

COLLEGE Matters

MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARRNEVILLE





Contents

COLLEGE

- 2 **Easter blessings**
A message from our College Principal, Steve Todd.
- 3 **A wonderful Term 1 for Primary students**
A message from our Assistant Primary Principal, Ann Jackson.

A message from our Secondary Principal, Debra Ferguson.
- 5 **Welcome to our new Wellbeing**

Steve Todd welcomes School Counsellor, Samara Stark and Family Liaison Officer, Natalie Tunstead to MacKillop.

MISSION

- 5 **MacKillop Opening Mass**
Kerry Power explains how the Opening Mass honoured our connection with St Joseph.
- 7 **Helping those less fortunate**
Chrystal Price talks about our fundraising efforts so far for Project Compassion.

8 Catholic Schools Week and Open Day

Debra Ferguson thanks all who attended MacKillop's Open Day

Kincumber

Chrystal Price discusses living with a Josephite heart.

10 Call to Discipleship

Kerry Power discusses how Yr 6 students from The Coast gathered to Worship.

10 The Way of the Cross

Kerry Power talks about the story of Holy Week.

11 Lent and Stations of the Cross

Elizabeth Kovacic describes a moving Holy Thursday liturgy in the Secondary College.

CULTURE

12 Students connect with Shakespeare

Anne Lovett shares students' responses to Bell Shakespeare's performances.

13 Harmony Day 2016

Michelle Baxter shares a day of

cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

13 The Library welcomes eBooks

Alyssa Rose discusses access to eBooks.

14 2015 HSC Art students 'Expose'

Jillian Young recognises two wonderful art students.

15 Artists of Excellence

Jillian Young showcases the students wonderful artwork.

16 Primary sporting success

Kellie Denneman reviews our latest sports.

Country

Duncan Black reviews our sports for this term.

WELLBEING

20 Rotary Youth Driver Awareness

Lia Camilleri and RYDA seek to educate all potential drivers.

night

Ann Jackson & Nichole Calleja welcome all prospective parents & students. 13

IT IS WITH the blessing of the Easter Vigil fire that we celebrate our College motto of 'Christ Our Light' this Easter Season. I hope and pray that there is great warmth in all our hearts this Easter as we connect appropriately to the Easter message of the Resurrection of Christ. As the word Easter means 'Dawning' I hope each one of us can awake to knowing that each day is a blessing and that we carry that blessing across our day. Best wishes to all our MacKillop families for this Easter.

Pope Francis reminds us that we need to be 'happily tired' when we review our day and all the challenges we encounter. With that view in mind, I know in the hectic pace of College life this term that there are many 'happily tired' people. Can I offer my appreciation to one and all for how this Term One has unfolded as we draw near to a well-earned break.

I would like to especially acknowledge the tremendous spirit and support around two prominent College events that took place in the second half of the term – our Catholic Schools Week Open Day and our Opening Mass held on the Feast of St. Joseph.

Our Open Day held on Wednesday afternoon 9th March was a very successful event with a great buzz about all parts of the College. Many hundreds of people attended the day and to see all areas across the College open to visitors with terrific displays and exhibits was a great testament to the dedication of all our students and staff. Our student leaders acted as tour guides on the day and the feedback from many visitors was that our students were most impressive and helpful in their knowledge with tours of the College. It was tremendous to see parents and students moving about the displays, stopping to chat with others, enjoying the performances and entertainment of the MacKillop students along with the

AS WE CONCLUDE Term 1 in what feels like record time, there is much for which to be grateful as we look back across all that has been achieved.

The start of our school year was marked by several liturgical occasions. Many of our staff attended the Diocesan Schools Mass at the cathedral in Waitara and so joined with all the other schools in the diocese in acknowledging the beginning of a new school year and the promise of much new learning as we journey through 2016. It was a wonderful time to rekindle old friendships and make new acquaintances with our colleagues across the diocese. We then celebrated all those new to our community at our annual Kindergarten, Year 7 and New Families Welcome Mass. It was a joy to see new life abound with yet another group of families welcomed into the MacKillop fold. Each Kindergarten student was presented with a fluffy white MacKillop bear and each Year 7 with a MacKillop key ring (perfect to hold that locker key!) as mementos of their beginning times within our community of faith and of learning. Our students who began their sacramental journey with Reconciliation earlier in the term celebrated the sacrament just before Holy Week and now look forward to receiving Christ in First Holy Communion later in the year. We celebrated too, our Opening School Mass with all students from Kindergarten to Year 12 marking both the start of the new year and special acknowledgment of the Sesquicentenary, 150 years since the foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. We welcomed Sr Marea Ross and several of her sisters in faith and also Barry Evans, husband of Kathleen Evans who credits her cure of cancer as miraculous due to the intercession of Mary MacKillop. Holy Week was marked by remembrance liturgies depicting the final week of Jesus' life here on earth and were led by our students with reverence and respect.

