A very interesting article in this issue of *Tartan Ties* draws our attention to the number of former students who are involved in some form of Christian ministry. It surprised me to see just how many of our former students have been involved or are still involved in ministry, or who are in training to assume a ministry role in the future.

Along with me, I’m sure you will be pleased to see that the mission of the school, to acquaint our students with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is taken up and continued by many students themselves after leaving school. So where does this desire to serve and minister begin?

Apart from formal Chapel services, Biblical Studies lessons and seminars, which are part of the school’s normal teaching routine, there are a number of voluntary Christian groups that meet each week, generally during lunch breaks. These include Senior Oasis for Years 7 to 12, Oasis in the Middle for Years 5 and 6 and Junior Oasis for Years 3 and 4. Various voluntary bible studies and prayer groups also run, the configuration varying from year to year. Many of these groups run under the leadership of senior students who form part of the school’s Ministry Team, under the guidance of the School Chaplain, The Reverend David Hayman.

To see so many who were involved in and leading school-based Christian groups continue into post-school ministry is certainly gratifying. It is also pleasing to see that several former students have been ordained, and are therefore making Christian ministry their career. However, it is just as important to note from the Page 5 article that it isn’t necessary to complete a four-year theology degree, or be ordained, to be involved in ministry. Many of our former students have other qualifications and jobs that open up opportunities for ministry in their workplaces. Many are studying for diplomas at various institutions so that they are equipped and confident for future ministry.

It is well understood that the school also encourages students to consider going out to serve others, be it locally or abroad. To this end, the school’s outreach programmes to North Queensland for Year 6 and to Thailand for Year 11 students, give practical opportunities for students to serve others and be involved in ministry while they are still at school.

The examples set by Ashleigh Mamo and Linda McIntosh, described on the page opposite, are instructive. Ashleigh credits the experience of participating in the Thailand Outreach in 2011 for opening her eyes to the needs of people in Third World countries. Her willingness to travel back to Nepal this year to help people suffering from the devastation caused by the April earthquakes is an inspiration. Similarly, Linda McIntosh is a fine example of faithfulness in her service over many years to the deprived communities of northern Thailand.

Turning to other matters, I commend to you the article concerning the teaching of Agriculture. One could speculate on the relevance of Agriculture in a school like Macarthur, now that it is located in an increasingly urbanised environment as depicted by the creeping development on our front and rear doorsteps. However, there are many city schools that continue to teach Agriculture, as a platform from which students may follow a wide range of career paths. More recently, I note in the media that with the decline of the minerals boom and the devaluation of Australia’s currency, agricultural products may once again become the pre-eminent export earner in the Australian economy. Furthermore, the high price of property in Australia’s cities, especially Sydney and Melbourne, may encourage many young people to pursue rural employment and living in the future.

So Agriculture is indeed a very relevant subject to include in the Macarthur curriculum. We can thank God for the wisdom given to the members of our School Council who served Macarthur during the early 1990’s, and who took the decisions involved in the purchase of such a large landholding, allowing the school to run a spacious farm operation in support of the teaching of Agriculture. And we can also thank those students referred to above who have recognised all that God has given and who now seek to give something back through ministry and service to others.

**DR DAVID NOCKLES**  
HEADMASTER

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*Cover Photo: Sean McIntosh at one of the many Shows he attended during 2015, leading a Simmental steer called Hornet, bred by Mr Alan Anderson of “Wondoura”. Crookwell, Mr Anderson had a granddaughter at Macarthur. Hornet won a Silver Medal at the 2015 Sydney Royal Easter Show.*
Ashleigh Mamo (2012) travelled to Nepal with World Youth International for eight weeks during 2014, enjoying the sights of this spectacular country, meeting the people, and experiencing the food.

Ashleigh was lucky enough to see Nepal before the devastating earthquakes in April 2015. “The country has been completely ripped apart”, Ashleigh says, “with homes destroyed, lives lost and the countryside devastated. It’s going to take years of rebuilding to get things back together again.”

