MACARTHUR ROBOTICS TEAM COMPETES IN THE USA

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The Importance of Broad Learning Experiences in Achieving Excellent Educational Outcomes

DR DAVID NOCKLES
Headmaster

An area of educational interest and research that holds my attention is how to determine what makes an excellent school. In particular, what are the perceptions of students about what makes an excellent school? For parents, a question of great importance is: what outcomes can be achieved that best prepare my children for the years of lifelong learning that lay ahead?

Along with other researchers, it is clear to me that contemporary best practice in education does not treat students as a product from a factory, where raw materials go in and fully rounded students come out. All students are different and complex in their own right. Schools should therefore provide opportunities that are expansive and varied to cater for the interests and abilities of the students.

An excellent school does more than challenge students in the classroom. Yes, educational outcomes are paramount and classroom learning is important. However, as students mature, the need for a range of experiences beyond the classroom is imperative.

A good school provides teaching and learning to engage students so that they achieve their best in the classroom. An excellent school goes beyond this and provides opportunities that have a compounding effect on academic learning.

The paradox for students is that the greater the number of opportunities, the more they become engaged in their formal learning and the better their academic success. Excellent schools have to find ways that achieve this goal.

These research findings can be demonstrated. One student I knew could be described as a reluctant learner. He was capable but uninterested in learning. In his early secondary years he discovered the school farm. What a life changing experience! A young man emerged with direction and a purpose in life, leading to studies and a career in agriculture.

His experience of the school farm shaped this young man’s path in life. Could I have predicted this? Certainly not! Educators must provide opportunities and experiences that open life’s doors.

Another student, who graduated from Macarthur last year, enrolled in the Junior School. She learned violin having never before held a musical instrument. Following the HSC, she was nominated for Encore, the HSC showcase of the best musicians in the state. Even more remarkably, she was recognised for her talent as a composer and is now studying at the Conservatorium of Music.

Could the school or her parents have foreseen this? No! But the educational environment gave experiences that shaped her future.

Excellent schools produce an environment where innovative student experiences compound the effects of good teaching and learning in the classroom. As you read these pages you will gain a glimpse of the opportunities at Macarthur. Our desire is that students will take hold of opportunities where skills are already developed as well as opportunities yet to be experienced.
NEW CHAPLAIN APPOINTED

The Reverend David Hayman has been appointed by the Headmaster as Chaplain at Macarthur Anglican School, commencing in June 2012.

Mr Hayman comes to Macarthur after eighteen years of service as Assistant Chaplain (1994-1999) and later Chaplain (1999-2012) at Cranbrook School in Bellevue Hill. “I am very excited about the appointment”, Mr Hayman says. “Chaplaincy is a wonderful ministry in which to be involved, with all sorts of opportunities pastorally and through the Gospel with students, staff and the school community. I am looking forward with eager anticipation to the new challenge.”

“Schools like Macarthur”, Mr Hayman says, “are open organisations where students can examine the life and teachings of Jesus. It’s important to create an environment where students can freely ask questions about Christianity and trust that they will receive answers.”

But inquiring about Christianity does not finish at the end of school. Mr Hayman says he remembers many occasions when former students returned after leaving school, wanting to have a chat and find out more. “In Chaplaincy,” Mr Hayman says, “it’s important to be passionate about the Gospel, but patient in waiting for the commitment to be a follower of Jesus.”

An integral part of his role as School Chaplain will be for Mr Hayman to take on the leadership of the Macarthur Family Chapel. Initially, Mr Hayman says he intends to listen and to learn about the needs among the members of the congregation. He intends to conduct a biblically based and Christ-centred ministry, creating an environment where people can explore and grow as they examine the Christian faith.

Mr Hayman and his wife Romayne have three sons who have all completed their university studies. Mr Hayman has a strong interest in sport, particularly Basketball, and in the outdoors, regularly attending Outdoor Education camps with students.

COUNCIL MEMBER PROFILE: MELVILLE BELL

Mr Melville Bell is now the longest serving member on the School Council. In more than eighteen years of voluntary service to the school, he has provided wise counsel on a range of financial matters and is Chairman of the Council Finance Committee.

A graduate in Accountancy and Law, Mr Bell was a foundation Partner in a medium sized Chartered Accountancy practice. Although now retired, he is still sought out to advise large corporations on structure and directional planning.

Mr Bell’s understanding of independent education runs deep. He was a foundation student of Pittwater House Grammar School and his own three children attended Macarthur. “The best investment my wife and I made was to send our children to Macarthur,” Mr Bell says. Jeffrey (2004) and Cameron (2006) have graduated from university, while Victoria (2010) is in her second year of University.

“The Macarthur experience was an essential cornerstone serving my children well. This school is a treasure in south-west Sydney,” Mr Bell continues. “The school is well placed and resourced to deliver the finest level of education in a swiftly changing world,” However, as Chair of Council’s Finance Committee, Mr Bell is aware of the pain associated with fee increases. “My main concern is continuous and ever-increasing compliance requirements imposed by governments and their toll on staff and costs. This makes it difficult for the Head and staff to improve services within available financial resources”.

Apart from his role on Council, Mr Bell has a love of sailing. He enjoys being part of a 12 metre yacht crew competing on Sydney Harbour and based on this experience, has taken his family on sailing holidays, hiring yachts to sail the coastlines of North Africa, Turkey, Croatia, Sicily and Malta on the Mediterranean, or to New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands in the Pacific.
Joshua, how did you feel when the Headmaster announced at Speech and Awards Night that you would be the School Captain for 2012?