The quest for understanding continues apace with our focus on Mathematics driving the learning culture. Several

grades have experienced the mentoring of our Mathematics Specialists through collaborative planning, programming and teaching and this will continue across other grades into Term 2. Literacy continues to be driven by our Literacy Specialists with an especial focus on writing which continues on from what commenced last year. History and Geography, as new syllabus documents are probed and grappled, are being taught with new vigour and provide a renewed





An enriching term for staff & students

Debra Ferguson

AS

Welcome to our new Wellbeing sta

Steve Todd *welcomes School Counsellor, Samara Stark and Family Liaison Of cer,*

AS THE TERM concludes, we welcome to MacKillop two new



MacKillop Opening Mass

Kerry Power



FRIDAY OF WEEK 9 was a little late to have our Opening School Mass. However, it was no accident that it occurred well into Term 1. 2016 is the sesquicentennial celebration of the Sisters of St. Joseph and we were committed to celebrating this important milestone in the life of Mary MacKillop, Our Patron Saint.

On St. Joseph's Day 1866 Mary MacKillop, with the direction and encouragement of Father Julian Tenison Woods, began to live her life as a Religious sister under the patronage of St. Joseph. St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, the Mother of Jesus was a gentle and caring man who was attentive to the needs of Mary and the child Jesus. He is remembered as the calm and constant masculine figure in Jesus' life. His own life is largely unknown but what we learn from St. Joseph is the need to support and preserve the dignity of all people, especially women.

It was marvellous to have four local Sisters join Sister Marea for a special procession in the Mass and later for Morning Tea. It was also an opportunity to launch our new visual identity, which includes the Josephite symbol at its centre. Father Vince presided over the Mass and said a special blessing over the new College Banner and Candle. So many diverse talents within our College came together to create an amazing liturgical celebration that symbolised the true spirit of the MacKillop Community.



Helping those less fortunate

Chrystal Price *talks about our fundraising efforts so far for Project Compassion.*

PROJECT COMPASSION IS Caritas Australia's annual fundraising and awareness-raising appeal, bringing thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

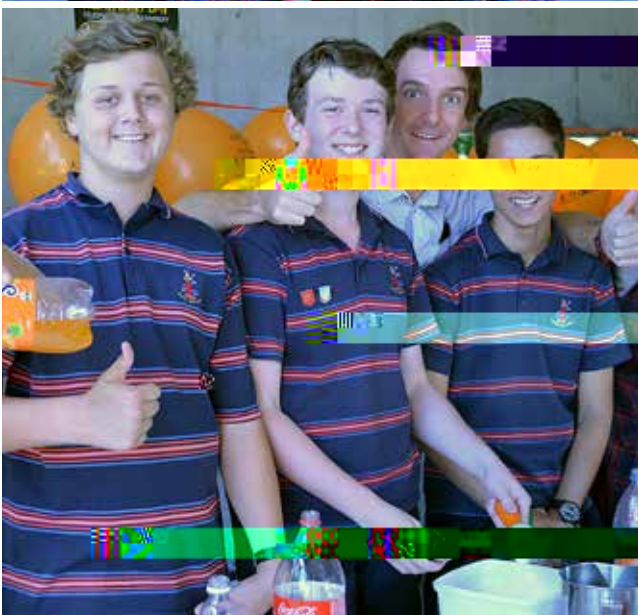
During this past Lenten season both staff and especially the students of the College have demonstrated extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity to help those less fortunate around the world.

The theme for Project Compassion 2016 was "Learning more, creating change". It is evident from all the various initiatives such as; the selling of cans of drink, to making lolly bags, selling cakes, coin collections and guessing competitions that students have definitely donated their time and money to a worthy cause. These fundraising efforts can now allow those

living in absolute poverty more opportunities to learn more, so they create change in their lives.