Ashleigh acknowledges that her involvement in the Thailand Outreach trip in 2011 shaped her attitude about how she can help people in need. As a result, she is now one of the World Youth International volunteers who travelled back to Nepal in September 2015 to do all she can in the rebuilding of devastated communities. Before leaving, Ashleigh raised a considerable amount towards funds for the purchase of sorely needed building materials. “These people opened their homes and their hearts to me last year”, Ashleigh says, “and I want to do all I can to help them.”

Linda McIntosh (née Newport, 1994) and her husband Jim set off for Thailand in 2008, to work with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship. They lead a Discipleship Training Centre for tribal people close to the northern border of Thailand. A highlight each year is when they meet up with the Macarthur students who take part in the annual Thailand Outreach, which many students, such as Ashleigh, describe as one of the most defining experiences of their lives.

Ashleigh and Linda are fine examples of the school’s desire to see students entering to learn and going out to serve.

The Macarthur Faculty of Music has been enriched with the employment of Dr Rebecca Bennison (née Shepherd), a former student of Macarthur who graduated in 1998. Dr Shepherd studied Music for the HSC, majoring in Voice and Guitar. At the time she says she was (and still is) much in love with the folk music style of Bob Dylan and Joan Baez. She took part in many Macarthur performances as a solo singer, usually accompanied by Dean Bennison on guitar, who she married in 2012. Outside of school, Dr Bennison studied piano and completed her AMEB qualification.

After graduation, Dr Bennison attended the Conservatorium of Music and graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education. She then completed a BA at the University of Sydney, followed by a PhD in Contemporary Musicology which she completed in 2010.

From 2008 to 2011, Dr Bennison was an Associate Lecturer in Music at Macquarie University. “The experience of lecturing students at the tertiary level convinced me that there were serious flaws in the musical foundations of some students seeking a degree in music”, Dr Bennison says. “Although Macquarie has a great Music Department, I came across several aspiring students who had insufficient knowledge of musical notation, poorly developed concepts of music and a dearth of performance experience.” With this in mind, Dr Bennison started her own music studio in Narellan (Somerset Music), which quickly grew to about fifty students and had to relocate to larger premises.

While the studio continues, Dr Bennison says that her appointment to the staff of Macarthur allows her to reach even more students and to work at “filling in the gaps” to ensure students are fully prepared for the rigors of further music study and performance.
Chess has taken off in the Junior School with dozens of young players taking a keen interest in weekly competitions during lunch periods.

The enthusiasm of the students and the success in competition can be attributed to Mrs Kirsten Hey, who promotes the game in the Junior School, and to the help given by The Reverend Paul Davey, a parent and member of the Macarthur School Council. “Our results are a fantastic achievement,” Mrs Hey says. “They give me great hope for our future, since our team consisted of Year 5 students. We had another team of Lachlan Hey, Enoch Pei and Rowan Hey, who weren’t far behind on eleven and a half points. So the word is out. Macarthur is competitive and a school to watch in 2016.”
MACARTHUR ALUMNI SERVING

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

The mission statement of Macarthur Anglican School refers to the development of students in various domains including spiritual, academic, and physical, based on a clear biblical perspective. Within this supportive environment, students have the freedom to express and grow in their faith.

They are also encouraged to continue beyond school, remembering and applying in their lives their understanding of the Christian faith. It is therefore interesting to explore the number of former students who have done that in a very practical way, by becoming involved in some form of Christian ministry. Some of our alumni have become full-time workers in ministry, while others are involved in ministry while engaged in other fields of employment.

In this article, we detail the work of three former students who are deeply involved in ministry, while many others are referred to in the Alumni Section of this issue of Tartan Ties. No doubt there are others as we can be sure that the names that have come to our attention are by no means a complete list of former students involved in ministry.

