

# COLLEGE**Matters**



## Leaving a Legacy *Farewell Mr Steve Todd*



**MACKILLOP**  
Catholic College  
WARNERVALE

**CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 12 CLASS OF 2021**

**K&1 ATHLETICS FUN DAY**

**SCHOOL LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN**





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# College Principal's message

*Our College Principal, Steve Todd, offers his reflection on Term 4.*

**TERM 4 HAS** seen the completion of round two of Home Based Learning and the return on-site of all students to round off an extraordinary year. This scenario for school life was a huge challenge for one and all and I take this opportunity to recognise and thank everyone across the College for their dedication and flexibility to deliver education with an eye for the wellbeing of others. Truly, an amazing example of the goodness within our community. This final edition of College Matters is dedicated to how this has looked for everyone across MacKillop.

I must say, there was a huge sigh of relief amongst our students, parents and teachers when the news was announced that students could return to school on Monday 25 October. Our students looked extremely happy to see one another again and they have been extremely positive about returning to school. The smiles on their faces and their good wishes have set a nice tone for ending the year.

Our Year 12 students (HSC Class of 2021), need to be complimented on their willingness to roll up their sleeves and get on with the changes to HSC exams dates. They have been somewhat disadvantaged by this challenge but we have every confidence in them delivering their best for the completion of their HSC exams. The good news for so many of them is that over 50% of the cohort have already received early offers for University in 2022. This is most reassuring for how they embrace their hopes and dreams beyond school. We look forward to celebrating their Graduation Mass on Friday 3 December and then their Formal at Mingara on Tuesday 14

December.

Whilst I am delighted to compliment our MacKillop community on how the delivery of learning has taken place for the second half of the year, I do wish to recognise the extraordinary efforts of the College's leadership team for what I know was something like piecing together a jig-saw puzzle with your eyes closed. We are deeply indebted to Primary Principal - Frank Cohen, Primary AP - Sherylyn Kenney, Secondary Principal - Deb Ferguson and Secondary AP - Mel McGuinness for their professional approach and willingness to change direction at the drop of a hat. I must say we are blessed to have such exceptional leaders here at MacKillop.

We are farewelling a number of people from the College at the end of this year – students, families and some staff. We thank each person for their contribution to the College and we hope and pray that wherever life takes you next that your time here at MacKillop leaves you with happy memories. A special mention to our Family Liaison Officer, Natalie Tunstead who left us for sunny Brisbane in mid-November after five years of pioneering the role of the FLO at MacKillop. We wish Natalie and her family every happiness for settling into Queensland life.

I have written a small reflection in the Yearbook to thank everyone for the privilege of being the College Principal for the past eleven years. I am very proud of this College community and the wonderful culture that we have here at MacKillop. Thank you for your support, cooperation and engagement with this 'happy, safe and colourful' Catholic School. Take care one and all.









# A man of Deep Faith and a Love of Education

**Deb Ferguson, Secondary Principal, highlights the prestigious and impressive career of Mr Steve Todd.**

**HOW DO YOU** express your gratitude to a fine leader and adequately describe a person's contribution to Catholic Education in just a short article? However, this is what we will try to do to farewell Mr Steve Todd in a fitting manner as he retires at the end of the year after 45 years of dedication to students and their families.

Mr Todd started his teaching career as a Primary teacher in 1977 at Waverley College, Junior School before moving to Marcellin College Primary School. He commenced his rise in middle leadership as a Religious Education Coordinator (REC) back at Waverley College and then to St. Matthew's Central School, Mudgee as REC in a K-10 school. In 1993 he was promoted to his first principalship at St. Joseph's Central School, Oberon.

Everyone who knows Mr Todd is aware of his deep affection for Mary MacKillop and his strong desire to educate about and protect the dignity of women. In 2003 he moved to MacKillop College, Bathurst (Yr 7-12), an all-girls school, as Principal and then, finally, in 2011 we were very fortunate and blessed to have him come to MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale as the College Principal. What a prestigious and impressive career.

For many, this would be impressive enough but Mr Todd needs to be recognised for several other areas:

Firstly, he is a man of deep faith of which he is highly informed having a Masters in Religious Education. Whilst in the Bathurst Diocese he generously served on the Religious Education Working Party developing 'The Christ We Proclaim' Secondary RE Units where he was a collaborative writer and presenter. He was also on the Bathurst Diocesan Task Force for Adult Education whilst also being the President of the Bathurst Diocesan Catholic Principals Association. When he came to our Diocese, he also served on the Broken Bay CSO Mission Committee for 4 years.

One of the high points for Mr Todd has been his membership of the Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools (AJASS) which is an independent association of Josephite schools which was formed in 2006. Mr Todd was one of the founding executives, and he has had a vital role in expanding the membership of this group and ensuring that our College has been closely linked with the Sisters of St Joseph and other schools commenced by this Religious Order or have taken on Mary MacKillop's charism.

Developing the resources of Catholic Schools to ensure that we are providing the very best for our students is so important and Mr Todd also served for 3 years on the NSW Catholic Education Commission – Catholic Block Grant Authority which works to provide funding to build and to renovate and expand Catholic schools.



We have so much to be grateful to Mr Todd for since he arrived at MacKillop. Steve followed the inaugural Principal, Mr Stephen Aitken. We have named Mr Aitken's time as the 'The Establishment Era' of our College and Mr Todd's as 'The Cultural and Identity Era'. His era has featured: new Mission and Vision Statements with associated Strategic Plans and School Improvement Plans across the years; becoming a leading HSC performing school in the area; the introduction of a new House system reflected in the students connection to the story of Mary MacKillop; a new visual identity honouring both the original Lighthouse logo and the canonisation of Mary MacKillop as Australia's first Saint; and for how the College expresses their motto of 'Christ Our Light' with a Josephite heart. A booklet he wrote and published in 2021 entitled 'We All Belong Here' offers the connection with the College motto, Gospel Values, Mary MacKillop's Story and with the Indigenous Stories of First Nation Peoples. He has worked tirelessly for our families and staff to create a strong K-12 Catholic College, of which we are all so proud.

It is very apparent of his passion for Catholic education, yet he is also highly accomplished in his private life, although these too still link closely to his faith and education. Mr Todd is a talented illustrator and writer, and he has co-written a number of books including 'Growing Together in Faith'

Series, Books 2 & 3, illustrator of 'Breathing Life into the RE Classroom' by Dan White CEO, Bathurst and illustrator & Co-Author for KD Publications for six other books based around our faith and religious education.

Further to this, he is recognised as a talented artist. In addition to his beautiful art works which involve his family and places he has travelled, he has been commissioned to complete many paintings which take pride of place in many schools, especially at our College.

Mr Todd has decided it is time for him to retire, yet he has many ambitions still to fulfill and many plans in his future. He will continue to paint and hopefully we will one day attend an art exhibition of his work.

More than anything, Steve plans to spend most of his time with his family. To travel and enjoy retirement with his wife of 41 years, Lynette and to especially spend time with his 3 children Katie, Joshua and Daniel and their partners and his four grandchildren, Luca, Rose, Isla and Jasper.

So, all that we can really say is, thank you Mr Steve Todd for all you have done which has always been informed by a deep faith, a wealth of knowledge, a true sense of justice and integrity and a great love of education and the families and teachers it serves.

ENJOY A WELL-EARNED RETIREMENT.







# Introducing our new College Principal

**Steve Todd, College Principal, introduces our 3rd College Principal, Mr Jason Hanrahan.**

**IT IS WITH** pleasure that I introduce the 3rd College Principal to you as Mr. Jason Hanrahan. Jason will follow in the footsteps of our Foundation Principal, the late Steven Aitken (2003-2010) and myself as the College's 2nd College Principal (2011-2021).