I was excited – there was a sudden joy at being selected for the position. I felt like I had achieved what I set out to do in the school which was to give something back – being School Captain allows this.

Have you worked out your goals for your term as School Captain?

I want to get to know everyone. I would like to be able to relate to every student and have each one feel that I am approachable. I would also like to use my position to spread the Word of God throughout the school and to use the position to benefit the school community.

Since you enrolled at Macarthur, what do you regard as the most outstanding things about the school?

The vast array of opportunities – being able to do rowing, pipes and drums and after school groups, like fitness training. It’s a real blessing to have so many opportunities. Just as important are the teachers and the relationships I formed with them.

What’s it like to be part of the school’s Pipes and Drums group?

It’s good, being so different from anything else I do or from anything else in the school. It’s another opportunity and a challenge to lead in a smaller group. While people know all about the school’s Band and Orchestra – it’s good to see people’s faces when they see the Pipes and Drums group. It’s also a challenge in that it’s a minority group – different from other groups in the school.

What would you see as the biggest challenge you have faced in your life so far?

Undoubtedly, the death of my father in October 2006 when I was in Year 6. It meant there was no father figure – it’s been tough on my family especially my mother. As the oldest of three boys, I feel I have to take on my father’s role – to hold the family together and see that everyone is OK.

Do you have any advice for younger students who still have most of their school years ahead of them?

Take every opportunity – don’t let them pass by because you think you don’t have time or don’t want to. You will regret it in the end if you don’t grasp opportunities when they arise.

How do you think this experience, as the head of the school’s leadership team, will help you personally in the future?

It gives me an immediate sense of achievement in the school – the opportunity to lead is invaluable and is creating great memories for the future. However, the most important thing is that if I am in a position of leadership in the future, I will be able to look back and draw on the experience as School Captain to be a better leader at that time.

1 Joshua plays the tenor drum and is seen in the group swinging the drumsticks above his head in true Scottish Band style.

2 Joshua has set an example for others by being awarded various colours and half colours in Scholastic Achievement, MISA Hockey, Rowing, NASSA Basketball and the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. He is currently working towards the Gold Award. He is also the Heber House Captain.
Dr Nockles then announced the awardees for the two major scholarships instituted by the School Council – the Foundation Scholar, awarded to Noah Gray; and the Warren Scholar, named in honour of the former Headmaster Mr Riley Warren, AM, awarded to Chloe Maric. Both students have set high standards in learning, in their commitment to serve others and through involvement in school activities such as music, leadership and sport.

OTHER AWARDS PRESENTED BY THE HEADMASTER, WERE:

Headmaster’s Medallion: Kathryn Rankin
Headmaster’s Award: Katherine Harris

OTHER MAJOR SPEECH NIGHT AWARDS:

The Caroline Chisholm Prize for Community Service*: Kathryn Rankin
Alumni Award for School Spirit*: Poppy Tegel
The Dag Hammerskjold Prize for the Promotion of International Understanding*: James Murdoch
The Cambridge Seven Award for Student Ministry*: James Sawyer

Chairman of the School Council, Dr Allan Beavis, addressing students and parents at the commencement of the Speech and Awards Night ceremony.

* Criteria for these awards are reprinted each year in the Speech and Awards Night Programme.
SHOW TEAM SUCCESSES

Members of the Macarthur Agriculture Show Team recently participated at the Camden, Goulburn and Sydney Royal Easter Shows. Eleven students make up the Cattle Team and seventeen students comprise the Goat Team.

“Our Show Team members can be very proud of their achievements this year”, said Macarthur Agriculture teacher, Mr Milton Gower, who has been working with show teams for many years. “Hours of work were put in at school by the team members, all through Summer Term, to prepare animals for the show season. It takes real commitment to see it through to the show days, the sort of commitment that helps to build character and prepare students for other quests in the future.”

In terms of results, the hard work paid off. The Cattle Team scored a second and two third places in various classes at the Camden Show. At the Sydney Royal Easter Show, Jessica Matthews (Year 12) received a very creditable fifth place against strong competition in her class of the School Parader’s competition.

Meanwhile, the Goat Team earned a number of ribbons for first to fifth places in the school categories at all three shows. At the Sydney Royal, Nathan Lutiger (Year 9), Jessica Blachura (Year 11) and James Key (Year 7) took the first three places in their class for their Angora goats. As well, Kaiden Darby (Year 10) was placed third in the Junior Judging Competition at the Goulburn show and went on to the finals at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Macarthur Agriculture Show Team is now preparing for the Unischool Steer Competition sponsored by the University of Western Sydney. The team has one hundred days to work with their steer, to compete in parading, judging and weight gain classes against fifteen other Sydney region schools. Without doubt, the commitment of the team members will continue the tradition of outstanding results, when the finals are held in August.

Macarthur achieveMenTs

Good-bye to the School Certificate

2011 was last time School Certificate examinations would take place. The question among educators has been what will take its place?

The School Certificate is an important credential for thousands of students who choose to leave school at the end of Year 10 or during Year 11 to take up an apprenticeship or similar form of training that didn’t require the Higher School Certificate. However, in the 21st Century, the relevance of the School Certificate has been questioned.

