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Winter



MACQUARIE
ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FAITH IN *Action*



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A SCHOOL WITHIN THE ANGLICAN SCHOOLS CORPORATION

ABN 63 544 529 806



From the Principal

As we reach the midpoint of 2025, it is a joy to reflect on a semester that has been rich in learning, growth, and community spirit at Macquarie.

This year began with the launch of our new Strategic Plan, Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow, which continues to shape our direction for the next five years. Grounded in our values of Faith, Community, Character, and Excellence, it sets a bold and confident vision for the future of our school.

We were delighted to officially open the Macquarie Yarning Circle, a culturally significant space designed for connection, reflection, and storytelling. This project, supported through the AISNSW Waratah Project, stands as a lasting reminder of our commitment to honouring and embedding First Nations voices and perspectives into school life.

Our students have shone in so many areas. From Kate A., Year 9, being named Young Citizen of the Year, to Jack T., Year 12, winning the State Beef Cattle Junior Judging Competition, their achievements reflect both talent and determination. In classrooms, camps, excursions, performances, and service opportunities, Macquarie students continue to embody resilience, curiosity, and joy in learning.

Semester One was also marked by strong community events: Grandparents' Day, Harmony Day, ANZAC and NAIDOC celebrations all drew our families and friends together, reminding us of the strength and warmth of the Macquarie community.

In Christian life, our new Christian Framework has guided students in considering how faith is lived out daily. Service opportunities such as Cook 4 Good and visits to BaptistCare have provided tangible ways for students to express our motto of *Faith in Action*.

Finally, I am proud of our students' co-curricular achievements – from success at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and Dubbo Eisteddfod, to outstanding results in the da Vinci Decathlon and sporting competitions. These experiences highlight the variety of opportunities and the remarkable ways our students step up to challenges.

I am deeply thankful to our staff, families, and students for their ongoing commitment and contribution to school life. Together, we have laid strong foundations in Semester One, and I look forward with great anticipation to all that lies ahead in the second half of 2025.

Mrs Alison Mitchell

Principal



Kate A. Named Young Citizen of the Year!

Congratulations to Kate A., Year 9, who was named Young Citizen of the Year at the Australia Day Tottenham and Albert Local Awards!

Kate was nominated for her incredible commitment to volunteering in her community. From supporting her local dance instructors and the annual Tottenham Gymkhana, to helping with the 2023 "Mingle in the Middle" event through the Welfare Council – Kate is a shining example of community spirit.



Jack T., Year 12, Wins State Title in Junior Judging

We are proud to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Jack T., who took out first place in the State Beef Cattle Junior Judging Competition, held during the Sydney Royal Easter Show in April.

Jack showcased his exceptional beef judging skills, standing out among a strong field of competitors from across New South Wales.

As a result of his success, Jack has earned the opportunity to represent New South Wales at the National Junior Judging Championships in Adelaide later this year.

Launching Our 2025-2029 Strategic Plan at the P&F Mix & Mingle

On Thursday 28 March, we had the pleasure of officially launching *Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow* - our 2025-2029 Strategic Plan - at the P&F Mix & Mingle event, held at the Western Plains Cultural Centre.

The evening marked an exciting milestone and our first collaborative event with the P&F for the year. Families, staff, and friends of Macquarie gathered to connect in a relaxed setting, enjoying drinks and canapés in the Café Green Space following the presentation. It was a fantastic opportunity to exchange ideas, meet new people, and catch up with familiar faces.



Our new Strategic Plan has been shaped by the valuable input of our entire school community. While our Vision and Mission remain unchanged, our guiding values of **Faith, Community, Character, and Excellence** continue to underpin all that we do. Our motto, **Faith in Action**, remains as relevant and inspiring as ever.

By encouraging care, kindness, grit, empathy, and a commitment to justice and joy, we remain confident that Macquarie students will continue to make a difference in the world.

We thank everyone who joined us for this special evening and look forward to the journey ahead as we bring our Strategic Plan to life - together.



MACQUARIE'S YARNING CIRCLE OFFICIALLY OPENS:

A New Space for Culture, Connection, and Community

We proudly recognise that 12% of our student population identifies as having Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage. In line with this, we remain committed to respectfully acknowledging and meaningfully incorporating First Nations people, culture, and perspectives into everyday school life.

The official opening of the Macquarie Yarning Circle marks the completion of a significant cultural project on the school grounds. Funded through the Waratah Project, an initiative of AISNSW, and realised through the dedication of the Waratah Committee, the Yarning Circle represents a meaningful addition to the school community. This year's committee leadership was provided by Mr James De Lyall, following foundational guidance from Miss Teaghan King.

The Yarning Circle is envisioned as more than just a physical space for gathering; it is intended as a place for listening, reflection, and communal connection. Built on principles of equality and inclusivity, the circle encourages respectful and open dialogue, providing a powerful setting to embody and experience our core values: Faith, Community, Character, and Excellence.

The official opening ceremony brought together First Nations students, staff, community members and special guests.

The Macquarie Yarning Circle aims to serve the school community for years to come as a sacred place for connection, learning, and moving forward together with respect, understanding, and unity.

The ceremony also featured a special performance of the poem Bridges by Frank J. Doolan, known as "Riverbank Frank," celebrating themes of respect, cultural unity, and hope for positive change.



Bridges

Now listen up you Fella's
Listen up and settle down.
'Cause there has to be some changes
Right here in this town.

There's too much aggression
It desecrates the land.
Let's build a bridge instead
Let's try to understand.

We're all indigenous
From somewhere on this earth.
We're all connected to
This tiny bit of dirt.

Culture can live side by side
It only takes respect.
Let's build that bridge together
It's not completed yet.

Away with prejudice and gang violence
This is not the USA.
There's culture in this country
And an easier, better way.

We can make it happen
Providing there's respect.
Let's build that bridge together
It's not completed yet.

Frank J. Doolan
"Riverbank"



Student for a Day at Macquarie

Welcoming future students to experience life at our School.

On Wednesday 26 March, we proudly hosted our Term 1 'Student for a Day' event. This special day gave families considering Macquarie for their child's education the opportunity to experience firsthand the vibrant and supportive environment we offer.

We were delighted to welcome 26 visiting students, ranging from Prep to Year 10, who immersed themselves in a full school day at Macquarie. From English and Mathematics to Science, students engaged in meaningful, hands-on learning and formed new friendships throughout the day.

Year 6 students had the exciting opportunity to tour our Senior School, giving them a glimpse into the next phase of their educational journey. Meanwhile, families considering Prep spent the morning with Miss Smith and Mrs Larkings, observing learning in action and experiencing the nurturing atmosphere of our early years program.

Our Principal, Mrs Alison Mitchell, shared valuable insights about life at Macquarie and the many opportunities available to students. Following this, families were taken on a guided tour of our campus.

We are blessed to have such a welcoming community. It was a joy to open our doors to new families and provide a genuine experience of the Macquarie community.

Early Years Open at Macquarie

This year we were delighted to welcome families to our Minis at Macquarie sessions and our very first Early Years Open Day.

These events gave families a wonderful opportunity to see our Prep and Kindergarten programs in action and to experience the nurturing environment that supports children as they begin their learning journey.

The early years are often described as the most crucial stage of a child's development. During this time, children develop the skills, attitudes, and confidence that shape the way they learn and relate to others. At Macquarie, our Prep program is intentionally designed to support this growth, with a focus on three key areas:

Pre-Literacy – building strong foundations in language, storytelling, rhyme, and early reading skills.

Numeracy – exploring number, pattern, and problem-solving in fun, play-based contexts.

