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ENTER TO LEARN   GO OUT TO SERVE
Macarthur has provided thirty years of quality Christian education throughout our region and internationally. Indeed, Macarthur has a reputation as the school of choice in the area. This has not been accidental, but a deliberate plan of the School Council. A great challenge in creating a school of distinction is remaining personal and responsive to the community. Annual surveys of students show that they recognise the school’s great sense of educational purpose within an enjoyable, supportive and safe environment for study.

It is good to reminisce, to focus on traditions and to celebrate extraordinary student successes at school and beyond graduation. Equally important is to think of the future, to plan, dream dreams and to make strategic decisions for the present and the future. This sense of the future has driven me as Headmaster, with the authority of the School Council, to develop and implement a Continual School Improvement Plan based on a cycle of five-year plans. The first iteration of this cycle includes strategies to build on academic success, to focus even more on developing sport, and to further strengthen the extraordinary music and performance credentials of the school. As well, we will foster Agricultural opportunities, the Snow Sports, Equestrian and Rowing programmes and other co-curricular activities, while maintaining the Christian values that underpin the school.

To cater for these student opportunities it is imperative that the Improvement Plan considers physical assets and facilities.

Both projects have been on hold due to the need to consolidate the Junior School precinct. Beyond are expansions to the Music/Performance and Technology/Creative Design precincts. Further into the future are plans for an auditorium.

Council is exploring funding alternatives for the GPLA’s and Science Centre and will communicate these to the school community when further work is completed. There will certainly be an opportunity for families to contribute to this project as previous families have for our existing buildings. What an exciting time to be part of this school! The immediate and mid-term needs are great but when we look at what already exists at Macarthur, we should with grateful hearts thank the families who preceded us, for providing a wonderfully planned and developed school.

DR DAVID NOCKLES

Cover Photo: Keegan Potgieter and Noah Gray representing Macarthur in Hockey. Photo: Mr Paul Looyen
Mr Milton Gower, one of Macarthur's longest serving teachers, will retire at the end of 2014.

Mr Gower was employed at the beginning of 1987 to teach Agriculture and Science, so will complete twenty-eight years of service to the school at the end of 2014. Beginning with a very restricted area of land at the Narellan site, Mr Gower worked hard to establish Agriculture as a popular subject in the Macarthur curriculum and guided the first HSC students and dozens of Year 12 students of Agriculture since then, through to the HSC. His expertise in Agriculture was recognised in his selection for many years as an HSC marker of Agriculture.

Mr Gower established the Macarthur Farm at Cobbitty, where students continue to learn the principles of horticulture and animal husbandry, with a focus on cattle breeding, angora goats and poultry. He established the Macarthur Show Team, which gives a vast number of students the opportunity to groom and lead animals in agricultural shows. As part of this commitment, Mr Gower generously gave much time to take students to the Camden Show, the Royal Easter show, agricultural field days and UWS Unisteer Competitions.

Beyond his teaching area, Mr Gower was an active backstage manager for the school’s Rock Eisteddfod team and every year could be found assisting in the production of school musicals. With his interest and considerable organisational ability, Mr Gower served Macarthur as Sports Master for ten years and as the school’s representative on the NSW Combined Independent Schools (CIS) Committee. He was the CIS Convener for Boys Hockey for ten years and an All Schools Manager for Cross Country teams competing at the national championship level. Because of his contribution to sport administration, he was awarded Life Membership of the CIS in 2010.

We wish Mr Gower well in retirement, although it might be hard to keep him away when extra help is needed for future show teams preparing for agricultural shows.

The Reverend Paul Davey joined the School Council early in 2014. Before entering the ministry, Mr Davey was an accountant, holding a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Newcastle. He is a former member of the Army Reserve and also worked as a missionary for fifteen months in Gabarone, the capital of Botswana.

After completing a Bachelor of Theology degree at Moore College, Mr Davey’s first ministry appointment was as the Assistant Minister at Wee Waa, then Senior Minister at Boggabri. In 2009, he was appointed as Senior Minister at St Luke’s Anglican Church, The Oaks.

With three children attending Macarthur, Hannah in Year 4, Bethany in Year 2, Gabrielle in Transition and Joshua to commence in 2015, Mr Davey and his wife Lorraine have an insight into the school as parents. They are delighted with the Christian emphasis of the school and how it has enhanced the spiritual development of their children, who find it so easy to express their faith at school and at home.

Mr Davey brings to the School Council his financial skills and his ministry skills, as well as considerable expertise in strategic thinking and governance. These skills flow from his experience as a member of the Anglican Counselling Service in the New England North West Region and more recently as a member of the Church Planting Task Force, a sub-committee of the Sydney Diocese Standing Committee.
Members of the School Orchestra and Preparatory Orchestra, students ranging from Year 5 to Year 12, could barely contain their amusement as they followed the baton of their conductor Mr George Ellis, while George Washingmachine, the Clown, ran through a series of on-stage antics.

