE** outstanding work of more than 50 Visual Arts students selected from the 2019 Higher School Certificate practical examination.

One of MacKillop's very own was selected for this exhibition: Rosie's work "e-living" is a mixed media piece, created on paper of foam core and soundscape.

An appropriation of Jenny Holzer's work, "Living", Rosie's creation "is an encapsulation of the world's consumerism, competition for attention, social media addiction, the implications of the use of AI (artificial intelligence) within social media, and the anxiety felt by its users. The soundscape was inspired by the loud, anxious, soul sucking, time wasting feeling, often created by social media. The soundscape incorporates a number of layers of sound including: message tones, a large crowd, ticking clock, recordings of electrical interference and a dial up tone."

We are so proud of Rosie and congratulate her on this significant acknowledgement.



## Science alliance

Jennifer Walters and the Science Alliance crew forensically solve the Case of Conspiracy.

**DURING AN INCURSION** on Thursday 5 March, Science Alliance students were presented with a scenario where a victim is found dead and foul play was suspected:

*An 18-year-old boy is arrested for the murder which he claims to know nothing about. However, drugs, a gun and a stash of money were found at the home of the accused which all point to his guilt!*

Students wore specialist forensics attire to examine the crime scene and interpreted a range of evidence undertaken by forensic investigators, including arson, DNA, fabric analysis, blood spatter, fingerprinting, tire tread and ballistic (gunshot residues) to solve the crime. The students were able to roleplay the events of the murder after they had decided on who the murderer was and their motive.

The incursion covered serious social and community issues as an undertone to the storyline. The case also discussed drug awareness and the impacts of hanging out with the wrong crowd. The presentation allowed an open dialogue amongst students and their presenter which resulted in an exciting and engaging experience.

Science Alliance is open to all Secondary students with upcoming events including the Irukanji Shark and Ray Centre and another investigation, the Case of Identity!





# Primary swim for success

*Around the grounds in Primary sport, Kellie Denneman.*

**IN A MOVE** from tradition we held our Primary Swimming Carnival as a Twilight event early in Term 1. The event was held in great spirit and competitiveness with lots of parents in attendance to cheer on our swimmers. Congratulations to Penola who won this year's event narrowly. Finals standings were:

Penola	791
Temuka	761
Kincumber	691
Fitzroy	649
Gesu	626
Alma	469

Swimming Carnival Age Champions:

	Boys	Girls
<b>12/13 Yr</b>	Alex Townsend	Gabriella Torres
<b>11 Yr</b>	Levi Park	Cora Logan
<b>10 Yr</b>	Jackson Grace	Claire Schumacher
<b>9 Yr</b>	Samuel Hill	Scarlett Clark
<b>8 Yr</b>	Jacob Jarrett	Georgia Harris

We congratulate Georgia Harris from Year 3 who broke the 8 Yr Girls 50m Breaststroke record which had been standing since 2005 - A super effort!

The following children qualified to represent the school in the CCC Swimming Carnival: Levi Park, Samuel Coppen, Cora Logan, Lauren Baird, Georgia Harris, Aoibhinn Twomey, Jacob Jarrett, John Gillet, Luke McKinnon, Scarlett Clark, Krystal Lees, Jackson Grace, Claire Schumacher, Scarlett Goody, Patrick Kyle, Alex Townsend, Conor Twomey, Gabriella Torres, Riley Norris, Joshua Norris, Tegan Leslie, Joel Wait, Cooper Maclachlan, Liam McCann, Toby Clark, Samuel Hill, Amelia Hayward, Aiden Lowe and Ruby Black.

Our efforts in the CCC Swimming Carnival at Mingara were outstanding and all competitors are to be commended for their sense of school spirit and sportsmanship. MacKillop finished 8th overall on points with many swimmers stepping up with personal best times. Our new swim caps looked fantastic! Congratulations to Levi Park (11 Yr 50m Butterfly & Breaststroke) and Tegan Leslie (11 Yr 50m Breaststroke) who have qualified to represent our school and the Central Coast at the Twilight Broken Bay Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 10 March. We wish them the best of luck!





# Secondary sport

*Building to another successful sporting year at MacKillop, Duncan Black.*

**WELCOME TO THE** 2020 representative sporting year at MacKillop Catholic College. So far our Secondary students have already achieved some excellent results. As we have only held our Secondary Swimming Carnival thus far, our Age Groups Champions and House Champions are yet to be known. This will be finalised toward the end of the term at the completion of our Athletics and Cross Country carnivals.

The College had four Touch teams that have represented at BBSSSA tournaments where students can have the opportunity to be selected into Broken Bay Secondary Schools Sport Association (BBSSSA) teams, New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges (NSWCCC) teams. MacKillop is fortunate to be participating in the BBSSSA tournaments for Opens Touch Football, U13 and U15 Girls and Boys Touch Football, Swimming, Intermediate Boys and Girls Soccer, 13 Boys Soccer, Cross Country and Open Boys/Girls Soccer.

## Opens Touch Football

Both the boys and girls teams played extremely well



with the girls making it through to the final against Mount Saint Benedict and being crowned the Champion school after scoring a victory 3-2. Our boys team played gallantly against stronger opposition all day with very close losses. We congratulate Samara Ross of Year 11 on her selection into the BBSSSA Touch Football team. Samara will now travel to Port Stephens later in the term.