Social & Emotional Skills – developing empathy, resilience, independence, and cooperation through group learning and the Second Step program.



Day & Minis

Our Minis at Macquarie program also helps children and families connect with our school community, making new friends and building confidence even before formal schooling begins.

We are so thankful to the many families who joined us. It was a joy to showcase the curiosity, creativity, and excitement for learning that our youngest students bring each day.



Mother's Day Coffee Drop

Early in Term 2, the school community came together for the annual Mother's Day Coffee Drop, creating a warm and welcoming start to the day. Held in the morning, the event provided an opportunity for mothers and special guests to enjoy a hot drink, friendly conversation, and a moment of connection.

The gathering was well attended, with smiles and laughter shared across the courtyard. It was a simple yet meaningful way to celebrate and recognise the important role of mothers and caregivers in the lives of our students.



Mr Benjamin Lee Appointed Head Coach of CIS Rugby League Team

We are proud to share that Mr Benjamin Lee was appointed Head Coach of the Combined Independent Schools (CIS) Rugby League team for 2025.

Mr Lee had served as assistant coach for the CIS team since 2022, bringing dedication and expertise to the role. His promotion to head coach reflects his strong leadership and deep commitment to the sport.



NEWS

ANZAC Day Ceremonies – Honouring Service and Sacrifice

Over the recent holidays, Macquarie students proudly took part in ANZAC Day commemorations across our local communities. Representing the school with respect and pride, students attended services and marches in Dubbo, Gilgandra, Narromine, and Wellington to honour the ANZACs and all who have served our country.

Students participated with dignity, reflecting the school's values and paying tribute to the sacrifices made by past and present members of the Australian Defence Force.

In Dubbo, students gathered in front of the RSL Club before marching through town, concluding with a service at 11am. In Gilgandra, students joined the community at the corner of Miller and Bridge Streets and continued to the Cenotaph for the memorial service. Narromine and Wellington also saw strong representation from Macquarie students, who took part in meaningful ceremonies alongside local veterans, families, and community members.

To continue this commemoration, a whole-school ANZAC service was held in Week 1 of Term 2. This special assembly brought students and staff together to reflect on the legacy of the ANZACs and to recognise the importance of service, sacrifice, and national pride within our school community.

Thank you to all students and families who participated and supported these important events. Your involvement ensured that the spirit of ANZAC continues to live on through the next generation.

NAIDOC Day 2025: Celebrating Strength, Vision & Legacy

As we recognised NAIDOC Week, 6-13 July, we took the opportunity to reflect on our own NAIDOC Day celebrations, which were held on Thursday 26 June during the final week of Term 2. It was a vibrant and meaningful day where our school community came together to honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, and contributions.

This year's theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy," honoured the strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, while celebrating and empowering young people to lead the future with pride, purpose, and respect.

Throughout the day, students participated in a wide range of engaging cultural activities, including:

- Face Painting
- Reading Stories and NAIDOC Colouring
- Traditional Indigenous Games (TIG)
- Sessions with Uncle Ralph and Auntie Beth, who shared cultural knowledge and stories
- Rock Art and Coaster Art
- Exploring Traditional Community Roles
- Tasting Fried Scones
- Ochre Up face and body art
- A Short Film screening focused on Indigenous culture and history

These activities offered students hands-on experiences to connect with First Nations culture and perspectives, deepening their understanding of legacy, leadership, and community.

We were proud to celebrate NAIDOC Week and reflect on its 50-year legacy – a movement grounded in justice, resilience, and unity.

As always, we walk together – acknowledging the past, celebrating the present, and looking boldly to the future.





OUR FRAMEWORKS

Teaching and Learning

The Teaching and Learning Framework at Macquarie is grounded in the work of Professor Guy Claxton. Claxton's "Learning Power" is the concept of creating lifelong learners, equipped through "Learning Dispositions" to face the challenges of the future.

A learning environment centred on dispositions will produce curious, adaptive, robust learners who achieve strong results

At Macquarie, we have developed the learning dispositions of:

Resourceful: Being ready, willing, and able to learn in different ways.

Resilient: Being ready, willing, and able to lock on to learning.

Relational: Being ready, willing, and able to learn alone and with others.

Reflective: Being ready, willing, and able to become more strategic about learning.



These dispositions constitute the Teaching and Learning Framework, present in each classroom. Visibility and language are prioritised. The colour-coded "teaching magnets" help to delineate focus dispositions. The "glossary" of the dispositions is familiar to each student P-12

This semester, following on from the publication of the Macquarie eBook of Learning Strategies, staff will be conducting action research projects. Each project will assess learning gains grounded in a focus disposition. This initiative will extend data focused practice at our school.

The Learning Framework is now one of a series of three Frameworks (Christian, Learning and Welfare). The cohesion and coherence of these frameworks represent an exciting development for staff and students at Macquarie.

The 4Rs of Macquarie's Learning Power





Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34



Christianity

At Macquarie, our motto *Faith in Action* is more than just words - it's something we strive to live out every day. Semester One has seen our Christian life continue to grow, offering students meaningful ways to explore, express, and live out their faith both in and beyond the classroom.

Students across all year levels have taken part in regular Chapel services and Christian Development classes. These sessions are designed to provide a safe and respectful space for students to engage with the Bible, ask big questions, and consider how faith connects with their everyday lives.

This year we were excited to introduce our new Christian Framework. This tool helps shape our teaching and encourages a genuine, lived-out faith. With a focus on both what we believe and how that belief impacts how we live, the framework is already helping to connect faith with the wider culture and daily life of our school.

Christian life at Macquarie goes well beyond the classroom and Chapel. Around 100 Senior School students have already volunteered through major service opportunities:

- Cook 4 Good, where students cook meals for those in need
- Our regular visits to BaptistCare, where students spend time with elderly residents, building relationships across generations.

These acts of service are a practical and compassionate outworking of our faith.

Across Junior and Senior School, we have regular Christian groups that help create a sense of community and spiritual growth. In the Senior School, students gather before school each week for prayer and hot chocolate - a simple but powerful opportunity to reflect, share, and support one another. In the Junior School, Christian lunchtime groups provide a fun and thoughtful space for students to explore faith and care for each other.

In all of this, we remain committed to encouraging students to take faith seriously - not just as something to learn about, but something to live. Our hope is that the Christian life at Macquarie continues to challenge, comfort, and grow our school community in lasting ways.



Wellbeing

The wellbeing of our students is at the heart of everything we do. In Semester 1, 2025, students across the Junior and Senior Schools engaged in a number of initiatives designed to build connections, promote inclusion, and support both mental and emotional wellbeing.



Peer Support Program

Our Year 11 students took on a vital leadership role in Term 1, through the Peer Support Program, mentoring Year 7 students as they navigated their transition to senior school. This initiative provided Year 7 students with practical guidance, encouragement, and a familiar face to turn to, while also allowing Year 11 students to develop their leadership and empathy skills. The program has been instrumental in helping younger students feel connected and supported as they settle into their new environment.

Harmony Day – “Everyone Belongs”

Harmony Day 2025 was a highlight of the school calendar, celebrating the theme of *Everyone Belongs*.

- In the Junior School, students participated in a special Wellbeing Afternoon with activities focused on the promotion of mental and emotional wellbeing, while reinforcing the values of inclusion, respect, and kindness.
- In the Senior School, Tutor Groups and Year Meetings focused on important conversations around breaking down stereotypes, understanding racism and discrimination, and respecting differences. These sessions encouraged students to reflect on the importance of building a respectful and united community.

