Welcome back to a new school year and what is clearly a new approach to both the regular newsletter (now called The Bulletin) and the School Website. If you have not already visited the new website can I encourage you to do so. The formatting has undergone a significant redesign and the information that is contained on the site has mostly been rewritten to make it more accessible and user friendly.

Over this term the website will be continuously updated with new features added. For those of you who are a little more ‘tech savvy’ you will find a QR Code later in The Bulletin. This QR Code, if scanned by an appropriate Smartphone App will take you to the School website. You will see the School using QR Codes from time to time in various publications and advertisements directing people to specific web pages or the home page, as appropriate.

In order to allow parents to become accustomed to the change in newsletter it has been renamed The Bulletin. We hope that the new format and new approach to organising the information will prove to be helpful.

The redesigned website and the new format of The Bulletin is significantly a result of feedback the School received from the surveys conducted last year. I would like to thank the School community for participating in what has proved to be a very helpful consultation process. As a result The Bulletin will now be published and distributed two or three times per term, usually in Weeks 2, 6 and 10. Any information that needs to be distributed in Week 1 of a term will accompany the Significant Dates distribution that takes place in Week 1 of every term.

Another significant change is that The Bulletin will be comprised of a School wide section and then a specific section for each of the Junior School, Middle School and Senior School. The version that will be available as a PDF on the Website will include all sections. Parents who access The Bulletin using the new website format will see that each section is discreet making it easier to navigate.

Academic Results

The 2011 Academic Year has been a year of truly wonderful academic results. It was particularly pleasing that in the School Certificate all subjects were above the State Mean, with Mathematics leading the way (7.10% above the mean). Of primary importance of course are the HSC results and the ATAR scores. Over 86% of students who applied for a university place received their first preference. The 2011 cohorts have done themselves very proud. See page 6 for greater detail of these outstanding results.

[Image of DUX: Nathan Cooper, ATAR 98.3]
From The Dean of Studies

How can I help my child excel?

At Macarthur, we value the input that parents have in their children’s education. Research has shown that children have a high likelihood of succeeding at school if their parents show their children that they value education and are learning. Of course, being involved does not mean doing your child’s assignments or homework for them as this will hinder, not help them in the long run. It is important, however, that parents provide a regular time for children to do their homework. Providing access to a desk in a well-lit, quiet environment is important. Parents also need to remove distractions such as mobile phones and television. Students will not part with these voluntarily.

It is helpful to encourage your child to aim high and do their best. Take an interest in your child’s work by looking over it after they have completed it and asking them what they learnt from it. Help them plan for their Assessment tasks. As parents, you can access these now on our School website which will no doubt prove helpful (www.macarthur.nsw.edu.au/calendar). If your child is experiencing difficulties, you may need to contact the class teacher.

As parents it is important to encourage your child to read. This is one of the single most important things that you can do to help your child succeed in all of their subjects, at all levels. The benefits of reading cannot be overestimated. Encourage them to ask questions and give opinions if you read together. It is also valuable to encourage them to use the School and local libraries. For students in the Senior School, using online library databases and university libraries is also highly beneficial.

Students need to develop an intrinsic love for learning. Parents can assist in this regard by helping students to become active learners. Encourage them to pursue interests and make friends through co-curricular clubs and activities. Providing opportunities for children to watch documentaries or visit museums, book shops, art galleries, agricultural shows etc will also help spark a love for learning.

It is also valuable for parents to acknowledge the efforts that children make at school. While the School has incentives such as Good News Awards and Merits to acknowledge effort and achievement, it is crucial that parents do so as well. When your child works hard, your acknowledgement keeps them motivated and helps them persevere.

If you would like more information on how to help your child succeed at school, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Melissa Gould-Drakeley
Dean of Studies
As the Headmaster informed the community in his January letter, the land immediately opposite the School gates has had a considerable amount of infrastructure work carried out over the past 12 months in preparation for housing development and land releases sometime in the future.

As part of that development a roundabout has been approved by Camden Council to be built impacting the School’s entry. The new roundabout will provide access into the new Harrington Grove development opposite the School. Construction of this roundabout, which will form a new entrance to the School, is due to commence shortly. There will inevitably be disruptions caused but ongoing discussions with the contractors will endeavor to keep this to a minimum especially during busy periods.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding

Potential Traffic delays

Note to all ALUMNI

Regrettably the 2012 Reunions have had date changes!

