



MACKILLOP COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 5

Friday, March 7 2025

PRAYER

Loving God,
as we begin this
new school year,
bless our students,
staff, and families.

Fill our hearts with
wisdom, kindness,
and a spirit of
learning.

May our school be a
place of faith,
friendship, and
growth.

Guide us to walk in
Your light and
share Your love
with others.

Amen.

Our Lady help of
Christians - Pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross
MacKillop - Pray for us.
Venerable Catherine
McAuley - Pray for us.
Amen.

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Maria Auxiliante Esto Mundi Lumen
(With Mary's Help Be A light To The World)

As a new member of MacKillop College, Bathurst, I have been overwhelmed by the generous welcome that I have received since the start of the year. Students, staff, parents and members of the wider community have gone out of their way to ensure that I feel a true sense of belonging here. I am very grateful for this.

We started the year by welcoming 132 Year 7 students to the College, along with 17 new students across years 8-12. We also welcomed the following 7 new staff members:

- Caitlin Ward - English
- Brenton Fahey - Science
- Rebekah Dove - English
- Mikayla de Losa - Aboriginal Education
- Lilly Rich - Youth Minister
- Emma Robinson - Canteen
- Marianne Webber - Canteen

We will do our best to ensure that each of our new community members feels right at home at MacKillop College.

The first five weeks of 2025 have flown past, mostly due to the enormous number of events and activities that have taken place.

- The MacKillop Dinner, at which we celebrated the College's top 10 students from the 2024 HSC and honoured Vicki Evans for her significant contributions to the MacKillop community, was a wonderful evening.
- Our College Opening Mass, celebrated by Fr Paul Devitt and attended by well over 800 people, highlighted our catholicity and community spirit.
- The College Swimming Carnival lived up to expectation and was a great mix of competition and fun.
- Fifteen of our Year 12 students, accompanied by Mrs Marjoram and Mr Kreuzberger, enjoyed an informative overnight visit to the University of Wollongong Discovery Day.
- At our Taste of High School Day we welcomed over 180 primary school students, who participated in engaging activities in TAS, PE, Creative Arts, Languages, Science and Religious Education.
- The College's 58th birthday was celebrated on Wednesday 26 February. We were joined by 30 former staff members, Fr Paul Devitt and our wonderful Josephite and Mercy Sisters all of whom, along with all of our students and staff, were treated to cake to mark the occasion.
- Last week, our Year 7 students had a fantastic school camp experience at the Narrabeen Sport and Recreation Park, where they engaged with a wide range of fun and challenging activities.
- Today we recognised International Women's Day, with some community activities led by our senior and junior council members. Last night a group of students and staff represented the College at the International Women's Day Dinner at Bathurst Goldfields.

It has certainly been a huge start to the school year and things won't be slowing down as the term progresses. Already on the horizon we are looking forward to the combined College Musical, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown", performances of which are on from Wednesday 2 April to Saturday 6 April. Information about ticket sales will be available shortly.

At our Week 4 College Assembly, I reminded the students that we are "**Here to Grow**", and I challenged them to turn their potential into reality by recognising and developing their talents. As I have indicated previously, the "**Here**" component refers directly to student attendance, and the need for students to be at school as often as possible to ensure that they have the best opportunity to "**Grow**". I remind parents that maximising student attendance is not just an ideal, it is a government expectation. In relation to compulsory school attendance, Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst has created a brochure to inform, guide and assist parents. You will find the brochure [HERE](#). As indicated in the brochure, the best way to support your daughter's regular attendance is to build positive partnerships with the school. With this in mind, if you have any concerns or require any assistance regarding your daughter's attendance, please contact her Year Coordinator through their email or the College Office.

Peter Halpin
College Principal



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

HSC Disability Provisions

The NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA) may approve special examination provisions for the Higher School Certificate examinations if a student has a special need that would, in a normal exam situation, prevent her from reading the exam questions or communicating her responses.

Provisions may include large print papers, use of a writer or a reader, extension of test time, rest breaks, separate supervision or other provisions as judged appropriate.

If you feel your daughter, who is completing HSC examinations this year, may benefit from disability provisions, please contact either myself or Mrs Natalie Horsburgh at the College. Applications require submission by the end of this term.

NAPLAN

Why NAPLAN Matters

NAPLAN reflects key areas of literacy and numeracy, foundational to lifelong learning. Conducted annually for Years 3, 5, 7, and 9, it assesses skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar, and numeracy. While not the sole measure of ability, it offers a snapshot of progress and helps students build resilience under test conditions.

The Value of NAPLAN Data

For parents, NAPLAN data highlights your child's strengths and areas for growth. For teachers, it informs targeted strategies to meet individual and class needs. On a broader scale, NAPLAN helps our schools:

- Identify trends and evaluate teaching methods.
- Allocate resources effectively.
- Enhance educational outcomes collaboratively.

Working Together for Your Child

NAPLAN is just one tool among many. We approach it with a supportive mindset, encouraging students to do their best while emphasising their broader talents. Open conversations with your child about NAPLAN's purpose can foster confidence, and regular communication with teachers ensures we are collectively supporting their learning.

NAPLAN Tests commence on Wednesday 12 March for Years 7 & 9. Parents are reminded that students will require a fully charged device with headphones/earpods for each of these tests.

Test	Date	Year 7	Year 9
Writing	Wednesday 12 March	Period 3	Period 1
Reading	Thursday 13 March	Period 1 & 2	Period 3 & 4
Conventions of Language	Friday 14 March	Period 3	Period 1
Numeracy	Monday 17 March	Period 1 & 2	Period 3 & 4

COMPASS Reports - Year 7, 9, 11

Testing results from 2024 have now been uploaded to Compass. Parents of Year 7 students will be able to see the report from the testing conducted in Term 4 of last year by Academic Assessment Services. Parents of Years 9 and 11 will be able to see the results from the VALiD Testing completed last year. The Validation of Assessment for Learning and Individual Development (VALID) Science assessments can be used as a diagnostic tool to assist in improving student outcomes in science and as a tool for program evaluation. The test is linked to the science syllabuses, and assesses what students know and can do in science. It also provides useful information about student attitudes towards science. Please contact the College Office if you require any support in accessing these documents.

With best wishes,
Gina Whelan
Assistant Principal



REC MISSION

Opening College Mass

As we embark on a new school year, we gathered as a faith community for our Opening College Mass, a time to seek God’s blessings for the year ahead. Together, we reflected on the values that will guide us—faith, compassion, and service. Fr Paul encouraged us to grow as a community, strengthening our relationships with one another. We especially valued the ongoing presence of representatives from the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St Joseph and Catholic Education: Diocese of Bathurst. The continued support of these people reminds us of our past and the values we need to carry with us into our future.





Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday was a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together in preparation for Lent. Students and staff enjoyed delicious pancakes, generously prepared by our Hospitality students and staff and sold by Mercy and Justice team members. More than just a tasty tradition, this day reminded us of the importance of generosity and selflessness as we prepared to enter the Lenten season. The funds raised from our pancake sales will support Project Compassion, Caritas Australia's annual appeal that helps vulnerable communities around the world.





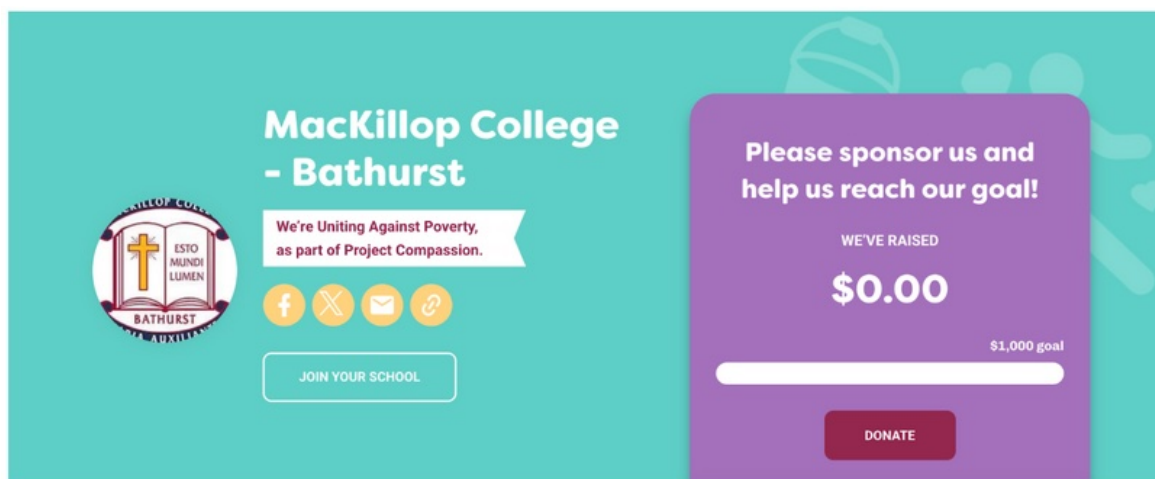
Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday, we entered the solemn season of Lent, marking our foreheads with ashes as a symbol of repentance and renewal. During our liturgy, we reflected on the call to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, remembering that Lent is a time to grow closer to God and to consider how we can serve others. Students were encouraged to make meaningful commitments that would bring them closer to Christ and support those in need.

Project Compassion

Each year, our school participates in Project Compassion, a key Lenten initiative run by Caritas Australia. This year's theme, "For All Future Generations," inspires us to take action today to create a better future for those in need. Students and families are asked to give generously to this appeal as we support Caritas projects that provide education, health care, and sustainable development for disadvantaged communities. Every small contribution makes a big difference, and we encourage all students and families to give generously.

We will once again be running online donations. Keep an eye out for the links to support the Wellbeing groups in their fundraising efforts.



Easter Egg Raffle

As part of our Project Compassion fundraising, our annual Easter Egg Raffle is back! This is a great opportunity for students and families to participate in a fun and meaningful initiative. Donations of Easter eggs and chocolate treats are welcome and will help us create fantastic prize hampers. Tickets will be available for purchase, with all proceeds going directly to Caritas Australia. We encourage everyone to get involved—whether by donating, buying tickets, or spreading the word—so we can continue to make a difference in the lives of those in need.



Dr Amber Calleja
Leader of Mission and Faith Formation



Student Voice- Immersion Team Members Mia and Matilda

Service in Vietnam and Cambodia

Hello readers! This is Mia and Matilda from the 2025 Vietnam/Cambodia Immersion Team. We and 21 other students are stepping beyond the classroom and into the heart of Southeast Asia, embarking on the Vietnam and Cambodia immersion trip and are all set for an unforgettable experience. From exploring the remnants of war to connecting with people through service and cultural exchange, the trip promises to challenge perspectives, deepen understanding, and leave lasting memories.

Making the true meaning of this trip a reality requires support. Our goal is to raise \$4300 overall to support our service endeavours. This money will be used to build a home for a Vietnamese family in need so they can live in a more sustainable and homely environment, as everyone deserves. These families currently live in basic conditions, with dirt floors, corrugated walls and openings rather than windows. Building them a home with tiled floors, brick walls, windows and, most importantly, electricity is life-changing, not just for themselves but for the generations of their family who will live in this house for years to come. Our team will be doing all of the manual labour for the building. We look forward to mixing mortar, bricklaying and tiling over three full days. However, the money raised is needed to buy these resources and to help pay for local labourers to help us.

Fundraising will be crucial in contributing to essential service initiatives to help others who need it most. Through various events and activities, the school and the outer community will have the chance to come together and hopefully help us help this family. An example of this is our upcoming car wash on March 30th! Our team will be washing cars all day in the Anzac Garden on our school grounds. Mark the date in your diary and come along to get a clean car and help support a great cause. This will be just one of our many fundraisers throughout the year, so stay tuned for more information to come.

We and our team are beyond excited for this journey and the impact we hope to make. Every bit of support counts and we truly appreciate any contributions, whether through donations, participation in our fundraisers, or simply spreading the word. Thank you for joining us on this mission—together, we can make a real difference!



Student Wellbeing News

Junior Council - Congratulations

Congratulations to the following students from Years 8-11 who have been elected by their peers to form the 2025 Junior Council. We look forward to seeing how each of these groups can, through their service, have a positive impact on our College community.

Year 8

Estée Benita
Lucy Windsor
Makayla Cole
Azaleea McLaughlin
Daisy-Hope Pittman
Indi-Rose Kilby
Ruqaya Said

Year 10

Poppy Baldwin-Smith
Ava Butterfield
Claire Daunt
Isla Hay
Amelia Hanman
Phoenix Hurst
Olivia Mitchell
Ruby Nicholls
Abigail Sadler
Charlotte Taylor

Year 9

Ruby Clark
Annabella Duncan
Rose Sams
Amelia Willott
Kisha Fransisco
Lillian Turner
Eadie Maynard
Caitlyn Harrison
Chelsi Mazzotti

Year 11

Amber Mutton
Lara Francis
Katie McPhail
Olivia Collett
Sarah Wong
Audrey Peters
Kate McLean
Ava Van Den Berg

How YOU can send a simple message by wearing the uniform correctly.