Tutor Group Wellbeing Activities

Throughout the semester, Tutor Groups engaged in regular wellbeing activities using the Wellio platform. These sessions gave students the opportunity to pause, reflect, and practise skills that support their emotional resilience, self-awareness, and positive relationships. The program has been a valuable tool in fostering ongoing conversations around wellbeing across year levels.

Year 12 Buddy Reading with Kindergarten

One of the most heartwarming initiatives this semester has been the Year 12 Buddy Reading program with Kindergarten students. Each week, our youngest and oldest learners came together to share stories, laughter, and connection. This program not only supports early literacy development in Kindergarten but also allowed our Year 12 students to experience moments of joy and responsibility during a busy final year of school.

We recognise that wellbeing and learning go hand in hand. These initiatives have helped strengthen our community by promoting empathy, respect, and care across all year levels. We look forward to building on these foundations as we continue to nurture a culture of belonging and support throughout 2025.





Dubbo Eisteddfod

On 17 June, our talented dance groups from Prep, Kindergarten, and Stage 1 all brought home **FIRST PLACE** in their respective classes at the Dubbo Eisteddfod!

We are so proud of their amazing performances and teamwork. What a fantastic achievement – congratulations to all our dancers!

Junior School Electives

This term, Junior School students explored their interests through a variety of exciting electives, including Junior Journalist, Paper Crafts, Macquarie Art Mural, Netball Skills and Umpiring, Game Changers and Physical Sport, and Coding with iStop Motion Animations.

In the Junior Journalists elective, students sharpened their writing, editing, and interviewing skills as they stepped into the shoes of real reporters. In Week 8, they took over the school newsletter with original student-written content.

Below is a special feature written by Jaxon B., Year 6, about Mrs Keera Job, Head of Junior School.

All About Mrs Job

On Friday, 6 June, I interviewed Mrs Job, our Head of Junior School. She has been in this role since 2019 and has been teaching for 9 years. She truly loves her job!

Each day, Mrs Job tries to visit two or three classrooms to see how the students are doing and to support the teachers. Her daily routine includes teaching, reading emails, attending meetings, and planning for future events and programs.

One of her favourite parts of the school year is Grandparents Day, and her favourite day of the week is Friday.

Outside of school, Mrs Job enjoys arts and drawing as a hobby, and loves to knit and sew. She waterskis with her family and loves weekends! Although she loves many parts of her job, she admitted that picking up rubbish is not her favourite task!

Mrs Job is a kind and hardworking leader who always puts the students first. Her dedication, creativity, and warm personality help make the Junior School a happy and welcoming place for everyone.

By Jaxon B., Year 6

JUNIOR SCHOOL SRC

The following students represented their classes on the SRC for Semester 1:

1 Pink: Ted W. and Beatrice G.

1 Orange: Carter D. and Eden R.

1 Turquoise: Beau C.

1 Navy: Tom M. and Stella R.

2 Green: Jim T. and Erin O.

2 Lime: George M. and Rubi C.

2 Yellow: Noah S. and Audrey R.

3 Purple: Alex G. and Mitchell B.

3 White: Angus M. and Lucy B.

3 Aqua: Norah W.



I'd love to have a cuppa with Grandma

Chorus

I'd love to have a cuppa with Grandma,
I'd love to have a yarn with Nan.
We sip on tea in the morning,
And she tells me lots of stories
'bout old time plans'.
We sit in the cosy kitchen,
Where the bickies taste so great.
I'd love to have a cuppa with Grandma,
'Cause Grandma's me mate, yeah!

Verse 1:

I love to have chat with Grandpa,
I love to hear his tales so tall.
He'll talk about the good olde days,
When he built the wooden shed
and fixed the dog yard.
We sit on the front porch laughing,
With the dogs curled at our feet.
I love to have a chat with Grandpa,
'Cause Grandpa's a treat!

Verse 2:

I love to have a stroll with Nana,
Throughout the garden, hand in hand.
She'll hum a tune from long ago,
And we never ever ever get bored
at all.
She knows names of all the flowers,
And the birds up in the trees.
I love to have a stroll with Nana,
'Cause Nana's lovely.

Verse 3:

I love to have a joke with Poppa,
And oh, he always makes me grin.
He'll tease and tell me riddles,
Then he winks at me and chuckles
"You always win"
We sit out by the fire,
Where the stories never end.
I love to have a joke with Poppa,
'Cause Poppa's my friend!

Chorus

I'd love to have a cuppa with Grandma,
I'd love to have a yarn with Nan.
We sip on tea in the morning,
And she tells me lots of stories
'bout old time plans'.
We sit in the cosy kitchen,
Where the bickies taste so great.
I'd love to have a cuppa with
Grandma,
'Cause Grandma's me mate, yeah!

Stage 3 Aqua and Mr De Lyall

A Grandparents' Day Poem

To Nana and Pop, or Gran
and Gramps,
Who spoil us silly like royalty champs.
With cookies and stories and hugs
that don't quit,
(And pockets where tissues and
candies all sit).

You tell us of "back in the day" tales
so grand,
Like walking to school – both ways –
through hot sand.
(Or uphill in snow? Wait, how can
that be?
Were you training for some
Olympic degree?)

You feed us with love and delicious
baked treats,
And sneak us some candy—now that's
hard to beat!
Your Wi-Fi skills? Oh, they're truly
sublime:
"Now, how do I Google on FaceTime?"

Your jokes are the corniest – legends,
no doubt.
("Did you hear about the cheese that
just had to shout?")
You nap like pros, you dance like stars,
And somehow still know where you
left your car.

So here's to the wisdom, the laughs,
and the cheer,
(And the cash in birthday cards year
after year). Grandparents, you're
awesome – we're lucky, it's true.
We love you to bits... now, where's our
next stew?

Stage 3 Yellow and Stuart Rufus



Grandparents Day

On Friday 4 April, we had the pleasure of welcoming our Grandparents and special friends for Grandparents' Day. Our Junior School students delighted in sharing their class performances with guests, which included songs, dance, poetry and lots of laughter.

Our Grandparents play an important part in the lives of their Grandchildren, providing them with love, wisdom, and joy. They are the storytellers, the teachers of life's important lessons, and the ones who bring both fun and guidance in equal measure.

Grandparents and special family friends help our children learn what it means to be kind and caring, to understand family and school expectations, and most importantly, to feel deeply loved. Their influence shapes character while instilling values that will guide the children through life.

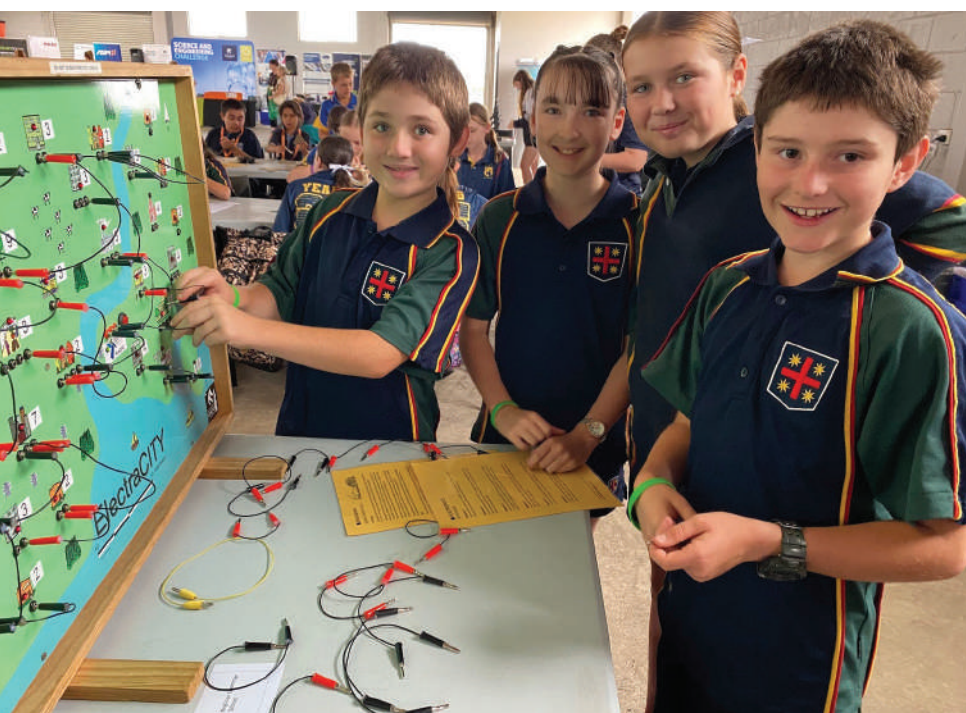
Below are song lyrics, written by Stage 3 Aqua, titled *I'd Love to have a Cuppa with Grandma*, sung to the tune of Slim Dusty's *I'd Love to Have a Beer with Duncan* and also a poem written by Stage 3 Yellow, titled *A Grandparent's Day Poem*.