Jason is no stranger to MacKillop as he visited us with a team from the Bathurst Diocese some 5 or 6 years ago as he was preparing to take on Yrs 11 & 12 at St. Matthews Catholic School Mudgee. Pleasingly, Jason took our place as a bit of a blueprint for bringing a new way of life at St. Matthew's Catholic School, Mudgee. A look at the St. Matthew's website gives you a clear insight into how Jason embedded a new way of life there and for just how well received it has been in Mudgee. Jason mentioned to me that his visit to MacKillop had a profound effect on him for setting up the K-12 agenda for St. Matthew's. He recalls not only the unique way of life here but also the friendly and warm outgoing atmosphere that is so obvious here at MacKillop. Jason is enthusiastic about this new opportunity in his professional career.

As a frequent visitor to Mudgee, I noted how successful the school was under Jason's leadership. St. Matthew's became the school to have your children at in Mudgee. He is highly respected by staff, students and families in the town. This is a tremendous compliment to Jason's hard work and dedication

in setting up the school for success.

Jason relocated to Newcastle with his wife and two daughters a couple of years ago. He travelled to Armidale to work in the CSO, where he was the School Performance Leader. A role that has broadened his insights into Catholic School education.

I would imagine that all our K-12 students, our parent community and our staff would be delighted to see that Jason not only joins us with relevant experience in leadership, but he also understands what the key components are for supporting the sound operation of a K-12 Catholic College. He values the learning journey and the importance of good communication and for building the relationships of care and trust right across the school community.

I know everyone will warmly welcome Jason here at Warnervale and, I know that he will be very keen to support our Josephite spirit and the wonderful House culture we have here at MacKillop. Jason has visited our College, to prepare for the handover in leadership that will take effect in Term One, 2022.

I look forward to hearing about the continued success of MacKillop under Jason's care and I wish him every blessing for the years ahead.





# Learning to dance on shifting carpet

**Frank Cohen, Primary Principal, is so proud of our resilient students.**

**"START BY DOING** what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." St Francis of Assisi. Term 4 started out in Home Based Learning mode and then slowly the students returned to face to face learning. As a staff we were very excited to have the children return. HBL filled the void, but nothing beats the real experience of classes filled with children learning together.

Many children came back to school highly anxious from the HBL lock down period. Children had spent the best part of 18 weeks learning from home and had to re-engage with peers and teachers alike. Routines and procedures needed to be re-taught and the focus in the early days of return was for the children to participate in wellbeing activities. Academic development is only one part of formation. The social and emotional needs leading to a happy mental state are vitally important for the development of the whole child. Teachers did their best to make all children feel happy and secure.

Sadly, even with over 90% of 16-year-olds and above vaccinated in the state of NSW, restrictions remained for schools right until the end of the year. We were able to hold our Kindergarten and Year 1 Athletics fun day and the annual Swimming Carnival, but without parents. The Year 6 students had to change their end of year Graduation arrangements and our traditional Advent Concert could not go ahead as planned. External sport and excursions could not go ahead and mixing of cohorts across the College was prevented.

On a positive note, the school's Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN results were some of the best ever recorded for the school and many of the academic initiatives resumed as normal. Year 2 and 4 students were able to take part in early morning Mathematics classes and Team-Teaching Rounds began for Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2, and Year 4. Based on assessment data a team

of five teaching staff worked in classrooms to directly instruct students with their learning in Maths and English.

Year 1 students took part in a new pilot program on phonics from the NSW Government and they, along with Kindergarten, were preparing for the rollout of a new syllabus in R.E, Maths and English. For Year 2 – 6 all students were assessed using the AGAT tool from the Australian Council of Educational Research, which provided rich information for teachers in helping to allocate classes for 2022.

Although many of the activities and initiatives stopped or were altered, particularly with creative arts and sports, the staff did their very best to cater for the needs of all children.

Just over the horizon some exciting programs and plans are in train for 2022. A new rewards and behaviour system will be in place and the primary grades will have an instructional lead teacher coach. Mrs. Shilling will work with teachers in rooms to tailor programs of learning, so that children can be as good as the very best when it comes to personal academic achievement.

We are sad to bid farewell to our Family Liaison Officer – Mrs. Natalie Tunstead as she moves north to Queensland and thank her for her support of our Primary families. We also wish Mrs. Merrotsy and Mrs. Garling all the very best as they welcome new additions to their growing families. On behalf of the Primary staff, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all parents on what has been an extraordinary year.

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it." Pope Francis. Merry Christmas to all our families and may 2022 be filled with great hope and promise.





# A rollercoaster year!

**Deb Ferguson, Secondary Principal, *reflects on a very unique year.***

**SO, 2021 HAS** once again been a unique year. We were so lucky to start the year with regular assemblies, sports carnivals and lessons, but this did not last too long. COVID arrived with a vengeance in Term 3 and the College all but shut down and moved into your lounge rooms, kitchen tables and bedrooms with Home-Based learning becoming a regular part of your vocabulary again, along with ZOOM Meetings, Google classroom lessons and COMPASS work.

All our students had to deal with being at home, no sport, trying to access reliable wifi, not being with friends, no social gatherings, no holidays and trying to be able to keep up with their education. However, by having to be resilient and taking risks with their learning has allowed our students to develop in many areas. They have had to be critical thinkers, collaborators, flexible and creative learners, problem solvers and have had to be open to taking risks and learning from mistakes.

As we finish our year, we acknowledge that with a school of 900 teenagers we have great days and challenging days, but every day is a great joy to share these experiences together and we thank all our students for their contributions to this community. We challenge them to be wise, thoughtful and dedicated to helping themselves and others to realise their

personal best.

I also need to recognise our very hard-working staff at MCC. Teaching is one of the most complicated professions today. It demands broad knowledge of subject matter, curriculum, and standards; enthusiasm, a caring attitude, and a love of learning; knowledge of discipline and classroom management techniques; and a desire to make a difference in the lives of young people.

Our staff are deeply invested in finding and nurturing the immense potential inside all students so that they are equipped to explore the boundless possibilities that lie ahead of them. To do this takes determination, hard work and a commitment to the pursuit of excellence. I thank our teaching and support staff who have invested so much of themselves and their tremendous expertise in the pursuit of this vision for the benefit of our students and our School. I also thank all the leaders and teachers in the College that helped us to create a COVID safe school this year often going way beyond what is expected.

To all parents and caregivers, I thank you for your passionate support of all things MacKillop and for giving us the opportunity to work in partnership with you to give the greatest gift of all to your children – the gift of education.





# Thank you is never enough

**Deb Ferguson, Secondary Principal, says thank you to the Secondary staff who farewell MacKillop this year.**

**IT IS ALWAYS** sad to say goodbye to any of our staff as the dedication and generosity of all the MCC community makes it difficult to adequately say thank you. At the end of 2021 we say goodbye to:

**Mrs Clifft** has been our Finance Officer since 2006 and has assisted the College to develop and run efficiently. She is a woman of great compassion and many families have had close connections with her over the years as she assisted them in many areas. Our families and our staff will particularly miss her, and we thank her for her dedication, good humour and endless energy that she gave to this position. Mrs Clifft has decided it is time to put her feet up and retire, although I doubt the feet will be up too long as she will now enjoy her family and the other activities that she loves. We thank her and wish her much happiness for the future

**Mrs Reynolds** has been with us for many years. She first came to us as a Religious Studies teacher and became an integral member of the RE faculty. She then progressed to be our College Youth Minister. She has always shared her skills and talents at Masses and other functions, and we will miss hearing her sing and preach. It is impossible to measure the impact she has had on the many lives that she has interacted with each day. We want to acknowledge Mrs Reynolds and to thank her very, very much for all that she has brought to MacKillop. We wish her every blessing in the next stage of her career as she moves to a school closer to her home.