Mr Ellis showed increasing frustration as he tried to conduct while George Washingmachine disrupted proceedings, taking his place in the orchestra on various instruments, riding his scooter across the stage and even conducting the orchestra, all to the utter delight of the many young children in the audience and their parents. At one point he even dared to invite a young member of the audience to also have a go at conducting. This was a light-hearted introduction to classical music for all age groups. It was also the culmination of two terms of intensive rehearsals and a great test of concentration for the school’s musicians, who were challenged and extended as they worked hard to attain the high level of musical excellence demanded by the school’s Director of Orchestras, Mr George Ellis.

Compositions mastered by the students included:

- In the Hall of the Mountain King – Edvard Grieg
- Symphony No 25 in G minor, 1st Movement – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- Sabre Dance – Aram Khachaturian
- Baby Elephant Walk – Henry Mancini
- Barber of Seville – Gioachino Rossini
- Trepak from Nutcracker Suite – Igor Stravinsky
- Harlequin – Louis Cahuzac
- Symphony No 5, 1st Movement – Ludwig van Beethoven
- Les Toreadors from Carmen Suite – Georges Bizet
- Entry of the Gladiators – Julius Fučík
- You Can’t Stop the Music, Village People – Arranged George Ellis
Teaching involves a focus on the forty-four phonemes (or sounds) and a number of sight words. In this way children develop reading, viewing and comprehension skills and use context, grammar, word usage and phonics to understand and connect to reading. With the aim to develop a love of literature and learning, the children read a wide range of quality literature.

There are differences in how children perceive and respond to written words. This leads to differences in how quickly children acquire literacy skills. While some ‘pick it up’ easily, some find the process more arduous. Early intervention to overcome any difficulty is a feature of the learning support system at Macarthur, helping to ensure ultimate success. Under the guidance of Mrs Susan Byers, an expert in this field, an intensive targeted programme caters for individual rates of learning. Collaborative curriculum planning determines the most appropriate curriculum options for all students in keeping with their learning needs, strengths, goals and interests.

In partnership with the school, parents, grandparents and older siblings all have a critical role to play in helping a child to learn to read. As all children love to imitate older children and adults, the habit of reading to children from a young age has been shown to have a profound impact in developing positive attitudes and a strong desire to learn.

Learning to read in our Junior School comes with a lot of fun activities, the latest being a development beyond our normal Book Week Parade of favourite book characters. This year, each class developed decorated wheelbarrows, to illustrate how they connected to reading. Wheelbarrow themes were:

**Transition:** A Teddy Bear’s Picnic  
Year 1: Alice in Wonderland  
Year 2: The Billy B Brown and Hey Jack books  
Year 3: Children’s Book Council shortlisted books  
Year 4: Connecting to History – Our Place Here and Now  
Year 5: My Life is an Alphabet  
Year 5/6 GATEway: The Giver by Lois Lowry  
Year 6: Holes by Louis Sachar
Sixteen Macarthur students had an amazing opportunity to take part in an International Music and Performance Tour to the United States during the Spring Vacation. They were accompanied by the Deputy Headmaster, Mr Andrew Kokic and the Head of Music, Mrs Inés Marrable.

The tour took in the great centres of musical creativity in eastern and southern USA. Commencing in New York, the group travelled on to Nashville, Memphis, New Orleans and Orlando, the home of Walt Disney World. In New York they visited Times Square, Greenwich Village and the Lincoln Centre, attended two Broadway workshops and went to Broadway performances of Aladdin and Matilda the Musical. They also experienced the amazing voices of the Harlem Gospel Choir and took in the sights of New York including the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, the Rockefeller Centre, Wall Street and visited Ground Zero.

In Nashville and Memphis the group visited the Country Music Hall of Fame, visited RCA Recording Studio B where Elvis Pressley was discovered and recorded, visited Graceland and attended the ‘Grande Ole Opry’ for performances of various types of country music.

In New Orleans, they went to the French Quarter where they saw jazz performers on every corner, Jackson Square and the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park. They also sailed the Mississippi on a paddle steamer listening and dancing to a fabulous jazz band. Finally, the group flew to Orlando and visited Universal Studios, rounding off the tour with a day at Walt Disney World. What an experience!
Memphis…What a beautiful place where you can experience the thought-provoking music and the diverse cultures of America. The music of Memphis is a place where black and white come together in a unity rare in American history. The tour of Graceland gave us an understanding of Elvis Presley that none of us had before. The house tour of his exquisite mansion in Graceland and the information we learnt during activities showed us the generosity of Elvis and indeed his incredible love for soul, blues and gospel.

REBECCA MATHEWS (YEAR 8)

New York! New York! The experience that the group shared in this city was breathtaking and I was honestly left speechless. The fast pace of life, the Broadway shows, the lights and the people were incredible! Time Square was a particularly amazing experience. We would emerge from a place at night and as we walked out to the streets the neon lights and huge screen advertisements would make it seem like daylight. It looked so absolutely beautiful and all in walking distance from where we were staying.