“The School Certificate was modified many times”, said Mrs Gould-Drakeley, Macarthur’s Dean of Studies, “in an effort to satisfy the needs of students who leave school before completing the HSC, and also to satisfy employers assessing the suitability of young people seeking positions. It came in for a lot of criticism from employers for not telling them what they needed to know.”

In February this year, the Minister for Education announced that the School Certificate is to be replaced by the Record of School Achievement (RoSA). This can be awarded to a student at any time from the end of Year 10 if a student decides to leave school before completing the HSC. It will provide an up-to-date assessment of achievements, rather than a certificate showing achievement at a point in time perhaps more than a year before leaving school.

“Time will tell if the Record of School Achievement will satisfy both students and employers”, said Mrs Gould-Drakeley.

“However, it has positive elements. With a greater emphasis on ongoing, or formative assessment, a credential reflecting the student’s most recent levels of achievement, just prior to leaving school, is an important improvement.”

In addition, the Record of School Achievement will show achievements beyond academic attainments, such as in citizenship and leadership. Mrs Gould-Drakeley believes that given the range of such opportunities available to Macarthur students, those who leave before the HSC will enter life with an impressive credential underpinned by the range of experiences that are part of a Macarthur education.
ACADEMIC RESULTS – A PROVEN SUCCESS

Occasionally, great results are achieved by chance, but usually it takes hard work. In partnership with parents who wish to see their children achieve their personal goals in learning, Macarthur Anglican School provides a rigorous education – one emphasising diligent work with precision in writing, in calculations, in research and in documentation of results.

Expectations are set for student work, structures and additional resources for learning are provided and teachers commit to helping all students achieve their best. These aspects of a Macarthur education bear fruit when the results of NAPLAN testing, School Certificate and Higher School Certificate examinations are revealed. This was certainly the case as results came in for 2011.

“The 2011 Academic Year has been a year of truly wonderful academic results” said the Headmaster, Dr Nockles. “It was particularly pleasing that in the School Certificate, even though it was the last to be held, all subjects were above the State Mean”.

With regard to HSC results and ATAR scores, over 86% of students who applied for a university place received their first preference. “The 2011 cohorts have done themselves very proud”, the Headmaster said.

Other highlights were:
- Nathan Cooper – Dux with an ATAR score of 98.3
- 20% of students in the top 10% statewide with ATAR scores of 90+
- 50% of students in the top 20% statewide with ATAR scores of 80+
- Over 60 appearances on the HSC Honour Roll – receiving a Band 6 or E4 results
- 33% of students recognised as Distinguished Achievers
- a significant rise in the median ATAR score by more than 7 points to 76.98!

Nathan Cooper is now studying Science at the University of Wollongong, while his colleagues have embarked on a range of courses covering Health Science, Engineering, Commerce, Nursing, Arts, Business, Teaching, Music, Theatre and Performance, Economics, Social Science, Policing, Town Planning, Computer Science, Classics, Medical and Applied Science and International Studies.

Some students have taken up traineeships or commenced TAFE courses such as Childcare and Hospitality, while a few have chosen to defer studies in favour of a GAP year filled with travel and work experience.

Nathan Cooper – Dux 2011
When you think of learning History, do you think of names and dates and places to memorise? School textbooks you had to study, or documents that had to be scrutinised concerning past events?

For some people, this could be enough to make them decide that any interest in History is a thing of the past! Or do you think of the Time Team programme on television, digging up swathes of UK land to reveal the way people lived long ago? Or historical dramas, like the TV series _The Tudors_?

Any of these could be your response. But, how is History taught today? At Macarthur, History is more than just the knowledge attached to what happened long ago.

“Our students of History get to do a wide range of exciting and interesting things,” says the Head of History, Mr Paul Stevens. “They participate in site studies, visit displays and view demonstrations. A popular outdoor activity is an archaeological simulation where the students carry out a ‘dig’ somewhere in the school grounds. They even practise mummification on one another in class. They research personalities and events from a variety of periods of history, and learn from various experts in their field.”

“However, at the same time,” Mr Stevens states, “they are absorbing skills to carry into future studies and workplaces - research and information processing skills, how to think logically and formulate arguments or well-rounded and informed viewpoints based on facts.”

Some of the most exciting activities occur well beyond a History classroom. Site studies take students back in time to where it happened. “Getting into the act adds a lot of fun to the study and helps students to empathise with the people of the past,” Mr Stevens says. “Almost all young people like dressing up in order to feel part of the era. We see a lot of enjoyment in this sort of participation.”

Year 9 students investigate Ned Kelly – Myth and Reality? Hero or Villain? They visit the Old Melbourne Gaol, the State Library of Victoria, the Police Museum and the Ned Kelly Centre at Glenrowan for different perspectives on this historic figure.

Older students visit the Jewish Museum in Sydney and in speaking to the few remaining Holocaust survivors learn how important it is to get first hand information while it is available.

But the fervent desire of many students is to be part of the Senior History Europe Tour, which focuses on Conflict in Europe along with Ancient History studies. Students visit the battlefields of Northern France and the Imperial War Museum in London, then travel to Rome, Pompeii and Naples for ancient studies. In four Europe tours conducted since 2006, more than one hundred Macarthur students have been able to study these fascinating places. Thirty-five students have already signed up for the History Tour being arranged for April 2013!

Does this sound like your experience of History?
MACARTHUR ROBOTICS TEAM COMPETES IN THE USA

How old must you be to start in robotics? Not very old at all!