Kristen Young (née Gatenby, 1991) is an author, speaker and ministry worker at Lithgow Anglican Church, along with her husband, The Reverend John Young, who is the Youth and Families Minister. She publishes a number of books, including the Survival Guide Series, a devotional series for high-school students, looking at bite-sized bible readings with study guides and prayers. Titles include: The Busy Girl’s Survival Guide; The Busy Bloke’s Survival Guide (co-authored with her husband John); The Survival Guide to Wise Living for Girls; The Survival Guide to Wise Living for Boys; The Survival Guide According to Jesus (Girls); and The Survival Guide According to Jesus (Boys). These are available at www.cepstore.com.au/devotions-1. Kristen also wrote a Youthworks Bible Study on 1 Peter. Her latest book, What If? Dealing with Doubts, was shortlisted for the Sparklit Australian Christian Book of the Year.

Peter Waterhouse (1993) graduated from the University of Wollongong with a Bachelor of Education (PDHPE) degree and was a teacher at Macarthur from 1999 until the end of 2006. Then he attended Ridley Theological College in Melbourne from 2007 to 2010, gaining a Master of Divinity degree and was ordained and appointed as Assistant Minister at St Mark’s Anglican Church, Camberwell. At the beginning of 2014, Peter took up a new challenge as the full-time Chaplain at Hume Anglican Grammar School in Mickleham, a growth area about thirty kilometres north of Melbourne. Hume Grammar is the first school established by the Anglican Diocesan Schools Commission in Melbourne and is expected to grow to twelve hundred students. Peter’s wife Joanne is also involved in ministry, teaching Religious Education at Methodist Ladies College, Melbourne.

Matthew Payne (1999) is involved in ministry much closer to Macarthur Anglican School. Matthew became a Christian at a very young age. After school he graduated from Moore Theological College and was ordained. He is now the Associate Pastor at Newlife Anglican Church, Oran Park, not far from where he grew up in Eagle Vale. Newlife Anglican Church is ideally situated to serve people who Matthew describes as being in transition, meaning they are at a stage of life where they are raising children, settling in to new surroundings and seeking new connections.

Now turn to the Alumni section on Page 19 to read about the many others who are also involved in ministry, beyond their years at school.
With the school operating its own farm, Junior School classes are only a short walk away from seeing how animals are raised and cared for by older students. It’s very possible that the desire to study Agriculture is initiated during these early years.

Middle School students in Years 7 and 8 may also be involved through the Agriculture Show Team (see next page), while elective Agriculture is available from Year 9. As the Headmaster has noted on Page 2, Agriculture is a highly relevant subject to study, especially because the rural economy continues to be vital in Australia. More specifically, the study of Agriculture provides the basis from which students may continue studies at a tertiary level leading to a wide range of career opportunities. In other words, the study of Agriculture is not just for people who want to become a farmer.

One of Macarthur’s teachers of Agriculture, Mr David Baker, lists several fields of employment when qualified in Agriculture. These include Farm Extension Officers, working in government agencies such as the Department of Primary Industries, liaising with farm owners, agricultural workers, and suppliers of agricultural products.

Agriculture graduates also work as private consultants and property managers. As land holdings are combined in some parts of Australia to make larger holdings, qualified managers are required for equine, cattle and sheep properties, as well as for large commercial operations producing wheat, cotton, rice, canola and vegetables.

At Macarthur, the farm and the teaching of Agriculture is constantly evolving. Recently, the school moved into sheep breeding, with a flock of White Suffolk sheep, reflecting the current growth of the sheep industry, particularly prime lamb production, in Australia. Our students are learning how it is possible to ‘value-add’ through careful selection and breeding. In 2016, Mr Baker plans to introduce an artificial insemination (AI) programme aimed at improving the genetic makeup of the school’s flock. However, the Agriculture programme is equally concerned with horticulture, particularly with vegetable production. Plans are afoot to expand the experience of our students with an extension to the vegetable growing area while there is a longer term vision for the establishment of an orchard. For students interested in this side of Agriculture, there are abundant opportunities for Agronomists researching crop rotation, irrigation, plant breeding and physiology, soil classification and fertility, weed and pest control.