Class of **1992** - 1 September 2012

Class of **2002** - 20 October 2012

Macarthur students invited to attend FIRTS Tech Challenge World Championships in St Louis, USA

This prestigious accolade was awarded because the team streamed the entire event around the world via their computers using Macquarie University’s computer network.

The team members are: Matthew Egan Yr 11, Callum Hanely Yr 11, Mitchell Biggart Yr 8, Jeffrey Hartono Yr 9 and have recently been joined by Emily Newton Yr 11 and Danielle Santos Yr 8 to aid with the communications.

International Music Tour 2013

**Parents of students in Years 7 to 12 (2013) are invited to attend an Information Session about the tour to be held commencing at 5.30pm on Wednesday 15 February 2012 in the Chapel.**
Land Sale

Further to a letter you received late last year concerning the potential sale of land, I am delighted to inform you that just prior to Christmas the School Council accepted an offer for the purchase of a parcel of land that has become superfluous to the needs of the School.

The land that was put on the market had a number of restrictions that made it very expensive to develop as part of the School's Campus Master Plan.

As indicated in that letter, if an acceptable purchase offer was made then the land would be sold. This has in fact been the outcome following an extensive tender process.

The accompanying photograph shows in red the current school boundary and the section marked in yellow is the parcel of land that has been sold.

The proceeds of the sale will not be released until settlement, which is some time off, and as a result the Campus Master Plan for the site will be extensively reviewed over the coming 12 months.

This outcome is very pleasing to the School Council, as it has provided an opportunity to plan for the future without the encumbrance of a parcel of land that had become of limited use to the School.

Any form of development in that section of land would have required extensive and expensive work, in the form of either a vehicular bridge or a pedestrian bridge providing access across the riparian corridor. This made any future development of that land prohibitively expensive. The School has kept ownership of the riparian corridor which will form the necessary buffer from any development of that site.

A significant downside of this sale is that the Parents and Friends Field is located on this parcel of land. However, the location of this playing field has proved to have significant limitations. Part of the proceeds from the land sale will go towards developing a new playing field that will be far more accessible and useful to the everyday use of the students. There will of course be some delay as the School waits for the funds to be released before this work can begin.

The rest of the funds will, in the short term, be used to retire some of the School's debt as well as being deposited in a holding fund until School Council has had an opportunity to fully consider future possibilities.

Riparian Corridor is the interface between land and a river or stream. They are significant in environmental management because of their role in soil conservation and habitat biodiversity.
Community Chat

Talk Back Thursday resumed this week at 8.45am in the After School Care Room. It was great to hear Leanne Moore talk about her journey to Ephesus and other significant Christian sites. Paul Looyen will be guest speaker at the meeting next week. Please contact Mrs Sharon Pascoe-Thomas for further details.

If you have not received a copy of the School Calendar please contact me and I will forward one to you.

Parents and Friends

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new families to Macarthur. I hope you have been able to settle in well. Can I encourage you to attend the Parents and Friends New Families Breakfast. This breakfast provides a great opportunity for families to meet other new families at Macarthur. This event will be held on Tuesday 21 February from 7.30am. Please contact me if you would like to attend.

The Parents and Friends Committee along with W@M and M@M will meet this Saturday for a “Brainstorming” session. This will be an opportunity for all members of our community building groups to meet and plan events together. A family BBQ will conclude the afternoon. I look forward to bringing to you some new and innovative ideas for 2012 in our next issue of the Bulletin.

Macarthur Anglican School is a member of the NSW Parents Council. Can I encourage you to check their website for regular updates on what’s on.

M@M BBQ Breakfast’s will recommence Friday 24 February. This will be held at the front of the Junior School adjacent to the Café.

For queries or information please contact Sharon Pascoe-Thomas at spascoethomas@macarthur.nsw.edu.au

Do you know what a QR Code is?