GRIP Leadership Conference

Our Junior School leaders recently took part in the GRIP Leadership Conference held in Dubbo.

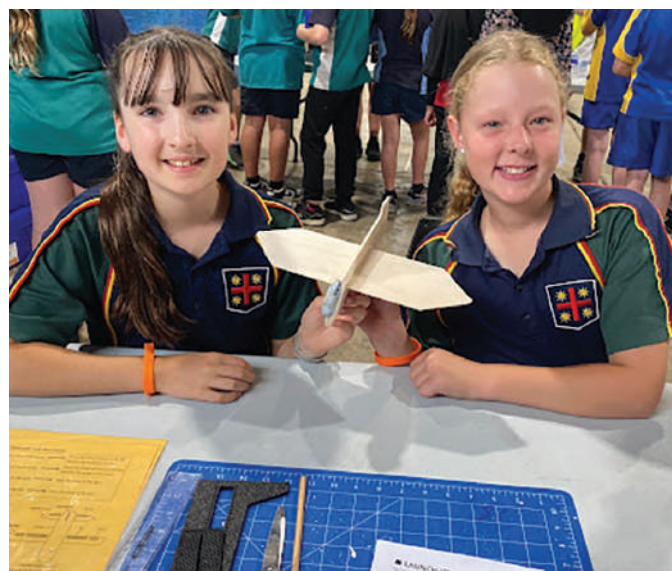
The event brought together student leaders from across Western NSW for a full day of interactive sessions focused on the key aspects of student leadership. Activities explored the responsibilities of leadership, developing leadership through friendship, generating ideas to support others, and creating practical plans to reach goals within set timeframes. Macquarie students showcased their strong relational skills by collaborating effectively with peers and staff from other schools. A key takeaway for our leaders was the understanding that true leadership is grounded in service, not status.



Science and Engineering Challenge

Students from Stage 3 participated in the annual Science and Engineering Challenge.

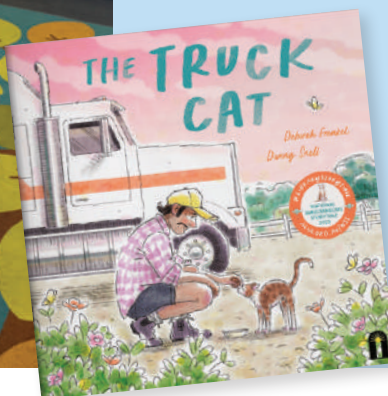
The Science and Engineering Challenge is a nationwide STEM outreach program presented by the University of Newcastle in partnership with communities, Rotary clubs, universities and sponsors. Students were presented with a range of STEM challenges, including bridge building, wind turbine construction, fish traps, designing and making an eco-shelter, designing a power grid, building a model plane and creating coded messages using light. Our Stage 3 teams demonstrated relational learning, resourcefulness and resilience throughout the day.





National Simultaneous Storytime

On 21 May, our school joined thousands across Australia to celebrate the 25th National Simultaneous Storytime! We read *The Truck Cat* by Deborah Frenkel and Danny Snell, a heartwarming tale about belonging, connection, and the journey home.



Our students and staff gathered to enjoy this special story, fostering a love for reading and literacy. It's events like these that remind us of the power of stories to unite and inspire.



TUMBLING INTO FUN

Our Prep and Kindergarten students participated in a fun 4-week gymnastics program at Fitness Focus Dubbo!

Running every Thursday, the sessions focused on building fundamental movement skills through engaging and active play.





Year 6 Canberra Excursion

From 25 - 28 February, Year 6 students went on an educational tour to the Nation's Capital. Students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage, and democracy.

During the excursion students visited the National Capital Authority, National Museum of Australia, Mount Ainslie Lookout, the Australian War Memorial, Parliament House, Government House, the National Electoral Education Centre, Questacon, the Royal Australian Mint, National Arboretum, National Dinosaur Museum, Australian Institute of Sport and the National Botanic Gardens.

When visiting Government House, students were treated to an audience with Australia's Governor General, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, where they had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the significance of the role.

This was a real treat for students and staff alike. Her Excellency even took time to high-five all students, which resulted in a student exclaiming, 'I am never going to wash this hand again!'

Mrs Kelly Munge

“
I am never
going to wash this
hand again!

”



SENIOR SCHOOL

Camps

YEAR 7 CAMP

Building Teamwork, Confidence, and Friendships at Camp Somerset.

In Week 2, Term 1, our Year 7 students embarked on an unforgettable adventure at Somerset Camp.

Working in their tutor groups, they tackled a variety of activities designed to strengthen teamwork, confidence and resilience. From setting up tents to preparing and cleaning up meals, students embraced responsibility and independence.

The camp challenged students to push beyond their comfort zones while enjoying the natural beauty of the Colo River. Through shared experiences and new friendships, students developed valuable relational skills that will support them throughout their senior schooling and beyond. It was a week of growth, memorable achievements and belly laughs!

Ms Savannah Dimmock



YEAR 8 URBAN CHALLENGE CAMP

Our Year 8 camp in Sydney was an adventure full of excitement and unforgettable moments.

After a long 6-hour bus ride from Dubbo, we arrived in the Sydney and stayed at a hostel. This made it easy to explore famous spots like Circular Quay, Chinatown, Bondi Beach, Manly and the Opera House. The ferry rides around the Harbour gave us stunning views. Surfing at Manly Beach was a fun challenge, even though we spent more time in the water than on our surfboards!

A standout part of the trip was our time doing Kids Giving Back, where we cooked nutritious meals for people in need. It felt good to give back to the community and work together to make a difference. All together, we made over 200 meals.

We spent one night on Cockatoo Island, camping in tents and experiencing the island's rich history. That night, we had a fun silent disco, dancing and singing our hearts out inside one of the historic buildings – it was an unforgettable, fun night!

In Sydney, we had a dance-off at a dance studio, showing off our best (and funniest) moves. One of the groups even got stuck in the rain and missed their ferry, looking back, it was actually hilarious and an unforgettable memory!

Tinotendaishe M., Year 8



YEAR 11 CAMP - CAIRNS ADVENTURE

During the last week of Term 2, our Year 11 students took part in their school camp program in the beautiful warmth of Cairns. They embraced a week filled with learning, discovery, and adventure.

The program offered a rich mix of experiences – from snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef to venturing into the lush Daintree Rainforest. Students engaged with the region's rich Aboriginal heritage, gaining insight into the deep cultural connection to the land and the importance of ongoing stewardship.

