

GARRU

Summer



Summer Edition (Terms 3 and 4, 2024)



MACQUARIE
ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FAITH IN *Action*



01

PHOTOS:

Cover: Back Row: Slohne Williams, Mason Shanks, Madeline Parkes, Nate Chown Front Row: Pippa Rogers, Ella Taylor, Jimmy Pirie, Year 7

Back cover: Violet Murphy, Xavier Nott and Bella Lundholm, Kindergarten

01: Madison Ray, Francesca Wade, Scarlett Nicholls, Marley Betts, Rubie Quigley and Emilia Luck, Year 4

Garru is Wiradjuri for Magpie and is a publication of Macquarie Anglican Grammar School.

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A SCHOOL WITHIN THE ANGLICAN SCHOOLS CORPORATION

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From the Principal

In this summer edition of the *Garru*, I am delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students across all domains of the school. Their dedication, perseverance, and passion continue to inspire, and this edition reflects the many successes that make Macquarie Anglican Grammar such a vibrant community.

A particular highlight has been the wonderful HSC results of our Year 12 Class of 2024. Every student has reason to celebrate, and we are incredibly proud of their hard work and resilience. These achievements are a testament not only to their efforts but also to the unwavering support and commitment of our dedicated staff – thank you for all you do.

Another standout moment was the Year 7 Production, *In The Darkness*, which saw all 76 students take to the stage in an incredible display of talent and teamwork. This major design project was entirely student-led, with our young performers managing everything from choreography and set design to lighting and sound. It was a true showcase of creativity and collaboration.

We also celebrated new student leaders, who have already begun making their mark. Leadership is at the heart of our school, and I look forward to seeing them grow in their roles.

On a personal note, I was officially Commissioned as the next Principal of Macquarie Anglican Grammar School – a privilege and honour. Leading this incredible school is both exciting and humbling, and I look forward to the journey ahead.

This edition of the *Garru* is a reflection of our thriving school community, and I hope you enjoy the stories and highlights within its pages. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Mrs Alison Mitchell

Principal

STAFF NEWS

Our staff are our greatest resource and we are blessed to welcome six new members of staff for 2025.

Kasey Bogie, Director of Marketing and Communications: Kasey is a 2020 alumni and former School Captain. She was active in the Cattle Show Team, Equestrian Sports, and Rugby 7's. Since graduating, she has built a career in marketing, and she has made a spectacular impression.

Mbali Hadebe, Senior School Teacher: She is a qualified English and Geography teacher and earned her B.Ed from the University of South Africa. She taught English at Grantleigh College for five years and looks forward to growing her career at Macquarie.

Zoe Larkings, Teacher Aide: From Tottenham NSW, she spent 12 years as a hairdresser before moving into Early Childhood Education in 2018. She loves country life and family time and is excited to join Macquarie, where her daughter Ayla-Mae is in Kindergarten.

Michelle Schwager, Teacher Aide: Michelle joins Macquarie as a Teacher's Aide while completing her Certificate III in Educational Support. Transitioning from office roles across various industries, she is dedicated to helping students thrive and grow in education.

Scott Turnbull, Senior School Teacher: Scott, born and raised in Lithgow, NSW, holds a Bachelor of Visual Arts and a Diploma of Education from Newcastle University, with further studies in Design and IT from the University of Sydney. With 20+ years of teaching experience, he is passionate about rural education, creativity, and integrating new technologies. He is the father of Kate, Lauren, and Heidi Turnbull, current and former Macquarie students.

Emily Yeo, Senior School Teacher: Emily grew up on a cattle station in Walcha and studied a Bachelor of Education at the University of Sydney. She began teaching at an independent girls' Boarding School and later expanded her qualifications to Primary Education. Now returning to Dunedoo to the family farm, she enjoys sports, renovations, and baking.

2025 Student Leaders

Congratulations to our new student leaders for 2025!

Captains

Olivia Simcox and Tom Kerin

Vice Captains

Julianah Hegarty and Corey Binks

Boarding Captain

Abigail Medcalf

Prefects

Eva Harris, Alexander Price, Danielle Rice, Thomas Roth and Jack Taylor

PHOTO:

01: Back Row: Alexander Price, Thomas Roth, Jack Taylor, Tom Kerin, Corey Binks
Front Row: Abigail Medcalf, Julianah Hegarty, Danielle Rice, Eva Harris, Olivia Simcox, Year 11

01

HSC Results

We are delighted to celebrate the HSC results of the Class of 2024, which reflect the dedication, academic achievements, and resilience of our students. This year's results showcase improvement across a wide range of subjects, and we are incredibly proud of the individual and collective successes of our cohort.

Our 28 students have demonstrated remarkable academic achievement and consistency, achieving 33 individual Band 5 or Band 6 results.

Highlights from the 2024 HSC include:

- A top ATAR result of 95.1
- Band 6 results in Mathematics Advanced, English Extension 1, and Primary Industries

In addition to their academic achievements, our students have excelled in a variety of co-curricular areas, furthering their holistic development. Many secured Early Entry offers to university, gained qualifications in Vocational Education and Training courses, and are embarking on exciting career pathways.

These results are a testament to the unwavering support, encouragement, and dedication of our teaching staff, families, and the wider Macquarie school community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2024 for their exceptional achievements and wish them every success as they transition to the next chapter of their lives. Their perseverance, passion, and commitment have set them on a path to bright futures, and we eagerly anticipate seeing the incredible impact they will make in the world.

To the Class of 2024, we are immensely proud of you and celebrate your success with great joy. As you step into the future, remember always to be resilient, relational, reflective, and resourceful learners. These qualities will guide you as you face new opportunities and challenges, empowering you to make a meaningful difference and embody the values and vision of our school community.

Mrs Marina Simcox

Commissioning of Mrs Alison Mitchell

On Friday 22 November, we had the privilege of coming together at Macquarie to celebrate the commissioning of our Principal, Mrs Alison Mitchell, by The Right Reverend Mark Calder, the Bishop of the Bathurst Diocese.

A commissioning is a significant occasion in the life of a school, especially within our Christian community. This ceremony was a formal event where we publicly acknowledged and blessed Mrs Mitchell as she stepped fully into her role as our school's leader. It was a moment to affirm our trust in her guidance, while she committed herself to serve the school community with faith, integrity and vision.

For Macquarie, it was not only a celebration of leadership, but a reaffirmation of our shared mission and values.



A NEW GENERAL LEARNING AREA FOR MACQUARIE

The grand opening ceremony of Macquarie's new general learning area, J Block, was held on Thursday 8 August.

The building is a wonderful addition to our school community and provides us with the opportunity for our faculties to continue to develop learning spaces that encourage students to both learn and apply the skills and habits of our Teaching and Learning Framework across all areas of their education.

PHOTOS:

- 02:** Mr Philip Bell OAM, Bishop Mark Calder, Mrs Alison Mitchell, Mr Martyn Mitchell
03: Olivia Simcox, Tom Kerin, Year 12, Mrs Alison Mitchell
04: Back Row: Mr Martyn Mitchell, Clr Richard Ivey, Mr Michael Sutherland, Mr Tony Tan, The Hon Mark Coulton MP, Mr Matthew Earle, Mr Kim de Rooy, Mr Peter Fowler, Mr Philip Bell OAM, Mrs Kathryn Thornhill, Rev Andrew Thornhill Front Row: Mrs Keera Job, Mrs Marina Simcox, Rev Tom Owen, Ms Merryn Clarks Smith, Mrs Joanne Rankmore, Rev Carl Palmer, Mrs Clare Pendlebury, Mrs Alison Mitchell
05: Mr Martyn Mitchell, Mrs Alison Mitchell, Mr Mark Coulton, Airle Smith, Ethan Moody, Year 12

IBE Week

During Week 8 of Term 4, students in Years 7-9 had the exciting opportunity to participate in Interest-Based Electives (IBEs). Each day featured three engaging sessions dedicated to these electives, culminating in a special IBE assembly and the eagerly anticipated Billy Cart Race on Friday morning. This vibrant celebration of student creativity was followed by a movie outing for our Year 7-10 students, marking a joyful and memorable conclusion to the school year.

Students were spoilt for choice with a diverse array of electives, allowing them to explore new interests and deepen their skills. The elective options included Pool Sports – "I Am Too Pool for School," Stories and Crafts, Chess, Book Club, Paint Like Bob Ross, Language and Food Roadshow, Walk and Talk, Decorate It, Sewing and Embroidery, School Service, Bush Tucker, "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" improv, Macquarie Billy Cart Bash, Mower Mechanics, Golf, Iconic Album Cover, Vision Boards, Games Lounge, Origami, Poetry Slam, Champions League, Jeopardy, Minute to Win It, Geocaching, 3D Printing, Journalism, Dancing, Puzzle Mania, Christmas Earrings, Learning Something New, and Netball.



Throughout the week, students embraced the chance to try new activities, develop their skills, and build connections with their peers. The enthusiasm and creativity displayed were truly inspiring, making it a highlight of the year.

Well done to all our students and teachers for making the IBEs such a success. What a fantastic way to finish 2024!