**Mrs Tunstead** has been at MacKillop for 6 years and pioneered a new position called the Family Liaison Officer for K-12. She has been an advocate for our parents and staff and has worked tirelessly to ensure there has been good communication between parents and the College. She is not only recognised at a school level but across the diocese for her work and she introduced the Facebook pages to not only open communication but to celebrate all our successes. She will be very much missed and we wish her well with her new chapter in her and her family's life in Queensland.

**Mrs Attard** has been in the English faculty for some years now. From the outset of her time here Mrs Attard has been passionate about our students. She has forged good working relationships with staff and students and is always willing

to help students when they need assistance. We are very appreciative of the gifts that Mrs Attard shares with us each day and we wish her every blessing as she embarks upon this new chapter of her life as a mum as she now takes Maternity Leave for some of 2022.

**Mr Hepworth** has made a huge impact in the Mathematics and Science faculties. This year he has been with us on a temporary position. His caring and thoughtful disposition has been truly appreciated by the students and we want to say thank you and we hope that he enjoys what lies ahead for him at his new school in Newcastle.

**Mrs Payens** has also been in the Science faculty, having returned from retirement to help us when we needed her expertise last year and this year. She has been a very valuable member of staff and her enjoyment of teaching and commitment to our students is so evident. We thank her for all she has done and wish her well for the future.

We are grateful to have had **Mrs Hale** in our Performing Arts Faculty teaching Music this year. She is a wonderful music and singing teacher and we hope to continue to see her with us again next year.

**Mr O'Malley** assisted many students this year with their Mathematical skills by job sharing with Mrs Bilsborough for the first 3 terms. We thank him so much for all his effort and time spent with us and we hope to continue to see him working as a Casual within the College.

**Ms Higgins** has worked so hard for her students especially as she picked up her classes this year during HBL from Ms Mulder, a difficult task. We thank her so much for her dedication this year.

**Mr Haines** is taking 12 months away from teaching to be able to spend some quality time with his family and specially to look after his aging father. We will miss him very much from the Science faculty and we wish him a year of happiness and rest.

We thank God for the gift of all of these staff members and for their generosity over the years. We ask God's blessings upon them and their families. We wish everyone much happiness in their future, and they will always be considered MacKillop people.





# Back to class after an ‘extended recess’

**Mel McGuinness, Secondary Assistant Principal, *speaks about returning to school after Home Based Learning.***

**HOW WE ALL** longed for the return to school after such a protracted stint of HBL. The campus was really depleted of the youthful vibrant energy of youth and in that it felt sad.

Our transition began with Year 12 as the first ones back on site and what a delightful way to welcome them back with their first day being a focus on their wellbeing and connecting with teachers and each other. Coming together after such a very long recess can at times feel awkward and even anxiety-inducing for students and staff. Coming together with all of the current restrictions and mask-wearing requirements adds an additional layer to the experience.

The week of 25 October saw the transition of Year 7-11 back on site and this also went well. This was followed by everyone back on board each day and we are so grateful for the partnership we have with our parents and students.

The overwhelming majority of families joined the information Zooms we ran and kept pace with the many lines of communications that were needed for us to resume daily operations. Students have returned ready to learn and well-presented in our College uniform. They have been a joy to see, and their happiness is palpable.

On going into classes, we have observed learning activities and noted how pleasant the students are and the high levels of co-operation and acceptance of the regulations we now work within. Thank you so much for making MacKillop the wonderful place it continues to be.

We look forward to the New Year and our continued journey with all of our families. I wish each and every family a joyous advent and my prayer is that we will all experience some quality family time this summer. Blessings to everyone.





# Jesus is the reason for the Season

Father Philip *shares a special message for the season of Christmas.*

**DEAR STAFF MEMBERS,** Students, Parents and well-wishers,

After a long time of distress and anxiety we have once again entered the season of Christmas, a time of celebration of joy and happiness. Soon the parties will start and with great jubilation we will exchange gifts with our family and friends. Christmas brings alive the child in all of us and reminds us that no matter what we've been through there is a divine spurt of loving and being loved. That reminds me of the reason for our celebrations.

The ravaging effect of Coronavirus around the world is fresh in our minds but gradually with the arrival of the vaccines and its availability there is a fresh air of hope into the world of fear and death and now we are regaining courage and confidence for social interactions. Like the vaccines, into the world of gloom and darkness, death and despair, God sent his only Son Jesus Christ. As the scripture says, "The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen" (Mt. 4:16). "For us a child is born, a son is given to us, upon his shoulders dominion rests. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Is. 9:6).

Jesus is God incarnate. He could have chosen to be born of

high and mighty of the world's standard, and yet, Jesus chose to be born into a world of chaos into abject poverty. Jesus was born in a place called 'Bethlehem' which means, 'house of bread', in a manger, where food is placed for the animals to eat in a stable. And thus, His place of birth signified that he was born to be eaten. The baby from Bethlehem becomes the bread of life. Jesus says, "I am the bread of life that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live for ever" (Jn.6:51). That is why we gather around the Altar in the church, very specially during Christmas, to celebrate the Holy Mass with our family and friends to savour the sweetness of God's love.

The celebration of Christmas reminds us of God, who gave us his only Son, Jesus, will not hold back anything from us that we need for our lives, we only need to trust in His providence. If there was no Christ then there is no Christmas, if there was no Christmas then there is no celebration of Crib, Christmas tree, Carols, Santa Claus, and gifts. Let us be reminded that Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. He is with us till the end of the World.

Wish each one of you and to your families a Joyful, Holy and Happy Christmas and assure you of my continued prayers.

Fr. Philip Thottam MSFS.



# Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

**Tim Snelling** says how *Term 4* was filled with *Giving, Sacraments, and Faith Development*.

**THERE ARE MANY** projects and happenings around the primary school with our faith development and Religious Education as we head towards the end of our school year.

Thank you for all of the kind donations that we have received for our **Mini Macks Christmas Appeal** for the local nursing home communities. These are currently being sorted by the Year 5 Mini Macks group with the help of Sister Marea. The primary students have also been spending time making Christmas cards to accompany these gifts and they look fantastic. These gifts are sure to brighten up the lives of the elderly this Christmas season.

Many of these Year 5 Mini Mack students have also been assisting with our **Advent** video presentations which will appear to our school community in week 9.

In week 7, we welcomed **Brother Shayne D'Cunha**, a third year seminarian of our diocese who will be staying with Father Philip until Christmas for his pastoral experience. He is keen to spend as much time as possible engaging with the students across our school with their faith development and their Religious Education. The students have enjoyed his presence in our school community.

The students in Year 4 have been participating with Sister Jennifer each week in preparation for receiving the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** in the beginning of December. All of the

Year 4 students have been participating in these sessions, learning through activities, prayers, bible readings and conversations that emphasise the Eucharist as the 'source and summit' of our Catholic faith. For the candidates this year, Holy Communion is the climax of their initiation as Catholics. We congratulate all of the students who will be receiving their Sacrament this year.