Adventurous activities like canyoning and stand-up paddleboarding pushed many students outside their comfort zones. What stood out throughout the week was their curiosity, courage, and willingness to take on new challenges. Even in moments of hesitation, their resilience and enthusiasm shone through.

It has been a privilege to witness our students grow, celebrate their achievements, and look forward with them to the exciting journey that lies ahead for the rest of the year.





Year 11 Embark on their Senior Journey

On Friday 7 February, Year 11 pupils and their families came together at the Outback Trek Café within the Flying Doctor's Visitor Centre to mark a momentous occasion – the commencement of their Senior years at Macquarie.

Macquarie cultivates resilient young individuals who aspire to make a meaningful contribution to society. The night provided an opportunity to reflect upon this ethos and to inspire our pupils as they assume their new responsibilities as leaders of the School.

A highlight of the evening was the formal presentation of the Senior Ties, an emblem signifying the duty and leadership inherent in Years 11 and 12. Each student received this symbol of their Senior status from Mrs Alison Mitchell, Principal. Reverend Tom Owen presented each student with a Bible, serving as an enduring reminder of the life-giving joy and guidance found in a Christian faith.

As the class of 2025 embarks upon this next phase of their journey, we eagerly anticipate witnessing their development, accomplishments, and exemplary leadership within the School community.

Mrs Rachel Hurford



YEAR 11 BUSINESS STUDIES AT LITTLE BIG DAIRY

A Hands-On Learning Experience in Factory Operations and Business Practices.

Our Year 11 Business Studies class enjoyed a trip to Little Big Dairy on Monday 17 February!

The class were led through the factory, learning about the operations process and collecting information for their upcoming assessment task.

After the tour, students were treated to some chocolate milk – adding to their experience! We're looking forward to our next visit.

Ms Prue Murray





Celebrating our Year 7 Students at the Waypoint Dinner

On Thursday 27 February, we gathered to celebrate a significant milestone in our Year 7 students' journey - their transition into high school.

At the Waypoint Dinner, it was a wonderful opportunity for parents, students, and staff to connect, strengthening our sense of community and allowing families to get to know their children's new friends.

A special thank you to Miss Savannah Dimmock for her exceptional leadership in organising this event and for her ongoing support of this wonderful cohort. We look forward to seeing our Year 7 students continue to grow, thrive, and embrace all the opportunities ahead in this exciting new chapter of their learning journey.

Mrs Alison Mitchell



Stage 6 Sports Science Excursion

In Term 2, Year 11 Health and Movement Science and Year 12 PDHPE students took part in an incredible sports science excursion to Charles Sturt University (CSU) in Bathurst.

Inside CSU's state-of-the-art laboratories, students underwent professional-level fitness testing and analysis, including:

- **VO₂ Max Testing** – to measure aerobic capacity and endurance
- **Lactate Threshold Testing** – to understand fatigue and performance thresholds
- **Biomechanical Video Analysis** – to break down movement technique and injury prevention
- **The Wingate Anaerobic Test** – a high-intensity cycling test measuring anaerobic power and sprint capacity

These tests weren't just demonstrations, they were hands-on learning experiences, led by doctors and researchers at the forefront of sport science. Students gained a deeper understanding of how muscles, energy systems, and movement patterns all contribute to athletic performance. The buzz in the labs was electric as theory came alive through practical experience.

This excursion gave students insight into university-level study and careers in fields like physiotherapy, exercise science, sports coaching, and health promotion, making Health and Movement Science not just a subject, but a stepping stone to a thriving career.

Mr Wade Richardson



Child Studies Prep Arts and Crafts Visit

As part of the unit on Newborn Care, and Growth and Development the Stage 4 Child Studies students were given the wonderful opportunity to plan and lead an art and craft activity with our Prep students.

Each small group of girls carefully designed their own activity, ensuring they had a clear learning objective in mind. From promoting fine motor skills and colour recognition, to encouraging creativity and developing listening skills, the activities were thoughtfully constructed and age appropriate.

The hands-on experience offered far more than just craft time. The girls quickly discovered the joy and challenges of working with young children. As one student shared, the visit "helped you learn through real-life experiences with children, not just read about it." Another added, "we got to strengthen our skills of teamwork, patience and communication."



VISUAL ART

Inspiring Impressions: A Visit to ARTEXPRESS 2024

On Monday, May 19, Stage 5 and 6 Visual Art students attended Mudgee Art Precinct to view the 2024 HSC Visual Art Major Works. ARTEXPRESS is an exhibition showcasing the students who achieved the top 10% in the state.

These works covered many different forms and explored a number of themes from identity, place, and activism – just to name a few. We thought the high-quality works were unique and impressive. They were also thought-provoking and eye-opening.

Seeing the work in person gave us a deeper appreciation for the details and skill that is demonstrated in the works that you cannot get from seeing them on the computer.

Mrs Sandra Davis





While some moments tested their adaptability, every student rose to the challenge with enthusiasm and professionalism. The Prep students absolutely loved the session, “wanting to keep doing it and making more snakes,” one student proudly observed.

Opportunities like this are invaluable. They don't just bring theory to life – they ignite passion. As one student put it, this was an “opportunity to experience working with kids” in the most authentic way.

A huge well done to all our Child Studies students, you made a big impact and learned so much in the process!

“

The Prep students absolutely loved the session, “wanting to keep doing it and making more snakes,” one student proudly observed.

”

Premier's Reading Challenge – Medal Recipient

Erin K., Year 10, received a special medal as one of the only students in New South Wales who has completed the Reading Challenge every year from when she was in Year 3 to Year 9.

This challenge encourages students to read widely and to develop lifelong reading habits, allowing them to gain new perspectives on themselves, to explore the world around them, and to gain new insights. To complete the challenge, students in Years 7 - 10 must read a minimum of 20 books, including at least 10 from set lists. It is a challenge that requires commitment and consideration. Erin has read hundreds of books to achieve this award and is to be commended for her commitment and dedication.



From Classroom to Courtroom

In Term 2, our Stage 6 Legal Studies students had the invaluable opportunity to speak with the Honourable Justice Stewart of the Federal Court of Australia.

This engaging session allowed students to deepen their understanding of the legal system and see firsthand how the theory they have studied in class applies in real-world judicial settings.

It was an inspiring and educational experience that brought the curriculum to life and allowed students to gain insights into potential future careers.

Miss Brianna Carlow

Dubbo Prime Lamb Hoof & Hook Competition

Our MAPP students had the opportunity to support the Dubbo Prime Lamb Hoof & Hook Competition committee by inducting 91 pens of lambs during the Dubbo Show.

This valuable experience gave students hands-on exposure to the agricultural industry while contributing to a prestigious local event.



Wongarbor On Farm Experience

In Week 9 of Term 1, our Stage 5 Macquarie Agricultural Pathways Program class headed out to a Wongarbor farm for a hands-on session in winter sowing.

Students got stuck into learning about fertilisers, sowing rates, crop rotations, and the workings of an air seeder, all part of understanding how mixed farm enterprises operate.

Real-world agricultural learning in action!



“

From the showground to the paddock, these opportunities gave us real-world insight into agriculture and helped us apply what we've learned in meaningful, hands-on ways.

”



A Milestone for Macquarie Boarding

Our first full-cycle boarders begin their final year.

This year marks a special milestone for Macquarie Boarding as we celebrate five students, Charlie, Abigail, Julianah, Billie, and Holly, who have been with us since Year 7 and are now entering their final year of school.

They are the first boarders to complete their entire high school journey within our boarding community, shaping and being shaped by the experience along the way.