Mrs Marina Simcox

PHOTOS:

01: Lauren Rice, Year 9 **02:** Chloe Smith, Eleanor Moeller and Norah Wallace, Year 5 **03:** Ally Phillips and Erin Oh, Year 2
04: Back Row: Alexis Mitchell, Holly Fraser, Madeline Parkes, Scarlett Mealey, Year 7 Front Row: Joseph Erickson, Mia Little, Charlie Parkes, Eden Richardson, Kindergarten



ANYTHING WITH WINGS

Friday 20 September marked the final day of school for our Year 12 students – a significant milestone as they concluded this chapter of their education journey.

To commemorate the occasion, our students organised an 'Anything with wings' free dress day, turning it into a meaningful fundraiser for Little Wings.

Bright colours and happy faces were all around the school grounds!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year, Macquarie took pride in participating in Operation Christmas Child, a meaningful initiative organised by Samaritan's Purse. The program offers a hands-on opportunity for our community to make a positive difference in the lives of children facing challenging and vulnerable situations worldwide. By packing shoeboxes with a variety of items including toys, hygiene products, school supplies and fun and thoughtful gifts, students, staff and families came together to share hope and bring joy.

Macquarie's involvement this year highlights our dedication to making a meaningful contribution and extending our reach far beyond local borders, uplifting lives one box at a time.

Miss Prue Murray



Macquarie's Got Talent

The 2024 Macquarie's Got Talent showcase was a spectacular evening featuring 23 performances including dancing, vocalists, musicians, comedians, and even a few pirates!

The array of talent within our school community was truly impressive. Every performance was carefully planned and bursting with energy and fun. It was wonderful to witness the incredible support from our Macquarie families, cheering each other on throughout the night.

We had representation from both the Junior and Senior Schools, and we are so proud of all the students who auditioned and performed. Thank you for sharing your remarkable talents with us! We're already excited to start planning for 2025.



A special congratulations to our winners of the evening. First place went to the piano trio *Pirates of the Caribbean*, performed by Larissa Elder, Year 8, Skye Elder, Year 5, and Caitlin Elder, Year 5. Second place was awarded to Slohne Williams, Year 7, for her dance performance *Saviour*, while third place went to Alice Crawley, Kindergarten, and Sophia Fordham, Prep, for their dance to *Matilda's Naughty Song*. The People's Choice Award was won by Marley Betts, Scarlett Nicholls, Francesca Wade, Emilia Luck and Rubie Quigley, Year 4, for their energetic dance to *Uptown Funk*. Finally, the Encouragement Award was presented to Fox Owen, Year 3, for his creative Lightsaber routine.

Mrs Marina Simcox

R U OK? DAY

R U OK? Day is our national day of action where we can reach out and take care of someone we care about.

Macquarie is a community that values connectedness and mental health. We supported this valuable cause by wearing a touch of yellow with our uniforms on Thursday 12 September. As a school, we also went through a variety of activities that enhanced our students' abilities to have meaningful conversations and care for those around us.

Miss Prue Murray

PHOTOS:

05: Alice Crawley, Kindergarten and Sophia Fordham, Prep 06: Skye Elder, Year 5, Caitlin Elder, Year 5 and Larissa Elder, Year 8 07: Francesca Wade, Emilia Luck, Scarlett Nicholls, Rubie Quigley and Marley Betts, Year 4 08: Fox Owen, Year 3 09: Slohne Williams, Year 7 10: Emilia Luck and Madison Ray, Year 4



01



Kathryn Rice, Year 12, Mrs Alison Mitchell



Olivia Simcox, Tom Kerin, Year 11



02

Farewell to Year 12 2024

The end of Term 3 was an exciting and bittersweet time as we farewelled our Year 12 class of 2024 in a celebration of faith, learning, service and friendship.

This wonderful group of students have experienced some very big changes and challenges in their time at school. They have seen the school grow exponentially, dealt with the difficulties of COVID-19 learning off-campus, and paved the way for our younger, larger cohorts to lead at school and at boarding. They are young men and women of character, ambition, individuality and care for others and are to be congratulated on all they have achieved.

Following on from the Year 12 Retreat, our class of 2024 began the process of formally graduating with our Senior Chapel. On this very special night, each student received a ring to commemorate their time at Macquarie and to remind them of the faith that they have learned about during their years at school. The prayers, readings and words of wisdom shared by Reverend Tom Owen, Reverend Carl Palmer and Mrs Alison Mitchell challenged and inspired the students to put their faith in Jesus and to strive to make a difference in any community of which they are part.

The next morning, Year 12 had the opportunity to celebrate with teachers over a barbecue breakfast. Despite the wind, this was a moment for memories and laughter as the Year 12 teachers shared some of their reflections and advice with the students, and as Year 12 thanked them for the many lessons they have learnt, before heading into their formal Graduation Assembly.

The Graduation Assembly brought together the whole school community to recognise the achievements of the Year 12 students.

Academic, service, leadership and co-curricular awards were presented, recognising students who have excelled in learning, application and beyond the classroom. Speeches from School Captains Airlie Smith and Ethan Moody reminded everyone of highlights from their years at school, including camps, events and classes; and acknowledged the important work done by Year 12's chosen charity, Little Wings. The presentation of school gifts by Kindergarten Buddies was a highlight, with our youngest students acknowledging the relationships they have built with Year 12 through the Kindergarten Reading Buddies process. It was truly special to see Year 12 students supported by family, staff and friends of all ages at this event.

Finally, Year 12 had the chance for one final party together with the Year 12 Valedictory Dinner at Rhino Lodge. Seeing them with their guests and families, dressed to the nines and hosting with care and attention to detail was a reminder of how far they had come and a fitting way to end their formal time as students at Macquarie Anglican Grammar School.

Our class of 2024 know that they have a community at school that will always be here for them, and we wish them all the very best for their lives beyond school.

Ms Penny Chilton



Emily Newton, Year 7, Mr Mike Sutherland



Pippa Rogers, Year 7



Jacob Fordham, Year 7



Annabelle Brown, Year 1



Audrey Richardson, Year 2



Sullivan Larnach, Year 3



Churchill Bellotti, Year 3

Presentation Days

Our Presentation Days were held on Friday 27 September (Year 12) at Henderson Hall and Wednesday 12 December at the Dubbo Regional Convention Centre.

Congratulations to all the award winners and the special award winners listed below:

Senior School

Dux of Year 7

Evie Mace

Dux of Year 8

Adam Pendlebury

Dux of Year 9

Alicia Fordham

Dux of Year 10

Savannah Braithwaite

Dux of Year 11

Eva Harris

Dux of Year 12

Isabelle Russell

Community Awards

Macquarie Boarding Citizenship Award

Airlie Smith

Senior School Fine and Performing Arts Award

Larissa Elder

Elizabeth Shuttle TVET Pathways Award

Isabella Rufus

PJ Murdoch Award

Sophie Lockyer

Macquarie Citizenship Award

Olivia Simcox

Macquarie Faith in Action Award

Ethan Moody

ADF Long Tan Leadership Award

Annabelle Stephens and
Annalise Somerville

ADF Future Innovators Award

Thomas Williamson and
Edward Porch

Junior School

Dux of Junior School

Kate Pendlebury

CWA Most Improved Award

Maya McCauley and
Kushaal Palaparthi

Junior School Fine and Performing Arts Award Kindergarten – Year 6

Caitlin Elder and Skye Elder

Jennie Everist Award for Outstanding Citizenship Kindergarten – Year 6

Annie McDonald

Faith Community Character Excellence Awards

Faith

Poppy Windeyer

Community

Alex Stiles

Character

Lachlan Tucker

Excellence

Kate Pendlebury

PHOTOS:

01: Ruby Josephs, Year 10, Taya Millington, Year 12, Hannah Gibson, Year 12 **02:** Back Row: Kathryn Rice, Tozula Yamba, Emeline McCullough, Jack Szymkow, Isabella Jones, Benjamin Hignett, Lily Fitzsimmons, Emmerson Ferguson, Mitchell Cook, Gregory Cook, Edward Chapman, Cooper Calder, Ignatius Blackman, Bryce Abel Front Row: Nicola Millar, Thomas Williamson, Tharushi Marapana, Laura Wilcher, Hannah Gibson, Annabelle Stephens, Airlie Smith, Isabelle Russell, Isabella Rufus, Eve Porch, Alexander Palmer, Ethan Moody, Taya Millington, Year 12

Resource for students and staff at our school

Did you know that The Teaching Staff at Macquarie are all published Authors?

Term 4 has seen the fruition of our major Teaching and Learning Framework initiative for 2024. Each member of staff has trialled in their classrooms one nominated teaching and learning strategy from a particular learning disposition (Relational, Resilient, Resourceful or Reflective).

Staff have “written up” their 4Rs in action research for our MAGS Staff eBook of Learning Strategies. The book is quite remarkable in its rigour and reach. It serves as a “pay it forward” resource for students and staff at our school. The capability, commitment and creativity of our teaching staff are to be commended and celebrated.