The Kindergarten teachers for 2022 have been busily preparing for the launch of a **new syllabus in Religious Education next year**. MacKillop, along with a number of other Catholic schools across the diocese, have volunteered to be a pilot school for this initiative in 2022. The focus of the new syllabus is on engaging the students in the stories presented in the Scripture, and the connections of these to our liturgical life, through hands on and practical experiences. The delivery of this new syllabus follows the basic outline of the Montessori based program Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This allows children to hear the Gospel through the use of sensory rich and hands on materials. The children are then free to work with these materials to display their understanding that represent essential proclamations of the Catholic message. A special thanks must be given to Mr Sullivan, Mrs Paholski and Mrs Hanson for their enthusiasm in undertaking this project, and to Mrs Baxter and her high school JUMP students with the preparation of the materials.





# A New Day

**Chrystal Price** *shares how a new Religious Education curriculum is coming for Broken Bay.*

**THIS TERM HAS** been a rather busy term in Religious Education (R.E) with many Religious Education Coordinators, Youth Ministry Coordinators and teaching staff being involved in the development of the new Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) 7-10 R.E Curriculum.

So far there have been four online Professional Learning forums in which our staff have been active collaborators and presenters. The foundational principles for developing the units of the CSBB 7-10 R.E curriculum have been focused on; providing a Religious Education that gives witness to Jesus' example of accompaniment, as well as delivering a curriculum that supports students to encounter Jesus and one that provides opportunities for personal and communal transformation.

The process of discernment and collaboration with other

Religious Educators in the Diocese has been a rewarding and exciting process so far and we look forward to implementing a rich curriculum that is still Christ centered but also rich in 21st century pedagogy. It also has given us a chance to collaborate more closely with the religious of the Diocese as well as the Youth Ministry Coordinators, to include experiential learning experiences in every unit of work. This then will hopefully ensure that the students are provided with various opportunities to encounter Christ in their learning and feel comfortable exploring their faith both inside and outside the classroom.

Year 7 will be the first year group to experience the implementation of the new 7-10 RE Curriculum next year, followed by Year 9 in semester two.



# Working together to bring a little joy to others this Christmas

*Michelle Baxter shares how our students have been working hard to organise a number of fundraisers.*

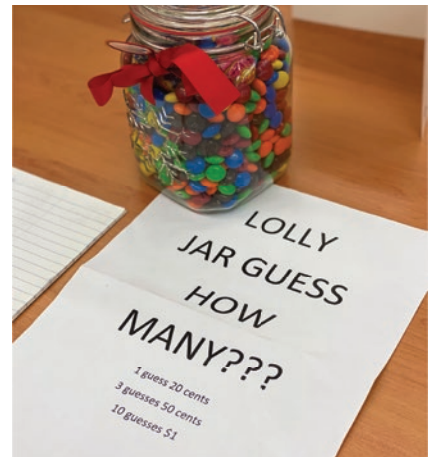
**CHRISTMAS CAN BE** a very difficult time for families, particularly those who are experiencing poverty and disadvantage. We are so pleased to be able to make a small difference by putting together Christmas Hampers for families in our local community.

Every year, we as a MacKillop community donate food items and gifts to spread some Christmas cheer to those who need it most in our local community. Each year group 7-11 is encouraged to contribute a range of items; from non-perishable foods and Christmas decorations, to toys for school aged children.

The Mini Vinnies have been working hard to organise a number of fundraisers to also support the Christmas Appeal. All of the proceeds from these fundraisers will be used to purchase fresh food vouchers and accompany the Christmas Hampers. The Vinnies Team have put together an amazing Christmas basket valued at over \$400. The lucky winner will be announced later in Term 4 and will receive a range of goodies

including; Christmas cake and shortbread biscuits, chocolates and perfume, L'Occitane toiletries, as well as a \$200 Bunnings gift voucher. There is also a 'Lucky 100 Club' fundraiser which includes two prizes with a further 2 x \$100 Bunnings gift cards and a Lolly Guessing Competition. Further to this, beautiful handmade Christmas cards and gift tags were placed on sale, as well as reindeer headbands. Normally the Vinnies would sell these items at a Christmas stall during recess and lunch times. However, due to COVID restrictions, the Vinnies had to be creative with their tactics this year, doing an amazing job rostering the selling of raffle tickets, number guessing and selling of items between the year groups.

A huge thank you to everyone who purchased tickets, donated items and contributed to the hampers. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated. Wishing you all peace and joy this Christmas!





# Keeping the spark in YMCC

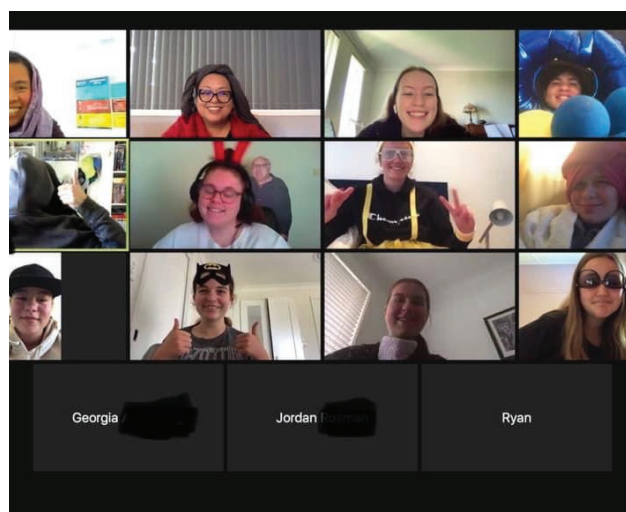
*YMCC students continue to sparkle as the year draws to a close, says Maisie Tenev.*

**TERM 4 HAS** brought many moments of gratitude and reflection. The return to school has been an adjustment in itself, however, the YMCC students have adapted to the ever-changing restrictions and requirements of life after lockdown. There have been logistical issues that have impacted our ability to meet as a group, and the HSC has also meant that the Ryan Centre is out of bounds.

During online lunch meetings, the YMCC students have been organising icebreakers and games and leading them and it has been wonderful to witness. We have continued with the 'Getting To Know You' series, where a different teacher is interviewed each week and it's been great to socialise and forget about work for a little while. Hopefully by our return in Term 1 next year we will be able to meet in person in the Ryan Centre again.

This Term, every Monday afternoon, students have participated in a program called 'Spark Sessions'. The purpose of this program is to provide students with the opportunity and a platform to talk about issues that teenagers face and discuss how our faith can assist us in tackling those issues. Some of the topics we covered this term include mental health, the effects of the pandemic, and the comparison culture of social media. There were many moments where students opened up to share their own personal experiences and it was so heartwarming to observe how they supported each other.

We wish the former Youth Ministry Coordinator, Mrs. Elizabeth Reynolds, all the best in her new school and community. On behalf of Sr Jiji and I, we would like to thank the staff, the parents, and the students for their support and contribution to the Youth Ministry at MacKillop Catholic College this year. Blessings for a safe and joyful Christmas!





# Take a bow, Year 12

Rachael Elcoate *congratulates the Year 12 Class of 2021.*

**THE JOURNEY OF** the Class of 2021 has certainly taken an unusual direction for Year 12 students this year. The extension of the HSC into a 5th Term has allowed for this group to reconnect and focus on completing the HSC exams.

With the government bringing forward the return date, Year 12 came back together in week 3 for their final week of Year 12. The week consisted of fun, learning and farewells to class teachers. It is tradition that in the final week, Year 12 dress up, and that they did. They switched uniforms on day one and on day five, and they came dressed to the theme 'when I grow up, I wanna be'. It was a touching way for Year 12 to finish up and they brought tremendous spirit.

Students studied at home during stuvac, often visiting teachers for last minute study sessions and advice. Year 4 students put together cards for our seniors, which was very thoughtful, and Year 12 were extremely grateful for this memento they received.

Many Year 12 students received and still are receiving early entries into University. At present, a third of Year 12 have already been accepted into University which is an outstanding achievement. We look forward to hearing more wonderful

news as they each receive offers, which we are celebrating on our social media pages.