LULU ALBAROUKI (YEAR 10)

Two cities could not contrast more than New York and Nashville. It was clear that Nashville is the heart of country music. We roamed and explored the streets, an extremely authentic experience in which we were able to listen to various live country bands in different family friendly locations. On the streets of Nashville you could never escape the music, and it was a great feeling to be able to stop and listen without being in a hurry to be somewhere.

JULIA KOKIC (YEAR 10)
Everyone is involved in commerce by either running a business, working in one, or dealing with businesses on a daily basis.

A good understanding of all aspects of commerce is essential for consumers, borrowers and financiers, while an understanding of how a business should be run is essential for anyone seeking to operate a business or earn a self-employed living.

At Macarthur, Commerce is an elective subject taught in Years 9 and 10, while Business Studies is taught in Years 11 and 12. The aims of the Commerce course are to give young people the foundation on which they can make sound decisions regarding consumer, financial, business, legal and employment issues. Secondly, it develops in students an understanding of commercial and legal processes and competencies for personal financial management. Through the study of Commerce students develop ‘financial literacy’, enabling them to conduct their own financial affairs in an informed way, avoiding pitfalls such as impulse buying or running up too much debt.

Topics covered in the course include Consumer Choice, Personal Finance, Running a Business, Travel, Law in Society and Our Economy. Of particular interest to most students is how you run a business. At Macarthur, students have a practical opportunity to run their own business when Year 9 takes part in the annual ‘Business in the Quad’ project.

Groups of students set up stalls, after deciding on what they will sell, how they will advertise, where they will source their stock and what margins they will apply to ensure a profit. At the end of the project, students can assess their degree of success in running their ‘businesses’ and by sharing their experience in subsequent classes, learn from their peers.

But making a profit is not the only aim of the activity. The course teaches the values and attitudes necessary to operate in an ethical and socially responsible way.

Business Studies is a more focussed Year 11 and 12 subject, also taught within the Faculty of Social Sciences. However, a student may choose this course even if they did not elect to study Commerce in previous years. Business Studies is designed to give students an understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects of business. They learn about the nature of business, how to plan a successful business operation, how to manage a business and how to assess business performance. The focus ranges from running a small business to managing operations, marketing, finance and deploying human resources in large businesses.

Underpinning both courses is a range of considerations that are just as important as all of the factual knowledge students gain. These include the importance of an ethical approach not only in running a business but in the choices we make as consumers, in dealing with governmental and legal issues, and how we may continue in line with the school’s ethos of serving others.

All of the subjects covered in this series, Geography, Legal Studies, Commerce and Business Studies lay a solid foundation for further studies leading to qualifications in a wide range of fields. The Faculty of Social Science at Macarthur is fortunate in having a number of very experienced qualified staff to teach these important subjects.

(This is the third and final in a series of articles on the Social Science Faculty.)
The media frequently reports on health problems such as diabetes, obesity and circulatory system conditions associated with our more sedentary lifestyles. To lessen this nationwide problem, schools teach the importance of good nutrition and regular exercise in order to maintain a healthy body.

Indeed, Physical Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) is a compulsory subject to Year 10 and may be pursued as an elective to Higher School Certificate level.

However, it’s not enough to simply learn about these matters. Communities and schools must also provide facilities and opportunities for young people to be involved in physical activity. This is where Macarthur’s weekly sport programme is so important. Apart from the health benefits of participation in sporting activity, there are other significant benefits, including:

– an understanding of rules, so essential in playing or following a sport,
– a proper regard for good sportsmanship,
– pride in representing one’s school at higher levels,
– a sense of achievement and recognition for those who succeed.

At Macarthur, students are given a wide variety of sporting options, including Basketball, Football, Softball, Hockey, AFL, Cricket, Netball, Touch Football, Volleyball, Gymnastics, OzTag, Tennis, Rowing, Snow Sports and Weight Training.
INTO THE WOODS

Mrs Nadine James, Director of the Junior Musical Into the Woods, Jr. brought together a wonderful cast and crew, guiding and encouraging them as they prepared this production for our enjoyment.

She was ably assisted by a team of staff and parents, in particular Mrs Corrine Bamford, Mrs Hayley Tuft and Mr Kent Palmer who gave so much of their time and energy.

Into The Woods had all the wonders of a typical fairy tale, but with a twist. In this superb production we saw Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Jack, Rapunzel and of course the Witch, who were all needed to break the spell placed on the Baker and his lovely wife. Not only were the characters a joy but so too was the music consisting of more than twenty songs that had to be mastered by the students.