In 2025, our teachers will be able to regularly consult and implement the strategies in the eBook to further our shared understanding of the Learning Framework at Macquarie.

Plans for 2025 are already in place. Staff will build on their work on the eBook to trial multiple strategies, working toward a “product endorsement” of a particular strategy.

The Teaching and Learning Framework at Macquarie, underpinned by the 4Rs, continues to provide classrooms rich in innovation and intentional practice.

Mrs Lynne Fleming

PHOTOS:

01: Hannah Cook, Prep
02: Sophia Fordham, Hugh Smith, Gabriella Smith, Lucinda Booth, Julian Watts, Prep
03: Georgina Lunney, Ayla-Mae Bates, Hannah Cook, Harry Pervich, Prep
04: Back Row: Luke Cronin, Bentley Bourke, Sophia Fordham, Penelope Stevenson, Hannah Cook, Bowie Vaughan, Levi Cluley, Tobias Rush, Julian Watts and Oona O'Sullivan
 Front Row: Annabelle McNamara, Ayla-Mae Bates, Madeline Hartwig, Gabriella Smith, Mansimer Kaur Khattri, Hareem Kashif, Nahuel Santo, Prep



01



02



03



04

PREP

Prep students have been hard at work this semester

Prep Garden

Prep students have been hard at work out in our garden this semester. The students prepared the garden beds with the help of Mr Fordham, ready to plant an array of greenery. The students assisted in planting tomatoes, capsicum, carrots, strawberries, spinach, mint, petunias and marigolds. Every afternoon, the students work hard and take turns to both water and weed the gardens. Prep was so excited to see the beautiful flowers blooming as we headed into Spring, and even got the opportunity to taste some of the mint, spinach and carrots that had grown! The students continue to take care of the plants and keep a close eye on them as they eagerly wait for the strawberries and tomatoes to fully grow.

Buddy Reading

This semester saw Year 5 students venture down to visit the Prep on Thursday afternoons to read to them. This gave both years the opportunity to meet and spend time with each other before transitioning into Kindergarten and Year 6 where they will meet their official buddies next year. Year 5 took on the leadership role exceptionally well, and Prep students loved the opportunity to spend time with the 'big kids'!

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Prep paired up with Kindergarten and participated in the Early Years' Teddy Bear Picnic. Students brought in a special furry friend from home and spent the day participating in various teddy themed activities. The students enjoyed icing biscuits and Mars bars, decorating them with gummy bears and tiny teddies to create bears in bed and teddies driving cars! We finished off the day with having a picnic outside with our teddy buddies and Kindergarten friends.

Art and Fun

Prep students have been busy working hard on creating magnificent artwork to hang up around our classroom. The students enjoy participating in fun art activities that relate to our literacy story for the week, and also discovering new painting techniques along the way! The class created splatter paintings with edicol paint to use as the background for our artworks that represented "The Magic Hat" book. We loved watching the primary colours mixing together to create rainbows! Prep also enjoyed creating bubble paintings through mixing paint, water and soap. They each had a go at blowing into the mixture through a straw to create colourful bubbles to press onto

the artworks. The students expressed how it almost looked like magic! Of course, we couldn't help but have some fun with the bubble mixture afterwards as well!

Numeracy

In Prep this semester, we have been learning lots and working hard on our shapes and numbers during our Numeracy groups. Students have spent lots of time creating shapes in fun and different ways, such as out of colourful match sticks, drawing them on the board, and even making the shapes out of themselves! We've spent lots of time mastering the different kinds of 2D shapes, the qualities they have and where we can find them in our playground. Prep has also continued working on writing their numbers, drawing the matching amount, and finding sets of the corresponding number within their playground. The students have been hard at work preparing for their upcoming transition to Kindergarten!

Ms Jackie Smith

2025 Junior School Captains

On presentation day, we had the privilege of introducing our community to the Junior School Captains for 2025.

Congratulations to our recipients:

Captains

Delilah Smith and Toby Robinson

Vice Captains

Harriet Kelly and Elijah Newton

Prefects

Poppy Windeyer and Gordon Owen

House Captains

Chisholm

Jaxon Bourke and Kane Furney

Cuthbert

Musa Nkomo and Archer Mealeys

Dunlop

Dominic Gadsby and Molly Linehan

Flynn

Alexis Cook and Eli Pedersen



Toby Robinson, Delilah Smith, Year 5



Elijah Newton, Harriet Kelly, Year 5



Poppy Windeyer, Gordon Owen, Year 5



Molly Linehan, Dominic Gadsby, Year 5



Eli Pedersen, Alexis Cook, Year 5



Archer Mealey, Musawenkosi Nkomo, Kane Furney, Jaxon Bourke, Year 5

EXPLORING CREATIVE ARTS IN JUNIOR SCHOOL

Our Kindergarten to Year 6 students have explored Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music through weekly lessons and hands-on activities designed to build essential skills in each art form throughout the year.

Dance lessons in each stage introduced our students to movement and rhythm and allowed them to explore the power of expression through dance routines, choreographed movements, and improvisation. Students learned to communicate emotions and tell stories without words, as well as developed an appreciation for different countries and cultures.

In Drama, students engaged in role-play, storytelling and character-building exercises that helped develop their understanding of narrative and communication. Drama lessons were also particularly engaging as students participated in Drama and Theatresports and performed for their peers!

Through drawing, painting, sculpting and collage, our students have experimented with different materials and techniques as they learned how to express the world visually.

Students also engaged in weekly music lessons with Mrs Heggie, working on concepts of rhythm, melody and harmony. Lessons for our classes have included singing, rhythm exercises, and introductory instrumental practice, making music both an individual and collective experience for our students.

Junior School students are also offered Co-curricular opportunities in Creative Arts, including our Junior School Choir and School Band. These programs are providing our students with additional opportunities to refine their skills, practise performance and enjoy music making as part of a group.

Performances are also a highlight of our students' arts experience. From assemblies, school concerts and events as well as our popular Macquarie's Got Talent competition give students an opportunity to showcase their talents and celebrate their artistic achievements.

Mrs Keera Job



The Magic of Reading

Book Week was a wonderful week for our school community. From the creative costumes at our Book Character Parade to our buddy reading sessions, it was a celebration of the magic of reading!

One of the most anticipated events during Book Week is our bi-annual Book Character Parade, where students proudly showcase their favourite characters. From wizards and fairies to brave adventurers, it was a delight to see our students' creativity and love for books come to life. Well done also to our Junior School teaching staff for their *Where's Wally* co-ordinated dress up this year!

Our Family Picnic was a wonderful success, with families gathering on the school grounds to enjoy a shared love of reading. It was lovely to see our parents and their children sharing stories, and simply enjoying each other's company in our playground. The weather, like the reading, was also magic!

Our Book Week Buddy Reading sessions are always a particular highlight of Book Week, with Junior School students paired with Senior School buddies for some quality reading time. These sessions not only fostered a love of reading but also strengthened the relationships within our school community.

Students also eagerly exchanged pre-loved books at the Book Swap event, discovering new stories and fostering a love for reading. The event was a fantastic way to connect and share favourite reads, leaving everyone excited for more literary adventures.

PHOTOS:

01: Corbyn Smith, Year 6 **02:** Georgie Campbell, Bella Lundholm, Kindergarten
03: Ted White, George White, Kindergarten **04:** Otis De Kaste, Adam Haniff, Year 1



TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

Our Prep and Kindergarten students had a wonderful time at the Teddy Bears' Picnic with some very special guests!

Each student brought their favourite teddy bear to school for a day filled with learning and bear-themed fun. They shared morning tea on the oval and participated in various creative activities centred around their teddies.

What a delightful way to wrap up the term!



STAGE 1 SLEEPOVER AND MOVIE NIGHT

On Friday 15 November, students in Stage 1 enjoyed a Sleepover and Movie Night, with Year 1 coming for dinner and a movie and Year 2 then staying over for the night.

All students in Stage 1 arrived at 6.00pm excitedly ready for their fun evening. Students played tug-of-war, soccer and on the fixed equipment while everyone was arriving and the Year 2 students were setting up their bedding in the Trade Training Centre classrooms. After pizza, the students watched the movie *Monsters Inc*. Year 1 parents started arriving at 8.30pm to collect their child and head home.

After Year 1 had left, the teachers gathered the Year 2 students together and tidied the Hall before heading back to the Trade Training Centre. The students excitedly got ready for bed, making sure to brush their teeth, and settled with their friends to watch a bit of *Bluey* before sleep.

After waking up at 6.00am, the teachers helped pack up belongings as parents came and collected their child so they could head home for breakfast! It was a fun night at school!

Mrs Vanessa Price

Stage 1 Visits the Zoo

In Term 3, Stage 1 students studied information texts as part of their learning. This included developing writing skills and learning about animals - focusing on their habitats, environments, breeding and physical features.

To support this learning, Stage 1 students visited the Taronga Western Plains Zoo and participated in a lesson at the Education Centre. Led by an Education Officer, the lesson began outside with a discussion about small animals and insects that live in trees. Students were able to investigate the different types of insects and used magnifying glasses to analyse them. This was followed by an indoor session where students met a shingleback lizard and some different types of snakes. Students considered what might be required to create a suitable habitat for each animal by thinking about the types of materials and what the animal requires to live.