Last week was also Harmony Day. Both staff and students in their efforts to promote diversity and the need for harmony amongst all nations, raised quite a substantial amount of funds for Project Compassion. A huge thank you to all the students and staff involved in the sausage sizzle and the selling of coke spiders on this day.

As we celebrate this special Easter season we are reminded of Christ's unconditional love for us especially for those who are marginalized. May we too feel blessed by the efforts of the members of this great community in working together in solidarity for the world's poor, but continue these efforts year round.



Catholic Schools Week and Open Day

Debra Ferguson

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK (CSW) 2016 was held from the 6-12 March and involved the communities of all 615 Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT.

First and foremost, Catholic Schools Week is about celebration. The main aim of CSW is to raise awareness and celebrate the strength and distinctiveness of Catholic schools. CSW provides an opportunity for Catholic schools to showcase what happens every day in our schools and invites the community in to experience teaching and learning at its best. It is also about strengthening relationships between all those that have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community.

At MacKillop we celebrated CSW by holding our fourth annual Open Day on Wednesday, 9 March from 4-7pm. The College, K-12, was open to our parents, parish and the local community.

We were blessed with beautiful weather and our College came alive with wonderful displays, performances, experiments and presentations. Our Staff and students worked hard to make the school look its very best for the day and we thank all the families who made the time to come and look at their children's school and the work done here. During this time our College 'Dreaming Café' was open where light snacks and beverages could be purchased.

In the Aitken Hall there were Staff members covering areas such as;

- Enrolment information
- Transition for Year 6 students to secondary school

Pastoral Care & Belonging & the MacKillop House Teams iPad information

Indigenous education

School Fees and text book information

Uniform information and display

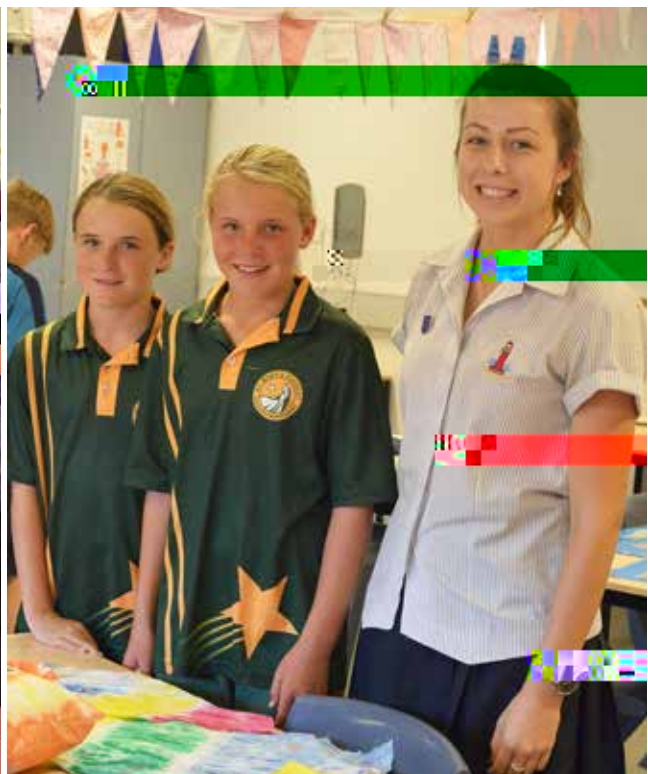
Between 4:30 and 6:30pm the Hospitality students barbecued and gave away many sausage and veggie patty sandwiches and some talented students performed in the College McCormack Theatre and in the music rooms as well as outside the Café.

We are blessed at this school with such a wonderful staff; from our Office ladies to our groundsman and all our teaching staff and assistants. To give up an afternoon for their school is a fantastic effort and so appreciated by us all. We also thank all the students who were present from Parliament and Peer Support to students who performed and to the many students who assisted with the classroom presentations.

We received lovely e-mails and letters from parents who attended and we hope that all our MacKillop children and parents let their friends and relatives know that there are places available here next year and encourage them to pick up their enrolment packs asap.

Enrolment started on 16 March and closes on 29 May 2016 for Yr 7, 2017.