You may have seen the odd publication with a QR code like this one appearing of recent months. A QR Code is in effect a form of bar code which can be scanned using a smartphone or an iPad. When the code is scanned it runs a script that directs the devise to access a website, a text message or other electronic source of information. You may notice that Macarthur advertising and information will carry a QR Code such as this one which will direct you to the School website.
Proven Success!

DUX
Nathan Cooper
who scored an
ATAR of 98.3

OTHER PERSONAL
SUCCESSSES

1. Kelsea Boots - Premiers Award
for receiving a Band 6 in 10
Subjects and nomination in
the Design Tech. Exhibition.

2. Julianne Mascarenhas - 5th
in the State for Indonesian
Extension.

3. Christine Purvis - 5th
in the State for Indonesian
Continuers

4. Elliott Margin - On Stage
nomination

5. Damien Bartlett - Encore nomination

6. Alexandra Ede - Encore Nomination.

School Certificate
All subjects were
above the state Mean.

English 4.4%
Mathematics 7.1%
Science 2.7%
Aust. History 4.4%
Aust. Geography 6.8%
Computing Skills 6.9%

All Round Success
20% of students
received an ATAR of
over 90

50% of students received an
ATAR of over 80

Over 60 appearances on the
HSC Honour Roll (receiving
either a Band 6 or E4)

33% of students recognised
as Distinguished Achievers

74% of students
received a Band 5

School Certificate
Band 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Macarthur</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>5.02%</td>
<td>12.79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>8.89%</td>
<td>13.95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>8.97%</td>
<td>6.97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian History, Civics &amp; Citizenship</td>
<td>5.32%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Geography, Civics &amp; Citizenship</td>
<td>5.29%</td>
<td>8.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing Skills*</td>
<td>52.47%</td>
<td>79.06%</td>
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HSC 2010 2011

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band 6</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 5</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>75%</td>
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The Median ATAR rose significantly
from 69.75 to 76.98

ATAR

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>90+</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80+</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>70+</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50+</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Matthew Egan

Matthew attended the Australian Inline Skating National Championships in Adelaide in January. He participated in the road events culminating in the Junior Boys 3km Road Relay. Matthew and his team won a silver medal.

Kaylie Ekinci

Kaylie continues to achieve remarkable success in her swimming. Some of her recent highlights include:

2012 NSW State Age Open Water
1st Girls 15yrs 5km
1st Girls 15yrs 10km

2012 NSW State Age Championships
3rd Girls 15yrs 800m freestyle
Top 10 (finalist) – 200m fly, 200m and 400m freestyle.

Archibull

Samuel Buda, Laura Perich, Kaitlyn Fielder with Miss Hollie Ballieu shortly following the Awards Ceremony where the Macarthur Archibull entry placed First in the Primary School Division and Third on the Open Division (which included secondary school entrants).
## Significant Dates

### Summer Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Junior School (T-4)</th>
<th>Middle School (Years 5 and 6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 January</td>
<td>1st Day of Summer Term 2011 – Assembly for Induction of Year 6 Student Leaders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 February</td>
<td></td>
<td>Closing Date for Scholarship applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Commencement Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 February</td>
<td></td>
<td>Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 February</td>
<td></td>
<td>T-6 Meet the Teaching Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 February</td>
<td></td>
<td>New Families Breakfast – all families new to Macarthur are welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 25 February</td>
<td></td>
<td>ACER Scholarship Testing for 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Feb - 2 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Years 3-6 Camp….plan your romantic evening kid-free!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>NASSA Swimming Carnival (Macarthur Representatives only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 7 (2013) Information Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>GATEway Quest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Music Scholarship Auditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 10 and Tue 13 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proposed Thailand student exchange visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 7 (2013) Open Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 18 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>‘Sunday Sounds’ at Harrington Grove (all welcome)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grandparent’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-24 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Camden Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-6 Cross Country Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Service (parents welcome) Last day of Summer Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>First day of Autumn Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>T-4 Parent-Teacher Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 May</td>
<td></td>
<td>Uniform changes to Winter Uniform</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Middle School (Years 7-9)</th>
<th>Senior School (Years 10-12))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 February</td>
<td>Year 7 Welcome Evening</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 February</td>
<td>New Families Breakfast – all families new to Macarthur are welcome</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>Years 7-12 Swimming Carnival</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 25 February</td>
<td></td>
<td>ACER Scholarship Testing Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 11 HSC Information Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 March</td>
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<td>HICES Leadership Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>NASSA Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 7 (2013) Information Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 – 23 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thailand Outreach</td>
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<td>10 March</td>
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<td>GATEway Quest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 10 and Tue 13 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Music Scholarship Auditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-22 March</td>
<td>Proposed Thailand student exchange visit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>8-12 P/T Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Vaccinations</td>
<td>Year 7 (2013) Open Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>‘Sunday Sounds’ at Harrington Grove (all welcome)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-24 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Camden Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 March – 5 April</td>
<td>Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 Half Yearly Examination and Assessment Week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Service (all parents welcome) Last day of Summer Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>First day of Autumn Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 May</td>
<td></td>
<td>Uniform changes to Winter Uniform</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Y7 Welcome Evening - 10 February   Sunday Sounds’ Harrington Grove Concert - 18 March
Grandparent’s Day - 23 March
A message to begin the year...