Outstanding performances led by Timothy Gidiess as the Baker and Olivia James as the Baker’s Wife, together with Sophie Patterson (Cinderella), Micah Paki (Jack), Ruth Alexander (Witch) and Shelley Feeney (Little Red Riding Hood), ensured audiences would become immersed in this drama, a story woven together from some of our best known fairy tales showing how we must all journey into the woods but that we must mind the future and the past.
CAST OF CHARACTERS

Baker Timothy Gidiess
Baker’s Wife Olivia James
Cinderella Sophie Patterson
Jack Micah Paki
Witch Ruth Alexander
Little Red Riding Hood Shelley Feeney
Cinderella’s Father Angus Townsend
Cinderella’s Mother Elyssa Stevens
Cinderella’s Stepmother Georgia Massaad
Cinderella’s Prince Daniel Kokic
Florinda Laura Whitelaw
Lucinda Isabel Webster
Jack’s mother Grace Amos
Rapunzel Lucy Locke
Rapunzel’s Prince Jonathan Kennedy
Wolf Bayley Gandy
Granny Mikayla Elling
Milky White Harry Hughes
Steward Elijah Gray
Mysterious Man Cameron Simmons
Spotted Cow Sascha Masjuk
Narrators Isaiah Gray, Paige Medich, Madeline Mingay, Caroline Psarris, Sophie Ristancevski, Luke Stewart
Villagers Claire Cooper, Mikayla Elling, Gabriella Hand, Elliot Herd, Sascha Majuk, Erin O’Brien, Joel Offord

A full list of Cast, Crew and Credits will be published in the 2014 Yearbook.
THIRTY YEARS SERVICE

Two Macarthur teachers have completed thirty years of service to the school. Mr Peter Toovey joined the staff at the beginning of 1985, adding to the original six members of staff employed in 1984. As the school grew, he was appointed as the first Faculty Head of the newly created Faculty of Social Science and has held this position to the present day.

Mr Moroney was a foundation member of staff, employed in 1984. He taught Physical Education and Mathematics for most of his time at Macarthur and also served as Sports Master. At the beginning of 2007, Mr Moroney retired from the teaching staff, only to return after one year to work as a member of the school’s Grounds, Maintenance and Transport team, thus also completing thirty years of service.

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENTS

Since the introduction of personal iPads for Middle School and Senior School students and classroom sets for the Junior School, much communication between students and their teachers takes place in an electronic form outside of normal lesson times. Students are submitting assignments online, receiving copies of any work they might miss through absence and receiving assignments and advice from their teachers by email.

Just as this transition has taken place in the way students communicate and handle information, the school has made the transition from communicating with families by postal mail to communication by electronic mail. Not only does this save the cost of postage, but also it is deemed more secure and more effective in becoming an easily retrievable communication long after it was initially delivered.

OUTSTANDING SNOWSPORTS SUCCESS

Nicholas Masjuk (Year 12) has achieved the distinction of becoming the Australian Snowsports Division 1 Champion after winning the Snowboard GS at Perisher. An outstanding achievement.

ANNUAL DINNER SUCCESS

The school’s fourth Annual Fundraising Dinner held on Saturday 16 August was a wonderful social event as well as a financial success. More than three hundred people enjoyed the entertainment by Peppermint Jam, while over a hundred donated items were acquired through the silent and live auctions under way throughout the evening. In addition, the contribution of various sponsors ensured the success of the dinner. At the end of the evening, the total raised was $43,440 – a wonderful success!

GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S AWARDS

Due to the demands of HSC study and the levels of achievement required, most candidates for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme only complete this award after completing Year 12 and leaving the school. For this reason, we usually mention them on our Alumni News pages. However, in 2014, five students have managed to already complete requirements for this prestigious award, soon to be presented by the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General David Hurley AC DSC. Congratulations to Amanda Bentley, Courtney Cross, Matthew Smith, Kym Van Den Heuvel and Melissa Zenkos of Year 12 who have achieved this remarkable distinction already.

ACHIEVEMENT BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Patchanon Tungkiasilp, an International Student from Bangkok Thailand, (known as Peem), commenced in Year 9 at Macarthur in April 2013. Peem has embraced school life in Australia and involves himself in numerous activities. He’s a Silver Duke of Edinburgh’s Award participant and a member of the Drama Club. Peem has also assisted in the After School Care Centre for his community service and is a keen soccer player. Peem was recently successful in being selected as a Peer Support Leader for 2015 to mentor students commencing in Year 7. Peem is to be congratulated for his effort and involvement and on his achievement as an International Student of being selected for this level of leadership in the school.
Thank you to all who continue to donate so generously to our school. While some donations made during 2014 were directed to current projects, some are being held for future development. The vision of School Council through the School Improvement Plan provides Macarthur the opportunity to commence seed funding for this proposed growth and development. Funds raised through the 2014 Annual Appeal and the Annual Fundraising Dinner have been directed towards this future development, which will benefit both current and future students of Macarthur.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the voluntary Building Fund, Library and Endowment Funds. In Kind donations are also greatly appreciated, as they assist with current school requirements including co-curricular activities. It is the extra opportunities we offer our students that sets us apart.