Life is full of choices. Each day we can make good choices that create positivity, encourage others and show respect. Alternatively, we can choose to make decisions that bring us into conflict with others, show a lack of respect and most importantly send a message to others that we simply do not care. ONE simple way we can show that we are people who do care, that we respect the College and those around us is to wear the uniform correctly. Taking pride in our appearance sends a clear message to others; parents, teachers and peers. It shows I care. It shows RESPECT.

Uniform checks are currently being done in classes during the day and EACH student who is out of uniform will receive a 'Uniform Infringement on Compass'. Parents will also be informed and if the pattern continues there will be After School Uniform Detentions applied. We need to work together as a whole school team to improve. We can do better!

To add a little encouragement for you all there will also be prizes and rewards!
For the year group with the LEAST number of uniform infringements over the term there will be a special treat in Week 11. So... work together, encourage each other to do the right thing and support your friends to make good choices!



Welcoming MacKillop College to The Resilience Project Community

We are very excited to announce that MacKillop College is implementing a new whole school wellbeing program from 2025. In partnership with the Resilience Project our college community takes time every week to access resources that are aimed at building resilience in our students, staff and wider community.

We encourage you to ask your daughters about some new strategies we have been working on. Simply by asking about some of the strategies we are encouraging reflection and opening up discussion that can have a significant and positive impact on our young people.

Try some of these and see if you get a response:

- How are you going with your habit tracker?
- What is ONE thing that has been positive about this week?
- Can you tell me about one act of kindness someone has shown you today?

We will be providing additional resources over the year so keep an eye out on our social media and Compass platforms for details!

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

We're working with The Resilience Project

We're proud to be implementing TRP's evidence-based whole school wellbeing program. Students will engage in weekly lessons to understand and strengthen their practice of **Gratitude**, **Empathy**, **Mindfulness** and **Emotional Literacy**.

Gratitude



Gratitude involves recognising and expressing appreciation for the people, places and things in our lives. Practising gratitude allows us to pay attention to what we have, increasing feelings of happiness and leading to a more positive outlook on life.

Empathy



Empathy involves understanding others' feelings and perspectives and is practised through kindness, compassion and curiosity. Developing empathy fosters deeper connections, increases our likelihood of acting kindly, and helps us experience positive emotions.

Mindfulness



The practice of mindfulness is about an awareness of life as we are living it.

It allows us to be responsive to our experiences rather than being reactive, and to live with greater balance, presence and connection.

Emotional Literacy



Emotional Literacy involves learning to identify and label our emotions, as well as developing emotional regulation skills. When we can accurately name our feelings and emotions, it reduces the impact of uncomfortable emotions and enhances the effect of positive ones.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO:

 @theresilienceproject...  The Resilience Project  The Resilience Project  theresilienceproject.com.au



Students Shine in the ACER Advance Awards 2024

In Term 4 last year, twenty students from each of our Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 cohorts took part in the ACER Advance Awards Competition. This national competition is designed to test students on their literacy and numeracy skills, challenging them to apply their knowledge in real-world problem-solving tasks.

Recently we received results from the competition and MacKillop was named amongst an extensive list of prestigious schools across Australia, with five students gaining Distinctions, fourteen Credit awards, and seven Merit awards. The results spreadsheet highlighted the excellent depth of combined skills in literacy and numeracy held by our students.

Distinction Recipients: (alphabetical)

Rose Baillie (Year 9), Kisha Francisco (Year 8), Caitlyn Harisson (Year 8), Evie Hawkins (Year 9), Anna Seaman (Year 9).

Credit Recipients: (alphabetical)

Madeline Calveley (Year 9), Madilyn Casey (Year 8), Emma Collett (Year 8), Claire Daunt (Year 9), Jessica Keen (Year 9), Amelie Macdonald (Year 8), Margaret McCusker-Roth (Year 9), Mia Nunan (Year 7), Nia O'Donnell (Year 8), Abigail Sadler (Year 9), Isabelle Stenson (Year 8), Nicole Tzanellis (Year 9), Isabella Vanderhel (Year 9), Penny Worland (Year 9).

Merit Recipients: (alphabetical)

Molly Connor (Year 7), Clare Dicksen (Year 9), Lucinda Hunter (Year 7), Ava McClements (Year 7), Ava Munro (Year 9), Georgia Rennie (Year 8), Ruby Shaw (Year 8).

On behalf of our College community I extend my congratulations to all students who participated in the 2024 competition and commend them on their efforts during the rigorous testing sessions. We look forward to participating in this competition again this year and are confident that we will be celebrating continued success in the future.

Paul McPhillamy
Leader of Teaching and Learning

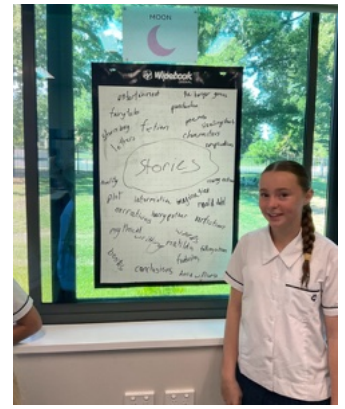
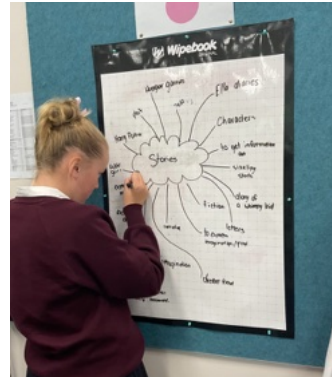


ENGLISH/ LANGUAGES

Across all stages, English and Languages have had a fantastic start to 2025, with students actively engaging in rich and dynamic learning experiences. From lively class discussions to creative projects, they have embraced opportunities to develop their skills and deepen their understanding. Whether exploring narratives in English or immersing themselves in languages and cultures, their enthusiasm has been inspiring. With such a strong start, the year ahead promises continued growth, collaboration, and success in English and Languages. Adding to this excitement, we are expanding our Language program into Stage 5 with the introduction of a Year 10 Italian course. We look forward to showcasing students' achievements and experiences throughout the year!

English- Year 7

In Year 7G, students have been exploring the idea of 'stories', including their favourite stories, what makes a good story, and the components of a narrative. Students brainstormed these in groups and shared their best reading memories with each other.



Italian- Years 9 & 10



Our Year 9 and Year 10 Italian students have been diving into the vibrant world of 'Carnevale di Venezia' (The Carnival of Venice), a centuries-old tradition celebrated annually in Venice, Italy. The Carnival ends on Shrove Tuesday, just before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Our students have not only explored the historical and cultural significance of Carnevale di Venezia but have also engaged actively in hands-on learning by creating their own masks.