Welcome to the 2012 school year at Macarthur. I do trust that all families enjoyed a relaxing Christmas holiday break together, celebrating Christ’s birth, enjoying quality time together. I hope that everyone is refreshed and ready for 2012 and all that it brings.

I would like to extend a special welcome to all our new families this year. We hope that it is the beginning of a long and happy association with our school.

It was a treat to see everyone walking in the school entrance with such energy and enthusiasm. Students were excited about catching up with their friends and keen to commence in their new classes. It was a pleasure welcoming back the smiling faces of the boys and girls in our assembly on Friday. It is those happy faces that make our school such a delightful place to come to each and every day.

Our theme for 2012 is Trust In God - Everyday Rejoice. The theme was created by Laura Whitelaw in Year 3.

It is exciting to be able to talk to the boys and girls about trusting God and to highlight the many blessings we are presented with each day that we can rejoice about. Many students were amazed by the growth that has occurred over the holidays in the school veggie garden. This is yet another part of God’s creation that we often take for granted.

A wonderful teaching team is in place for 2012 with Mrs Kirsten Hey continuing to lead our Transition and Kindergarten students in order to assist our youngest students in their transition to school. Overall we have been very impressed with the way the boys and girls have settled in to their new environments. There were very few tears and most of them were from the parents!

You are most welcome to make contact with your child’s class teacher or myself at any time if we are able to assist you with your child’s education this year. We look forward to another wonderful year of learning ahead.
Macarthur welcomes our new students in Years 1-4

Makyah Darby

Makyah is in Year 1.
She has made friends with Alex, Elizabeth, Sophie, Claire and Caroline.
She loves drawing and writing.
Makyah likes Macarthur because the children and the teachers are very very friendly.

Reuben Spires

Reuben is in Year 2. Damien has been a great friend to Reuben since he started this year.
He loves to read and his favourite subject is mathematics.
Reuben loves that Macarthur is a place where he can play lots of musical instruments.

Rosie Jansen

Rosie is in Year 2.
She likes spending time with Leah, Tahlia and Hannah at school.
Rosie loves Macarthur because of the nice teachers.
She loves maths and playing the piano.

Jordy Sale

Lachlan Philby

Adam Saunders

Makyah is in Year 1. She has made friends with Alex, Elizabeth, Sophie, Claire and Caroline. She loves drawing and writing. Makyah likes Macarthur because the children and the teachers are very very friendly.

Reuben is in Year 2. Damien has been a great friend to Reuben since he started this year. He loves to read and his favourite subject is mathematics. Reuben loves that Macarthur is a place where he can play lots of musical instruments.

Rosie is in Year 2. She likes spending time with Leah, Tahlia and Hannah at school. Rosie loves Macarthur because of the nice teachers. She loves maths and playing the piano.
AUSTIN EBELING

AUSTIN IS IN YEAR 2.

HE HAS FOUND A GOOD FRIEND IN ISAIAH AT SCHOOL.

AUSTIN LOVES PLAYING SPORTS LIKE OZTAG. HE IS EXCITED ABOUT BEING AT MACARTHUR BECAUSE OF THE BIG PLAYGROUNDS.

HANNAH DAVEY

HANNAH IS IN YEAR 2.