For Kindergarten 2017 enrolment starts on 2 May and closes on 29 May 2016.



Y



HOLY WEEK IS the high point of the Liturgical Calendar. It began on Sunday with the Year 1 Parish Mass. The children told the story of Palm Sunday and enthusiastically waved palm branches to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. They reprised their retelling of the story for the first liturgy of Holy Week on Monday afternoon. Tuesday continued the story, as Years 3 & 4 re-enacted the Last Supper. Year 3 reflected on our call to serve others, with the washing of the disciple's feet and Year 4 brought Jesus and the disciples together around the altar to celebrate The Last Supper. Holy Week concluded on Thursday with Year 5 recounting the final moments of Jesus' life in The Stations of the Cross. Following



L



Students connect with Shakespeare

Anne Lovett

ON THE 29TH of February, Years Eight, Nine and Ten had the wonderful opportunity to watch entertaining performances by the Bell Shakespeare players. Their acts were based on William Shakespeare's plays, Romeo and Juliet and Hamlet. Students have the opportunity to study a range of the Bard's plays throughout each stage of their engagement with English at the College.

Ebony Godwin in Year 10 is a fan: "I loved the Bell Shakespeare performance and look forward to their visit each year when I am intrigued by the way that they make the plays so much fun to watch and easier to understand. Stopping to explain the events as they took place and connecting us to Shakespeare and his words, the actors helped me to understand his plays more easily. This assists me when I study the plays in class. The performers showed a lot of passion in their performances and this helped to make the play real and bring it to life."

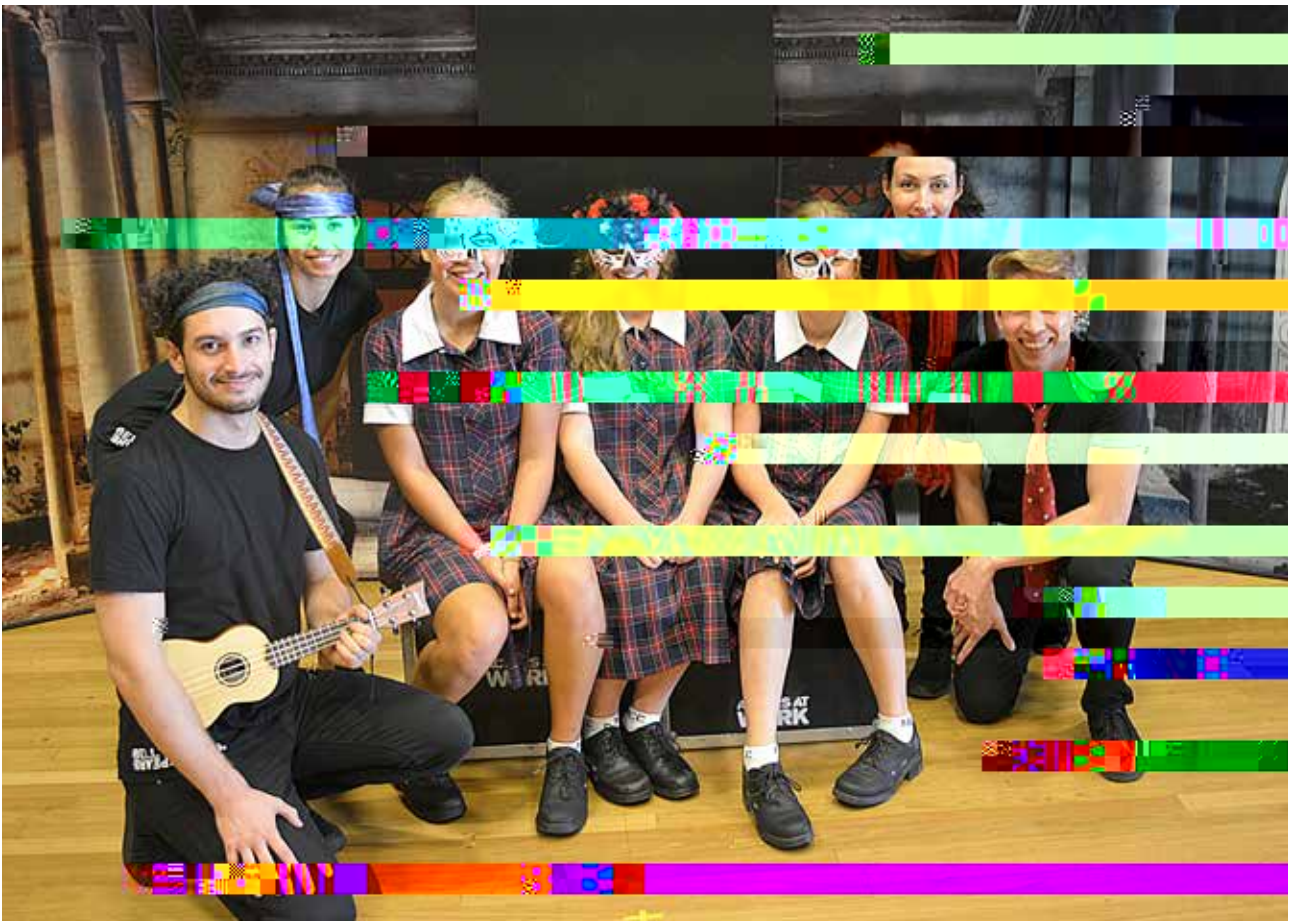
Samantha Amino in Year 9 also enjoyed being a part of the audience: "We didn't know what to expect from the Bell Shakespeare players, wondering if the act was going to be interesting and how they would stage it. The four actors definitely surprised and impressed their audience in many ways. They made the plot much easier to understand because they changed it into a modern style but kept the classical feel.