The Annual Dinner was held on 16 August. Thank you to all our sponsors, without whom we would have been unable to create the environment and atmosphere portrayed on the evening. Gold Sponsor: Maneto Architectural Joinery; Mr and Mrs Mark Wilson; Silver Sponsors: Wards Accounting Group, Mrs Christina Mavroidis; Hills Commercial Cleaning, Mr Peter Hurley; Gentle Dental Care, Ms Josephine Russo; Cut It Out Hair Design, Mrs Charmaine Smith; Dessert Sponsor: Callebaut, Mr G and Mrs M Willis; Light and Sound Sponsor: Runnymede Technologies, Mr W and Mrs K McCormack; Bronze Sponsors: Grimes Finance and Mortgages, Mr C and Mrs R Grimes; Fowers Carpets, Mr C and Mrs S Drysdale; CCU Auto Trim, Mr M and Mrs F Ornelas; Manpower and Training, Mr S and Mrs L Taylor; Select Wholesale Meats, Mr P and Mrs J Francisco; and M.A. Grant Services, Mr M and Mrs K Grant. Thanks also to Natalie Herd, Absolutely Fabulous, for transforming the Civic Centre into the theme Moonlight on the Terrace. Thank you for all community support offered, along with the fantastic donations given toward the live and silent auctions. Peppermint Jam kept all on the dance floor till late into the night.

Father’s Day came and went with much excitement from students of the Junior School. Thank you to all the Mums who assisted on the stall and who wrapped the multitude of gifts. Father’s Day Breakfast was enjoyed by all and it was great to see all the Dads playing good old-fashioned games with their children.

Macarthur loves connecting with the wider community and it is for this reason that we once again participated in the community Play Day at Curry Reserve and also the Rotary Relay for Life. Relay for Life provided a great opportunity to stop and chat with other members of our local community.

Our Parents and Friends groups, Women at Macarthur (W@M) and Men at Macarthur (M@M) continue to support the school through their various activities. M@M continue to host the monthly BBQ breakfasts. This event is growing in popularity – Batman even managed a visit this year! Thank you Mr Michael Banks from RAMS Home Loans for providing all the produce for these breakfasts.

W@M hosted a Pink Ribbon Tapas Night during October. This was held at Bistro Calavia. Thanks Michael and Jenny from the Bistro for supporting us as we supported the Cancer Council. Maralyn Young, from Breast Aware Australia was guest speaker at the event. Maralyn provided an informative and practical presentation for all at the event.

Talk Back Thursday (TBT) continues to grow. This group provides an opportunity for members of the school family to explore the Christian faith in a non-threatening and positive environment. This term the group has decided to partner and support Ruth Lesmana from Global Arms. Ruth is working as a Community Liaison Officer on the Thailand/Burma border. TBT is funding a sewing class that empowers young girls by providing a livelihood for them. TBT will be hosting a stall selling sewing items created by this group. Funds generated will be sent
I have been asked on occasion why we have community partners. I recently asked our partners to tell our community a little about themselves and what convicted them to partner with us. Here is what three of our partners have said.

**Matthew Chisholm from Chisholm and Turner Travel Associates:**

Chisholm and Turner is a boutique travel agency specialising in all your travel needs. Whether it’s a quick getaway, a family holiday or your dream trip, our experienced and knowledgeable staff will tailor a holiday perfectly suited to you. With a longstanding relationship with members of the school community already in place, we wish to reinforce those relationships by becoming an Annual Community Partner.

We at Chisholm and Turner appreciate the value in supporting our wider community. 

**Kylie Lyons from Handprint Photography:**

Handprint Photography is a boutique photography studio operating in the historic Old St Thomas Chapel in Narellan, specialising in weddings, portraits and commercial photography assignments. As a working parent I don’t get the opportunity to assist in school life like some other parents. By becoming a community partner with Macarthur Anglican School I can use my business knowledge and skills to assist the school in their advertising and fundraising projects. Together with the wonderful community of students and staff we can showcase the great work that the school does for the wider community.

**Leanne Azzopardi from Kaczanowski and Co.:**

Macarthur Anglican School has been a home for our children for the past eleven years. The opportunities they have been given have been invaluable. To partner with the school via a sponsorship is fundamentally what Kaczanowski’s vision and mission statements portray with us being a small family business supporting local farmers and producers by manufacturing from Australian produce. To support locally in both manufacturing and education is how we believe Australian businesses should invest.
Thank you to our donors

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(not previously acknowledged – 23 May to 31 October 2014)
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Mr A and Mrs C Henson
Mr S and Mrs L Ebeling

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Marilyn’s Needles and Threads
Mr G and Mrs S Medich

With grateful thanks to our Annual Community Partners

Macarthur Community

TARTAN TIES – SPRING 2014
Mr Looyen commenced at Macarthur in 2004, after returning from the United States where he taught for three years near Washington DC. Prior to that experience, he taught in inner Sydney and on the Northern Beaches. Mr Looyen is a native speaker of Dutch, after arriving in Australia from Holland at the age of eight. He is married to Erica, also a teacher at Macarthur, with three children, Jessica (14), Joshua (12) and Joel (10).