English- Years 11 & 12



Our Year 11 students have settled quickly into their chosen English classes (learning the importance of communication and collaboration to gain success in their senior courses) and are exploring the modules of Reading to Write (in Advanced and Standard) and Achieving Through English in English Studies.



This week the Standard and Advanced students attended a zoom incursion which explored the craft of discursive writing and we thank Emily Bosco from Into English for sharing her expertise with our students.



In Year 12 our students have once again found the rhythm in their study after the holiday break and are currently working hard across the range of English courses. We would like to congratulate Lynnett Stephens on her continuing success with her poetry. Lynnett entered the Banjo Patterson Australian Poetry Festival, where she wrote and performed her poem *The Land of Aus: A Literary Tale*. Lynnett was awarded second place for her poetry performance and an impressive first place in the junior section of the competition for her work. Congratulations on an outstanding effort Lynnett!

Poem on next page



Mirella Colagrossi



The Land of Aus: A Literary Tale

First sails touch the crashing shorelines,
Begin the foundation of tales that turn minds.
As the year of 1788 tumbles around,
With claimings and rough beginnings abound.
To geniuses, intellectuals of English proudly won,
Through hearts composing art that could never be undone
Created through hands driven by God's grace,
Testifying to truths buried beneath the sacred place.

Tales of heroes, both young and old,
Remain timeless as we stay brave and bold.
Clancy of the Overflow,' 'Man from Snowy River,'
Or feeling jubilant with 'Waltzing Matilda'
Words test the constructs of our times,
As we progress, weaving our tapestry of rhymes.
From the rough pages of beige,
These fond feelings shall never age.
Wafting into our ears,
For many, many years,
Our national anthem, power and glory,
For this is the truth of the Australian story.

Yes, we've been through times of blind speaking,
Lost in our own outdated thoughts, seeking.
Bushfires rage, smoke fills the sky,
As we bury our wounds beneath the ochre's cry.
But what is the Australia that I know?
A flourishing nation, persisting to grow,
Welding mistakes as steps to climb,
Like the aureate Uluru's peak, pure and prime.

Australia, a tale that echoes,
Within the roots of home, a symphony bellows.
Our literature, created by God's artists on blank pages,
Banjo Paterson, a legend whose voice engages.
For the stories told, whether joy or pain
Within the hearts of Aus, will always remain.

The loose ball of thread smoothly sails
An unforgettable odyssey filled with tales.
Written from the hearts of authors in the right and wrong.
To the receiving generations that will hear this song.

How To Get The Most Out Of Your Year In Mathematics

Mathematics is such an important subject for students to learn, and attitude plays a huge part in a student's experience. If we think of maths as something that is naturally easy for some people and hard for others, we create a barrier that is very difficult to get past. However, if we think of maths as an opportunity to embrace the struggle and learn how to cope with challenges, we become students who can handle the toughest senior subjects and can move through setbacks in life. Parents have a very important role in supporting their child at home in their learning.

It makes a huge difference to a student's experience of mathematics when parents and guardians:

- Are positive in their approach to mathematics at home
- Praise effort and not just correct solutions
- Support regular practice of mathematics
- Encourage their young mathematicians to embrace the struggle

The work can be challenging sometimes, but students become better mathematicians just by having a go and asking for help when it is needed.

This year, Maths Mentoring will be on every Thursday at lunch time in Room 6. Drop in for five minutes to ask a question, or bring your lunch and come along to work on a particular skill. You might like to bring your homework to get help with the harder questions, or just sit and work through some revision with your friends. A teacher will be there to help you out if you need some hints. As always, students can still go to their teachers for help, but Maths Mentoring is an extra option to seek out assistance.

Stephanie Floyd



SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2025

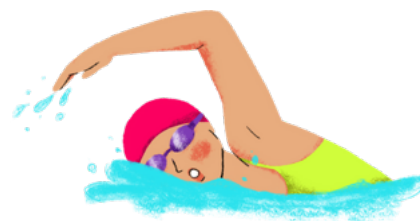
The annual MacKillop College Swimming Carnival provided an opportunity for all students to actively compete and participate in a variety of races and novelty events. The day was highly successful and enjoyable by all involved. The non-competitive events kept the participation rates significantly high, again keeping Mrs McFarland and the race marshals on their toes starting so many events.

House competition was high-spirited as always. All the captains and their committees created an atmosphere of house spirit, participation and enjoyment. Congratulations to MacKillop for winning the house cheer with McAuley second Chisholm 3rd and Gilroy 4th

The final house placing, and points include:



1st MacKillop 528
2nd Chisholm 415
3rd Gilroy 386
4th McAuley 339



Continued next page..

Students who performed outstandingly on the day, our age champions, include the following:

Age	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
12 Years	Layla Warren	Ella Collett	Ruby MacDonald
13 Years	Harper Dunn	Charlotte Della-Bosca	Jessica Groves
14 Years	Gemma Cashman	Lilly Della-Bosca	Poppi Stephen
15 Years	Natalie Groves	Hannah Hayes	Caitlyn Harrison
16 Years	Madalene Groves	Charlotte Hair	Lara Francis
17 Years	Equal 1 st : Elka Lee and Lara Allen		Lucy Allen
Senior	Lillian Milgate	Charlotte Lovett	Lilliana Press

There were 9 records broken at this years swimming carnival:

Event	New Record Holder	Record	Previous Record Holder	Year
12-14 Years 4x50m Freestyle Relay	Gilroy	2:09.88	McAuley	2013
Open 4x50m Medley Relay	Gilroy	2:24:85	McAuley	2013
14 years 50m Freestyle	Gemma Cashman	30.15	Natalie Groves	2024
15 years 50m Freestyle	Natalie Groves	29.78	Equal to Lauren Dove	2010
14 years 50m Butterfly	Gemma Cashman	32.27	Natalie Groves	2024
15 years 100m Freestyle	Natalie Groves	1:04.75	Lauren Dove	2010
14 years 50m Backstroke	Gemma Cashman	34.75	Hannah Hayes	2024
15 Years 50m Backstroke	Hannah Hayes	34.69	Kylie Patterson	1989

Parents and students can view the carnival results through the link below.

[2025 MKC House Swimming Carnival Results](#)

A big thank you to all the staff, for your assistance in ensuring the smooth running of the carnival. A special mention goes to Mr Ian Watts and Mr Rod Dobel for helping with delivering and returning the equipment.