**WHY THE WHITE SUFFOLK?**

Adaptable – an Australian breed developed for Australian conditions giving outstanding results in arid pastoral zones and in higher rainfall districts.

Ease of Management – a clean face and points (free of wool) gives minimal grass seed problems. Can be mated at any time of the year. Ewes have minimal lambing problems and a high percentage of robust lambs.

Wool and Skins – noted for their high quality, white, Downs type wool.

Elite Lambs – lambs are ideal for Elite lamb requirements producing high yielding, lean meat, with feedback from the meat trade confirming the breed’s suitability for Australian conditions.

Growth Rate – comparable to any other prime lamb breed.

Source: [http://www.whitesuffolk.com](http://www.whitesuffolk.com)
An enthusiastic and growing number of students are members of the Macarthur Show Team, working with the school’s cattle, sheep and poultry. Students devote much of their own time learning to groom and lead the animals at agricultural shows. Country shows occur on weekends with students participating in the Kangaroo Valley, Moss Vale, Camden and Sydney Royal Easter Shows to display cattle. At present the school has two Simmental-Angus cows that are due to calve in December 2015.

For the display of sheep, students travel to the Canberra, Castle Hill and Sydney Royal Easter Shows, with the prospect in 2016 of taking part at the Sheep Breeders Show in Dubbo, the largest show of its type in New South Wales.

All of this commitment by staff and students is not without a high degree of success, with proud students returning with ribbons to display. Full details of these achievements are recorded each year in the school’s Yearbook.
In a 2012 issue of Tartan Ties, we read about a small but enthusiastic group of students with an interest in Robotics. On two occasions, the group travelled to St Louis in the United States to take part in the FIRST* Technology Challenge (FTC) World Championship.

Some of those students have now graduated, but younger students are filling their places with the same enthusiasm for this field of exploration.

(*FIRST is an acronym: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology)

The Robotics Club at Macarthur has been in full swing throughout 2015 with three teams participating in competitions held at Macquarie University and at the University of New South Wales. Ten students from Years 7 to 12 competed this year at the FTC National Tournament and at the FTC Asia Pacific Competition with teams from Mexico, Thailand, China, the United States, New Zealand, Canada and Egypt.

The team designed, built and programmed their robot to gain points by removing a kick stand, releasing a number of balls to pick up and autonomously release into several goals positioned at different heights. The Macarthur team formed an alliance with other teams to become more competitive with several robots working to achieve the task of picking up all of the balls. Each game involved two students controlling each robot while a drive coach gave directions to avoid obstacles, like other robots. The robots then finished the game by parking up a ramp and turning off.

Eight younger students from Years 5 and 6 competed with schools from around New South Wales in The RoboCup Junior Dance Competition. Robot dancing is a stunning integration of Science, Technology and the Arts. Our students programmed their robots to dance to the songs Walk Like a Dinosaur and Eye of the Tiger. Costumes were made by the students for their robots and for themselves to support their dance choreography.

Our senior team was fortunate this year to be invited to meet with the Executive Team of Australia Post to learn how robots can enhance the future of the postal business. Students gained a wonderful experience linking their technology and engineering knowledge with an industrial application.

Our senior team compete again in December 2015 at Macquarie University after spending long hours in workshops designing tank tread drive systems, gearing systems and programming using Java language, to enable the robot to drive and identify colour beacons. Who knows where this fascinating activity will lead them in the future. The Robotics Club is open to new members who would like to take part in club activities in 2016.
Since 1990, Macarthur Anglican School has enrolled international students, who add their unique cultural background to the student body. This has only been possible because of the wonderful support of families who provide homestay accommodation for our international community of students.

Homestay families include families of current students and former students, as well as families only connected to the school as homestay providers.