SHE HAS MADE FRIENDS WITH SHELLEY AND SOPHIE.

HANNAH LIKES THAT MACARTHUR FINISHES EARLY. SHE LIKES THAT WE CAN TALK ABOUT GOD AND THE PEOPLE ARE NICE.

SHE LOVES TO READ.

CAMERON DOBSON

CAMERON IS IN YEAR 3 AND HAS MADE FRIENDS WITH AIDEN.

HE LIKES MACARTHUR BECAUSE OF THE LARGE SPACES TO PLAY.

HE LOVES READING AND LOOKING AFTER HIS PET FISH, HIS YABBIE AND HIS 2 DOGS.
OUR FIRST WEEK IN PICTURES...

T-2 Singing in the Rehearsal Hall with Ms Coleman

Sunflowers in the veggie garden

Kindergarten creating patterns with beads in Mathematics

Kindergarten using the classroom computers

Andrew Towell practising his handwriting

IMPORTANT DATES

THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY
T-4 MEET THE TEACHER EVENING

29 FEBRUARY - 2 MARCH
YEAR 3 AND 4 CAMP

PLEASE COLLECT CAMP INFORMATION FROM THE ADMINISTRATION CENTRE IF YOU REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Diary Use

It is an expectation that students have their diary at school each day and that it is signed by a parent each week. We ask for your assistance with this. It is an important form of communication between the class teacher and parents. If students visit the clinic it is recorded in the school diary so that you are informed of any treatment given.

MINDQUEST

FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 1-6. THIS IS A NSW TALENT ENRICHED WEEKEND.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE OBTAIN REGISTRATION FORMS AT THE HEADS OF SCHOOL OFFICE.

COURSES INCLUDE MATHEMAGIC, YOUNG SCIENTIST, YOUNG WRITER’S WORKSHOP AND CRIME STOPPERS JNR
Welcome back!

Welcome to the 2012 school year at Macarthur and I do hope that all families enjoyed a relaxing Christmas and New Year holiday period together, celebrating the birth of Christ, enjoying family time, and that everyone is refreshed, ready for all that 2012 has in store! It has been a real pleasure to welcome back the smiling faces that make our school such a happy place to come each day.

We have a number of new families joining the Macarthur Family and a very warm welcome is extended to each. Macarthur is such a wonderful place with which to be associated and I am certain that you will be made to feel very welcome.

Prefects and Student Leaders

Congratulations to the Year 9 Middle School Prefects and Year 6 Student Leaders on their induction into these roles for 2012. These leaders enjoyed the leadership training day on Tuesday 7 February with Mr Hordern and myself. We look forward to the contribution these students will make to the life of the school over the course of the year!

Assessment Manuals and Calendars

Students in Years 7 - 9 will receive their copies of the Assessment Manuals and Calendars for 2012. Please ensure that the Assessment Calendar is kept in a safe and visible place to enable you to track upcoming assessments with your son or daughter. The Assessment Manual complements the calendar, providing valuable information of the School’s procedures for completion and submission of assessment tasks.

After School Homework and Study Support Programme

Students in Years 7 - 9 have also received information about the After School Homework and Study Support Programme. Running each Tuesday afternoon until 5.30pm for a small fee, the programme is an invaluable means for students to complete homework and study tasks in a structured environment, supported by Macarthur teaching staff - particularly given that Half Yearly Examinations are taking place later in the term for Years 8 and 9. You are most welcome to make contact with me if I can be of any further assistance in relation to this programme.
Inclement weather failed to dampen the spirits of the Year 7 students in their first week. They were excited to receive their books, timetables and lockers before packing for camp on Monday night. **Eve House,** a Year 11 Peer Support Leader, offers a unique insight into the camp:

Year 7 Camp proved to be a camp experience unlike any other. After we arrived, we set off to all the usual camp activities where students faced their fears on the giant swing and had to work together to build rafts or steer a sailing boat. Everyone had lots of fun on their first two activities and we all looked forward to those still to come. But on Tuesday night the rain set in! We spent Wednesday doing a variety of activities indoors. Students enjoyed a variety of games involving drama, trivia and physical activity, also enjoying a taste of ten pin bowling and laser skirmish.