To further improve future carnivals, we invite parents to forward any comments or suggestions to m.knight1@bth.catholic.edu.au or call Matthew Knight at MacKillop College on 6338 2200.

Matthew Knight



Photos next page.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL



EVENTS CALENDAR

TERM ONE 2025

MARCH

- 3 CCC Tennis Trials - Parramatta
- 4 Bathurst Dio Football Trials
- 4 University Showcase
- 5 Ash Wednesday Liturgy
- 7 International Women's Day
- 10 Bathurst Dio Secondary Swimming - Dubbo
- 11 Western Girls 16's Rugby League - Canberra
- 12-24 NAPLAN
- 13 Year 7 Liturgy and Lunch at Stannies
- 16 Parish Mass @ Assumption 6-7pm
- 21 Harmony Day
- 21 Year 10 Real Talk Presentation
- 23 Perthville Ceremony and Mass
- 24-25 All Schools Tennis - Bathurst
- 24-28 Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement
- 26-28 Year 9 Camp
- 26 Europe Tour Student Briefing 3:30pm
- 27 Year 11 Ag TOCAL Excursion

APRIL

- 2-5 Combined MKC and SSC Musical
- 2-3 CCC Swimming - Homebush
- 3 Year 7 Vaccinations
- 4 Year 10 Vaccinations
- 6 Daylight Savings Ends
- 7 Year 7 2026 Enrolment Interviews
- 8 Easter Art Exhibition
- 8 Year 7 2026 Enrolment Interviews
- 9 Southern Country Football- Bathurst
- 10 Rugby League 18's Girls Southern Country Trials - Canberra

APRIL continued

- 10 Year 10 & 11 Visual Arts Excursion - Art Express
- 11 Holy Week Liturgy
- 11 Last day of Term 1**
- 11-13 RISEN
- 18 Good Friday
- 20 Easter Sunday
- 21 Easter Monday
- 25 ANZAC Day

TERM TWO

APRIL

- 28 Staff Return - Pupil Free Day**
- 29 Students Return for Term 2**
- 29 CCC Touch 15's & 18's Central Coast

MAY

- 2 MKC Athletics Carnival
- 5 CCC AFL - Wagga
- 8 Bathurst Dio Cross Country - Orange
- 9 Mother's Day Breakfast
- 9 Year 12 FACTS Day at CSU
- 11 Mother's Day
- 12-18 Catholic Schools Week
- 13 Year 7-10 Parent Teacher Interviews
- 13 CCC Basketball Boys & Girls - Wagga
- 22-23 All Schools Swimming - Homebush
- 23 Bathurst Dio Teams Tennis - Orange
- 23 Year 5 Experience Day
- 28 Year 10 English Excursion
- 29 Year 9 to Macbeth

TERM DATES 2025

TERM 1 - MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY TO FRIDAY 11 APRIL

TERM 2- MONDAY 28 APRIL TO FRIDAY 4 JULY

TERM 3- MONDAY 21 JULY TO FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

TERM 4- MONDAY 13 OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER (TBC)

YEAR 7 CAMP



PEER SUPPORT



NSW ALL SCHOOLS TRIATHLON

Congratulations to all the girls who represented MacKillop College at the NSW All Schools Triathlon on the 26th and 27th of February!

Natalie Groves competed on the Wednesday in the Intermediate Individual event, placing 9th in the CCC division.

We had 5 teams compete on the Thursday, 3 Intermediate and 2 Senior teams. In the Intermediate Gemma Cashman, Sienna Allen and Ella Pringle placed 16th overall (5th in CCC), Hannah Hayes, Hallie Allen and Sianna Fish were not far behind and finished 8th in CCC, and Abbie Langridge, Erica Black and Neorrah Wiradi finished 16th in CCC - a great effort by all the girls.

The senior teams came home strong to finish the day. Lara Allen, Charlotte Lovett, and Sophie Windsor finished the day in 16th Overall (7th in CCC), and Elka Lee, Ebony Robinson and Maria Hines finished 8th in CCC.

Well done to all the girls on exemplary representation of our college!

Brenton Fahey



STUDENT PATHWAYS

TVET 2025

TAFE courses have commenced for our TVET students in Years 11 and 12. All students are reminded of the commitment they have made when undertaking these courses. The expectation of student attendance and conduct at TAFE is the same as when at school.

If your daughter will be absent for the entire day, arriving late, or leaving early, please inform both the college front office and her TAFE teacher via phone or email on the day of the absence.

Year 11	Course	Day / Time	
	Automotive	Wed 1pm - 5pm	In class until 12:30pm
	Business Services	Online	
	Community Services	Wed 1pm - 4:30pm	In class until 12:30pm
	Electrotechnology	Thur 1pm - 5pm	In class until 12:30pm
	Human Services Nursing (Lithgow)	Wed 11am - 4pm	
	Human Services Nursing (Bathurst)	Wed 9am - 3pm	

Year 12	Course	Day / Time	
	Animal Care	Wed 1pm 4:30pm	In class until 12:30pm
	Community Services	Wed 1pm 4:30pm	In class until 12:30pm
	Early Childhood Education & Care	Wed 9am - 4pm	
	Electrotechnology	Wed 8am - 12pm	In class from 12:30pm
	Human Services Nursing	Wed 9am - 1pm	

University Road Show 2025 - MacKillop visit

The University Road Show was back again this year and visited MacKillop College on Tuesday 4th March. Our Year 11 and 12 students had the opportunity to hear from UNE (New England), CSU, UON (Newcastle) and SCU (Southern Cross). They also had the chance to visit each university's display to ask questions and gather information.



University of Wollongong - Discovery Day

On February 18th, some of our Year 12 students participated in the UOW Discovery Day. This allowed them to gain a firsthand experience of university life. The day commenced with our students joining around 1300 other Year 12 students in the Great Hall, where they were introduced to the University of Wollongong. Subsequently, they engaged in a series of lectures and tours. Following a predetermined timetable, our students explored the offerings of UOW.



I thought the UOW Discovery Day was really organised and well set out. The presentations were informative and I really enjoyed being able to explore the campus and get a feel for student life. It gave me a clearer understanding of what to expect from university and was an insightful experience. Ashley G.

The day was a really good chance to check out the UOW campus and find out more about what courses I would be interested in. My favourite session was how to choose a course which showed me all the websites to look to about different courses and information about them. The accommodation was also nice and I enjoyed getting to wear our jerseys! Maddelyn C.

I greatly enjoyed the day as it gave me a slight insight into what uni life might be like and choosing my sessions gave me more information on certain aspects I was interested in. The whole experience was very fun and made me excited for what is to come for me next year and beyond. Isabel K.