The HSC exams began in Week 6 and Year 12 just got straight into it. Yes they had nerves and worries, however each has risen to the occasion, following the protocols and demonstrating their true resilience to complete these wearing a mask for 3 hours at a time. We are so proud.

For Year 12, the major celebrations will take place in Week 9 and 11. Charity Day on 2 December, followed by the graduation the following day and the Formal on 14 December. We cannot wait to celebrate the Class of 2021 and want to thank them for their outstanding leadership, courage, and determination to push through such a turbulent HSC. I am so honored and blessed to have travelled the journey with this amazing group of students and they will always hold a special place in my heart.

To the class of 2021, congratulations and well done. We will truly miss each of you and your outstanding contribution and success you have brought and shared with this College. Go forth and be a light of the world, God bless you all.







# In the studio... with a spotlight on careers in the arts

Jillian Young quotes *"People just want to be witnessed"* - Mridula Amin.

**MRIDULA AMIN IS** a reporter and photojournalist who spoke with our Year 9 and 10 elective Photographic and Digital Media (PDM) students. During a Zoom session, she spoke about her career path into photojournalism over the last five years working in Australia and internationally.

Mridula has reported and photographed for The New York

Times, National Geographic, The Wall Street Journal, ABC, SBS and VICE. She shared with our student's important messages on the ethics and role of photojournalism and social justice while establishing a connection to the human experience in a visual way. She gave interesting tips for success in the industry, giving workable starting points to our budding photographers. Her passion in the Arts has certainly inspired us all.



# In the studio... the Young Archies

Jillian Young speaks about the special Zoom with the Gallery of NSW.

**SOMETIMES OUR STUDIO** changes from classroom based creating art to working in the computer Lab and photography studio, however, during HBL, student's studios became their desks at home, the kitchen table or any free floor space to learn and create. In Term 4, we still enjoyed the virtual studio of zoom as Year 9 attended a Zoom lesson with Victoria Collings from the Gallery of NSW, who is a gallery educator. With the spotlight on careers in the Arts, linked to learning, one

of Victoria's main responsibilities in her role is the organisation and judging of the Young Archies competition held each year alongside the Archibald Prize. As our school prepared for the MacKillop Portrait Prize this year, Victoria gave useful and helpful tips on how to create engaging and meaningful portraits that might just become finalists in this prestigious award!

## Young Archie

The Young Archie competition invites budding artists between the ages of 5 and 18 to submit a portrait of someone who is special to them. Beginning in 2013, this annual competition is managed and judged by the Gallery's family programs manager Victoria Collings and a guest judge, based on merit and originality.



## 16-18 winners



**Top row**  
2013 Angela Yang, 2014 Carmelo Ba  
2015 Ivanette Mitchell, 2016 Dilara I  
2017 Chantelle Que  
**Bottom row**  
2018 Charlotte Coady, 2019 Anya B  
2020 James Stollé  
2021 Charlene Allen

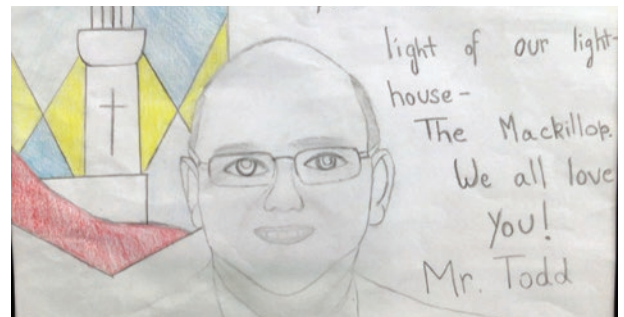


# Artists of Excellence

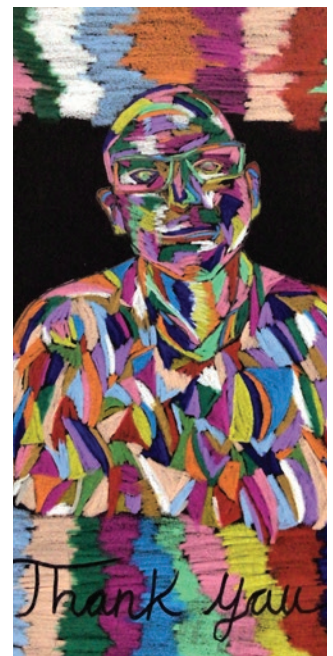
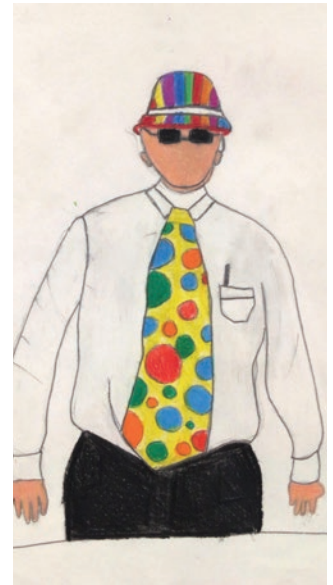
Jillian Young showcases the entries for the Mackillop Portrait Prize 2021, theme 'Goodbye Sir', a Farewell to Mr Steve Todd.















## Visual Art HSC Works!

*"You made it!", proudly exclaims Jillian Young.*

**2021 WAS A** memorable year particularly for our Year 12 students at MacKillop Catholic College. This year, their last year of schooling, was interrupted by a global pandemic and at a crucial point in their education, Term 3 they were forced to undertake the rest of their studies at home doing Home Based Learning. Not an easy situation!

It is with great pleasure that we can showcase their completed Bodies of Work for the Visual Arts HSC course using a Google Site, just click on the QR code to view. These works are a culmination of a year's investigation into art making practices, developing skills and techniques in an expressive form of their choice, as well as artist studies. Congratulations Year 12 on achieving this milestone.

This exhibition was hung in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines and social distancing rules at the time. To mark the occasion, students were photographed with and without their masks on.





# Major works in TAS

*There is Creativity, Innovation and Excellence in the TAS department, shares Damian Clair.*

**THIS WAS A** truly exceptional year for the TAS major works. Despite numerous interruptions throughout their two years of senior study the students, bar none, have produced a level of excellence of which we are all very proud. The four highlighted courses are all very different in terms of the tools, materials and techniques but they all demand a similar level of excellence in project management in order to produce a successful and satisfactory outcome. The four courses are

: Design and Technology , Industrial Technology – Timber , Industrial Technology – Multimedia and Textiles and Design.

Please enjoy the images and stories behind all the students' work as presented below. And finally , for it must be acknowledged, I want to congratulate each Teacher of these courses for their drive, ambition and relentless pursuit of excellence in the teaching of their students. Well done Dennis Gasparotto, David Kowalski and Megan Phillipson.



**DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**Star peg remover by Harrison**

Harrison's Major Work was in response to the ergonomic and safety issues of current star peg removal devices. He designed a unique and innovative system utilising a crank and cable mechanism rather than the traditional lever system. Harrison is considering applying for a patent on his robust and fully functioning system.



**DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**Height adjustable desk by Charlie**

Charlie's Major Work was in response to the ergonomic issues of many current desks. He designed a table with an innovative sliding mechanism, which recycled a sliding drawer hardware component. In addition to the problem solving element of this project, Charlie demonstrated some thorough woodworking skills in the completion of an aesthetically appealing product.



**DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**Console and dispenser system for elderly lady with dementia by Thomas**

Thomas' Major Work was in response to the developing medical needs of his Grandmother. He designed and made a concept model for a device capable of sitting on a coffee table and controlling the TV whilst offering other functions such as pill dispensation. Thomas made extensive use of 3D printing and laser cutting technology in his solution.



### DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

#### Short and medium term housing proposal for homeless by Tim

Tim's Major Work was developed in response to the increasing needs of the homeless individuals and families on the Central Coast. Tim proposed to use recycled shipping containers as part of his solution. He designed and made a concept model for a complex situated in central Gosford. Tim demonstrated excellent model making skills and use of laser cutting technology in his final solution.



### DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

#### Self watering vertical garden by Liam

Liam's Major Work was developed in response to the difficulties, due to lack of outdoor space, faced by individuals in apartments who want to grow plants. Liam used recycled materials to produce a wicking garden irrigation system capable of wall mounting and easy maintenance.



### DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

#### Portable emergency bicycle stand by Ayden

Ayden's Major Work was developed in response to the difficulties faced by cyclists who need to attend to bicycle repairs whilst out on the trail. Ayden needed to develop a super lightweight, easy to assemble product capable of holding up the back wheel whilst repairs were attended to. Ayden completed a functional and appropriate solution after extensive testing and use of 3D printing technology.



### DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

#### Water saving shower system by Isaac

Using extensive research and analysis of data, Isaac identified the overuse of water as a problem in places where supplies were limited, and proposed to develop a solution which cut down the water use whilst showering. Isaac designed and produced a system that continually cycles 10 litres of water through the shower head until the user is finished. At this point they can turn a switch and complete the shower with 5 litres of fresh water.



### DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

#### Game to raise awareness of body image issues with teens by Roisin

Roisin's Major Work was developed in response to the issues faced by teenagers with regards to body image. Roisin, in consultation with experts from the PDHPE department, developed an educational resource in the form of a multiplayer game which educates the target audience in an informal, discussional manner about many body image issues and how to respond.

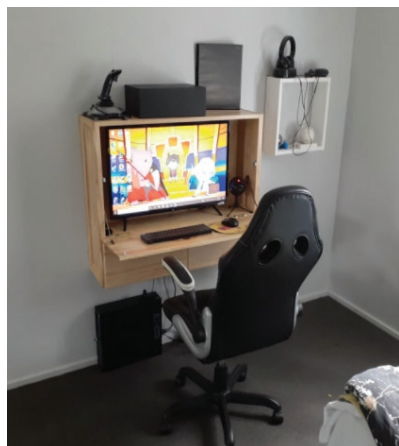


### DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

#### Pet protection for car doors by Taylah

Taylah's Major Work was developed in response to the damage issues caused by her dog when riding in the car. Taylah's dog likes to lean on the car door, but the potential damage caused led Taylah to design a product which would not discourage her dog, but which would protect the car door. Taylah experimented with many different plastic moulding techniques in the development of the design and finally justified 3D printing as the most effective in this situation.





**DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**  
Space saving work/entertainment unit by Ethan

Ethan's Major Work was developed in response to the lack of space in his bedroom and the poor ergonomics of his previous work station. Using creativity and research Ethan developed an appropriate and functional design which he successfully manufactured using thorough woodworking techniques. The product is now being well used for its intended purpose.



**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
Bedside table and lamp stand by Danika

Danika designed and manufactured a high quality bedside table including hardwood laminated steam bent legs, parquetry table top with inlaid natural elements cast in resin. Danika demonstrated clever woodturning techniques to create a unique mixed hard-wood lamp stand. Danika's has shown exceptional ability in all aspects of design and manufacturing using multiple techniques at the highest technical level.



**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
Console table by Jarred

Jarred designed and manufactured a unique high quality console table. Jarred displayed a mix of clever technologies and traditional joinery techniques. Jarred used difficult processes to stabilise the table's legs using laminated steam bending processes together with a variety of jigs and templates. The mixed hardwood table top used computer numeric coding for the machining process and inlaid with black epoxy resin.



**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
Entertainment unit by Liam

Liam designed and manufactured an impressive entertainment unit using beautiful walnut timber for his family. Liam used traditional joint making processes to manufacture his project based on Japanese style furniture. Liam's finish is impressive and a closer inspection reveals a design, production and finish that would be difficult for a skilled tradesperson to match.



**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
Coffee table by Andrew

Andrew for his HSC major project designed and manufactured an impressive coffee table with curves using plywood used to produce timber planes. The process to produce the frame was extremely clever and two drawers are incorporated into the design. Andrew applied lacquer using spraying techniques to produce a high level of finish.



**DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**  
Entertainment unit by Ethan

Ethan has designed and manufactured an entertainment unit that represents quality through all aspects of design and production processes. The cabinet is made from Tasmanian Oak with push to open drawer and doors. This cabinet shows Ethan's ability to implement clever design and utilise high end joinery skills to produce an extremely impressive piece of furniture.



**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
Entertainment unit by Ethan J

Ethan developed this impressive entertainment unit for his mother as his HSC major project. Ethan used Australian Blackbutt timber with a combination of difficult processes to achieve an impressive outcome. This unit has two self closing drawers made with dovetail joints achieving quality in construction. Ethan has produced an extremely impressive piece of furniture.



**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
Entertainment unit by Mitchell

Mitchell has designed and manufactured an impressive coffee table using Australian hardwoods for his major works. Tambour doors have been used in an impressive way together with laminated curved legs allowing Mitchell to produce a uniquely designed piece of furniture. Mitchell used industrial spray lacquering techniques to achieve a quality finish.



**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
Coffee table by David

David designed and manufactured a coffee table for his family. David's design is modern using glass for the top with laminated mixed species Australian hardwoods to produce a quality piece of furniture. The design incorporates two drawers and is finished using tung oil which shows off the natural colours very well, ensuring a high level of finish.



**TEXTILES AND DESIGN**  
Textile art by Alyssa

Alyssa designed and created a wall hanging inspired by native flora and fauna. It incorporates hand-dyed silk and cotton. A chenilling technique with recycled fabrics represents bark. The leaves are felt made by Alyssa using wool fibres from a local source. The contrast of the variety of blues in the Kookaburra wings adds to this very aesthetically pleasing product.



**TEXTILES AND DESIGN**  
Textile art by Jorja

A love of reading motivated Jorja to design and create this imaginative piece of Textile Art. Incorporating innovative dyeing techniques, recycled fabrics, hand embroidery, applique and digital fabric printing the piece really communicates the kind of world that can be imagined through books.



**TEXTILES AND DESIGN**  
Textile art by Chloe

Inspired by Australian Textile Artist Caroline Sharkey and her love of the natural environment, Chloe created this beautiful depiction of the sea. Recycled fabrics using a confetti technique, weaving, laser cut circles, innovative dyeing and manipulating fabric with a heat gun all contributed to a most attractive finished product.





**TEXTILES AND DESIGN**  
**Fabric storybook by Lucah**

Lucah designed and created a book constructed entirely of textile materials and incorporating LED lights. Her Textile Artwork tells the story of deforestation and degradation of the natural environment around us. Lucah hand dyed fabrics using plants and vegetables. She created felt from locally sourced wool fibres. The end product demonstrated a variety of highly creative and innovative textile techniques.



**TEXTILES AND DESIGN**  
**Textile art by Casey**

Wanting to communicate a body-positive message Casey designed and created this striking wall hanging. The background uses a variety of hand dyeing and fabric manipulation techniques. Applique and yarn create the woman who is the focal point. Casey crocheted the bold headline which adds to the overall creativity of the piece.



**TEXTILES AND DESIGN**  
**Textile art by Tahlia**

Tahlia was inspired by the ocean to create this beautiful textile art piece. The design incorporates felting, weaving, dyeing, applique, yarn embellishments and beading. The use of natural hessian fibres adds to the organic shape and aesthetically pleasing end result.

## INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY - *Multimedia. Scan the QR code to watch the videos.*



**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
**Body image film by Roisin**

Roisin created a visual study looking at Body Image in teenage girls and women. The film draws from her own experience and from those of her peers. She has created a powerful and thought provoking piece that fits well within the PDHPE curriculum.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
**Tutorial video by Lachlan**

Lachlan created an introductory tutorial film on programming websites using the HTML programming language, using screen-in-screen technology.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
**Arcade game by Luke**

Luke created an adventure game in the classic arcade style using the Unity game making software. He developed a series of worlds and challenges.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
**Scary movie by Jay**

Jay created a short thriller, filmed on location in local bushland with a few classmates. The central character is a unnamed and masked psychopath that strikes terror into his victims, before meeting his match in the forest.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
**Sports action video by Ayden**

Ayden created a short film about mountain biking. He shows a first hand view of the exhilarating thrill of the sport, shot on location in the Ourimbah State Forest, on his bike with a portable camera.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
**Documentary by Lachlan**

Lachlan created a documentary in the cinema verite style on VEO, the band he plays with. It shows the band rehearsing and working up original material in a half built backyard rehearsal studio. It harnesses the aesthetic of a classic art school film.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
**Cooking show parody by Ethan**

Ethan created a cooking film that was a parody of a commercial TV cooking show. It is a hilarious mockumentary that demonstrates making waffles in a lighthearted way.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
**"FEAR" by Lachlan**

Lachlan created a short thriller based on the premise of "FEAR". Starring his younger brother, the film shows a high level of cinematic detail and a good use of some gripping special effects.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
**Stop motion by Kelly**

Kelly created a stop-motion animation film called "Barroom Batz" where various superheroes engage in a barroom brawl. There was a lot of time spent on designing the motion and movement of his figurines to create this mini-epic.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
**Dance music by Justin**

Justin created a piece of Electronic Dance Music and created an accompanying video, of bars and wireframe landscapes, to create a dynamic three-dimensional moving image. The graphics on screen are created live on screen in response to the soundtrack embedded in the film.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**  
**A day in the life... by Jonas**

Jonas created a cinema verite style film called "A Day in the Life of...". The fly-on-the-wall film managed to convey a story with no dialog.



# For the love of reading

*"Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are." Mason Cooley, quotes Jackie Crowe.*

**SUPPORTING READING FOR** pleasure is an important part of our school Library program. Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. It also improves children's well-being and empathy. Research shows that reading for pleasure can be directly linked to children's success throughout their time at school.

Thoughts about our school Library and reading from our students:

*"Through discovering Wheelers ePlatform during lockdown I fell in love with reading again."* Milly Year 12

*"Response time to getting new literature is splendid."* Sachin Year 12

*"The Library has a large variety of books including manga."* Dominique Year 9

*"The Library is a good place to sit, chill, study and read."* Zane Year 9

*"I have only been here for a year and the Library has been a big part of my education and prepares me for high school".* Julia Year 5

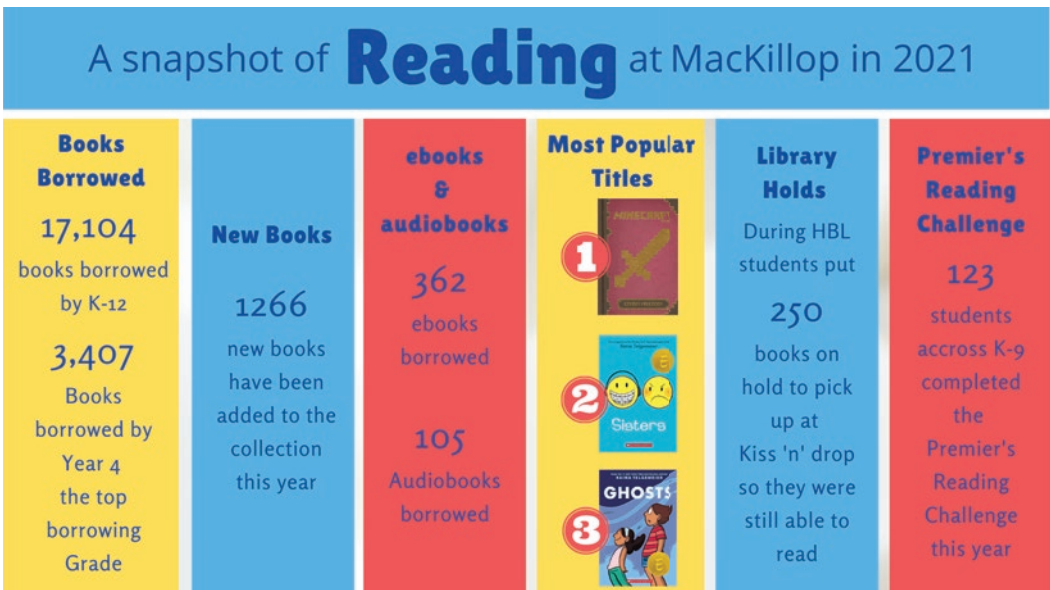
*"I like the Library because it has books for everyone."* Hormis Year 5

*"I love reading and I love the Library because it has so many books to pick from. It's so peaceful, and it's quiet and you can open your mind and find stuff that embraces your intelligence."* Chloe Year 3

*"I love the Library because I love books, and my favourite books are in this Library. I also love quiet places where you can just go into a whole different world with books with your imagination."* Felice Year 3

*"I like animal books because I learn about what they eat and what they do every day."* Samantha Year 1

*"We love reading books from the Library and learning how to use the computers."* Kinder Grevillea.







# Fitness and fun!

Kellie Denneman says Kindergarten and Year 1 had a fantastic Athletics Fun Day.

**WHAT A WONDERFUL** day we had at the Kindergarten and Year 1 Athletics Fun Day this Term. The day consisted of 2 sessions, followed by a BBQ lunch.

In the first session before recess children participated in 4 event rotations;

- 100m sprint
- Frisbee throw
- 400m run
- Javelin throw

Children were awarded ribbons for the first four places in

these events.

After recess we moved into a rotation of fun-filled team activities;

- Parachute
- Obstacle course
- Ball games
- Running relay

The children had so much fun and we enjoyed a sausage sizzle and popper for lunch to finish the day.

The smiling faces tell the story!











# A pause in play

Duncan Black *says we are looking forward to sport in 2022.*

**AS THE REPRESENTATIVE** Sports Coordinator at the College, I find the current situation very strange. I have not been able to organise teams into competitions, or arrange teachers to coach teams. Also, there are the individual sportspeople not able to enter their chosen sport at either BBSSSA or NSW CCC levels. Over the past two years a lot of students have missed out on opportunities that past students have had.

Looking forward to 2022, hopefully with everything going to plan and government easing of restrictions, MacKillop Catholic College will be able to resume like many other schools back to the representative pathways.

To the right is the 2022 Broken Bay Secondary Schools Sports Associations calendar, majority of the sports are team sport with some individual pathways into BBSSSA teams. The following websites will assist students and parents on individual pathway information at either BBSSSA or NSW CCC levels: <https://csnsw.sport> and <https://csnsw.sport/brokenbay/secondary>.

Can I ask that if any student or parent wishes to enquire about pathways in sports please do not hesitate in contacting me via my email [duncan.black@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:duncan.black@dbb.catholic.edu.au)

Students will need to be selected into the College team to represent the College at Broken Bay. Term 1 is normally a very busy term with 3 College carnivals and College teams selections. Students will need to be alert and on time with selections.