Mr Looyen says that he loves to share with students about the synergy between Science and the Christian faith. His aim is to engage students in the wonders of Science and help them develop a sense of awe as they study its finer points. Of Macarthur he says we have great students who (mostly) like learning and a great staff. He is also appreciative of the fantastic support of the school, especially when going through difficult times.

Apart from his role as Head of the Faculty of Science, Mr Looyen is a passionate photographer and now works in a semi-professional capacity, specialising in fine art prints, as well as portraiture and events. (www.stonemeadow.com.au) Mr Looyen is very generous in sharing his expertise in the school, supplying many of the excellent sporting action photos for school publications (see Page 7) and running a school photography club, to develop students’ skills, and to contribute to school life.

Mr Looyen is looking forward to travelling to New Zealand at the end of 2014 and to the United States with his family in 2015 where he will do lots of landscape photography.

Mrs Stassen began her teaching career in South Africa in 1981, working as a Year 1 and 2, teacher for eight years. While studying to become a teacher, Mrs Stassen worked at a local pharmacy and earned extra money sewing for friends. Whenever she has a spare moment, she sews, paints, gardens or reads. She then ran her own playschool for three days per week, and worked as a Museum Officer at a Dynamite Museum – explosive stuff she says! Then she worked as a pre-school principal for sixteen years before coming to Australia in February 2008.

Mrs Stassen says that getting to know the families, staff and students and being accepted and made welcome have been the good things about her time at Macarthur so far. She has also enjoyed the challenge to keep up with technology and the fast pace at which things are moving. “Staying true to God’s Word in an ever-changing environment is a constant challenge,” she says, “and I hope to encourage students to reach for the stars whilst being firmly anchored in God’s truths.”

Family is important to Mrs Stassen. She is married to Thys, who she has known since they were in Year 6 together. They have two adult children, Karien, a Regulatory Audit Coordinator, and Simon a Software Engineer. Travelling is also one of Mr and Mrs Stassen’s loves with visits to Namibia, America, Italy, France, England and Switzerland.

Mr Morgan began teaching at Macarthur in 2006 after several years of teaching at Broughton Anglican School. During 2013, he was appointed to the position of Co-ordinator of Academic Administration, a role that entails organisation of examinations and timetabling. Mr Morgan says he would like to be part of the success of students especially in giving the opportunity to higher ability students to achieve their best.

Mr Morgan and his wife Lynell have four children, Beth and David studying Mathematics and Medical Science degrees, and Caleb and Carol who attend Macarthur. The family loves board games (Baulderdash, Bang!, Ticket to Ride, Carcassonne, Dutch Blitz) and bush walking.

At Macarthur, Mr Morgan enjoys firstly, the positive feedback of students as they improve in their results, and secondly, watching staff grapple with his mathematical problems during Maths Week. He is also grateful to the school for having been able to see his two eldest achieve their potential, and move on to further study at university.

The Morgans attend St Paul’s Anglican Church in Cobbitty. He enjoys golf and gardening when they go well, which means sometimes it’s the company he enjoys most at golf. He has already travelled to North America but would like to travel to northern Finland to see the northern lights and to visit Antarctica. Mr Morgan says “I have witnessed God’s faithfulness, mercy and goodness, I am increasing in my understanding of the end of Psalm 23 where David writes, “Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life…”
With the Junior School established and growing, total school enrolment was more than 650 by 1996. The transfer of secondary classes in 1997 to Cobbitty happened at an opportune time. However, while potential overcrowding on the limited Narellan site was solved, another issue challenged the school for the next eight years. This was the operation of the school on two campuses.

There were challenges in keeping the staff of the Junior School and that of the Senior School together as a cohesive unit. (The concept of three components – Junior School, Middle School and Senior School was implemented at a later time when the whole school came together at Cobbitty.) Employing the expertise of secondary teachers to bring specialist language or music instruction to younger children was complicated by teachers having to travel between campuses. The Headmaster and other senior or administration staff were also constantly moving between Narellan and Cobbitty.

There were significant costs for maintenance, security and service charges in running two campuses, while adding to the facilities at Cobbitty. Notwithstanding these problems, the school continued to grow, reaching an enrolment of almost one thousand students by the year 2000.

The great desire of the Headmaster and staff was to bring the school together once again on one campus in modern, high standard classrooms. This depended upon the sale of the Narellan campus to provide the funds for the construction of Junior School classrooms.

While negotiations continued for the sale of the Narellan property, the school opened in 2000 the seven Robinson Classrooms, in honour of the former Archbishop of Sydney and President of the School Council, The Right Reverend Donald Robinson, the Gymnasium in 2002, the Staff Centre and the nine Patrick classrooms in 2003, in honour of the first Chairman of the School Council, Reverend Canon Allan Patrick. Around this time, the school also purchased an adjacent parcel of land, allowing space for the future Junior School classrooms.