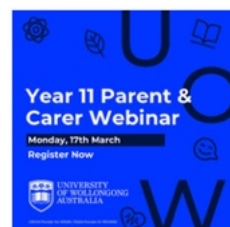
Overall the day at UOW was a good insight as to how a uni experience works, we were in control of most things, such as finding our way around the campus, choosing our classes, etc. It was an enjoyable day where we got to understand what our chosen degrees would entail and ask of us. I would recommend it to anyone, whether or not they know what they want to do or not. Elizabeth Y.

From the University of Wollongong

Join our Year 11 Parent & Carer Webinar on Monday 17 March and discover how to support them through the next two years.

Find out why Year 11 is important, how UOW Early Admission works, how to pick the 'right' HSC subjects, advice on supporting young people with career decisions and more! This is the perfect opportunity to get all the information you need to make the HSC journey as smooth and positive as possible. We're here to help!

Register here for the [Year 11 Parent / Carer Webinar](#)





Australian
National
University

Students can begin applying directly to the Australian National University in just a few weeks with applications opening on **3 March 2025**. Applications are free and include applying for admission, accommodation and scholarships in one application. Offers will be initially released in September.

CSU - Advantage - Early Entry Applications



Charles Sturt
University

Key details:

- Applications open on Friday 7th Feb.
- Early bird applications close 31 July 2025 and offers will be made from 1 September 2025.
- Round two applications close 31 August 2025 and offers will be made from 19 September 2025. All information is now live and accessible on our CSA page. Please reach out if you have any more questions/ need clarity on anything.

Please select the option to let the college know if you get an offer in September.

[Charles-Sturt-Advantage](#)

CSU - Explore Day 2025

It's time to get hands-on again with Charles Sturt University!

Explore Day is a chance for Year 11 and 12 students to visit campus and get a taste of Charles Sturt life. At Explore Day, students learn about different career paths through practical activities, workshops and interactive tours. Plus meet Charles Sturt staff, academics and current students!

- Albury-Wodonga: Tuesday 4 March 2025
- Bathurst: Tuesday 11 March 2025
- Wagga Wagga: Tuesday 18 March 2025
- Port Macquarie: Tuesday 25 March 2025

NOTE: We are not attending as a school group. Students who want to attend any of these campuses / dates, MUST seek approved leave explained absence from Mr Halpin by having your parents contact him at the college.

[Register: Explore Day](#)

Robert Kreuzberger
Student Pathways Advisor



WHERE WILL MINING TAKE YOU? ➔

Parkes Services Club | **March 19**
Singleton Civic Centre | **April 29**
Wollongong Novotel Northbeach | **May 20**
Orange Ex-Services Club | **June 3**
Newcastle NEX | **June 17**

NSW MINING CAREERS DINNER

- ✓ HEAR CAREER JOURNEYS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE IN **MINING**
- ✓ EXPLORE DIVERSE ROLES AND PATHWAYS IN THE INDUSTRY
- ✓ MEET INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND **WIN PRIZES!**

Don't miss this FREE opportunity for students, parents, and teachers
REGISTER NOW!

NSWMININGCAREERS.COM.AU



Dear Parents and Carers,

Your school fee statement for 2025 has now been emailed to you. If you do not receive your statement, please check your spam/junk folder, if not there please contact the College Office to request a copy.

Term payments are due on the following dates;

Term 1 - 14/03/2025

Term 2 - 23/5/2025

Term 3 - 15/8/2025

If weekly or fortnightly payments are made, please make sure that your school fees are finalised by November 2025.

School fees can be paid via the following methods;

BPay - your details are on the bottom of the invoice

Compass Pay - via your Compass parent portal

EFTPOS - over the phone or in college office

Direct Debit - please request a form from the college office

If you hold a current Health Care Card or Pensioner Card please send through a copy of your card (front & back) you may be eligible for a discount.

r.kemp@bth.catholic.edu.au

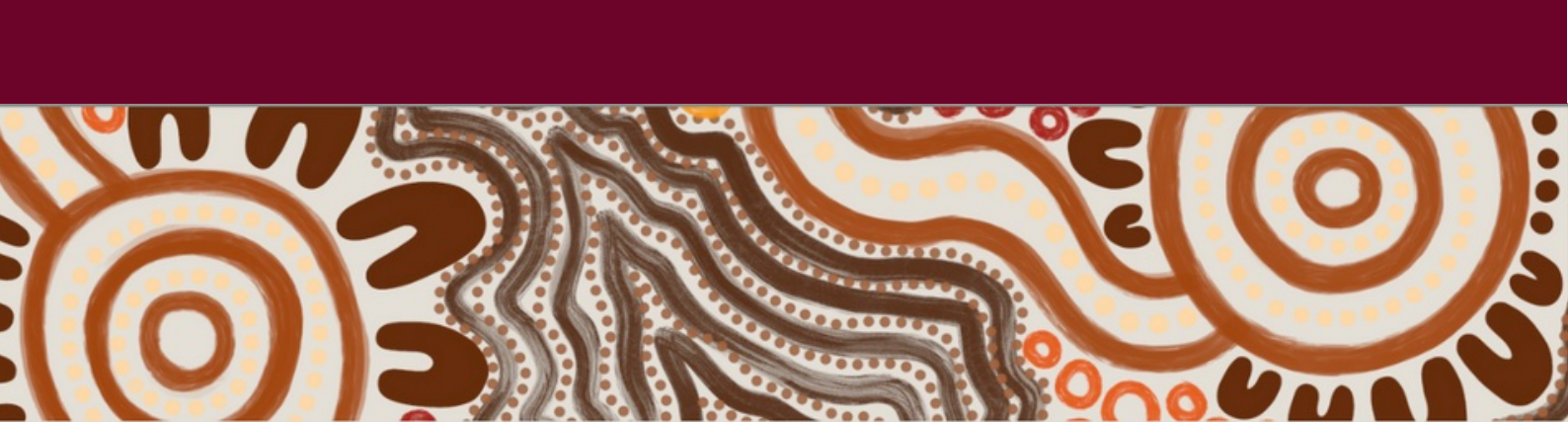
If you are experiencing genuine financial hardship, please contact the college office to arrange an appointment with our Principal, 6338 2200.

Thank you for attending to the fees at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

Rosemaree Kemp
Business Manager





Thursday the 20th of February saw a day at MacKillop College which acknowledged, recognised and honoured Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture.

Attending guests, students and teachers had the opportunity to be painted up in Ochre by Aunty Leanne and our AEO, Mikayla. They came together to gather for a smoking ceremony and Indigenous songs performed by Luke.