The players achieved this through contemporary narration, using every day speech, which helped explain Shakespeare's words. The audience was captivated by the interesting and funny story. The actors included hilarious moments whilst creating a really believable performance.

The whole concept and style of the performance was interesting and creative. The players were very clever with the use of props and costumes to help transition themselves between playing different characters, settings and plotlines. Even though their set was simple, it worked brilliantly with their performance. The actors were always in and out of various characters and always moving around the stage, which helped to keep our attention; something not always easy for teachers to do!

Bell Shakespeare's performance definitely helped all of us understand the play better. Acting the main scenes and shortening the dialogue helped to get straight to the point of the themes within the plot. The experience was great because it has helped me understand further what to focus and write about for assessments on this play."

We look forward to the players' return next year and the opportunity for more students to see Shakespeare's words and works come to life.



The Library welcomes eBooks

Alyssa Rose

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE Library welcomes eBooks from Wheelers ePlatform. Secondary students can now borrow eBooks that can be read on most computers, tablets and smartphones. With access to over 350 titles, there is something to suit everyone. Visit mccw.wheelers.co

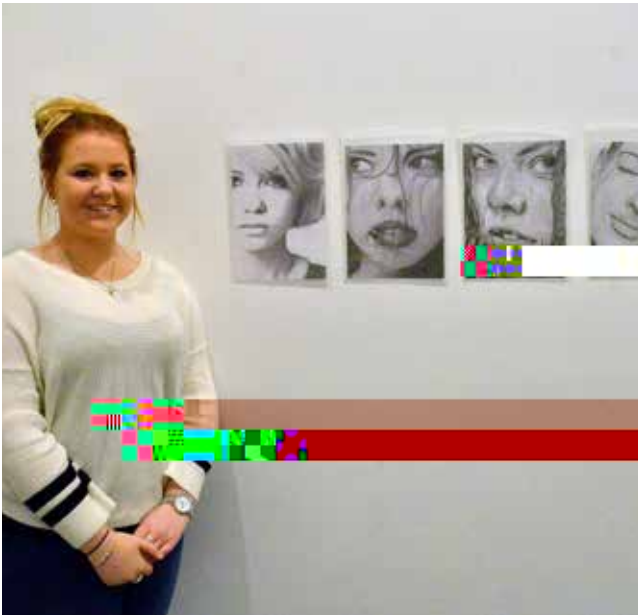


2015 HSC Art students 'Expose'

Jillian Young

'EXPOSE' IS AN exhibition on the Central Coast showcasing the outstanding talents of student work from the 2015 HSC group. Two Visual Arts students from MacKillop Catholic College, Madison Relf and Ashley Farrugia, were selected to be a part the frst 'Expose' exhibition held at the Art Studio Gallery, North Gosford. The exhibition aims to display the work of local