Fortuitously, the land came with a residence, which now houses our excellent Café Macarthur and Uniform Shop.

Finally, with the sale and lease back of the Narellan property, new Junior School classrooms were built: St Thomas (eight rooms) and St Paul (three rooms), in recognition of the generosity of the churches comprising the Parish of Cobbitty and Narellan, as it was then known, who donated the first parcel of land at Narellan on which the school was established in 1984. At the same time, the wonderful Rehearsal Hall was built to enhance opportunities in music, for which the school had already acquired an enviable reputation. A total of thirty-three general classrooms have been built since 1997, in addition to the Moroney Staff Centre and the Gymnasium.

Finally, in July 2005, all Junior School classes from Transition to Year 6, occupied their beautifully appointed classrooms, complete with storage spaces, wet areas, computer spaces and their own Junior Canteen.

Postscript

Since this hectic period in the growth of the school, another round of building took place during 2011 and 2012, utilising funds from the government’s economic stimulus programme. The school gained excellent value with the addition of four classrooms, the Junior Hall and an extension to the library building. Now the school looks to the future, to raise funds for a further increase in the number of classrooms and an expansion of the Science Centre.
THE CLASS OF 1994

There was a great turnout for the Reunion of the Class of 1994 on 11 October. After a gathering at the school to meet with staff including the Headmaster, Mr Peter Toovey, Mr Robert Sim, Mrs Pat Low, Mr Terry Moroney and Former Deputy, Mr Tony Horsley, the group met at Barenz Restaurant in Camden for an enjoyable dinner.

Skye Abernethy (née Oxenham) studied part time for a degree while working. She has been living abroad and working as a senior Human Resources consultant for multinational organisations, including for three Olympic Games. She has lived and worked in the United States, the United Kingdom and Asia, with lots of travel scattered in between. Skye is married with two children, Thomas four years old and Bridie, two years. Currently living in Singapore.

Ainsley Atkinson (née Noakes) completed a Bachelor of Environmental Science with Honours at the University of a Wollongong and was awarded the University Medal for first place in the Faculty of Science for each year of her degree. Then worked at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation before training as a teacher and taught Geography and Legal Studies at the Illawarra Grammar School up to 2008. Ainsley and her husband Rowen have identical twins Toby and Mitchell (six years old) and Rhys (three years). Mitchell was diagnosed with cancer of the retina requiring intensive treatment and monitoring, but Ainsley and Rowen are now thankful that Mitchell has reached six months between checkups.

Karen Hunt (née Baker) studied at Macquarie University, gaining a Bachelor of Science with a double major in Human Anatomy and Physiology. For the last eight years, has worked in the Commonwealth Department of Human Services. Karen married Chris in 2005. This was soon followed by four children: Ariana (eight years), Aidan (six), Kiara (four) and Ethan (fourteen months). Karen says her work involves many ongoing challenges linking resources to people in serious financial need or at risk of ongoing vulnerability.

Sarah Hunziker (née Lindsay) attended Southern Cross University at Coffs Harbour completing a Bachelor of Business degree in Marketing. She worked for seven years at Yokohama Tyres, writing brochures, doing website design, and running conferences and incentive sales programmes. Sarah and her husband have travelled through Europe and spent three years working in South Korea and travelling through Asia as part of her husband’s job. Sarah has three sons ten, eight and six years old.

Sara Leone completed a Bachelor of Teaching degree and a Bachelor of Education. She began teaching at Punchbowl Primary School and since 2008 has been teaching at Cobbitty Primary School. She has done a lot of travelling to the US, Italy, England, Switzerland, Thailand, and Hawai and recently with her two boys, Joseph (9) and Nicholas (8) to Disneyland.

Linda McIntosh (née Newport) studied at Cornerstone Discipleship Community from 1995 to 1998. She married Jim in 1997 and was engaged in dairy farming with him for ten years. In 2008, Linda and Jim moved to Thailand and work with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship (omf.org). They lead a Discipleship Training Centre for tribal people from three different countries and enjoy meeting the Macarthur students who take part in the annual Thailand Outreach. They have five children aged from eight to fifteen years – Lillian, Torin, Angus, Conan and Hamish.

Francesca Musico-Rullo completed a Bachelor of Arts with Honours at the University of Sydney majoring in History. After some years carrying out further research and working as a university tutor, Fran took up teaching and currently works at St. Patrick’s College, Campbelltown. In this role, she was fortunate in taking a school group to Italy in 2005. Fran married Paul in 2008 and they have two children – Alessandra, three, and a half years old and Sebastian, one and a half years.

Anna Ross completed a combined Arts/Law degree at the University of Sydney, took a gap year after completing her studies and travelled around Europe. More recently skiing has taken Anna to some very interesting and beautiful locations. Anna is a Partner at Corrs Chambers Westgarth, a large law firm, specialising in dispute resolution and litigation. She is married to Nick Richardson and has a son Ned (Edward).