Following the Smoking Ceremony, artworks created by Indigenous students and Aboriginal Artist, Sandon, were showcased and presented to teachers, students, families and Elders. Students stood beside their work as they shared the connections and Stories behind their pieces. Some spoke about their connection to Country, while others reflected on their personal experiences as young Indigenous women in our community.

The day provided a deadly start to our 2025 and set the stage for celebrating and embracing culture throughout the year.

-Year 12, 2025



Student Artworks



'How We Came To Be'

"We started with a blank canvas, we first created the river which represents Mother Nature. From the river came the families and the 'family community'. In the centre each student chose a Native animal to represent their family. After family came the two communities, our MacKillop Community in orange and blue and our Wiradjuri community in blue and brown. All the other communities that we are connected to are represented in white in our artwork. We live alongside our animals, they are shown by the scattered animal tracks on our painting."

Artwork created by: Indi-Rose, Amelia, Anastasia and Grace



'Belonging'

"The centre circle represents the sun, it is the connection of the whole artwork. The multi-coloured circles surrounding the sun represent our families. In the centre of these circles is the Aboriginal symbol for women. Our handprints are a symbol of belonging to the land and our culture. The rivers on either side of the sun represent our three rivers, Wambuul (Macquarie), the Galari (Lachlan) and the Marrambidya (Murrumbidgee). The different colours that we have embraced within our artwork show our individuality and also how we connect through culture."

Artwork created by: Mila, Leeona, Marnie and Havana.



'Our Home'

"Our artwork involves the two rivers most commonly known in our town, the Wambuul (Macquarie) and the Marrambidya (Murrumbidgee). Each one of us has our own path and family circle representing our story through our culture. Along our artwork we have animal tracks that are found on our beautiful country, these include the Emu, Kangaroo, Goanna and Frog. The centre of the artwork represents our home. We are all connected via our paths and connect us all as one."

Artwork created by: Charlotte, Miley, Senna, Dixie and Isha.



'Wiradjuri Connection'

"Our artwork represents our culture always being connected through community. The centerpiece of our artwork represents our Indigenous Community of MacKillop College with our Aboriginal Education Officer (AEO). She is represented by the central women of the group with her totem, the Sea Hawk, placed within her. Our AEO is surrounded by each member of the group to symbolise our connections with her. Each member of the group painted their own homes and family around the centrepiece and placed their totems within them, these include Goanna, Kookaburra, Sea Hawk and Kangaroo. Each family has a path connected to them to show connection to each other. The river flowing through our artwork is the Wambuul (Macquarie) river to represent Bathurst and Wiradjuri Country."

Artwork created by: Tatem, Phoenix, Lottie, Zoe and Macey.



🎵 MUSIC LESSONS 🎵

🎸 Have you ever wanted to learn an instrument?

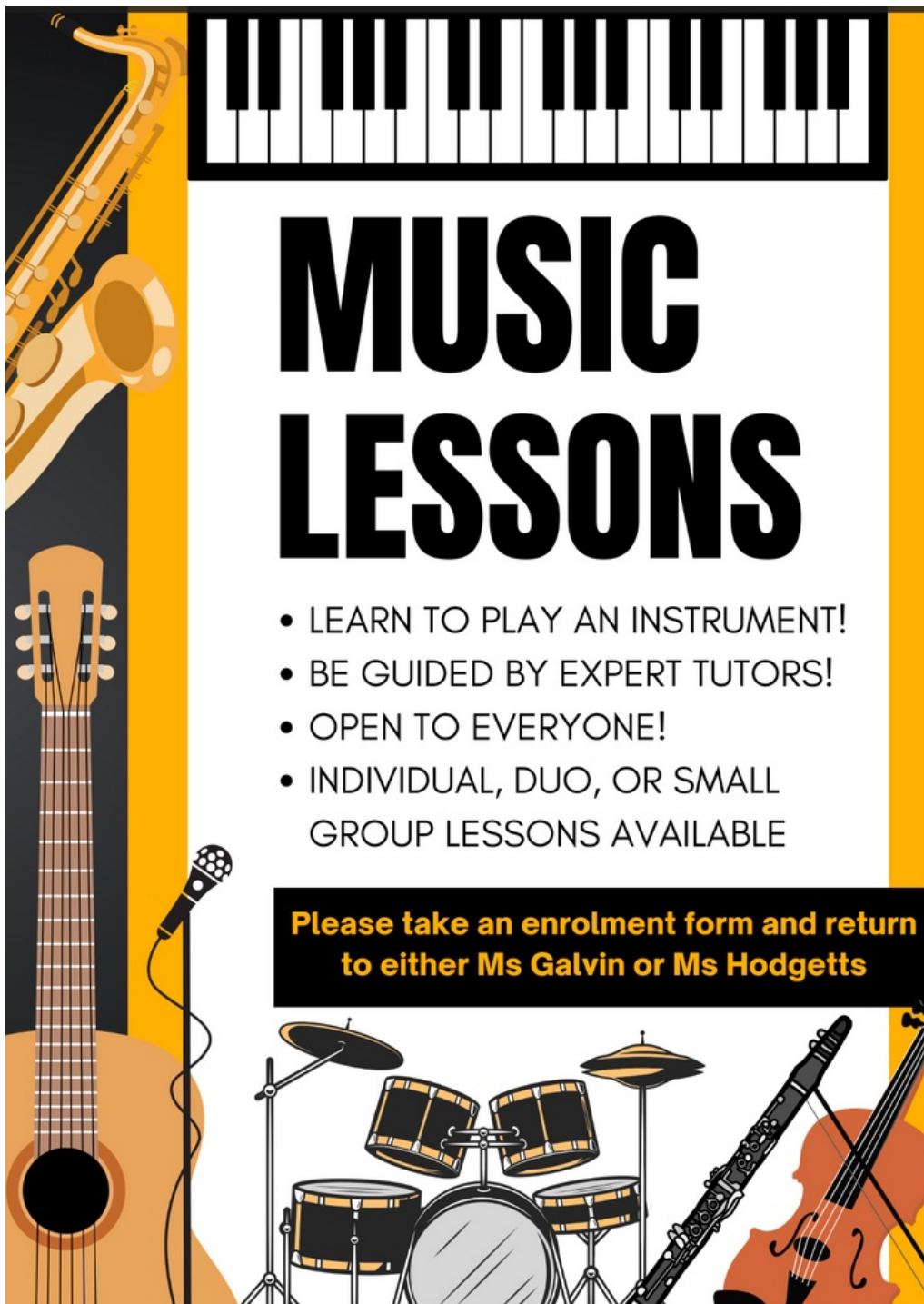
Our school's music lessons are open to everyone, whether you're a complete beginner or already playing, and you don't need to be studying Music as a subject to be able to have lessons.