After lunch, students explored the Zoo in groups. They viewed the wild dogs, meerkats and the new platypus enclosure and spent time on the playground.

This excursion was not only an exciting adventure, but also an enriching learning experience, giving students a hands-on understanding of native animals and their environments.

Mrs Vanessa Price



01



02



03



04

YEAR 3 CAMP

After school we got on the bus to go to Wambangalang Education Centre. When we arrived, we took our items to the cabins to settle in. Then a bell went and we went to meet Mo. He was a staff member there. While he was talking, we heard birds singing - it was peaceful. Then he said we could explore the place for a short time. It was really fun! We saw goats and baby goats.

It was getting late, so we started dinners and showers. Then we went to the campfire for some songs and games and a chocolate. We played fun games and then we went to bed and had five minutes to talk. Then we went to sleep, or some people tried to. The next day we had breakfast, and it was yummy. After that we had four activities to attend in our groups. Some of them were low ropes course, team building games, animal talk and touch. The favourite for a lot of the Year 3 students was the low ropes course. It was fun! Then we had a sausage sizzle for lunch, then we packed are bags on to the bus to go back to school.

It was a fantastic camp for our first overnight one at Macquarie. Thanks to the teachers for taking us and looking after us.



05



06



07

YEAR 4 CAMP

On Wednesday 6 November, all of Year 4 met up at school for a 9.00am departure for Lake Burrendong. We were all super excited to arrive at the destination as the build-up over the weeks before was immense.

Once we arrived, we unpacked the bus, got morning tea (which was a piece of fruit), then we realised that there was another school attending. They were sharing the camp and experience with us. We were finally given our cabin groups and then we got ready for lunch. When we all settled, we were sorted into two groups, the Lizards and the Echidnas.

The Lizards and the Echidnas completed the same activities but at different times. Some of our activities were orienteering, grass skiing, kayaking, slip 'n' slide, paint balloon combat, archery and pedal carts.

A big thanks to Mr Rufus and Miss Rathbone for looking after us and having fun with us.

PHOTOS:

01: Stella Robertson, Year 1 02: Sullivan Larnach and Nathaniel Mwadaani, Year 3 03: Abigail Tucker and Evelyn Garland, Year 3
04: Nathaniel Dunkley and James Richardson, Year 3 05: Marley Betts, Francesca Wade, Year 4 06: Sophie Coles, Year 4 07: Alexander McNee, Year 4
08: Georgia Batten, Year 6 09: Lachlan Tucker, Year 6

Year 6 Visit Retirement Village

On Tuesday 20 August, our Year 6 students visited the Bill Newton Retirement Village near Macquarie.

Over the course of the afternoon, our students listened to stories, learned the secrets to living to be 100 and played a variety of games with the residents such as cards, checkers and puzzles. The staff and residents at the village were extremely impressed with the maturity, kindness and care shown by our Year 6 students over the visit.

Visiting and spending time with the residents of the Bill Newton Retirement Village allowed our students to demonstrate our school pillars of Community and Character as well as develop empathy, social skills, intergenerational learning and positive relationships with others.

Miss Alice Barber



08



09



Year 7 Production

"In the darkness, I did not see her. And in the darkness, she did not see me when I came for her."

Set in a small town in Australia, "In the Darkness..." tells the story of a family of six and their elderly neighbour in the days before Christmas. The sudden announcement that the cousins are coming to visit means that the family must go into overdrive to get ready for their arrival - decorations must go up, shopping must be done and bills must be paid. With sibling rivalries and the scary old lady from next door getting in the way of things going smoothly, the arrival of all the cousins from the bush only adds to the turmoil. And, hiding in the backyard, in the darkness, the monster awaits...

The 2024 Year 7 Production Process began at the start of the year when, as part of their English studies, each Year 7 student was asked to write a short story for an assessment. The criteria: only three characters, two settings and must start with "In the darkness...". It was from one of these stories that the inspiration for the final script for the Production was found. With the idea of an Australian family,

a backyard dunny and an accident, this particular story allowed a script to be written that was very different from the previous two Productions and to bring to life a range of characters and settings and a genre that hadn't been tried before. In Terms 3 and 4, Year 7 students worked in Mandatory Technology classes to learn dances and design and create the props, backdrops and costumes for the play. The resulting performance was the culmination of months of work and collaboration from all our Year 7 students and our team of Production teachers.

As was the case in previous years, the most important part of the production process has not been the designs that the students created for their portfolios, the marks they received for their work, or even the final outstanding performance that they presented to their audience and for which they received enormous praise. The most valuable part of a process such as this is the camaraderie that is built and the memories that are made from having all of our Year 7 students spending



time together, building friendships and working towards a common goal.

For some, it will have been a challenging experience that has pushed them outside their comfort zones. For others, it will have been an amazing time in which they have had a chance to shine on stage and that they will remember forever. In the end though, all 76 of our Year 7 students can say they have been on stage and performed in front of an audience of over 400 people. The confidence and skills that they can take with them from being involved in this experience and creating such a successful performance, are immeasurable.

Mrs Brooke Taylor



CAPA NIGHT

Our annual Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Night was held in the music room in Term 3. Our students provided excellent entertainment for the capacity crowd with a variety of performances.

Performances were provided by students from our Elective Music classes and the Co-curricular music groups. Both the Senior School and Junior School Choir performed throughout the evening and the wonderful Elder sisters (Larissa Elder, Year 8, Skye Elder, Year 5, and Caitlin Elder, Year 5), also performed individual and group performances.

The evening started with our Concert Band conducted by Mr Neill Ryan. The Band continues to grow in skills, confidence and numbers. They performed *Havanna* and *Take Me to the Chapel*.

Mitchell Cook, Year 12, performed two of his HSC pieces with ensembles made up of students from Macquarie. A big congratulations to Mitchell for completing his HSC this year.

The Preliminary Music class of Trinity Buxton, Eva Harris, Abbey Medcalf, Mason Albury, Jack Taylor, Tobey Cohen and Arlen Quill, Year 11, provided us with both group and solo performances.

Reed Quill, Year 9, Matilda Thornhill, Year 9, Ollie Mills, Year 9, Ari Dale, Year 9, Luke Osborne, Year 10, and Tess Patten, Year 10, made up our Stage 5 performers this year. Tess also performed a duet with Ms Naomi Barber on cello.

Congratulations to all our performers for providing us with an excellent night of music entertainment.

Mrs Jodie Barber



WARRUMBUNGLES EXCURSION

Year 7 students embraced the excitement and challenges of the annual Warrumbungles Excursion. Over two days, they explored the impressive natural landscapes which brought their Geography studies to life.

The highlight was the Gould Circuit Trek, culminating with a successful climb to the summit of Macha Tor. Students worked together, overcoming challenges and celebrating their achievements at the top with stunning views. This hands-on outdoor experience deepened their understanding of landscapes and landforms while building resilience, teamwork and a strong sense of accomplishment.

The Warrumbungles Excursion exemplifies the value of outdoor learning, creating memories, and broadening students' perspectives. We look forward to continuing this tradition next year!

Miss Prue Murray

STAGE 5 WETHER CHALLENGE

In March, Stage 5 Agriculture competed in the NSW School Merino Wether Challenge, showing 6 Merino wethers.

Students fed, cared for and prepared the wethers for the show that took place in Week 6 of Term 3. The Merinos were judged in zones across NSW under categories of Restocker value, Fleece value and Carcass value. Students selected a Team A and B for the wethers based on these traits and placed third in our zone for carcass value.

Stage 5 Agriculture students are to be commended for their work ethic over the unit and competition, and should be very pleased with this result. Thank you to Nutrien Dubbo, who sponsored the grain pellets for the five-month period that we had the wethers, and to Miss Bird and Rev Owen for their assistance with the competition.

Miss Savannah Dimmock



PHOTOS:

01: Jimmy Pirie, Year 7 **02:** Orla Heggie, Year 7, Evie Peart, Year 8, Lachlan Tucker, Year 6, Jackson Tucker, Year 10, Larissa Elder, Year 8, Slohne Williams, Year 7, Mrs Jodie Barber and Mrs Michelle Heggie
03: Samuel Luck, Year 10 Harry Kidd, Year 9, Hallie Cummins, Year 9, Nellie Spencer, Year 9, Charlie Lockyer, Year 9, Aaron Hegarty, Year 9
04: Hannah Veer, Chloe Harris, Sitti Cubilla, Lucy Keady, Year 7

Year 7 Orientation

In the first week of Term 4, Macquarie held its Year 7 2025 Parent Information Night, Boarding Parents' Dinner and Orientation Days. Year 7 Orientation was a fantastic way to introduce these fresh faces to the school community, new routines, and each other.

The two-day orientation program, packed with icebreakers, tours and team-building exercises, was designed to ease any nerves and help everyone settle into their new environment.