The White family hosted a student for the first time in 1992 and still have students residing with them. Chris and Pam White's two daughters, Melanie and Emily, who are alumni of Macarthur, have grown up with international students in the family home. They are also diligent in building and maintaining strong friendships with students during their time in homestay and beyond their graduation. To this day, Mr and Mrs White keep in touch with many of the students they hosted.

Shirley Wang from Hong Kong commenced homestay with the White family in 2002 and lived with them for two years. Mr and Mrs White welcomed Shirley as a family member and taught her about Australian culture, food and traditions. They encouraged and supported Shirley during her school studies and maintained contact when she progressed to the University of Sydney, where she completed Bachelor and Masters degrees. After such a positive experience, Shirley acted as a resource person at university, assisting other international students.

Shirley and the White family continue their close contact, with Shirley visiting the family home earlier this year. Mr and Mrs White were delighted to welcome Shirley and her husband Bill, with Shirley ending a message later saying, “It was fun to reunite with my Aussie family who had a strong and positive influence on me and my perceptions of Australia. I am so grateful I was able to spend two memorable high school years with you.”

In September, Mr and Mrs White travelled to Japan to visit their daughter Melanie, who now lives in Tokyo. During the visit, they caught up with another of their homestay students, Isao Ondera, who stayed with the White family as a student of Showa Dai-Ichi School on a two-week study tour to Macarthur in 1997. Eighteen years later they continue to keep in touch.

Currently Mr and Mrs White are hosting another international student, Anna Liu, who came to Macarthur from Guangdong in China. After commencing in Year 10, she is currently studying in Year 11.

Mr and Mrs White have sought to treat all international students in their care as if they were looking after their own children. They included their students on family holidays, at family weddings and sought to be involved in activities the students wanted to do. Clearly, this worked well with an ever-expanding network of ongoing friendships among these very appreciative students.

The White’s recommendation to other families:

We would encourage families to get involved, as it has been a wonderful experience for our children to understand different cultures, their beliefs and ideas.

Macarthur is always seeking more families to join the homestay network. Families can host for as little as a weekend or as long as a year. There is great flexibility for families to choose.

If your family would like to investigate further this opportunity to host an international student, please contact the International Registrar:

Mrs Trish Cartwright
E: international@macarthur.nsw.edu.au
P: (02) 4629 6229
AIDA (SCHOOL EDITION)

From the Director: Ancient Egypt. Political Intrigue. An illicit love affair. These were the central themes in the musical Aida, staged by Macarthur’s secondary students in July this year. Though generally considered fictional, the story of Aida is from an ancient Egyptian legend discovered in a papyrus scroll and deciphered by French Egyptologist Auguste Mariette Bey in the mid-1800’s.

This legend was the source of Giuseppe Verdi and Antonio Ghislanzoni’s four-act opera Aida, first performed in 1871. While retaining the opera’s storyline, Elton John and Tim Rice’s musical rendition transforms the message and story into a modern theatrical presentation.

Aida is a passionate and tragic love story between Aida, a Nubian princess captured by the Egyptians and Radames, a captain of the Egyptian army, complicated by the prior engagement of Radames to the Egyptian princess Amneris. The themes of passion and tragedy are symbolised by the Egyptian pyramid, in what we call a love triangle. As in every love triangle, not everyone experiences requited love.

The biggest challenge we faced in presenting Aida this year was in portraying a range of emotions that our young actors have generally not experienced themselves. The ability to recreate strong emotion so that audiences believe what they see is the heart of acting. Our characters were emotionally engaged, such that the audiences were also engaged – exactly what we were all hoping for.

The hard work of our cast and ensemble achieved this amazing outcome, which is what made this musical so powerful. With a standard of dance that we have never experienced at Macarthur, and supported by the dedicated crew and musicians, our students can be proud of how their hard work did justice to such a demanding musical.