Each afternoon the entire group came together for Christian Discovery where we sang many songs. At the beginning of camp we could easily be heard over the students as we led the songs, but by the end of the week they all but drowned us out as their confidence grew and they become more comfortable around one another. We also had lots of fun doing different night activities each evening and the level of enthusiasm grew throughout the week. When I set out on Year 7 Camp for the second time as a Peer Support Leader I thought I knew what to expect but this turned out to be a hugely different experience than the camp I attended when starting Year 7. In many ways the camp has helped the cohort to grow much closer over the course of the week as they all had to adapt to unforeseen circumstances and join together to ensure that camp was still an amazing experience.

It’s been a busy start for Year 7!
Year 8 students travelled to Waterslea near Nowra to spend five days attempting and experiencing new and exciting challenges, sharing our feelings in Christian discovery and squeezing through narrow caves.

After eating lunch and getting to know the leaders, we moved straight into the activities which included orienteering, caving, jetty jumping, billy carts and abseiling.

Showers were essential as we got so dirty and sweaty from all of these activities!

when we were clean and settled we did Christian discovery, learning about Jesus and the Bible and getting to know each other more.

Each night Year 8 participated in night games and activities, competing as teams in the minute to win it competition and testing our knowledge in trivia.

Groups also participated in a two day out trip where we came face to face with some of our worst fears, including leeches, hiking through the bush and camp food. Different groups took turns in canoeing or hiking to the camp site and back. Nevertheless we had a great time around the camp fire and setting up our tents. It was an exhausting and fun-filled experience that we all enjoyed.

On the last night we participated in an auction where we bought material to make our own corsages, ties and transportation to a mock Year 8 formal. A slideshow containing photos from over the camp was played and everyone danced to the music. We got dance lessons from Britt and joined a conga line with Mr Harris. Most of us lost our voices by the end of the night!

The camp has been an amazing experience for Year 8. We very much appreciate the leaders for helping us to face our fears and teaching us about God and to our teachers for their organisation and care for us. We had an amazing time!

Elle Burke and Courtney Hayes, Year 8
**Rathane, Port Hacking...**

Year 9 students travelled to the Youthworks Campsite, Rathane, situated on the shores of Port Hacking in the Royal National Park. Students participated in the Youthworks Horizon Programme which included a comprehensive array of outdoor activities including Outdoor Climbing, High Ropes, Canoeing Journey, Archery, Initiatives, Sailing and Geocache. These activities allowed the students to further develop their outdoor skills and to engage in new activities that were challenging and rewarding.

The Youthworks Programme at Rathane also included a comprehensive Christian Discovery programme comprising of a series of short lecture style presentation from the leaders at Rathane followed by small group discussions with teachers and Rathane group leaders. The students were to be applauded for their mature attitude and enthusiasm at these sessions.

Students also participated in night activities including an evening at the Waterslide at Deer Park, a trivia night, a games night as well as a party on the final night in the hall at Rathane.

A number of Year 9 students seized the opportunity that the camp provided to commence the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh programme. The students enjoyed their Practice Duke of Edinburgh Hike, a rather wet hike along the picturesque Coast Track from Wattamolla to Otford, past Geary’s Beach where they set up camp for the night at North Era. The students walked through the magnificent Royal National Park in at times soggy conditions. Despite the consistent rain over the hike all students showed a positive attitude. The teachers and leaders of Rathane all commented on how positive the students were in less then idyllic conditions.
Welcome back to another exciting and busy year in the Senior School at Macarthur.
I hope that all the students and families have had an enjoyable and safe break over the Christmas and holiday period.

After a week at camp it is time for all students to get back into the routines of school. The term holds a number of interesting things in the Senior School. Starting with the University of Wollongong Discovery Day on Wednesday 28 February. This is an opportunity for the students that registered to experience University for a day sitting in on Lectures and Tutorials. The 7 - 12 Swimming Carnival 23 February, Year 11 HSC Information Evening 1 March, 8 - 12 Parent Teacher night 15 March, Assessments and Half Yearly Examinations make up some of those things happening this term.