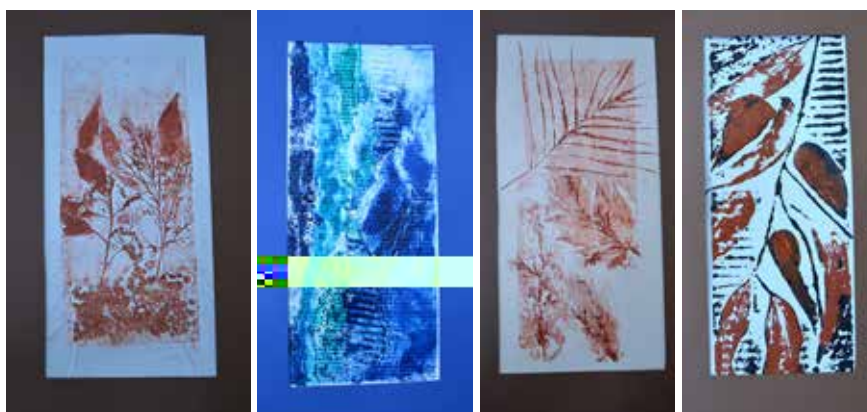
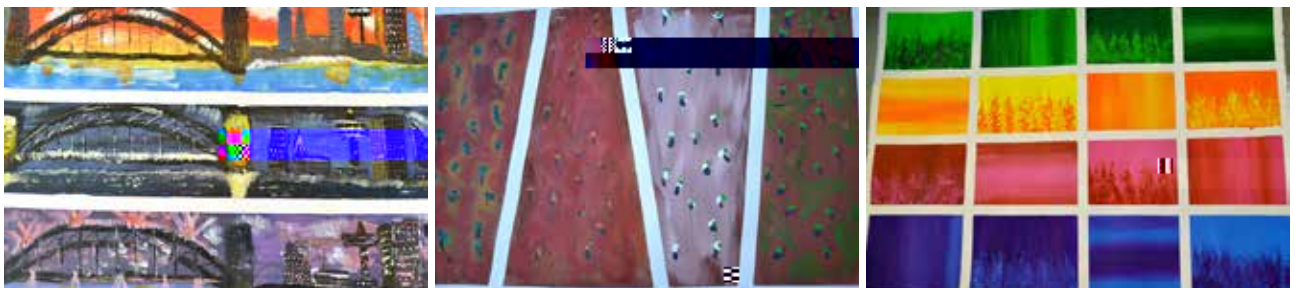
students who deserve recognition for their outstanding Visual Arts HSC works and gain exposure as emerging young artists. From the high standard of work represented by students from schools on the Central Coast, we were very proud of our students and as a school we hope to be a part of this exhibition each year.



Artists of Excellence

Jillian Young

BELOW ARE COLLECTIONS of artworks made by Year 11 Visual Arts students who have been studying the Australian landscape.



THE ANNUAL PRIMARY Cross Country was another great success at Hamlyn Terrace Sporting Fields in Week 6 this term with many personal best performances by our children.

The perpetual trophy was won clearly by the Alma team in 2016

1. ALMA 118 points
2. TEMUKA 98 points
3. KINCUMBER 92 points
4. GESU 85 points
5. FITZROY 84 points
6. PENOLA 78 points

Congratulations to the following students who won the event in their age category.

	GIRLS	BOYS
7/8 YRS	Phoebe Meers	Enda Connolly
9 YRS	Jasmine Fisher	Finn Sadler
10 YRS	Keely Swaysland	Isaac Zappala
11 YRS	Sienna Deeley	Brandon Whitmore
12/13 YRS	Kaitlyn Norris	William Enraght-Mooney

Congratulations to the top 10 runners in each age group who will now represent MacKillop at the CCC Cross Country at Mt Penang Gardens Kariang on Wed 4 May (Week 2, Term 2)

Special mention to Evan Enraght-Moony, Sam Sulkowski & Michael Vrljic who placed in the top 10 as 7 year olds in the 7/8 Year Boys event. Unfortunately they will need to wait until they turn 8 next year to represent the school at CCC.

BROKEN BAY SWIMMING – MINGARA

Congratulations to Ella McKay who proudly represented MacKillop in the 12 Yr Girls Athletes With Disabilities (AWD) Freestyle & Backstroke at Mingara on Tues 8th March. Ella placed first in both her races and will now compete at Homebush on 31 March in the NSWCPSS Swimming Trials.

SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Year 3 & 4 students have completed a 4 week Sporting

R OKENB



Secondary Athletics & Cross Country

Duncan Black

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

ON THURSDAY 3RD March the Secondary College held their Athletics carnival. 900 students and staff were transported to Mingara Athletics Centre by bus. Although the weather was very warm, the students were dressed in their house colours with high spirits, which led to a great day.

The first race started at 9.15am with the 1500m run. All students proceeded to their chosen events throughout the day with all students giving their best in each event.

I would like to thank those students that participated and cheered their fellow class mates on and to all the staff that attended their event stations for the day in the heat. Thank you to the Hospitality Department for providing great food and refreshments to the staff.

Champion House was Temuka

Age Champions

- Under 12 Girls – Aimee Greenfeld
 Boys – Ethan Jeffrey
- Under 13 Girls – Paris Croke
 Boys – Ashley Wilson
- Under 14 Girls – Carissa Harrison
 Boys – Ben Martin
- Under 15 Girls – Georgia Ray
 Boys – Nathan Ward
- Under 16 Girls – Kaelah McNamara
 Boys – Alex Coutts

- 17 plus Girls – Kaitlyn Jones
 Boys – Lachlan Walker

CROSS COUNTRY

On Friday 11th March the Secondary College held the annual cross country at Soldiers Beach. With students from Year 7 – 12 competing, the tide had just started to go out and the soft sand of Soldiers proved to be gruelling this year.

All age groups were well represented and participated to the best of their ability. The top 10 students qualified for the BBSSA Cross Country which will be held Week 5 of Term 2 at St Ives Showground. Permission notes will be handed to students early next term.

Champion House – Temuka

Age Champions

- Under 12 Girls – Charnie Lewis
 Boys – Roy Smith
- Under 13 Girls – Mia Middleton
 Boys – Ashley Wilson
- Under 14 Girls – Shaye Slattery
 Boys – Brock Ray
- Under 15 Girls – Lucy Pratt
 Boys – Jamison Costa
- Under 16 Girls – Kaelah Kroemer
 Boys – James Huggins
- 17 plus Boys – Brendan Walker



Rotary Youth Driver Awareness

Lia Camilleri

IN MID MARCH, Year 11 students visited Wyong Racecourse for a series of workshops designed to make them better and safer drivers. The RYDA program has been running for many years now. Originally initiated by Rotary Australia, it seeks to educate all senior students, and therefore all potential drivers.

Students were broken in to small groups that rotated through the different sessions that covered such things as safe stopping distances, road hazards, and the tragic consequences of poor decisions on the road. Years of accumulated experience was offered by the presenters who hailed from various bodies, including the NRMA and NSW Police. The accompanying MacKillop staff were overwhelmed by the number of compliments given by the various presenters and organisers on the behaviour and participation level of MCC students.



Year 7 & Kinder information night

THE 2017 ENROLMENT process is already in full swing with the Kindergarten and Year 7 Information Night being held on March 15th. There was a positive and exciting feel in the air as the prospect of a new beginning and journey into both Primary and Secondary schooling was about to start.

The evening began with prospective Kindergarten and Year 7 2017 parents meeting together in the church where they were welcomed to our Catholic College community. Information concerning what it means to be a member and a student of the MacKillop Catholic Community was shared with parents and they were given an insight into our Strategic Plan, SIP goals, and College Motto. During this time, the parents met our new Family Liaison Officer, Mrs Natalie Tunstead, and were given some insight into the Enrolment Process.

After this initial introduction, the groups of Kindergarten and Year 7 parents were then split so that more specific

information could be relayed. There was a healthy representation of parents from both these groups showing interest for 2017. The Secondary group was provided with an understanding into the Year 7 Transition and Orientation Program, the experiences of belonging to a Catholic Secondary School, the MacKillop Learning Community, iPads & eLearning at MacKillop, Peer Support and the Enrolment procedures for 2017. Likewise, the Kindergarten group were exposed to what it means to be part of such a large community of learners and the requirements for enrolment. The evening concluded with the parents of both groups given the opportunity to meet with members of the College Executive team and the Transition Coordinator and to obtain their enrolment packages prior to leaving. The event was hailed as a great success and bodes well for 2017.