A group of enthusiastic young Macarthur students have worked diligently for six months to prepare their own robot to compete in the recently held FIRST Technology Challenge World Championship, conducted in St Louis, Missouri, USA.

Lots of people have been following the progress of this clever group through regular reports in The Bulletin, and through reports in local newspapers. We can now report on the performance of our team when they took their robot to St Louis for the competition at the end of April. But first, the story so far:

Working Saturday mornings and through the summer holidays, the team built and programmed their robot, called Zaphod, prior to participation in the Australian Technology Challenge at Macquarie University. They won the Connect Award for their work in developing a live stream to the world of Zaphod at work. This led to an invitation to participate in the World Championships in St Louis, the only Australian team to take part.

The Macarthur team, known as FTC=MASFUn, consists of Mitchell Biggart (Year 8), Jeffrey Hartono and Danielle Santos (Year 9), Matthew Egan, Emily Newton and Callum Hanley (Year 11).

OFF TO THE USA:

- **Date:** 25 to 28 April 2012
- **Location:** Edward Jones Dome, St Louis, Missouri, USA.
- **Event:** FIRST Technology Challenge World Championship.
- **Competitors:** 127 teams, mostly from the USA, decked out in some very distinctive team costumes, including those worn by the Macarthur students.
- **Local Representation:** Macarthur Anglican School Robotics Team, FTC=MASFUn, known in the competition as Team 5784.
- **Excitement Level:** Extreme

Throughout the event, FTC=MASFUn stayed focussed despite initial nerves, representing Macarthur Anglican School, and Australia, with professionalism and competence. They made many friends, even helping opponents who had engineering or software problems.

“Although they didn’t make it to the finals, the team left with no regrets”, says Mrs Jo Egan, one of the parent mentors who accompanied the group to St Louis. “In fact, quite the opposite – what they learned and experienced in three days about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and about themselves was life changing!”

Before the judges, the team made their presentation and operated Zaphod with pride and self-assurance. They demonstrated their detailed knowledge and gave encouragement and support to one another when it mattered. The judges’ report was very positive, giving credit to the team for their consistent work.

The whole experience for these students and their mentors was capped off with exciting visits to local attractions, including a St Louis Cardinals baseball match, a Star Trek exhibit and various restaurants around the city. The team is now looking for new members and plans a lunchtime club as it moves on to the next phase – visit masrobotics.com

Footnote:
The FTC=MASFUn team is not the only group to get involved in Robotics at Macarthur. An even younger group, consisting of several Year 5 and 6 students took part in the Lego Robotics Food Factor Challenge in late 2011. Clearly, Robotics has a big future at Macarthur.
**The Spirit of Our Houses**

**House Spirit on Display**

*At the Annual Swimming Carnivals*

Nowhere is House spirit more clearly on show than at a Macarthur Swimming Carnival!

This year, the Year 3 to 6 Carnival, held on 13 February, was more colourful than ever as each house expressed its enthusiasm and determination to win with colourful banners, clothes and accessories on show.

“I was really proud of the enthusiasm and vigorous competition displayed by the younger children who were attending their first swimming carnival,” said Mrs Kylie Elling, Head of the Junior School.

“It was great to see them enjoying themselves and having a go as much as the older children.”

In a season of more rainy days than the typical sunny days we expect in summer, our Junior swimmers were lucky to hold their carnival in fine weather. Amid the colour and the cheering, intense swimming competition took place with the result that Marsh was the winning House.
THE SPIRIT OF OUR HOUSES

HOUSE SPIRIT ON DISPLAY

Senior Swimming Carnival

Not to be outdone by the Juniors, Senior students also picked one of the few sunny February days for their carnival.

Competition was just as intense and House spirit was palpable in the array of colourful outfits, and the effort behind some of the cheer squad routines.

The winning House at the Senior Carnival was Hassall, with Marsh the overall school winner by just six points.

For a full list of the 8 to 18 Years Boys and Girls Champions, see page 12, and to see all of the swimmers selected for the NASSA and CIS swimming carnivals in March, refer to The Bulletin Nos 2 and 3 at: www.macarthur.nsw.edu.au/Newsletters

Johnson cheer squad show their enthusiasm

Barker go bananas

Broughton victory dance

Marsh succeeds with a laid-back approach

Heber Captain Joshua Sawyer leads by example
THAILAND OUTREACH

The annual Thailand Outreach was held from 9 to 23 March this year. Once again, the Outreach was a resounding success, if for no other reason than the fact that the 2012 group of twenty-nine students was the largest ever to participate in this activity.

“I believe the size of the group wanting to be involved this year is evidence of the growing concern our students have for the welfare of others”. Mr Timothy Cartwright, leader of the Outreach Group said “It illustrates the growing awareness of the importance of including service in one’s lifestyle.”

“There were two highlights this year, the first being that we are now beginning to see students going to Thailand who were involved in the earliest North Queensland Outreach programmes when they were in Year 6. So their interest in serving others has been sustained,” Mr Cartwright continued. “Secondly, we saw a growing relationship with the James O. Fraser Centre, where former student Linda Macintosh (Née Newport) is working with her husband to train pastors.”

The activities of the Thailand Outreach group and the places they visit were fully reported in the Autumn 2011 edition of Tartan Ties.