Over the years, they've formed lifelong friendships, embraced new challenges, and grown into independent young adults. Reflecting on their time at Macquarie Boarding, they shared a few thoughts about what this journey has meant to them:

"Boarding has been a learning experience that has taught me how to grow up independently."

"It has been a place of understanding and safety, where I always felt supported."

"This has been a place where I could figure out the stuff I love and discover my passions."

"Every year has brought new experiences that have shaped who I am today."

As they take on their final year, we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and look forward to seeing where their journey takes them next. Their time at Macquarie Boarding has set the foundation for bright futures ahead, and they will always be a valued part of our community.

Mr Eli Kinscher

ALPHABASH THEME NIGHT

On Wednesday 18 June, our boarding students enjoyed the Stage 5 Theme Night - AlphaBash!

Everyone embraced the fun by dressing up as something beginning with the first letter of their name.

Costumes were creative and varied, with appearances from Heath Ledger, Kath and Sharon from *Kath & Kim*, tradies, Eminem, Einstein, and even King Kong!

Dreaming Under the Stars

Our boarders enjoyed a memorable evening under the night sky during Dreaming with the Stars, a cultural experience centred around storytelling, connection, and reflection.

Gathered around a fire, students took part in a traditional yarning circle, learning about the importance of listening, sharing, and showing respect for others and themselves. They heard stories passed down through generations, including Aboriginal Dreaming tales and stories from other cultures, all highlighting universal values like kindness, courage, and respect.

The session also explored the significance of the stars and how they have guided people for thousands of years. Students learned about traditional navigation, the meaning behind constellations, and the seasonal signs they provide. The night finished with the sharing of food and music, helping to strengthen the sense of community among our boarders.

A big thank you to Jason and Amanda for leading this special session and sharing their knowledge and stories with us.



Boarding Week

To celebrate Boarding Week, our boarding students enjoyed some delicious doughnuts as a sweet treat.

This year's theme, "Threads of Connection," reflects the strong bonds woven through our boarding community. Like a tapestry, it's the individual threads – our students, staff, and families – that hold our communities together.'

Boarding is more than a place to stay – it's a place to grow, belong, and build friendships that last a lifetime.



Students Enjoy Thrilling NRL Match in Mudgee

On Saturday 22 February, a group of our Macquarie Boarding students enjoyed the exciting NRL match in Mudgee, where the St. George Dragons faced off against the South Sydney Rabbitohs. It was a thrilling day filled with energy, as students cheered for their teams and shared the excitement of the game.

Weekend activities like these are more than just fun – they're essential for building our strong boarding community. They provide students with a chance to connect, unwind, and make lasting memories outside of their academic routines. Events like this help foster a sense of belonging, encourage teamwork, and give students a break from their usual schedule.

The NRL match not only allowed students to experience the excitement of live sports but also strengthened friendships and connections within the boarding community. Whether supporting the Dragons or Rabbitohs, the day was a perfect example of how such activities bring us closer together.

As we look ahead to more weekend events, we continue to value these opportunities to create a balanced, enjoyable experience for all our students.

Here's to many more fun weekends ahead!

Mr Eli Kinscher



SEMESTER 1 - CO CURRICULAR AWARDS

**Congratulations to the Semester 1 2025
Co-Curricular Colours awards recipients:**

Gold

Jack T.	Livestock
Olivia S.	Service to Sport

Bronze

Lauren T.	Service to Sport
Trinity B.	Service to The Arts
Abigail M.	Service to The Arts
Eva H.	Service to The Arts
Lachlan M.	Representative Sport
Charlotte M.	Representative Sport
Alex Price	Representative Sport
Sarah Chandler	Representative Sport
Jasmine S.	Representative Sport
Olivia S.	Representative Sport
Sophie L.	Livestock
Jackson T.	Livestock
April B.	Livestock
Charlie L.	Livestock
Max T.	Livestock

LIVESTOCK

Sydney Royal Easter Show

Fourteen students and nine animals attended for nine days, with stand out results including:

Grand Champion Shorthorn Bull

Jack T.	Grand Champion Beef Cattle Young Judge of NSW
Ella T.	1st in Junior Judging and Reserve Champion Judge
Max T.	Grand Champion Parader

Numerous placings across Paraders, Heifer Fitting, and Junior Judging competitions.

Wellington Show

A great first show for new team members, guided by our experienced students.

Grace T.	Champion Novice Parader
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Dubbo Show

Over three days, the team achieved:

Champion Interbreed Bull & Supreme Beef Cattle Exhibit

Max T.	Grand Champion Parader
William H.	Reserve Champion Sub-Intermediate Parader
Jack T.	3rd in Senior Paraders

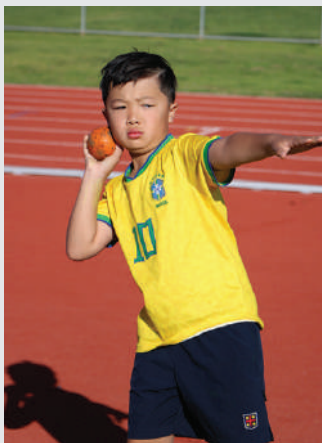
CANBERRA ROYAL JUNIOR JUDGING SUCCESS

Our Macquarie students, past and present, had outstanding success at Canberra Royal Junior Judging on Thursday 20 February.

Abigail T., Year 4	Champion Under 12s
Ella T.	Champion 12-14 years
Angus J., Year 12	Champion 17-18 years
Jack T., Year 12	Reserve Champion 17-18 years
Nicola M., 2024 Alumni	Champion 19-25 years
Ally B., 2023 Alumni	3rd place 19-25 years

We couldn't be prouder of their incredible results!

Mrs Brooke Taylor



JUNIOR SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE SPORT

Athletics Carnival

Age Champions

- 8 Years Jack Q. and Keya A.
 9 Years Mitchell G. and Abigail T.
 10 Years Churchill B. and Maya C.
 11 Years Xavier P. and Mia W.
 12 Years Dominic G. and Harriet K.

Swimming Carnival

Highlights included Alistair B. winning the bomb competition and Mitchell G. breaking two long-standing records: the 9 Years Boys 50m Backstroke (46.99) and 50m Butterfly (51.48). The backstroke record had stood for 14 years.

Age Champions

- 8 Years Montague W. and Stella R.
 9 Years Mitchell G. and Audrey R.
 10 Years Noah S. and Alice S.
 11 Years Alistair B. and Mia W.
 12 Years Dominic G. and Poppy W.

Winning house

Dunlop

CIS Swimming

Eleven students represented Macquarie at the CIS Swimming Carnival.

Churchill B., Dominic G., Mitchell G., Hannah M., Holly P., Blake R., Alice S., Noah S., Montague W., Poppy W., Mia W.

Cross Country

Age Champions

- 8 Years Maddison K. and Oli N.
 9 Years Maggie B. and Mitchell G.
 10 Years Maya C. and Hudson G.
 11 Years Mia W. and Xavier P.
 12 Years Harriet K. and Dominic G.

Well done to all students who participated – you should be proud of your efforts and sportsmanship!

CIS Cross Country Championships

On Wednesday, 12 June, eight of our students took part in the CIS Cross Country, competing against the best runners from all NSW Combined Independent Schools.

Our students showed great determination, resilience and navigated through the challenging course.

- Mitch G. 41st
 Maya C. 59th
 Hudson G. 68th

- Hattie K. 73rd
 Lexi W. 74th
 Maggie B. 82nd
 Sully G. 93rd
 Millie K. 100th

DRAMA GROUP

Our Junior School Drama Group, who meet weekly as a lunch club, took the stage at the Dubbo Eisteddfod on Friday, 20 June – and what a performance!