MRS NADINE JAMES
AIDA CAST

AMNERIS
Emma Whitelaw

RADAMES
Charles Wearn

AIDA
Jessica Pierce

MEREB
Jayden Houghton

ZOSER
Andrew Simmons

PHARAOH
Thomas Wood

NEHEBKA
Claudia-Rose Hackney

AMONASRO
Ernst Nel

GUARD
Noah Gray

ENSEMBLE
Lulu Albarouki
Talia Attired
Isabelle Banks
Jasmine Barrie
Jeremy Chau
Sarah Corby
Elodie Creber
Sophie Doyle
Julia Fernandez
Bayley Gandy
Timothy Gidiss
Elijah Gray
Bella Henry
Olivia James
Jonathan Kennedy
James Key
Kayla King
Julia Koric
Daniel Koric
Alana Kolanovic
Kevin Lubke
Sanya Mann
Sam Macdonald
Gabrielle Metua
Daisy Morphew
Rebecca Mortier
Samuel Nockles
Laura Perich
Amy Perich
Claudia Petrini
Giara Platt
Djannie Platt
Natalie Ristancevski
Georgina Seton
Austin Sierra
Cameron Simmons
Morgan Smith
Elyssa Stevens
Jarrod Webster
Lucy Webster
Zhang, Cheng Cheng

A full list of Cast, Crew and Credits will be included in the 2015 Yearbook
STALWARDS OF MACARTHUR TO RETIRE

Two of Macarthur’s longest serving teachers are to retire at the end of 2015. Mr Peter Toovey commenced at Macarthur in its second year in 1985, serving a total of thirty-one years by the end of 2015. Mrs Patricia Low began teaching in the Faculty of English in 1989 and has served the school for a total of twenty-seven years.

As the school grew rapidly in its early years, Mr Toovey was appointed as the Faculty Head of Social Sciences, a position he will relinquish at the end of 2015. Actually, in Mr Toovey’s case it is more like semi-retirement in that he will continue for a year working part-time with just one class in 2016.

Shortly after commencing at Macarthur, Mrs Low was appointed as Assistant Faculty Head of English. She continued teaching senior English classes until 2007 when she was appointed as the Head of Information Services, overseeing the refurbishment and expansion of the school’s library, the Stoddart Centre, as well as the introduction of much of the new technology now in use for research.

Backstage Manager or the Producer and Director of no fewer than twelve school musicals since she joined the staff in late 2005.

NEW TIMETABLE BEGINS

Secondary students returning to begin the new academic year in October experienced a new timetable, consisting of five one-hour lessons, rather than the previous arrangement of six fifty-minute lessons. The total lesson time remains the same so what are the advantages of the new timetable?

The sixty-minute lessons allow greater flexibility in timetabling and can be divided easily into thirty-minute ‘blocks’. While conforming to the time allocation requirements of BOSTES (The Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards), the new structure also allows a better alignment with the Junior School timetable and streamlines the transition to Sport on Tuesdays. Under the new arrangements, Year 11 and 12 students will have four lessons per fortnightly timetable cycle for a one-unit subject and eight lessons per cycle for a two unit subject.

This is the second major change to the timetable. Former students will remember the original configuration of seven-lesson days. Fewer lessons of longer duration make for more effective teaching time while minimising time loss caused by movement between classes.

INDONESIA TOUR

Seventeen students and four members of staff spent twelve days in Indonesia in the September holidays achieving a greater understanding and appreciation of this amazingly diverse country. The tour commenced in Jakarta with a visit to the MTsN3 School, with whom we have a close partnership. This was a hectic time, making friends and competing in games.

The group then travelled to Yogyakarta in central Java for a more relaxed and cultural experience. They enjoyed a relaxing becak (trishaw) ride down Jalan Marlioboro, the main street of Yogyakarta. They visited the nearby Eighth Century Buddhist and Hindu temples of Borobudur and Prambanan, and visited a village destroyed by the eruption of Mount Merapi in 2010. The students enjoyed the simplicity of village life, engaging in a range of activities such as cooking and learning to play traditional musical instruments.