NORTH QUEENSLAND OUTREACH

Preparations have begun for the annual North Queensland Outreach, involving Year 8 students, to take place in September 2012. A lot of preparation is necessary before students can take part in an outreach, which they may at times find confronting. Meetings with parents and training sessions are now under way so that this year’s group will be as well prepared as those who have been travelling to these far northern communities for more than five years.

A detailed report on this year’s North Queensland Outreach will appear in the Spring 2012 edition of Tartan Ties.

JUNIOR MUSICAL: REHEARSALS BEGIN

Rehearsals are under way for the 2012 Junior Musical, involving students from Years 3 to 6. The musical Beauty and the Beast Jr will be a delight as all previous Junior School musicals have been.

Auditions were held in February for the cast of forty-one with major roles to be filled by Paris Houghton, Jack Burns, Harrison Barrett, Alana Kolanovic, Sanya Mann and Dianne Platt of Year 5, and Ryan Kennedy, Samuel Nockles, Isaac Smith, Katelyn Biggart, Amera Sarkis and Claudia Petrin of Year 6. Make sure you get in early for tickets as performances are usually sold out. See advertisement page 7.

JUNIOR MUSICAL PERFORMANCE DATES AND TIMES:

Monday 30 July: Senior Citizens Matinee; 7:00pm Evening Performance
Wednesday 1 August: 7:00pm Evening Performance
Friday 3 August: 7:00pm Evening Performance
Saturday 4 August: 1:00pm Matinee; 7:00pm Evening Performance

2012 SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

Macarthur’s Swimming Carnivals were held on 13 February (Years 3-6) and 23 February (Years 7-12).

Champion House at the 3-6 Carnival: Marsh
Champion House at the 7-12 Carnival: Hassall

Champion House for Swimming (both Carnival points combined: Marsh (by just 6 points from Hassall)

AGE CHAMPIONS

Years 3-6:
8 Years Girls: Rose Jansen
8 Years Boys: Frankie Nesci
9 Years Girls: Lauren Ward
9 Years Boys: Mackenzie Kautz
10 Years Girls: Ginger Kennett-McLaughlin
10 Years Boys: Charlie Smith
11 Years Girls: Amelia Giakourmelos
11 Years Boys: Tobias Howard
12 Years Girls: Ruby Kennett-McLaughlin
12 Years Boys: Callum Masjuk

Years 7-12:
12 Years Girls: Ashleigh Sherrill
12 Years Boys: Aidan Gandy
13 Years Girls: Sophia Seton
13 Years Boys: Adam Ebeling
14 Years Girls: Ellen House
14 Years Boys: Austen Perich
15 Years Girls: Bessie-Lucille Platt
15 Years Boys: Nicholas Masjuk
16 Years Girls: Kaylie Ekinci
16 Years Boys: Luke Perich
17 Years Girls: Alicia Alchin
17 Years Boys: Alex Borjoevic
18 Years Girls: Ashlee Perich
18 Years Boys: Brandon Lamb

A special category for 19 year-old students was established and won by Jeff Lee, the first International Student to win a Swimming Age Championship.

Swimmer of the Meet: shared by Kaylie Ekinci and Nicholas Masjuk, both earning 60 points for Heber and Johnson respectively.

ST MICHAEL’S SPONSORSHIP

Members of the School Community continue to sponsor students of St Michael’s Secondary School in Tanzania. Every school House and the Junior School plus several individual members of staff sponsor students, so that they have the benefit of schooling that would otherwise be unavailable to them. The annual cost to sponsor a student is around $650.

Further information about sponsoring a St Michael’s student is available from Elizabeth Harris in the Accounts Office.
GATEway QUEST
Fifty-seven students took part in a range of activities during a very successful GATEway Quest on Saturday 10 March. Activities included Science Murder Mystery Investigation ‘The Kidnap of Jamie Lawson’, Rocketry, Claymation (animated movie making using clay figures) Acrobatics, Lego Robotics, Computer Programming and Art.

Students enjoyed conducting experiments with DNA, jumping high into the air, or sending rockets soaring over the oval. The parents of children who elected Lego Robotics had to drag them away at day’s end, while computer programmers cooked up a storm and art students took beautiful framed artworks home as keepsakes.

MR GEOFF KIBBLEWHITE RETIRES
At the end of Summer Term, the students and staff farewelled Mr Geoff Kibblewhite. Mr Kibblewhite joined the staff in October 2003 and as Farm Manager, worked closely with the Agriculture teachers and students. His work involved helping students in the preparation of stock for agricultural shows, care and feeding of the school’s animals and various improvements to the farm structure.

One of Mr Kibblewhite’s greatest contributions to the school has been the planting of more than a thousand trees on the school land, particularly along riparian zones. Mr Kibblewhite will continue to be busy working at his own property near Douglas Park, where he plans to catch up on a number of jobs waiting for his attention.

Just a few of the trees Mr Kibblewhite has planted around the school.

AGRICULTURE EXPANDS TO INCLUDE YOUNG STUDENTS
Mr Milton Gower, who was recognised for his twenty-five years of service to the school at the 2011 Speech and Awards Night, has assumed a new role as Farm Educator. While still working with senior students of Agriculture, Mr Gower’s vast experience will be utilised within a wider role, overseeing the management of the farm and developing a strategic plan for its future direction. The role also encompasses work with Junior School staff so that some of the elementary principles of raising animals and of organic food production can be taught to younger students.