The students performed a vibrant scene from Aladdin and an original mime piece titled "Musicians and the Mouse." Their hard work paid off with Second Place for Aladdin and an incredible First Place for their mime!

CHOIR

Our Junior School Choir placed first in their class at the Dubbo Eisteddfod!

With just 17 students, their small but mighty performance showcased their beautiful singing and teamwork. Congratulations to Mrs Heggie and our choir members.



NETBALL

HICES NETBALL

Harriet K., Year 6, was selected in the HICES Netball to compete at the CIS Trial.

WAS Netball

On Tuesday 25 February, 17 students travelled to Orange to compete in the WAS Netball Trials, showcasing their skills, determination, and teamwork.

The following students participated in the trials: Georgia A., Billie A., Tia A., Georgia B., Mia B., Lucy D., Alicia F., Alicia H., Ruby I., Evie M., Charlotte M., Elsie M., Madeline P., Olivia S., Emma T., Jemima T., Eloise T., and Lauren T.

We are thrilled to announce that five students have been successful in gaining selection into the WAS teams:

15s Team: Mia B., Lucy D., and Ruby I.

Opens Team: Charlotte M. and Emma T.

All students should be highly commended for their excellent sportsmanship and effort throughout the trials.

SENIOR SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE SPORT

Athletics Carnival

Record Breakers

Lachlan M.	16 Boys 800m, 2:22.25
Heidi C.	13 Girls Javelin, 18.45
Jack M.	Junior Boys 4x100m Relay, 55.64
Ted C.	13 Boys 100m, 12.85
Caison D.	Senior Boys 4x100m Relay, 50.33
Thomas C.	Senior Boys 4x100m Relay, 50.33
Lila P.	Senior Girls 4x100m Relay, 1:00.30
Nellie S.	Senior Girls 4 x 100m Relay, 1:00.30
Jacob F.	14 Boys High Jump, 1.65,
	Junior Boys 4 x 100m Relay, 55.64
Jack T.	Open Boys Long Jump, 5.24
Molly A.	Girls Long Jump, 4.16
	Girls High Jump, 1.25
Nate C.	Junior Boys 4 x 100m Relay, 55.64
Jake S. N.	Senior Boys 4 x 100m Relay, 50.33
Ashton G.	16 Boys 400m, 58.02,
	Senior Boys 4 x 100m Relay, 50.33
Sarah C.	17 Girls 800m, 2:50.81,
	Senior Girls 4 x 100m Relay, 1:00.30
Billie A.	Senior Girls 4 x 100m Relay, 1:00.30
Drew M.	Javelin 30.77, 800m, 2:30.23,
	Junior Boys 4 x 100m Relay, 1500m, 5:03.70

Age Champions

12 Years	Beau K. and Molly A.
13 Years	Drew M. and Isabelle P.
14 Years	Nate C. and Georgia A.
15 Years	Jake S. N. and Sophia P.
16 Years	Ashton G. and Emma T.
17 Years	Alex P. and Sarah C.

Opens Girls

Billie A.

Opens Boys

Jack T.

Swimming Carnival

Age Champions

12 Years	Molly A. and Beau K.
13 Years	Isabel S. and Alex S.
14 Years	Olivia C. and Harry C.
15 Years	Mia B. and Darcy S.
16 Years	Rebecca A. and Thomas L.
17 Years	Zoe S. and Will K.
18 Years	Sophie L. and Thomas C.

Winning House

Cuthbert

Records

12-14 Girls	Flynn - 2.29.26
Open Girls	Cuthbert - 2.18.7
Open Boys	Cuthbert - 2.13.39

Cross Country

Age Champions

12 Years	Molly A.
13 Years	Drew M. and Isabelle P.
14 Years	Nate C. and Maya C.
15 Years	Ben P. and Sophia P.
16 Years	Caison D. and Nellie S.
17 Years	Rhiley L. and Sarah C.
18 Years	Tom K.

SENIOR SCHOOL FUN RUN

The Senior School Fun Run was a fantastic display of determination and school spirit, with students pushing themselves and supporting one another throughout the course.

Congratulations to our top five finishers in each division:

- 1st Drew M. and Sally S.
- 2nd Jack M. and Sarah C.
- 3rd Noah R. and Maya C.
- 4th Nate C. and Mia C.
- 5th Lewis B. and Belle P.

Well done to all students who took part in the event.



SENIOR SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE SPORT

CIS Cross Country

Congratulations to Drew M., Year 7, who travelled to Sydney in Week 7, Term 2, to represent our school at the CIS Cross Country Championships.

Competing against the top runners from across the state, Drew placed 30th out of 82 athletes. A fantastic achievement, especially after recently taking up Rugby League. Well done, Drew!

AICES Cross Country - Sydney Equestrian Centre

On Thursday 29 May, 14 students travelled to Sydney Equestrian Centre to compete in the annual AICES Cross Country event.

Competing against top runners from independent schools, our students showed great determination and resilience on a challenging course. A special congratulations to Drew M., who delivered an outstanding performance and qualified for the CIS Cross Country Championships. Well done to all our AICES representatives!

WAS Cross Country

A group of around 30 students from Macquarie travelled to Scots All Saints in Bathurst to represent our school at the WAS Cross Country Championships.

- | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|
| Alex P. | Hamish W. | Lilly S. |
| Sarah C. | Spencer S. | Maya C. |
| Zoe S. | Nellie S. | Drew M. |
| Emilia P. | Miranda O. | Jack M. |
| Caison D. | Rebecca A. | Isabelle P. |
| Lachlan M. | Sophia P. | |

NSW REGIONAL OZTAG SUCCESS

In Week 8, Term 2, Macquarie sent three teams to the NSW Regional Oztag Tournament, with the 7/8 Girls, 7/8 Boys, and 9/10 Boys representing the school with pride.

The 7/8 Girls and 9/10 Boys had outstanding runs, reaching the grand final. All teams showed great skill, teamwork, and determination - we're proud of their efforts!

FUTSAL

Opens Boys Futsal Team Show Growth in Orange!

In Week 10, Term 1, Macquarie's Open Boys Futsal team competed in a fast-paced tournament in Orange. Representing the school were Alex P, Tom C, Tom K, Tom R, Arlen Q, Tobey C, Sam B, and Calhoun S.

After a tough first match against Orange High, the team improved in their second game and finished strong with a well-earned win over Bathurst High. Great effort by all players!

AICES FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

During Week 3, Term 2 a number of Macquarie Students represented our School with pride and determination at the AICES Football Championships. The Under 15's competition took place on Monday, followed by the Opens division on Tuesday.

A special acknowledgment goes to Lewis B., Year 9, who demonstrated exceptional dedication and endurance by competing in both the Under 15's tournament on Monday and backing up for the Opens team the following day.



EQUESTRIAN

Macquarie students competed in the North West Equestrian Expo at Coonabarabran, NSW.

Some of the high-level achievements included:

13 Years Sporting Champion	Chloe H.
Reserve Ring Champion	Isabel S.
Prelim Div 1 Dressage Champion	Isabel S.

Congratulations to all of our representatives for their outstanding efforts and achievements.

1ST PLACE OVERALL FOR YEAR 7 DA VINCI!

On Thursday 10 April, a team of 8 academically enthusiastic students from Year 7 travelled to Bathurst to compete in the regional da Vinci Decathlon.