One of the biggest highlights of orientation was the opportunity for students to meet new people. For many, this meant getting to know peers from different Primary Schools, forging friendships that will likely last throughout their school years and beyond. It's always exciting to see students' bond over shared interests, group activities, and the excitement of starting Year 7.

Friday was a hands-on day with the focus being, *A Day in the Life*. This saw our incoming Year 7 students attend five different Senior School specific lessons and meet new teachers. Students participated in Mandatory Technology with Mrs Cole, Visual Arts with Mrs Davis, Science with Mr Haddon, Food Technology with Mrs Garland and Agriculture with their Year Patron, Miss Dimmock.

For many students, Orientation was about learning where classes are located in the Senior School and getting to know Miss Dimmock and their future peers. But more importantly, it's about growing in confidence, feeling safe and supported at school and realising that starting Year 7 is an incredibly fun experience that comes with a range of new experiences.

Thank you to Miss Alice Barber, our Senior School teachers and Year 12 leaders for their efforts with Year 7 Orientation. We wish our students the best of luck as they start a new chapter in 2025.

Miss Alice Barber and Miss Savannah Dimmock



MAPP Presentation Evening

On Tuesday evening the Macquarie Agricultural Pathways Program celebrated 2024 at the Toongi Hall with its annual Presentation Evening. The night was attended by students from our Stage 4 and Stage 5 MAPP cohorts, their families, the Toongi Pastoral team, and Macquarie staff.

The event showcased the efforts of our MAPP students from throughout the year, with a focus on the sharing of knowledge and experiences. All students in attendance extended their communication skills as they took the stage to address their family and friends. Hugh Evans was the MC for the evening and did a fabulous job in coordinating those who spoke.

We have developed a program that equips students to rise to the challenges posed by the Agriculture industry by practising real-world problem-solving, critical thinking, and practical life skills. In partnership with the experienced team from Toongi Pastoral, Macquarie students are encouraged to think innovatively and understand Agribusiness concepts, whilst promoting sustainable practices on farm.

Each year, 5 positions in Stage 4 MAPP are made available to students from Year 7. The process involves an application and formal interview to determine suitability for the program. If you, or someone you know, is in Year 7 in 2025 and would like to learn more about MAPP, please make contact with Mr Blackburn.

Mr Tom Blackburn

YEAR 9 SOMERSET ADVENTURE

In Week 5 of Term 4, Year 9 embarked on an unforgettable Outdoor Education camp at Somerset in the Blue Mountains. Over the course of the week, students tackled a 21km bush hike and a 17km canoe journey down the Colo River as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

The week was filled with memorable moments. Students demonstrated their resilience throughout the week by pushing through physical and mental barriers to complete the challenging hikes and conquer rock climbs. They showed their wonderful relational skills when they lent a helping hand to peers who were struggling with an activity or were left with the washing up. Resourcefulness was on display as students planned their expedition and used their problem solving and to navigate up and down mountain ridges. And at the end of each day, students demonstrated their reflective skills as they engaged with debriefs around the fire, discussing what they had learned, observed and accomplished during the day.

This incredible experience wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of our teachers. A heartfelt thank you goes to Mr Connors, Miss Reichling and Miss Dimmock for guiding and supporting the students every step of the way. Your energy and encouragement made the week both enjoyable and unforgettable.

Year 9 returned from Somerset with a plethora of stories, stronger friendships, and a renewed appreciation for the great outdoors. It's safe to say that this was a week they will never forget!

Miss Emma Oriel



Back Row: Calder Cooper, Ignatius Blackman, Szymkow Jack, Isabella Jones, Benjamin Hignett, Tozula Yamba Middle Row: Laura Wilcher, Nicola Millar, Taya Millington, Hannah Gibson, Airlie Smith, Thomas Williamson, Lily Fitzsimmons, Tharushi Marapana, Kathryn Rice, Mitchell Cook Front Row: Bryce Abel, Isabella Rufus, Emeline McCullough, Eve Porch, Annabelle Stephens, Ethan Moody, Alexander Palmer, Edward Chapman, Year 12

Year 12 Retreat

Year 12 started their final week of school by travelling to Camp Toukley for a retreat to study, reflect and share in some final adventures together. With school assessments complete, and graduation in sight, this was an important moment of reflection and independence.

As teachers, it was exciting to see the student's taking responsibility for themselves, taking advantage of supervised study sessions, and engaging thoughtfully with reflection activities. It was also exciting to see them throw themselves into opportunities to spend time together playing games, stand-up paddle-boarding, playing laser tag, and walking through the beautiful landscapes of the Central Coast.

As young people about to start life beyond school, our Year 12 students showed thoughtful reflection, resilience self-awareness, and a cooperative approach that they have forged after many years of getting to know themselves and each other. On the final night of camp, they spent time writing messages of encouragement for each other and sharing memories of their time at school. There was a great deal of laughter, a few tears, and plenty of optimism, even as they expressed the balance of nervousness and excitement that comes with times of change. Above all, it was clear that they felt a sense of connection to one another after many years of shared experiences, and that they were aware that many people love and care for them.

This final time away together as a Year Group reminded everyone present of the faith they have learned about, the community they have forged, and how they fit into our larger community. We hope they hold their memories, reflections and friendships close as they take their next steps into life beyond school.

Ms Penny Chilton

PHOTOS:

01: Kushaal Palaparathi, Eli Lundie, Year 6 02: Annie McDonald, Year 6 03: Back Row: Mr Owen Knight, Mac Lesslie, Year 9, Charlie Lockyer, Year 9, Hugh Evans, Year 8, Charlie Fearnley, Year 8, Aaron Hegarty, Year 8, Charlie Duffy, Year 8, Mr Tom Blackburn Front Row: Harry Josephs, year 7, James Lesslie, Year 7, Mason Shanks, Year 7, Clancy Judd, Year 8, Lachlan Chad, Year 8, Hugo Klopper, Year 9, Mitchell Carey, Year 7
04: Aaron Hegarty, Year 8 Mac Lesslie, Year 9, Charlie Duffy, Year 8, Charlie Lockyer, Year 9, Hugo Klopper, Year 9
05: Erin Kirk, Maddie Keady, Miranda Orr, Alicia Fordham, Mackenzie Finlay, Lilly Myles, Year 9

English

Poetry Exhibition

Emerging from a deep dive into a poetry study, each Year 7 student composed a poem about themselves entitled *Where I'm From* and integrated it into an object for display that represents them and the essence of their poem. They reflected on their experiences, family history and personal influences. This was presented as a gallery walk format in our J Block exhibition space, where family and friends moved from one station to the next, reading the poems and reflecting on how the objects tied into the students' lives.

By combining the poetry and the objects, students had the opportunity to present both the emotional and physical aspects of their identity in a creative, multifaceted way. The objects that students chose – such as horse riding helmets, mirrors, footballs, fishing rods, dance shoes, windmills and sheet music – were wonderfully diverse and rich in meaning. Each one acted as a vivid symbol that brought the students' *Where I'm From* poems to life, providing insight into their stories, interests and experiences.

Study Skills

The English Faculty has been focusing on helping students build effective study and preparation strategies for their learning retention and assessments. By teaching students how to use tools such as palm cards and TEE (Technique, Evidence, and Effect) tables, they are equipped with practical methods to organise their thoughts, retain information and enhance their analytical writing skills. By applying study techniques directly to the specific Years 7 to 10 units of work and task requirements, students are tailoring those methods to subject specific English requirements. This supports students in developing a clearer understanding of how their study methods and the tasks they are working on are interconnected.

Extension 2 Classes

Year 12 English Extension 2 classes have commenced an exciting journey, diving into complex literary texts while developing their creative and critical writing skills. Mrs Fleming's guidance will help them refine their abilities to craft and critique. Extension 2 allows students to push boundaries and experiment with writing styles, themes and genres, as they explore both existing literary works and their own compositions. By the end of the course, students typically produce a substantial creative major work, such as a short story, poetry collection, or even a longer form like a novella or play.

Mrs Rachel Hurford



01



02



03

SMALL BUSINESSES

Over the course of a few weeks, our Commerce class embarked on an exciting real-world activity – running their own small businesses within the school.

This initiative not only offered students a hands-on experience in managing and operating a business, but it also provided them with an incredible opportunity to contribute to a meaningful cause. Proceeds from the businesses went to support our chosen charity of the year, Little Wings, and we are thrilled to announce that the class collectively raised an outstanding \$3,125.00!

Throughout the activity, every student showcased incredible dedication, creativity and teamwork, going above and beyond to make their ventures successful. This impressive achievement reflects their hard work, business acumen and commitment to giving back to the community. It is a moment of great pride for all of us!

The activity also included a friendly competition, and we are excited to reveal the top three earners from the class. Congratulations to the following students:

- 1st** 'Donut Lab' with a massive profit of \$1,503.20, managed by Sabrina Jones and Zack Masters, Year 10.
- 2nd** 'Simmo's Snags' with a profit of \$407.70, run by Colby Rufus, Lachlan Murphy and Spencer Simcox, Year 9.
- 3rd** 'The Lunchtime Movie Theatre' with a profit of \$342.10, led by Annalise Somerville, Year 10, Kaitlyn Rankmore, Year 10, Harmeen Warya, Year 9, and Erin Kirk, Year 9.