SPIRIT OF ANZAC REMEMBERED
In a tribute to those who gave their lives at Gallipoli and in all conflicts since then, the school’s ANZAC Day Commemorative Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony was held on 24 April. Special Guest was Major Charles Whitton who addressed staff, invited guests, parents and students.

Using as his text, Jesus’ words “Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13), Major Whitton reminded us that one word symbolises Anzac Day – sacrifice. Major Whitton went on to describe the honour he has of working among members of the Australian Army. He informed students that from the commencement of a soldier’s training, the emphasis is on service to others. “Jesus”, he said. “modelled the way to serve, washing the feet of his disciples.” Young people, he went on to say, have many choices, but should look at the life of Jesus – a life lived for others.

A Catafalque Party led by Corporal Julian Evans – 145 Signal Squadron, 17 Signal Regiment, provided an official Guard of Honour for the service.
Mr Owen Sinden has been a teacher at Macarthur since 2001. After Cabramatta High School, Chevalier College and William Carey Christian School, Mr Sinden heard good things about Macarthur and applied for a position in the Social Science Faculty. Mr Sinden’s teaching centres on senior Economics and Commerce.

“I love the rural atmosphere of the school and the students of Macarthur, who genuinely want to learn,” Mr Sinden says. “Furthermore, I think the way this school marks important occasions such as Easter and Anzac Day is very impressive. No other school I know does it so well.”

Mr Sinden has a daughter who will follow in his footsteps as a teacher. She is a talented violinist in her final year of Music Education at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Beyond the school, Mr Sinden is actively engaged in sport, participating previously in cricket, soccer, karate and tennis. He was formerly a NSW and Australian Schools Soccer coach. But his current love is swimming. He is President of the Campbelltown Masters Swimming Club and competes in State, National and World masters swimming championships. He is a current endurance swimming champion at the national level.

For something quite different, Mr Sinden also has a love of military aircraft, and is often to be found as a spectator at air shows or as a visitor to aircraft museums. But his passion is teaching. “I love it”, Mr Sinden says. “While I enjoy classroom banter and joking with the students, I get a real buzz during serious classroom interaction. I enjoy seeing student interest and understanding build into success in the subject.”

Miss Nikki Raeburn is a recently employed member of the English Faculty, having joined the staff in October 2011. While her teaching experience has extended to various parts of Sydney, at Girraween High School and the Conservatorium High School, Miss Raeburn is well-acquainted with the Camden area. She was a student of Elderslie High School, where both her mother and father are teachers.

“I hope to make a difference for students in my local community”, Miss Raeburn says. “I like to set high expectations for student achievement and give them the opportunity to experience success inside and outside the classroom.”

Establishing a good rapport with students is high among Miss Raeburn’s priorities. After being assigned to support Heber House, she has worked hard to help the Head of House develop a strong House spirit. As a young teacher, she also places a high value on forging strong relationships with colleagues who can provide guidance and wisdom in teaching.

Miss Raeburn’s degree in Arts from Sydney University, reflects her interest in creative and performing arts, with a major in Drama. Her passion outside of teaching is ballroom dancing, particularly the Latin American style. She competes in the Australian DanceSport Championships and has achieved very high placings in interstate dancing competitions every year since 2008.

Her other interests embrace photography, particularly portraiture and she is an avid filmgoer with an interest in the Twilight Saga films.

Mrs Elizabeth Harris joined the Accounts Staff in 2009. She is responsible for a range of accounting functions for the school, including salary payments, payments to the ATO and to a myriad of superannuation agencies on behalf of all members of staff. Mrs Harris brings a wealth of experience to her job at Macarthur from her previous job in a Chartered Accountants firm in Campbelltown.

The idea of working in a Christian environment was extremely appealing to Mrs Harris when she applied for the position at Macarthur. Although she never had the opportunity to work in a Christian school before, Mrs Harris was already associated with the school through her children’s enrolment at Macarthur.

“My association with the school helped me to realise the abundance of opportunities and experiences offered to students and staff and gave me the desire to seek employment here when the opportunity arose”, Mrs Harris says. “I really appreciate the camaraderie among the colleagues with whom I work. The team is positive, productive and create a fun environment in which to work.”

Mrs Harris lives locally with her husband Andrew and daughters Sabrina, Imogen and Poppy. The Harris family are members of St John’s Anglican Church, Camden. Home renovation is a current passion, with Mrs Harris admitting she is on a steep learning curve in this field. She also enjoys a coffee with friends, relaxing with the family and going to the movies.
Generous parents both past and present have sown many seeds. Thank you to all who have so generously given both financially or in kind over many years. This year we continued to create opportunities for the school community to connect, within the school and beyond. Macarthur Anglican School commenced an Annual Community Partner Programme. It gives me great pleasure to welcome the first three companies to commit to this programme: MAD Excavations and Landscaping Pty Ltd, run by Matthew and Ange Daley, Chisholm and Turner Travel Associates, managed by Matthew Chisholm and Handprint Photography owned and run by Kylie Lyon. We thank these companies for their commitment and willingness to partner with Macarthur Anglican School and look forward to a relationship that will mutually benefit our students and their businesses.

Macarthur Anglican School is keen to support organisations within our local community. This year we were a Champion Sponsor of the Camden Show. The school also sponsored ADFAS (Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society Camden) in the Toddler’s Prom at Camden Civic Centre. This gave young children the opportunity to hear the Fisher’s Ghost Youth Orchestra perform. Macarthur music students entertained Camden Rotary, Narellan Chamber of Commerce and the Camden Show Society Sponsors during the summer term. These opportunities showcase the great talent we nurture and were extremely successful in promoting our school.