Natasha Searles (née Reece) worked at Westpac Financial Services, then went to Sydney College of Divinity gaining a degree in Theology. Natasha and her husband Warren owned a home renovation company in Sutherland, but she is currently, studying for a post-graduate diploma in Psychology. Natasha and Warren are on the Executive Team at Shirelive Church. They also lead a Christian outreach in universities across Australia called Students For Christ. Their travels have been mission-focussed trips to Indonesia and the Philippines. They have three children – Mitchell (seven years), Judah (four years) and London (three years old)

Joanne Sinclair completed a Bachelor of Social Science in Criminology and Psychology. She is a Sergeant of Police and works as a Team Leader at the Police Corrections Intelligence Unit. Her work involves liaison between the Police Force and Corrective Services NSW. Over the years, Joanne has travelled extensively through Europe and Asia. She has one nine-year-old son, Ryan.

Andrew Smith (née Galal, 1995) chase the snow all over the world travelling to Japan, North America, France, Switzerland and Germany. Andrew and Siobhan have a little girl Maeva two years old. They continue to keep active and can relate some amazing experiences from around the world – skiing, snowboarding and riding skidoos anywhere that fresh snow can be found.  

Andrew Smith and his wife Siobhan
David Sim completed a Bachelor of Teaching at the University of Wollongong. As a targeted graduate, he was employed immediately in a permanent position, teaching at schools in Edensor Park and Rosemeadow. He became a Teacher Mentor for newly appointed teachers and received promotions to Assistant Principal in Macquarie Fields and Deputy Principal at Liverpool West Schools. For five years he has been Principal of Lurnea Public School and is currently seconded as Chief Education Officer in the Early Action for Success Programme. David and his partner Chris have four foster children, ranging from seventeen years to one year old.

Zac Mihajlovic (2002) built a replica Batmobile based on the car seen in the 1989 film. Although he has been offered a large amount for the car, Zac uses his replica Batmobile to make terminally-ill children’s dreams come true. He joined the Make-A-Wish foundation to offer children a chance to see the famous car, even dressing up as the superhero. Zac delighted parents at the Annual Fundraising Dinner, turning up as the superhero and posing for photos. Zac’s fame is international. He and the car were featured in an article and video in the online London Daily Telegraph on 28 October.

Justin Holbeck (2008) recently graduated from the University of Technology Sydney with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Justin has also just announced his engagement to Millie Mae Schoenfeld, sister of Ebony Schoenfeld (2009), a former student of Macarthur. Justin and Millie plan to marry in December, 2014.

THE CLASS OF 2004

Several former students of this cohort attended their Ten Year Reunion on 18 October.

Jonathan Clipsham is a teacher of Music at All Saints College, Bathurst. He and his wife are expecting their second child.

Heather Dyson (née Milburn) completed a Bachelor of Applied Science at the University of Sydney, then worked for Crusaders in the Schools Outdoor Education Programme, at the same time completing a Certificate IV in Outdoor Recreation. She now works as an administrative assistant at St Matthews Anglican Church, West Pymble and is studying for a Diploma in Theology.

Heather has travelled to Europe including a mission trip to Croatia and to the South Pacific. She has been married to Geoff for four and a half years.

Cameron Noakes graduated from the University of Wollongong in 2008 with Honours in Environmental Science, then worked as an Environmental Consultant in the resources industry (2009-10). With his passion for Jesus, he undertook an apprenticeship (2011-12) in Christian ministry at St George North Anglican Church. Cameron is currently in his second of four years at Moore Theological College with a view towards Christian ministry in either Sydney or country NSW. In October he became engaged to Rachel Routh, also studying at Moore Theological College.

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Lloyd Grant (2008) has announced his engagement to Melanie Humble from Wollongong, who is a teacher of Kindergarten at Wollondilly Anglican School, where Lloyd is a teacher of Music. Lloyd and Melanie will be married in December 2015.

Quincy Law (2010) lives in Parramatta and is studying at the University of Sydney for a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Quincy’s passion is to be employed in social work, providing help for the homeless and for immigrants seeking to settle in Australia. He attends Gracepoint Presbyterian Church in Lidcombe, where he is a bible study leader. He is also active in the Chinese Christian Fellowship at university and leads a bible study group.

Vicki Wilkins (née Wynn) studied International Studies at the University of Sydney and now works as a Business Analyst. She married her husband Alex in 2012.

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CONTACT US

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EXECUTIVE STAFF

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Deputy Headmaster: Mr Andrew Kokic
Director of Business and Advancement: Mr Jonathan Oliver
Chaplain: The Reverend David Hayman
Dean of Studies: Mrs Melissa Gould-Drakeley
Dean of Students: Mr Timothy Cartwright
Head of Information Services: Mrs Patricia Low
Head of Senior School: Mr Scott Bedingfield
Head of Middle School: Mr Neil Davies
Head of Junior School: Mrs Kylie Elling

Year 1 at the Farm

“Resonance” Year 12 Concert

Macarthur Ball