We extend a huge congratulations to all participants for their outstanding effort and a special acknowledgment to our top earners. Well done, you have made us all incredibly proud!

Miss Prue Murray

PHOTOS:

- 01:** James Lesslie, Year 7 **02:** Pippa Rogers, Year 7
- 03:** Molly Hyland, Year 8, Isabella Hall, Year 7, Heidi Parnaby, Year 7

Visual Arts

Year 8 Art

Year 8 students have been exploring linear perspective in art and are now applying their understanding and newly developed watercolour techniques to create unique landscape paintings.

Year 8 Blue and Yellow classes visited the Western Plains Cultural Centre as part of their study on the use of animals in art. This semester, students have been examining how animals are used as symbols, metaphors, and emotional expressions in artistic works.

The excursion featured the works of local Dubbo artist Jodi Cramond, who explores her relationship with birds through various media. Her collection includes ceramic sculptures, charcoal and pencil drawings, and vibrant bird paintings, reflecting society's perceptions of beauty.

HSC Art

Art students completed their HSC Art major works, a moment of immense pride and accomplishment for the students. The student's dedication, creativity, and hard work truly shone through in their submissions.

Mrs Sandra Davis



Archie Mccauley, Year 8



Brandon Somerville, Year 8



PHOTOS:

04: Back Row: Indi Mitchell, Millie Martin, Hannah Scanes, Lily Gibson, Phoebe Chrystall, Hugh Evans, Samuel Chandler, Benjamin Palmer, Jacob Osborne, Harry Chapman, Daniel Leary, Darcy Ferguson, Kara Johnson Front Row: Sally Stephens, Alexis Rufus, Kiah Bennett, Verity Smith, Larissa Elder, Archie Mccauley, Kody Henry, Year 8 **05:** April Butler, Sarah Chandler, Tia Allan, Caitlin Wilcher, Year 10 **06:** Jemima Tink, Evie Mace, Alexis Norwood, Year 7 **07:** Emilia Peart, Amelia Chrystall, Year 10



SCIENCE

Term 3 was the culmination of the HSC Courses in Biology, Chemistry, Investigating Science and Physics for our 16 Science students. 2024 saw Macquarie's first student, Tom Williamson, complete the Science Extension course investigating the effect of oil contamination on the germination of wheat. It is a marvellous occasion to celebrate the completion of their studies and join them as young adults at their Valedictory Dinner.

Year 12 Valedictory Dinner – HSC Sciences

During Term 3, Year 10 science students investigated a range of topics as part of their studies. This term also marked the Student Research Project (SRP) period, where students conducted independent research. Staff were particularly impressed by the depth of research undertaken by students in Years 8, 9, and 10. Meanwhile, Year 7 students participated in a structured SRP investigation, collaboratively applying the Scientific Method to explore whether the resistance bands used by Year 11 students may have been affected by climate differences between Dubbo and Cairns.

Term 4 Science at MAGS has a focus on ecology and the natural world. Year 7 have investigated food web interactions and animal adaptations culminated with the annual Zoo Excursion. Year 8 have explored the structure of a cell and Earth's natural resources and their sustainable use. Year 10 have learned about the technological developments that have enabled us to discover more about the features and history of the universe and the changing ecosystems over geological history as seen through the fossil record. This culminated in an excursion to the Fossil and Mineral Museum in Bathurst and the Wellington Caves to see a range of fossils including T-rex, velociraptors, nautilus, trilobites, sabre-tooth cat, diprotodon and more.

Mr Brett Haddon



Lainey Walker, Year 8 and Sienna Whalan, Year 9

Cook 4 Good

Each Friday in Term 4, a group of our students volunteered in the school's Cook 4 Good initiative to provide meals for those in need in our community. With ingredients generously supplied by Woolworths Orana Mall, the students prepared nutritious meals that Anglicare delivered to local families in need.

The Cook 4 Good program is a wonderful opportunity for our students to give back, gain hands-on cooking experience, and support our community. Approximately 50 students in total volunteered to be a part of the program.

The Cook 4 Good program is one of the many initiatives at Macquarie encouraging them to be people of faith in action.

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." – 1 Timothy 6:18

Rev Tom Owen



01



Lilly-Anne Simmons and Amber Azzopardi, Year 8

What a year it has been!

As 2024 draws to a close, we reflect on a year filled with growth, laughter, and countless memorable moments. The energy and enthusiasm of our boarders have made this year truly special, and we couldn't be prouder of our community.

Celebrating Our Community

This year, we introduced the "Boarder of the Week" award to honour students who embody our core values: Faith, Character, Community, and Excellence. It's been inspiring to see our students recognise and celebrate their peers for acts of kindness, leadership, and a positive attitude, creating a supportive environment we all cherish.

PHOTO:

01: Tobey Cohen, Year 11, Julianah Hegarty, Year 11, Mia Cummings, Year 11, Airlie Smith, Year 12, Charlie Thomas, Year 11, Emmeline McCollough, Year 12, Billie Allan, Year 11, Lyndsey Tremain, Year 11 Tom Kerin, Year 11, Abigail Medcalf, Year 11, Holly Azzopardi, Year 11, Tom Kerin, Year 11

New Beginnings and Farewells

A highlight was welcoming our future Year 7 boarders during Orientation Night. Our senior students led the activities with great enthusiasm, setting a welcoming tone for both students and parents. We were also excited to announce Abigail Medcalf, Year 12, as our new Boarding Captain. Her leadership will continue to shape the Boarding Representative Council (BRC) as they plan engaging activities throughout 2025.

We also bid farewell to our graduating seniors, Emeline McCollough, Year 12, and Airlie Smith, Year 12, who have been integral members of our boarding family. Their contributions will be missed, but we look forward to seeing them thrive in their next chapters.

Looking Ahead

We are thrilled to announce that our graduating class of 2025 will be our largest cohort yet—a milestone reflecting the growth of our boarding community. As we head into a festive Term 4 with events like Boarder Day and our Christmas Dinners, we look forward to closing the year with joy and celebration.

From all of us at Macquarie Boarding, thank you to our boarders, parents, and staff for an incredible year. Here's to finishing strong and to an exciting 2025!

Mr Eli Kinscher



ACADEMIC SUCCESS AT THE DA VINCI DECATHLON

Congratulations to our 2024 da Vinci Decathlon teams who competed in the North-West Region competition in Armidale.

The Decathlon celebrates the academic gifts of young people by providing a stimulating and challenging competition run in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon.

After achieving first place in the regional competition, our Year 8 team proceeded to the state competition at Knox Grammar School where they achieved first in Cartography, sixth in Science, tenth in Mathematics, 11th in Art and Poetry, 11th in Engineering and sixth place overall!

Congratulations to all our teams!

Years 5/6 4th

Kate Pendlebury, Poppy Windeyer, Delilah Smith, Caitlin Elder, Skye Elder, Lachlan Tucker, Charlie Hawkins, Aria Jacob

Year 7

Nate Chown, Lila Albury, Jacob Fordham, Georgia Allan, Chase Burge, Slohne Williams, Charlie Anderson, Orla Heggie

Year 8 1st

Adam Pendlebury, Molly Hyland, Sam Ray, Verity Smith, Samuel Chandler, Lily Gibson, Harry Hawkins, Larissa Elder

Year 9 4th

Rahul Jacob, Harmeen Warya, Hudson Duffy, Matilda Thornhill, Caison Duncan, Alicia Fordham, Max Taylor, Erin Kirk



CHESS

This year, the Macquarie Senior Chess team participated in the Sydney Academy of Chess Interschool Chess Challenge. The first heat, which took place in early May, saw Macquarie place second overall school in the Secondary Competition. Mitchell Cook, Year 12, was ranked third overall player in the heat.

Macquarie was then invited to participate in the semi-finals in late August. Once again Mitchell Cook demonstrated his chess skills by placing third overall, and our team of Mitchell, Cooper Calder, Year 12, Edward Chapman, Year 12, Mason Albury, Year 11, and Tobey Cohen, Year 11, placed second overall and were invited to participate in the finals in Sydney.

The final was held Friday 13 September at the Sydney Academy of Chess in Burwood. Over the day, each player had seven games in a Swiss-style competition. There were some extremely tight games, many coming down to the final seconds. While we didn't come away with a win, the experience gained from playing such strong competition was invaluable. All of the competitors should be very proud with the way they conducted themselves on the day.

This year also saw the first awarded colours for Chess. Mitchell Cook received Bronze colours for his contribution to the chess team over the last two years. Well done Mitchell!