The school marquee exhibited our school wonderfully during the Camden Show. An interactive display entertained children of all ages. They could also dress up in Indonesian clothes and have a photo taken. Macarthur students and teachers helped visitors learn Indonesian phrases and demonstrated craft and music activities. Bubbles were a hit with the younger children, while parents investigated the array of activities available to Macarthur students. The Show is a fantastic opportunity for our community to see a snapshot of life at Macarthur Anglican School.

Thank you to all staff, students and parents who gave their time to participate in the interactive display, and to our musicians who entertained our visitors.

M@M (Men at Macarthur) and W@M (Women at Macarthur) commenced the year by organising a range of community building events. M@M continue to host monthly breakfasts for fathers to connect in a casual atmosphere. These breakfasts are growing into great networking opportunities for men. M@M hosted a BBQ at the NASSA cross-country event. A State of Origin night was also an M@M event, giving an opportunity for families to come together for a BBQ and then relax and watch the game.

W@M held their annual High Tea at Harrington Park on Saturday 28 April.

“With every deed you are sowing a seed, though the harvest you may not see”
ELLA WHEELER WILCOX
“Queenspark” hosted the fashion parade at this event. Another significant community event was Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea for the Cancer Council.

You will have noticed the new play equipment and Super Chuter erected recently in the Junior School playground. The play equipment was made possible through generous donations by grandparents and the Parents and Friends over the past two years. The Macarthur Alumni Association provided the Super Chuter. Our thanks to all who contributed. This equipment brings hours of enjoyment to the Junior School children.

We are also grateful to all grandparents who contributed this year at Grandparents Day. Monies raised will provide engaging and interactive books for classrooms.

Funds raised through the 2011 Annual Appeal and the Annual Dinner, along with support from the Parents and Friends, have allowed the construction of new shade sails over the Junior School seating. Thank you to all who contributed toward these fundraising ventures.

Talkback Thursday continues to grow in number. A special thank you to Jane Gray for the many hours she dedicates in leading this group.

It was exciting to see the school Photography Club students partnering with Kylie Lyons of ‘Handprint Photography’ at our recent Grandparents Day celebration. The roaming photographers were a huge success with grandparents and students. Photos were placed online for easy viewing and purchase. We are certainly grateful to Kylie for her time in mentoring our young photographers.

In conclusion, all who donate to Macarthur Anglican School financially or in kind and who supporting our various community building activities are very much appreciated. Please remember Macarthur’s Annual Dinner – Emerald Elegance – 16 June.

For more information regarding the School Community, Partnership Opportunities, Event Sponsorship Opportunities or W@@M&M@M events, please contact Sharon Pascoe-Thomas on 4629 6207 or by email: spascoethomas@macarthur.nsw.edu.au

Sharon Pascoe-Thomas
Community Relations Manager
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**CLASS OF 1992 – 20 YEAR REUNION THIS YEAR ON SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER**

**Diana Brimson** (Year 12, 1992) is a Press Desk Liaison officer for Moody’s, a Public Finance company, with regular travel to the US. Diana’s boyfriend in the USA gives added incentive to keep travelling there. Since leaving school, Diana spent some time running her own business in England.

**Annette Davies** (Year 12, 1992) completed a Diploma in 1998 and worked in Childcare for sixteen years. She now enjoys an administrative role within the childcare field. Annette lives in Queensland with her son Ethan.

**Nicole Dunkley** (Year 10, 1990) joined the Navy as an apprentice Aircraft Electrician and Radio Fitter. She served on HMAS Success maintaining Sea King helicopters. Nicole transferred to the Navy Reserve after eight years service and is a Public Servant at HMAS Albatross managing logistics and finance for the RAN Aviation Fleet. She has two daughters, Erin 15 and Jordan 12.

**Belinda Fellows** (née Tilbury, Year 11, 1991) works as a Receptionist and Office Assistant at Macarthur Anglican School. She and husband Andrew have three children, Leah 10, Levi 7 and Susanna 6. Previously, Belinda worked in transport and logistics for Linfox.

**Beth Edwards** (Year 12, 1992) has two children, Sophie 4 years and Xavier 18 months. Following maternity leave she returned to work with the Department of Community Services as a psychologist. Beth is working towards a Masters degree in Clinical Psychology.

**Kevin Oats** (Year 12, 1992) has almost completed training as a Registered Nurse after working several years in laboratories. He and his wife Clare welcomed their first child Lachlan Alistair Oats on 30 December 2011, who Kevin hopes will develop an interest in Star Wars to match his extensive collection of Star Wars paraphernalia.

**Jodie Stucki** (née Wells, Year 12, 1988) and husband Andrew welcomed a baby girl into their family, Amelia Clair Stucki, on 17 February 2012. She is a little sister to Ellen 9, Fletcher 7 and Harvey 5.

**Peter Buckley** (Year 12, 1997) went in the 2012 Sydney to Surfers 1000 km Charity Ride to support Father Chris Riley’s Youth Off the Streets campaign. Peter’s experience and a link for donations can be can be found at: http://members.optusnet.com.au/~abarclay60/Cycling_Surfers/TH__TEAM.html

**Kate Campbell** (née Lea, Year 12 1997) and husband Iain announce the birth of their son Jameson Gregory Khalifa (an Emirati name) Campbell, born on 9 February in Abu Dhabi. Kate and Iain now work in the United Arab Emirates in the events and sporting industries.