## U13 and U15 Girls

It was an early start and a long trip to Manly for the Gala day. On arrival the girls got stuck into their competitions. Despite the rain, all girls played well throughout the day keeping spirits and sportsmanship high. Our U13s team won one out of their four games, drawing the other three. While our U15s also won one out of four games. Thank you to Mr Julian Legge and Mrs Kathleen Black for training and selecting the teams.

We wish everyone the best of luck as we continue Representative Sport through the term.







# Mascot madness

*College Captains, Alexa Walker and Ryley Small introduce the new additions to our House team spirit.*

**THE NEW SCHOOL** year has started off with a bang as MacKillop's six new College Mascots have been introduced at this year's opening assembly and don't they look fantastic. The K-12 house system has been a success since it was first introduced in 2014 and has continued to grow ever since. Each House is connected to a significant time and place within Mary MacKillop's life and through the tireless work of several executives and parliament members, the house system has been able to expand to celebrate the diversity of our country's indigenous culture. The importance of Indigenous cultures

within our community is an aspect of our school we take immense pride in expressing and through our continuously evolving house system we hope to encapsulate this further. Each of our houses now has a symbolic mascot to showcase that particular house's connection to our first nations people or to the land that house originates from.

Our 6 new mascots have been an absolute hit amongst our students so far and we hope to continue using these new identities with the house system to further develop diversity and inclusion.



## FITZROY

Fitzroy resides in the land of the Boonwurrung people and are represented by the Eagle.

## PENOLA

Penola is located in the land of the Bungandidj people and are shown as the Kangaroo.







## GESU

Gesu inhabits the city of Rome, a city with a rich history originating from the brothers Romulus and Remus, they are symbolised by the Wolf.

## ALMA

Alma rests in the land of the Guringai people and indicated by the Kookaburra.



## TEMUKA

Temuka occupies the country of New Zealand, home of the Arowhenua people and are represented by the Kiwi.

## KINCUMBER

Kincumber resides in the land of the Darkinjung and Guringai people and are symbolised by the Stingray.





# Peer support and transition

*Julian Legge tells us how Year 10 have become great peer leaders.*



**YEAR 10 2020** have become great Peer Leaders supporting our Year 7 students with their transition into high school seamlessly. Peer Support is aimed to help Year 6 students both socially and emotionally with their transition into high school.

Last year, a group of 40 Year 9 students put forth to become Peer Leaders. After two days of training, they then had the opportunity to work with both Year 5 and 6 students during their Taster and Orientation days. For some, this was the first time working with younger students and they have done an amazing job. Our Year 7 cohort have comfortably transitioned into high school knowing there is the support from older students.

Peer Support continues to run each Pastoral lesson in Term 1 which allows the students to further support the Year 7 students' social and emotional development.

## Parent news

*A bright and positive beginning, Natalie Tunstead.*

**I WOULD LIKE** to welcome all our new families to our MacKillop community. We had a wonderful turnout to the Welcome Mass and BBQ in February. Our House Mascots got in the spirit busting out some dance moves.

It has been a busy start to 2020 with lots of events for students to participate in with swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals and of course our Colour Explosion. It is always great to see many parents and carers in attendance at these events.

We have also been able to welcome our new Primary Principal, Mr Frank Cohen. Frank has taken time this term to get to know teachers, students and parents. We had a good turnout for our coffee and chat mornings with the Primary Principal. This was a great opportunity for Frank to hear from parents about "all things MacKillop". Thank you to those parents who were able to attend on the day.

On Thursday 2 April there will be a mini pilgrimage at Bulgandry Aboriginal Site guided by David Ella. This event invites all parents and carers. More information and RSVP details can be found on the College website and Facebook page.





# Kindergarten's first day

**Cath Paholski, Cathy Whitmore and John Sullivan** *can see the excitement and energy flowing through Kindergarten.*

**EXCITEMENT, A FEW** tears and energy buzzed through the College with the arrival of Kindergarten 2020. Entering big school in their beautiful new uniforms, with black shoes and bags bigger than themselves, we realised that the first day of Kindergarten is something to be treasured and remembered. It is such a special time for these children and families and we are honored to be a part of their journey.

With bright smiles and many questions we settled into the first day with a story, song and fruit break. Endless photos were taken of their first big day and worries soon disappeared. Interacting with each other, social play and talking with one another with kindness is such an important part of Kindergarten and exploring began from day one.

Quickly settling into Kindy life they have made many new friends, learned about routines, what to eat and when, the 5 Ls and how to be a Bucket Filler! They have also understood the importance of how to share with friends, speak kindly and help others.

During our first few weeks, we have visited the library and borrowed books enthusiastically with Mrs Martin. We have enjoyed PE with Mrs Denneman where we have been learning to throw and catch balls. A highlight was meeting our Year 6 buddies for the first time. We have been able to sit, chat and play with them during recess and lunch, and watched how they proudly modelled how to attend Mass in Church. We were so proud of their ability to sit there quietly, following the lead of their buddies and listening to Father Vince.

Kindergarten is such a busy and fun time. As a year group we have come together to practice our special song 'These hands' which we performed with sparkling radiance at the

College's Welcome Mass. Each child smiled proudly when they received their MacKillop bear and lollipop, adopting it into their family by giving it a special name - Unicorn, Butterfly and Mack being popular choices.

As we settle into Kindy life, we recently joined with the K-12 community to celebrate the new year of 2020 at MacKillop by attending the Opening Mass on Ash Wednesday. As teachers, we never tire of witnessing our Kindy students' amazement at seeing our entire student community come together and how they sing and clap when the band plays our College song.