Mrs Bree Bailey

PHOTOS:

01: Kate Pendlebury, Year 6, Skye Elder, Year 5, Caitlin Elder, Year 5, Poppy Windeyer, Year 5, Delilah Smith, Year 5, Aria Jacob, Year 6, Charlie Hawkins, Year 6 and Lachlan Tucker, Year 6

02: Back Row: Samuel Chandler, Harry Hawkins, Sam Ray, Lily Gibson Front Row: Molly Hyland, Adam Pendlebury, Larissa Elder, Verity Smith, Year 8

03: Mason Albury, Year 11, Edward Chapman, Year 12, Tobey Cohen, Year 11, Cooper Calder, Year 12 and Mitchell Cook, Year 12

CO-CURRICULAR AWARDS

In 2024, we launched our Senior School Co-Curricular Awards system, celebrating student achievement beyond the classroom. Our first Awards Assembly in Term 3 recognised seven outstanding students, highlighting the value of a well-rounded education.

Awards are based on our four pillars: Community, Character, Excellence, and Faith, and recognise commitment, perseverance, and achievement in school-based activities. This year, we were proud to honour students across all three Co-Curricular Colours.

Bronze Recipients

- Mitchell Cook (Academics)
- Airlie Smith (Service)

Silver Recipients:

- Nicola Millar (Livestock)
- Isabella Rufus (Service)
- Eve Porch (Service)
- Emmeline McCullough (Service)

Gold Recipients:

- Edward Chapman (Sport)

Colours will be awarded in Term 1 for summer activities and Term 3 for winter-based activities. In order for a student to be eligible for colours, they must be nominated by a member of Macquarie staff.

Miss Alice Barber



JUNIOR SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE SPORT

Athletics Carnival

HICES

On 22 August, Macquarie sent 44 students to compete at the HICES Athletics Carnival held at Sydney Olympic Park.

The students participated extremely well, demonstrating their excellent skills in both the track and field events—a special mention to our Senior Girls Relay Team finishing 1st in their age division. Churchill Bellotti, Year 3, and Kyran Dolphin, Year 3, were both crowned age champions in the 8 and 9-year divisions, which is a first for Macquarie students at HICES Athletics. An honourable mention to Harriet Kelly, Year 5, and Mia Wright, Year 4, for achieving personal best times and distances in their respective field and track events.

CIS

On the 6 September, Georgia Batten, Year 5, Maya Cook, Year 3, Aria Jacob, Year 6, Harriet Kelly, Year 5, Kate Pendlebury, Year 6, Eva Strahorn, Year 5, Mia Wright, Year 4, Churchill Bellotti, Year 3, Nayan Duncan, Year 4, Dominic Gadsby, Year 5, Kyran Dolphin, Year 2, and Xavier Powell competed in the CIS Athletics Carnival at Sydney Olympic Park.

Cross Country

HICES

On Tuesday 21 May, 40 students travelled to Scots All Saint in Bathurst to compete at the HICES Cross Country Carnival. The day started with the 8/9 Years and they set an early and strong pace. The 10's, 11's and 12 Year old's followed shortly after, determined to run their hardest and hopefully place in the Top 10. Congratulations to Harriet Kelly (6th) and Maya Cook (8th) who qualified for CIS.

CIS

Congratulations to Harriet Kelly (Year 5) and Maya Cook (Year 3) who competed at the CIS Primary and Secondary Cross Country Championships at the beginning of June. Harriet finished 82nd and Maya 50th in their respective age groups. Such an impressive achievement!

Swimming

HICES

Our Junior School HICES Swimming team showcased their talent and dedication at the HICES Swimming Carnival at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre on Thursday 14 March.

They represented our school with pride and demonstrated exceptional skills in the pool. We extend our appreciation to the parents who accompanied their children, providing invaluable support as team managers and timekeepers. Your commitment and assistance contributed greatly to the success of our team.

Notable Achievement

Mitchell Gadsby, Year 2 – Age Champion (8 Years Boys)

HICES Qualifiers for the Combined Independent Schools (CIS) Carnival

Mitchell Gadsby, Year 2 – 50m Freestyle

Alex Stiles, Year 6 – 50m Breaststroke and 50m Butterfly

Noah Stiles, Year 3 – 50m Freestyle

8 to 10 Years Boys Relay Team –

Patrick Blackstock, Year 4, Alistair Boland, Year 4, Mitchell Gadsby, Year 2 and Noah Stiles, Year 3.

Junior School CIS Swimming

Six students from Junior School travelled to Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre to compete at the Combine Independent School Swimming Carnival (CIS). Qualifying for CIS is an incredible feat and requires commitment and dedication to training. Our Macquarie students showed sportsmanship and incredible determination in all of their events.



03



06



07



Back Row: Alistair Boland, Year 4, Emmanuel Muchineripi, Year 4, Patrick Weekes, Year 4, Patrick Blackstock, Year 4, Nayan Duncan, Year 4
Front Row: Xavier Powell, Year 4, Alexander Fletcher, Year 4, Noah Stiles, Year 3, Dougal Kelly, Year 3, Churchill Bellotti, Year 3.



08

An honourable mention to Mitchell Gadsby who finished 9th in the Boys 8 Years 50 Freestyle and Alex Stiles who placed 13th in the Boys 12 Years 50 Butterfly. Congratulations to everyone who competed on the day.

CIS Representatives:

Patrick Blackstock – (Boys 8-10 Freestyle Relay)

Alistair Boland – (Boys 8-10 Freestyle Relay)

Mitchell Gadsby – (Boys 8-10 Freestyle Relay, Boys 8 Years 50 Freestyle)

Dominic Gadsby – (Boys 11 Years 50 Backstroke, Boys 11 Years 50 Butterfly)

Noah Stiles – (Boys 8-10 Freestyle Relay, Boys 9 Years 50 Freestyle)

Alex Stiles – (Boys 12 Years 50 Breaststroke, Boys 12 Years 50 Butterfly)

AFL

Our Stage 3 AFL team competed in Tuesday's annual Paul Kelly Cup AFL Competition. The students continued to impress with their passion and commitment to the field. They participated in a series of very tight-fought games against Orana Heights (22-18 Loss) and St Pius (15-12 Win). They progressed to the Semi-Final and played the raging favourites in St Johns. The first half was exhilarating, with the scores locked at

2 all heading into the break. Unfortunately, St Johns managed to kick two goals in the dying minutes to win 14-2.

The students showed tremendous improvement and resilience throughout the day and are to be commended on their sportsmanship and teamwork.

Touch Football

On Wednesday 24 July, Macquarie students from Years 3-6 competed in the NSW Primary Touch Football Competition in Dubbo.

We entered 3 Teams: A 3/4 Girls and Boys team as well as a mixed 5/6 team.

The 3/4 Girls team played extremely well demonstrating excellent skills and determination. The girls finished the day with 4 wins and 1 draw.

The 3/4 Boys Team coached by Prue Kelly showed resilience and displayed outstanding skills throughout the day. They came away undefeated after a dominant performance with 5 wins.

The 5/6 Mixed Team showed grit and determination demonstrating some structured touch football and coming away also undefeated with 5 wins.

A very successful day for Macquarie and something to build upon for the rest of the year.

A special shout out to Prue Kelly for coaching the 3/4 Boys Team and for the many parents who supported us throughout the day.

Mr James De Lyall

PHOTOS:

01: Sullivan Larnach, Year 3, Noah Stiles, Year 3, Dougal Kelly, Year 3, Blake Robinson, Year 2, Mitchell Gadsby, Year 2

02: Back Row: Musawenkosi Nkomo, Year 5, Palaparthi Kushaal Palaparthi, Year 6, Hamish Watts, Year 6, Dominic Gadsby, Year 5, Jack Murray, Year 6, Dean Caulfield, Year 6, Charlie Hawkins, Year 6
Front Row: Elijah Newton, Year 5, Eli Burt, Year 5, Alex Stiles, Year 6, Toby Robinson, Year 5, Archie McGroder, Year 6, Finn Hyland, Year 6

03: Back Row: Finn Hyland, Year 6, Alex Stiles, Year 6, Toby Robinson, Year 5, Dean Caulfield, Year 6, Dominic Gadsby, Year 5, Jack Murray, Year 6
Front Row: Eve Powell, Year 6, Sophie McAnally, Year 5, Harriet Kelly, Year 5, Alexis Cook, Year 5, Allie Lundholm, Year 5, Maya McCauley, Year 6, Eva Strahorn, Year 6
04: Alistair Boland, Mitchell Gadsby, Dominic Gadsby, Patrick Blackstock, Alex Stiles, Noah Stiles
05: Back Row: Madison Ray, Maya Cook, Poppy Job, Abigail Tucker, Year 4
Front Row: Eleni Rich, Sophie Coles, Maggie Batho, Marley Betts, Emilia Luck, Mia Wright

06: Thomas Chad, Year 4, Churchill Bellotti, Year 3, Mia Wright, Year 4, Dominic Gadsby, Year 5, Harriet Kelly, Year 5, Maya Cook, Year 3

07: Mia Wright, Madison Ray, Year 4

08: Noah Stiles, Churchill Bellotti, Year 3



Mackenzie Finlay, Year 9



Jacob Fordham, Year 7



01



Olivia Carney, Year 7



02



03

SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE SPORT

NSW CIS Touch Football

During Week 2 of Term 2, Lachlan Murphy (Year 9) and Jasmine Shepherd (Year 11), were both selected to represent AICES at the CIS Secondary Touch Football Championships. This was the second year in a row Lachlan has made this team, showing his consistency and skill.