These students were Josh M., Kate P., Eli L., Lachlan T., Charlie H., Holly S., Aria J., and Lottie D. After a very early start, they competed in Science, Ideology and Creative Producers, with schools competing from the entire Western region. They achieved excellent results, which were as follows:

- Cartography 1st
- Creative Producers 1st
- Engineering 1st
- Ideation 1st
- Legacy 1st
- English 2nd
- Maths 3rd

The questions and problems they had to solve were very challenging, and the students worked extremely well as a team. They were a credit to our school and demonstrated exceptional problem-solving skills. The team was awarded first place overall in the Year 7 competition, and as a result, they will be travelling to

Sydney later in Term 2 to compete at the State da Vinci competition. Congratulations to the Year 7 team!

YEAR 9 DA VINCI DECATHLON

In Week 10 of Term 1, on Friday 11 April, a team of 8 academically enthusiastic students from Year 9 travelled to Bathurst to compete in the regional da Vinci Decathlon.

These students were Kate A., Samuel C., Harry C., Jay L., Adam P. Gabriella R., Verity S., and Brandon S., they achieved excellent results, which were as follows:

- First in Cartography
- First in Engineering
- First in Science
- Equal first in Legacy
- First in Mathematics
- Third in Code breaking
- Equal third in Ideation

The challenging questions tested the students' teamwork and problem-solving skills, and they represented our school with pride. Their efforts earned them equal second place in the Year 9 competition – an outstanding achievement.

HICES DEBATING

Well done to our Senior School HICES Debating Team Noah R., Daniel L., Tyler W., and Jake S. – on their win against Scots All Saints College on Thursday, 8 May.

The team successfully argued the Negative side of the topic: "That political campaigns should be barred from explicitly criticising their opponents."



NSW RUGBY UNION CHAMPIONSHIPS

One of our cross-code stars, Rhiley M., Year 11, represented AICES at the NSW Rugby Union Championships, taking on some of the best players in the country.

COUNTRY CUP RUGBY LEAGUE

Macquarie had a strong showing at the Country Cup Rugby League Tournament in Week 7, Tern 2, fielding teams in the Under 13's, Under 15's and Opens divisions. All three sides demonstrated outstanding determination and school spirit, holding their own against some much larger and more experienced schools.

Our Opens team, made up of ten 16-year-olds, played with heart and toughness throughout the day. The Under 15's were the big improvers, building momentum and finishing the tournament on a high with a hard-earned win in their final match. The Under 13's team showed remarkable courage and resilience, battling through the day while playing short for most of their games.

CAISON JOINS PACIFIC NOMADS FOR RARO 7'S

Caison D. has been selected in the Pacific Nomads Team, based on his Crescent Heads and Tuggerah, Ella 7's performances. He will travel to the Cook Islands in early November to compete in the Raro 7's competition.

"This tour offers an incredible experience on and off the field, with team bonding and cultural immersion. I am very honoured, and I am willing to represent my family and culture in this event, with hopes to educate others about my people as well. This tournament presents an open learning experience for both the game of Rugby 7's, as well as the opportunity to learn about the Cook Islands culture," said Caison.

A NEW PB AT NSW ALL SCHOOLS TRIATHLON!

Congratulations to Harry H., who represented Macquarie at the NSW All Schools Triathlon event on Wednesday 26 February. Harry beat his PB by 5 minutes, finishing with a time of 1:05.00.



ANGUS BRANDER

Remembering Captain, Angus Brander

Angus Brander was a proud member of the Macquarie community, attending from Kindergarten through to Year 12. A natural leader, he was appointed School Captain in 2015, in his final year, earning the respect and admiration of his peers and teachers alike. From a young age, Angus was determined to become a commercial pilot, a dream he pursued with great passion and dedication.

After completing school, Angus spent a GAP year with the Defence Force, stationed in Townsville, before beginning his career as a pilot with a charter company operating out of Melbourne and Mt Isa. His work took him across the Gulf, Central Australia, and Melbourne, transporting passengers, including VIPs, to remote and metropolitan locations. He was deeply committed to his profession and took great pride in his role.

Angus faced significant health challenges in recent years, which ultimately prevented him from continuing his flying career. Tragically, these challenges led to his passing. He will be remembered for his warmth, determination, and the impact he had on all who knew him. In accordance with Angus' wishes, a celebration of his life was held on Saturday, 15 February, at 11:00 am at the Castlereagh Hotel, Dubbo.

On behalf of the Macquarie community, I extend our deepest condolences to Angus' family as they navigate this profound loss. May they find comfort in the many memories of a remarkable young man who left an enduring mark on those around him.

Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Mrs Alison Mitchell



CLAIR STIFF

Crowned 2025 Wellington Show Young Woman

Congratulations to our 2022 School Captain, Clair Stiff, on being sashed as the 2025 Wellington Show Young Woman.

"On Saturday 24 May, I was lucky enough to be sashed as Wellington Show Society's Young Woman for 2025. It all began washing cattle as the sun was rising and then getting all dolled up for the remainder of the day. I had the wonderful duties of awarding ribbons to all sections of the show and had the pleasure of sashing my own families Poll Dorset stud with their own winnings (Pineleigh Poll Dorsets) as well as the Poll Herefords from Glenalvie and Kalnee Park. Together with the lovely previous Young Woman, Adelaide Bryant, and this year's Teenage Young Woman, Matilda Moller, we judged the Young Show People of the Year and the pet parade. We were also joined by Sophie Cargill, Dubbo, who is this year's The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Runner Up. It was an absolute pleasure to meet her and listen to her guidance for the next 12 months. I am looking forward to the further connections I will gain as part of this competition. I was also lucky enough to be in the presence of past Wellington Young Woman/Show Girls, Eliza and Amelia, and eager to learn from these women.

I would love to say a massive thank you to Wellington Show Society for selecting me to be their representative this year.

It was also fantastic to speak to so many people of our community regarding concerns and major issues that are happening not only in the agricultural sector but other aspects within our area as well.

On Sunday I had to hang up my cute outfit for some workbooks and jeans to finish off the weekend helping with lamb marking and crutching. I am looking forward to what the next 12 months bring with this amazing opportunity."

Clair Stiff



WUSULU YAMBA AND RUTHVIK GUNDAPENENI

A Tradition of Giving Back: Macquarie's Mentorship Legacy

At Macquarie the education doesn't end at graduation – it merely expands. This ethos is nowhere more evident than in the school's growing mentoring program, where past students return not just to reminisce but to illuminate the path forward for those who come after them.

The program, designed to connect the accomplished with the aspiring, has become a dynamic extension of Macquarie's mission: to cultivate resilient young people who make a meaningful impact in the world.

Take two Macquarie Class of 2020 students Ruthvik Gundapeneni and Wusulu Yamba, for example. Ruthvik, now in his fifth year of medicine at the University of New South Wales is completing his clinical placement at Coffs Harbour and Wusulu has embarked on the University of Wollongong's Rural Medicine program, based in Bowral. Their journeys – marked by dedication and success – stand as powerful testaments to what a Macquarie education can yield.

In Term 1, via Zoom, these alumni met with Harmeen W., Year 10 and Precious N., Year 11, offering insights, encouragement, and a glimpse into the possibilities that lie ahead. This exchange is emblematic of the program's alumni arm: to bridge past and present, fostering a network where talent, ambition, and guidance intersect.

More than just a career compass, the mentoring program is steadily establishing itself as a pillar of Macquarie culture – a tradition where past students remain invested in the school's future. Whether through one-on-one mentorship, guest speaking engagements, or simply sharing their stories, alumni continue to reinforce the school's enduring impact. And as this tradition flourishes, so too does Macquarie's influence –stretching far beyond its campus, across industries, and indeed, across the globe.

Mrs Rachel Hurford



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