The first visit by Macarthur students to Indonesia took place twenty-four years ago in 1991. Since then, visits have become a frequent and much anticipated experience helping students to understand more about this linguistically, ethnically and culturally diverse neighbour.

GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

Two Year 12 students, Mitchell Robinson and Henry Cartwright recently received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Government House, Sydney. This is an outstanding achievement as the demands of the Gold Award programme are such that many students only qualify for their award in the year after completing Year 12. The awards were presented by the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency The Honourable General David Hurley, AC, DSC (Ret’d). Ruedi Holbeck, Anke Booy and Lachlan Hanley also recently completed requirements for the Gold level awards and will attend their presentations in the near future.
We continue to plan for the next phase of growth at Macarthur Anglican School, and give heartfelt thanks to all who so generously support us in this endeavor.

Without support from individuals, community groups and businesses, plans such as these would be impossible. You may recall seeing a School Master Plan in the last issue of Tartan Ties. With such plans there is a significant financial cost. The 2015 Annual Appeal and Annual Fundraising Dinner raised funds again this year to dedicate to the Seed Partnership Project. This fund will seed future plans for development.

The 2015 Annual Appeal outlined why it is necessary to fundraise at Macarthur. Tuition fees and Government recurrent funding do not allow for capital development. In fact, 1% of this income is all that remains for development work. Teaching and staffing costs, along with academic resources, technology requirements and general maintenance, account for almost all of the income from fees and recurrent grants. Thank you to all who donated to the 2015 Annual Appeal. This Appeal raised $42,000 with monies directed to the Seed Fund Partnership Project.

The 2015 Annual Fundraising Dinner provided a fantastic opportunity for the school community to get together, enjoy each other’s company and raise funds. Special thanks again to all our sponsors. Gold: Integrity New Homes, Silver: Wards Accounting, Hills Commercial Cleaning, BM Management, Absolutely Fabulous, Oran Park Podium and Schwarz Family Practice. Bronze: Narellan Motor Inn, M A Grant Services, Capital Finance Australia, Lil Treasures, Grimes Finance and Mortgages, Fowlers Carpets, CCU Auto Trim and Select Wholesale Meats.

Thank you to our MC, Justine Diana and auctioneer David Harvey. Guests were able to dance the night away to music provided by Peppermint Jam. Thank you also to Tom Roberts from Tom Roberts Media for the amazing video created to showcase Macarthur to guests at the dinner. If you missed out on seeing this maybe you would like to look on the school website to view it. The final figure raised at the Annual Dinner was in excess of $48,000! Again a record for funds raised at this event. Thank you to all who contributed.

Women at Macarthur (W@M) have just held another very successful Pink Ribbon Event. This year Project Pink was held at The Italian Food Project. Thank you Alison and Giuseppe from The Project for welcoming and looking after all of us so well. The Italian Food Project provided a beautiful venue for our alfresco event. Guest speaker, Dr Shelley Hwang had guests captivated with her engaging talk. Shelley discussed cancers common in women, treatments and proactive steps.

The Father’s Day Stall was again a highlight for the younger students. It is so enjoyable to watch the excitement and sheer delight on their faces as they walk into the stall. Many thanks to the mothers who assisted with the wrapping of gifts and selling at the stall.

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women can take to do the best they can in preventing or diagnosing cancers early. It was a real pleasure to come together and raise funds for the Cancer Council. 

Men at Macarthur (M@M) continued their barbecue breakfasts every fourth Friday of the month throughout the year. These breakfasts have steadily grown in attendance over the years. I thank all the M@M for the many early morning hours they dedicate to these events. Thank you also Michael Banks of RAMS Home Loans for kindly donating the produce each month. Thanks for a great year M@M!

As we look to our community for support throughout the year, we were delighted to support groups in our wider Macarthur community through various sponsorships. We gave assistance and sponsorship to Camden Rotary as a Gold sponsor of Relay for Life during September. Although the weather was unpredictable with showers through the day, the event was another great success. Thank you to Team Macarthur who walked throughout the twenty-four hour period. A highlight is always the Candlelight Ceremony at dusk. Macarthur student Claudia-Rose Hackney gave a truly outstanding performance throughout this service. Thank you and well done Claudia-Rose.