Jasmine's selection in the AICES Touch Football team is a testament to her exceptional athleticism and versatility. Competing as a year-young player and stepping up in a sport she does not regularly play, she demonstrated her natural talent, adaptability, and determination on the field.

AICES Tennis

Two of our Year 9 students, Mackenzie Finlay and Aaron Hegarty were selected to represent Macquarie Anglican Grammar School at the Under 15's AICES Tennis Championships in Week 4.

Students were selected based on their achievements in the years prior to the competition with only 25 being selected to compete. Aaron made it past the pool stage and went down in the Consolation Cup.

NSW CIS Athletics

It was quite a successful year for our Macquarie students on the athletics track this year. We had some amazing results, with five of our students qualifying for the NSW CIS athletics carnival.

Millie Martin, Year 8 placed 11th in Girls 14 Discus
Emilia Peart, Year 10 placed 9th in Girls 16 Javelin
Olivia Carney, Year 7 placed 10th in Girls 13 1500m
Caison Duncan, Year 9 placed 6th in Boys 15 Discus
Jacob Fordham, Year 7 placed 2nd in Boys 13 High Jump.

Jacob went on to represent Macquarie at NSW All Schools, placing 5th. Fantastic effort by all!

NSW CIS Cross Country

In Week 6, of Term 2, Olivia Carney (Year 7) competed at NSW CIS Cross Country Championships, after placing 1st at the AICES Carnival. With most of her competitors being long-distance specialists and Olivia being a standout in multiple sports this year, she had a wonderful performance, placing 30th out of 69 competitors.

Mr Patrick Connors

LIVESTOCK SHOW TEAM

In Semester 2, The Livestock Team had the opportunity to attend several shows.

The first show was Peak Hill. In the Paraders competition, 13 and under 15 years class, Max Taylor won first, Hugh Evans placed second and Lainey Walker was third. In the 16 and under 18s class, Angus Johnson won first, Ruby Josephs placed second and Jack Taylor was third. Angus was then awarded Grand Champion Parader. In the Junior Judging competition, Jackson Tucker was awarded Grand Champion Junior Judge, April Butler was Reserve Champion and Lainey Walker was third. Herdsman awards were presented to Jackson as Senior Champion, and Ruby Josephs as Reserve Champion.

Following this, the Team attended the Narromine Show. In Paraders, Ella Taylor placed third in the under 13s class. Jack Taylor won Champion Senior Parader and Sophie Lockyer was reserve Champion. Jack has then sashed Grand Champion Parader. In Junior Judging, Ella was second in the juniors and Max Taylor was Reserve Champion in the Seniors.

At the National All Breeds Junior Heifer Show, held in Blayney, 16 Macquarie students represented our school, with some showing their own heifers, and others exhibiting our Polldale Shorthorns. There were 219 and 206 head of cattle at the four-day event.

Some highlights included:

- In Junior Judging, Sophie was highly commended in Seniors, Ella was fifth in Juniors Abigail Tucker placed third and Jim Taylor won Champion judge in Pee Wees.
- In the Paraders competition, Abigail was second in her Pee Wees class and Jim was third in his Pee Wees class; Ella was first in her Juniors class; Max was second in his Sub-Intermediates class; and Angus was second in his Seniors class.
- Jack won the award for Best Presented Heifer.
- Nicola Millar won the NABJHS Education Scholarship.
- Our Macquarie Team was awarded Champion School.

At the Australian Shorthorn Youth Show, a small team of Macquarie students competed at the three-day event in Dubbo. In the Paraders competition, Charlie was fourth in his

Back Row: Bayliss Diamond, Jack Taylor, Jackson Tucker, Charlie Lockyer, Nicola Millar, Charlotte Campbell, Sophie Lockyer, Brooke Taylor, Ruby Szymkow, Angus Johnson. Middle Row: Ella Taylor, William Horton, Max Taylor, Lachlan Tucker, Gracie Harland. Front Row: Jim Taylor, Abigail Tucker



Intermediates class, Angus was first, Sophie fourth and Tom Kerin was 5th in their Seniors class. In Junior Judging, Sophie was fifth in Seniors.

The final event for the year was the Western Group Finals held in Dubbo. Ella was a finalist and Max, Charlie, Angus, Sophie and Jack were successful in qualifying for the F002 Paraders State Finals to be held at next year's Sydney Royal Show.

Mrs Brooke Taylor

INTER SCHOOL SPORTS COMPETITION

The much-anticipated WAS Inter School Sports Competition took place on Wednesday, 11 September, at Kinross Wolaroi Campus.

With teams from Orange Anglican Grammar, Kinross Wolaroi, and Macquarie competing in six sports – Soccer, Netball, Hockey (Winter), Touch Football, Basketball, and Tennis (Summer). Points were awarded as follows: 20 for 1st, 15 for 2nd, and 5 for 3rd.

Winter Sports:

Soccer - Against Kinross, our defense held strong in the first half, but we struggled in the second, conceding two late goals to lose 2-0. The match against Orange Anglican was a nailbiter, with several near misses, but a late lapse from OAGS allowed Kane Furney to score, securing a 1-0 win for Macquarie.

Hockey - Macquarie showed great resilience from the start, but Kinross dominated, leading 5-0 at halftime and winning 7-0. Against OAGS, goalkeeper Dominic Gadsby made several key saves,

keeping the score to a 3-0 loss.

Netball- Our netball team faced a tough match against Kinross, falling behind early but improving their teamwork to limit the score. Against OAGS, they carried that cohesion forward, with the teams exchanging goals throughout. Aeva Maher scored the final point to tie the game 38-38.

Summer Sports:

Tennis - Aria Jacob and Hamish Watts made up our tennis team and they gave it their all. Throughout both matches, they continued to work as a team, demonstrating some excellent rallies, forehand winners and volleys. Unfortunately, they went down narrowly in both their matches.

Basketball - Macquarie displayed strong teamwork and moments of brilliance against Kinross, with Dean Caulfield and Archie McGroder leading the charge. Despite their efforts, Kinross secured the win. In the second game against OAGS, we demonstrated strong team cohesion, but OAGS played exceptionally well and secured the win.

Touch Football - Macquarie dominated in Touch Football, winning both games against Kinross and OAGS. Harriet Kelly and Alex Stiles showcased their skills, scoring multiple tries with excellent setup from Alexis Cook and Finn Hyland, leading to a convincing 7-1 victory.

The second game against OAGS was tougher, with Macquarie trailing 3-2 at halftime. However, brilliant plays from Jack Murray and Toby Robinson helped regain the lead, and in the final moments, Harriet Kelly and Toby Robinson scored back-to-back tries to seal a 5-4 win.

PHOTOS:

01: Scarlett Nicholls, Year 4, Lily Orford, Year 4, Lainey Simcox, Year 4, Poppy Job, Year 4, Hope Bailey, Year 4, Lucy Bagshaw, Year 4, Year 4, Jemima Watts, Sophie Mwadaani, Year 5, Holly Pendlebury, Year 4
02: Back Row: Matilda Linehan, Year 2, Fleur Fletcher, Maya Cook, Year 2, Abigail Tucker, Year 3
Front Row: Lily Bell, Year 2, Audrey Richardson, Year 2, Maggie Bagshaw, Year 2, Delilah Bailey, Year 2
03: Back Row: Olivia McMullen, Year 7, Dana Kek, Year 7, Rayne Parsons, Year 7, Maddie Parkes, Year 7, Hattie Canning, Year 7
Front Row: Lucy Keady, Year 7, Georgia Allan, Year 7, Ava Wright, Year 8, Amber Azzopardi, Year 8

NETBALL

The 2024 season has been our most successful year in the Dubbo Netball Association (DNA) competition. With 109 players across 11 teams, we became the fourth-largest club in the competition, and the results speak for themselves.

The Mystics triumphed in an extra-time grand final, and the Mustangs claimed both the minor premiership and grand final titles. Meanwhile, our Hornets finished third for the second consecutive year, and both the Majestics and Magic reached the finals. These achievements highlight the talent, dedication, and hard work of everyone involved in our club.

Recognising Our Umpires

Umpiring is a challenging yet vital role, and our umpires consistently rose to the occasion. Their resilience, adaptability, and fairness have fostered an environment of respect and sportsmanship. This year, we celebrated Mia Cummings receiving her National C Badge. Mia's dedication, often umpiring multiple games each week, is inspiring.

Acknowledgements

A special thank you to Grace Power for her outstanding commitment and organisation throughout the 2024 season. Her efforts ensured the smooth running of our club and contributed significantly to our success.

This season's achievements are a testament to the unwavering support of our players, coaches, families, and everyone involved. Thank you all for making 2024 an incredible year for Macquarie Netball Club.

Mrs Marina Simcox

The competition was fierce, with each team having its standout performances. Students from all three schools are already excited for next year's event.

Final Standings

- **Kinross Wolaroi:** (105 points)
- **Orange Anglican:** (90 points)
- **Macquarie:** (70 points)

Mr James De Lyall



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