**Kevin Smith** (Year 11, 1999) is a Sales Rep and Account Manager for Repco. His photography business has grown with work from clients around Australia. Kevin invites you to view his fan page on Facebook (BALLR Inc. Photography), which has over 2800 fans.

**Jane Weller** (Year 12 1999) has just completed a Bachelor of Veterinary Science (to add to her BA and BSc degrees) and works as the Clinical Veterinarian at the Avian Reptile and Exotic Pet Hospital, just down the road at the University of Sydney, Camden campus. Jane is happy to see any Macarthur students’ pets! She is hoping to complete a residency overseas in the future.

**Matthew and Katherine Fielding** (née Buckley, Year 12, 2000) celebrated the birth on 11 February of their second child, Isabelle Anne Fielding. Peter and Alison (née Jennings) Buckley & Jason Fielding are proud uncles and aunty.

**Ellen Pacelli** (née Karavelatzis, Year 11, 2000) is enjoying life with her 4-year-old son Remo. She is in her second year of study for a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Western Sydney.

**John Milburn** (Year 12 2001) married Katherine Bell in October 2011. After a honeymoon in the Cook Islands, they settled in Narrabri. John was later among the Wedding Party for good friend Jonathan Dunbier.

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**ALUMNI NEWS**

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**Kevin Oats** (Year 12, 1992) worked at the Department of Community Services as a psychologist. Beth is working towards a Masters degree in Clinical Psychology.
Jonathan Dunbier (Year 12, 2001) married Bethany Clendinning on 10 March 2012 in St John’s, Camden. Jonathan has been worshipping at St John’s for more than ten years. Two other former students were in the wedding party shown in the photo: John Milburn (Year 12, 2001, standing behind Jonathan) and Bradley Lardner (Year 12, 2005, far right).

William (Todd) McCormack (Year 12, 2002) and his wife Keina were blessed with the arrival of their daughter Abigail May McCormack in July 2011 – a sister to Breannah.

Lieut. Nicholas Thompson (Year 12, 2003) recently returned from deployment in Afghanistan as a Platoon Commander and later as an aide-de-camp. Nick says he may return to Afghanistan in the future. He is also hoping to be transferred to a Sydney base.

Beth Grady (née Haviland, Year 12, 2004) and her husband Andrew are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Indiana Kathleen Grady, born on 27 January this year.

Heather Milburn (Year 12, 2004) married Geoffrey Dyson in June 2010 and now lives in Ryde. Heather completed her Certificate IV in Outdoor Education and is now employed as an Outdoor Minister with The Crusader Union of Australia.

Rebecca Oxlade (Year 12, 2005) is the Health and Physical Education Coordinator at the Goldfields Baptist College in Kalgoorlie, WA. On Valentines Day 2012, Rebecca became engaged to Hudson Servina, also a teacher at Goldfields Baptist College. They will be married in Sydney in April 2013.

Melanie Fowler (Year 12, 2006) has graduated from the University of Wollongong with BA (Distinction)/LLB (Hons). In January 2012 she moved to Canberra to a graduate position with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship where she hopes to pursue her interest in refugee law and policy.

Nicholas Lane (Year 12, 2006) married Genesa Thackaray in January this year. Nick has a Bachelor of Music from the Wesley Institute and a Master of Teaching. He commenced teaching this year at Knox Grammar School.

Yvette Lapa (née Micallef, Year 12, 2006) graduated with a Bachelor of Exercise Science degree in 2009. She has almost completed a Grad Dip Ed (Secondary) and Grad Cert RE while working in Community Relations at the National Rugby League. In January, Yvette married Frank Lapa.

Rebecca Thomson (Year 12, 2006) has graduated from the University of Western Sydney with Bachelor of Arts and Master of Teaching degrees. She is currently teaching at Lurnea Public School.

Brendan Raymond (Year 12, 2009) is in his final year of a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Western Sydney, Kingswood. Brendan appeared on Australia’s Got Talent, with a song he performed at his final Macarthur’s Got Talent competition.

Jay Seeney (Year 2009) performs with ‘For Ever Road’ (www.foreverroad.com) and as Lead Guitarist for Peter McWhirter, a local Country Music artist. Jay and Peter played at CMC Rocks the Hunter country music festival with stars Lee Kernaghan, James Blundell, The McClymonts, plus international stars Tim McGraw, Faith Hill and Dierks Bentley. Jay is endorsed to play ‘Schecter Guitar Research’ instruments after signing a deal with the company.

Amy Ward (Year 12, 2009) is in her third year of speech pathology at Sydney University. She began her Honours programme this year, concurrently with the pass degree, and researches recovery of communication in traumatic brain injury.

River Ibe (Year 12, 2011) has been accepted at New York University. He will study Global Liberal Studies. He also plans to participate in an international exchange to Florence as part of his degree.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Lisa Close, Joel Geist, Elyse Glynn, Luke Hughes, Rheearne Ryan, Amy Ward (all of Year 12, 2009), plus David Stuart-Watt and Nicholas Wear (Year 12, 2011) all received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards from the Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO, on Saturday 28 April 2012.
Fun at The Junior School Camps

Building rafts, dancing, climbing, bush walking, archery, swimming, cooking ...

They’re all part of the fun at the two annual Junior School Camps for Years 3/4 and Years 5/6.