Senior Study Night
A reminder for Years 10, 11 and 12 the Senior Study night will begin Week 3 of term and registration for these nights, both Tuesday and Thursday or just one of the nights can be done through a form that has been distributed to the students or collecting a note from the Administration Office. Senior Study night begins at 4.00pm and concludes at 7.30pm Dinner is provided during the 30 minute break and students have access to the resources of the Library and computers without the distractions at home supervised by Senior Staff.

Assessment Manuals and Calendars
Students in Years 10 - 12 will be receiving their Assessment Calendars this week to enable the students to plan their time over the term. Ensure that the students keep this information in a safe place and transfer what is relevant to their diaries. Year 10 will also be receiving their assessment manual. Electronic copies of the Calendar can be found on the Macarthur Intranet.

If there are any questions relating to these or any other matters please do not hesitate to contact me at school.
The Year 10 Camp this year was held at Action Learning Initiatives, which is located in Jindabyne, at the foot of the Snowy Mountains and the Kosciuszko National Park.

The students were divided into four groups and they participated in the following activities:

- 18km day hike from Thredbo to Charlottes Pass via Mt Kosciuszko.
- Full day mountain biking adventure
- River Sledding down the Snowy River
- Abseiling at the Jindabyne Dam wall
- Camping out for 2 nights and cooking their own meals
- Camp craft and raft building activities

The camp was a challenge for both students and staff. Many of the activities were very physically demanding. The students accepted and embraced these challenges with enthusiasm and determination. They should be very proud of what they accomplished as they prepare themselves for the challenges of their senior schooling.

“Physically demanding & rewarding”

YEAR 10 STUDENTS HIKING AND ABSEILING

Mrs Nadine James
Head of Year 10 Camp
The Year 11 Community Service Camp at Ulladulla was a wonderful experience seeing the students participating in Community Service through Bush Care which involved removing weeds and the planting of native specifics in coastal environments. Visiting, playing games and interacting with the residents of Sarah Claydon Retirement Village. They also helped out the more needy members of the St Martins Anglican Church Congregation through house maintenance and gardening. All the students participated in these activities and demonstrated a servant heart. In maintaining the theme of outdoor education students were also given an opportunity to broaden their skills through Surfing, Snorkelling and Kayaking. Again the local community appreciated the efforts of the Macarthur students.
Year 12 Camp

This year’s final camp for Year 12 ventured north to Bonville near Coffs Harbour, where the focus was on recreational and adventure activities, rather than challenging and developing the outdoor skills of the students at camps in earlier years. The anticipation of the students was well met by a high energy and enjoyable program.

Despite the threat of washed out activities after much well publicised heavy rain in the days leading up to the camp, most of the program went ahead with little disruption. Half the group were able to complete the white water rafting on the Nymboida River, two hours west of Coffs on the Tuesday, but this was followed by 120 ml of rain lifting the river by five meters overnight.

Consequently the other half of the group missed the much anticipated experience on the river the next day. This was replaced by some time getting up close and personal with the dolphins and sea lions at the local Pet Porpoise Pool, as well as some time at the Big Banana tobogganing and ice skating. Other activities on the first two days included snorkelling off Split Solitary Island, beach walking, wet weather Go Kart racing and time to get wetter in the water park next door. Wednesday evening was finished with a competitive time at the local Ten Pin Bowling Alley, with the Headmaster showing another of his many hidden talents.

Thursday was once again full of action, spent at the beach. Students were rotated through four activities which included sea kayaking, surf rescue, surfing and surf rafting. For many who had little or no experience with a surfboard, they were surprised when they finally managed to stand up on their boards, even if it was only for three meters. The biggest adrenaline rush came from the thrill and exhaustion of surf rafting. With paddles working overtime to push the six man rafts out through the waves, it was then an adrenalin rush as we turned and rode the chosen waves in to shore. The occasional collision only added to the excitement and mayhem.

With many tired, but happy, well fed and accommodated it was time to head south on the long return journey on Friday. This gave plenty of time for many to sleep and recover, as well as ponder what lay ahead in their final year at school. The time away was a great opportunity to enjoy the excitement of all the adventure activities but equally importantly to reconnect with others in the year group and build further a feeling of being a part of a bigger team who were ready to face the challenges of the year ahead together.

Joly Hordern