🎵 Our visiting tutors are great teachers, passionate musicians, performers, and experts in their field. Many of them have their own music on Spotify, perform regular live gigs, and some have even performed with artists such as John Farnham, Tommy Emmanuel, and Air Supply.

🎵 You can do individual, duo, or small group lessons in guitar, piano, voice, drums, strings, woodwind, brass, and even composition, songwriting and music theory.

🎵 If you're interested, grab an enrolment form from outside Music Room 1. Spaces are limited, so be sure you get in quick!

🎵 For more information, please email Catherine Galvin (Leader of Learning Creative Arts) at c.galvin@bth.catholic.edu.au or Amelia Nell Hodgetts (Music Teacher) at a.hodgetts@bth.catholic.edu.au



MUSIC LESSONS

- LEARN TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT!
- BE GUIDED BY EXPERT TUTORS!
- OPEN TO EVERYONE!
- INDIVIDUAL, DUO, OR SMALL GROUP LESSONS AVAILABLE

Please take an enrolment form and return to either Ms Galvin or Ms Hodgetts

🌟🎵 ATTENTION SINGERS! 🎵🌟

Love to sing? Join MVP – MacKillop Vocal Power, our Contemporary Vocal Group, and take your voice to the next level! 🙌

🔥 Sing awesome songs with a powerhouse group of vocalists

🎵 Learn vocal tips and tricks

💪 Build your confidence in a fun, friendly, and supportive environment

🎸 Get exclusive live gig opportunities

💖 Perform epic mash-ups and unique vocal arrangements – created just for MVP!

ALL welcome - no auditions, just passion! Come along, GET INVOLVED and create some life-long memories! 🥰

★ Thursdays at Lunch in Music Room 2

See you there! 🎵🌟

Ms Amelia Nell Hodgetts

Music Teacher



MVP

MACKILLOP VOCAL POWER

Thursdays @ Lunchtime
in Music Room 2

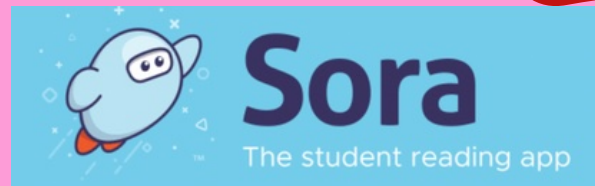
- 🎵 CONTEMPORARY VOCAL GROUP
- 🎵 POP & ROCK MUSIC STYLES
- 🎵 VOCAL TIPS & TRICKS
- 🎵 LIVE GIG OPPORTUNITIES

GET INVOLVED!
Have fun!
SHINE!!

LIBRARY NEWS



Download one of thousands of great e-Books with our SORA reading app.



Click on the picture  to visit SORA and select the ACEN (Australian Catholic Education Network) member collection.

SORA also has thousands of audio books available.

Click on the headphones to visit SORA's audiobook collection.



The Premier's Reading Challenge is now open. Ms Bowman will register you and enter your books for you, all you need to do is fill out the reading log sheet. Please grab a reading log/ instruction sheet from the library today.



Artwork by Matt Ottley

NSW Department of Education

2025 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au



Key dates for students in K-10:
Challenge opens
Monday 24 February
Challenge closes
for student entries
Friday 22 August

St Stanislaus' College &
MacKillop College

PRESENTS

You're A Good Man, **CHARLIE BROWN**



Based on the comic strip *PEANUTS* by CHARLES M. SCHULZ
Book, Music and Lyrics by CLARK GESNER

Additional Dialogue by MICHAEL MAYER
Additional Music and Lyrics by ANDREW LIPPA

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 2 April — Saturday 5 April
7.30pm | St Stanislaus' College Performing Arts Centre



Tell us about your experiences as a Catholic school parent and what you'd like to know more about.

We value every parent's thoughts and opinions!

CCSP would like to know how involved/engaged you feel you are in your child's learning at a NSW/ACT Catholic school, how connected you feel in your child's school, and your thoughts on how schools could enhance family-school partnerships.

This data informs our parent learning program and provides us with valuable information about how our dioceses and schools are engaging with families.

Thank you so much for taking time out to give us your feedback.

Please click the link to go to the survey:

<https://ccsp.schoolzineplus.com/survey/71>



TAS FORENSIC SCIENCE CAMP

The Armidale School July 9-12 2025

HAVE YOU EVER SOLVED A CRIME?

No? I didn't think so.
They don't tend to trust kids
with that sort of thing.

As compelling as CSI, as challenging as The Mentalist and addictive as Law & Order, the Camp brings the intrigue of crime solving to the fingertips of young Australians.

FSC puts you in the middle of the action for 5 exhilarating days in a crime solving situation - so realistic that you will forget that it's only a game.

APPLY

<https://as.edu.au/tas-hallmark-events/forensic-science-camp/>



TAS THE ARMIDALE
SCHOOL



Bus Pass Update 2025

Bathurst Buslines wishes to advise all parents, students, and guardians that those students who are eligible and have been approved for a 2025 School Bus pass these will be posted to the students home/postal address after the 24 January 2025. We do ask for your patience due to delivery times through Australia Post. If you do not receive your bus pass by the 10 February 2025 please contact Bathurst Buslines.

Please note that there is a moratorium period until Friday 28 February 2025 which allows sufficient time for eligible students to receive their travel passes.

Please ensure that once your child receives their 2025 Bus Pass, they must show this to the Bus Driver each time they board the bus.

Please check the Bathurst Buslines website www.bathurstbuslines.com.au for further updates in the New Year and to access more information on:

- *If the student has never had a school travel pass before.*
- *If the student needs to update details due to change of school, change of address, change of name, change of bus operator.*
- *Timetables and Student Travel Planner to plan a student trip*
- *If the student is not eligible for a 2025 SSTS School Bus Pass*

Replacement Passes If travel passes are lost, stolen or damaged the cost to replace the travel pass for 2025 will be \$15.00. **Real-Time trip information for school buses** Parents, students and guardians are able to get real-trip time information with a range of trip planning tools and apps and use interactive maps to see where the school bus is and what time it will arrive for pick-up and drop-off. There are a range of third-party travel apps available such as AnyTrip that lets

you track public transport vehicles around you in real-time using a live map. Learn more by visiting <https://transportnsw.info/apps>

Contact Bathurst Buslines on 02 6331 2744 or info@bathurstbuslines.com.au