I wish everyone a safe, fit, and rewarding 2022.

Term 1 Week 4	BBSSSA Open/U15 B Touch Wed 16 Feb
Term 1 Week 5	BBSSSA Open/U15 G Touch Wed 23 Feb
Term 1 Week 6	BBSSSA U15/Op Boys RL trial Thursday 3 March
Term 1 Week 8	BBSSSA Swimming Monday 21 March
Term 1 Week 10	BBSSSA U13 B/G Touch Tuesday 29 March
Term 2 Week 1	BBSSSA In Girls'/Boys Soccer Friday 29 April (Back up same day)
Term 2 Week 2	BBSSSA Open Soccer Tuesday 3 May BBSSSA Open Soccer Sel. Thursday 5 May
Term 2 Week 3	BBSSSA Cross country Monday 9 May
Term 2 Week 6	BBSSSA U16 Girls RL Trials Wednesday 1 June BBSSSA Open Basketball Thursday 2 June
Term 2 Week 9	BBSSSA Jun B/G Soccer Tuesday 21 June BBSSSA J/I Basketball Girls Thursday 23 June
Term 3 Week 1	BBSSSA Netball Thursday 21 July
Term 3 Week 2	BBSSSA J/I Basketball Boys Thursday 28 July
Term 3 Week 3	BBSSSA U13 Rugby League Tuesday 2 August BBSSSA U14 9's Girls Rugby League
Term 3 Week 7	BBSSSA Athletics Tuesday 30 August BBSSSA Golf Friday 2 September
Term 3 Week 9	BBSSSA Rugby 7s/AFL J/I Boys Tuesday 13 September
Term 4 Week 1	BBSSSA Rugby 7s/AFL J/I Girls Thursday 13 October
Term 4 Week 2	BBSSSA Water Polo Monday 17 October
Term 4 Week 6	BBSSSA Surf/BodyBoarding Tuesday 15 Nov
Term 4 Week 7	BBSSSA SLS Thursday 24 November
Term 4 Week 8	Tennis and Beach Volleyball Tuesday 29 November

# Kinder Yana

**Frank Cohen says Kindergarten 2022 students have enjoyed investigative learning and play.**

**LIKE SO MANY** other programs and initiatives this year, our Kinder Yana School Readiness Program was interrupted due to the extended lockdown and associated restrictions. An 8-week learning preparation experience was condensed into 3 sessions during Term 4.

The 3-week program was based on the Reggio Emilia philosophy and set of principles:

Children must have some control over the direction of their learning.

*Children must be able to learn through experiences of touching, moving, listening, and observing.*

*Children have a relationship with other children and with material items in the world that they must be allowed to explore.*

*Children must have endless ways and opportunities to express themselves.*

The activities designed by the staff focused on fine motor skills, literacy, numeracy, oral language, and Social and Emotional learning. As the children were working on the activities, a team of teachers were taking observational notes to help us compose the best placements for students as they

enter Kindergarten for 2022.

Year 5 buddies also helped chaperone the children as they arrived each morning and some helped in the classroom as the children went about their learning and playing. All children received a Welcome to MacKillop Big School T-Shirt and at the last session received a bag of goodies to take home.

The unfortunate aspect of the Kinder Yana 2021 program was the absence of parents taking part in the program, and we were unable to deliver on site parent education seminars. We did, however, conduct a parent Zoom where our school psychologist and the Kinder 2022 teaching staff were able to provide information on what Kindergarten will look like each day and discuss topics that related to anxiety and social and emotional development.

We are very much looking forward to the new year where we will welcome 85 bright eyed Kindergarten students. In the words of Dr Seuss: "You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose."

Bring on 2022 as the adventure of school learning begins!







## Parent news

**Natalie Tunstead** *shares what it was like returning to school, and bids us farewell.*

**IT HAS BEEN** wonderful to see students returning to school and to hear the relief from parents on an end to home based learning.

Our Term 4 PAST meeting was held on Wednesday 10 November via Zoom. During this meeting we were able to hear from parents on their experiences of HBL and the return to school transition. We were also able to outline the School Improvement Plan and input on upcoming events. A big thank you to all our PAST parents and carers for their contribution and commitment to our MacKillop Community.

CSP (Catholic School Parents) update from our parent representatives Kirsty Liston and Karina Baftirovski. Across Term 3 and 4, the CSP has continued to Zoom and be an active parent voice within our diocese. There have been formal meetings, focus groups with CSBB as well as virtual catch ups/drop in sessions that have enabled parents to have their authentic voice heard, acknowledged and listened to in relation to the impact of lockdown, transitioning back to

school and most importantly the wellbeing of our children and community.

On 3 November, we held a year in review Zoom and looked back on what was achieved over a turbulent year such as webinars on vaping and access to parent education resources from Maggie Dent. There is a great video summarising all that we achieved in 2021 which you can see on Broken Bay Catholic School Parents Facebook page, or by using the QR code pictured. As we finish up 2021 with a few more Zoom catch ups, we are looking towards 2022 with the focus on advocacy partnerships, wellbeing, inclusive connections and reviewing parent bodies and CSP.

As I write my final College Matters I would like to say farewell and let you know it has been a joy to be a part of the MacKillop Community and I leave with fond memories of my time here. Recruitment for a new FLO will begin soon and hopefully start at the beginning of 2022. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and happy and safe 2022.





# Peer Support Leadership

**Julian Legge** *speaks about Peer Support Leadership Training and the Year 7 Orientation day.*

**THE PEER SUPPORT** Leadership program is a peer-led program that offers Year 9 students an opportunity to be a part of each year. This program aims to help Year 7 2022 students make a smooth transition into high school, as well as gives the Year 9 students an opportunity to step out of their comfort zones and become leaders. Peer Support assists students in developing practical skills to enhance social and emotional wellbeing, connects our school community by providing a friendly face to talk to, and promotes positive relationships and remodelling.

The Year 9 Peer Support students recently took part in their first day of training to become Peer Support Leaders. They showed enthusiasm and were respectful throughout the entire day.

On the Year 7 Orientation day, they also had the opportunity

to practice this new leadership role when they worked in small groups with Year 6 students transitioning into Year 7 in 2022.

Over the course of the Year 7 Orientation day, these Leaders displayed organisation, responsibility, and respect. They assisted Year 6 students around the school finding their way from class to class, played ice breaker games in pastoral classes, worked through the orientation folders, and connected with them during their break times. At all times making sure no Year 6 student was sitting by themselves or upset.

Now we look forward to our final training day and the start of 2022 for Year 7's first day, when the Peer Support Leaders will meet their groups and continue to be that friendly face for our new Year 7's.







# Buzzing with Excitement

*Kathleen Black tell us how the Year 7 Orientation Day was finally able to occur.*

**THE ORIENTATION DAY** was finally able to occur on Friday 19 November. The day had 160 Year 6 students buzzing with excitement in the COLA ready to begin the day. The students were given an insight into the meaning of being a MacKillop student and meet their fellow peers that they will begin their secondary journey with. The aim of the Orientation Day was to provide students with the opportunity to experience what it is like to learn in a secondary school classroom by secondary teachers. Students were divided into their pastoral groups and were eager to be involved in the Math and TAS activities of the

day.

With the students in their pastoral classes for the day they were able to meet their fellow peers and bond with their class and pastoral teacher. The day concluded with a school tour as well as an opportunity for students to ask plenty of questions.

I would like to thank all the staff involved on the day and the peer support leaders who helped with the Orientation Day program. Mrs Elcoate and I are looking forward to welcoming all the fresh faces to MacKillop Catholic College in 2022.









# Term 4 in pictures