The Harrington Park Anglican Church Community Carols held on Saturday 12 December at Harrington Park Public School is the last event providing another sponsorship opportunity for Macarthur in 2015.

The Annual Benefit Concert was again a successful and enjoyable event. Proceeds from the evening were directed to the local charity, the African AIDS Foundation. The AAF has been operating since 1999 under the guidance of Dr John and Mrs Rosalie Schwarz, raising funds for projects in South Africa and Kenya. The school had the pleasure of donating all funds raised at the Benefit Concert to the Foundation.

It is always a delight to thank our valued supporters each year. This year we did this in the Cranmer Room on Thursday 26 November. I hope you were able to join us if you have been one of our volunteers throughout the year.

Thank you also to our Community Partners. Your support is most important to the functioning of our school. Thank you for your loyalty and generosity over the past years. Thank you MAD Excavations, Handprint Photography, Chisholm and Turner Travel Associates, Kaczanowski and Co. and Macarthur Automotive Mercedes Benz.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting Macarthur during 2015 and wish you an enjoyable Christmas and a restful summer break and a wonderful year in 2016.

Sharon Pascoe-Thomas
Community Relations and Fund-Raising Manager
T: (02) 4629 6207
E: spascoethomas@macarthur.nsw.edu.au

With grateful thanks to our Annual Community Partners

Claudia-Rose Hackney and Paris Newmann

September also provided another opportunity to offer sponsorship support to Narellan Rotary. Macarthur was delighted to support this year’s Camp Quality EsCarpade event. Narellan Rotary members participated by driving their car Kermit from Broken Hill via Port Augusta to Albury, visiting schools and towns on the way. This event raised much-needed funds for Camp Quality (creating a better experience for children with cancer). It was wonderful to see the Macarthur crest so proudly placed on the front of the car, showing our support for this worthy cause. Funds made by Narellan Rotary will go towards two junior camps for young cancer sufferers. Well-done Narellan Rotary!

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With grateful thanks to our Annual Community Partners

Claudia-Rose Hackney and Paris Newmann

September also provided another opportunity to offer sponsorship support to Narellan Rotary. Macarthur was delighted to support this year’s Camp Quality EsCarpade event. Narellan Rotary members participated by driving their car Kermit from Broken Hill via Port Augusta to Albury, visiting schools and towns on the way. This event raised much-needed funds for Camp Quality (creating a better experience for children with cancer). It was wonderful to see the Macarthur crest so proudly placed on the front of the car, showing our support for this worthy cause. Funds made by Narellan Rotary will go towards two junior camps for young cancer sufferers. Well-done Narellan Rotary!
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(List includes donations made up to 21 September 2015.)

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ANNUAL APPEAL
Indeed, musicals have become so popular that every production runs for a ‘season’ of at least five performances, often more. A free community performance for Seniors on a Monday is the start of the season, followed by the first ‘ticketed’ performance that evening. The week continues, until the final curtain following two Saturday performances. It’s a busy time for all members of the cast and crew, with ongoing attendance at lessons and sport through the daytime hours.

It will be noted from the list of productions in the last issue, that one musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, was performed twice, in 1992 before the Junior School came into being, and again in 1997 by the fledgling Junior School with some parts played by members of staff. The 1992 production, directed by Mr Vernon Flay, starred David Sim as Joseph and Peter Waterhouse (mentioned on Page 4 in this issue) as Pharaoh. The 1997 production, directed by Mr Steve Stretton, starred Aaron Billyard as Joseph and Mr Melvin Tan, a teacher of Year 2, as Pharaoh. The part of Narrator was shared between Victoria Spry, Sarah Nicholson and Dilan Ponnadurai.

Musicals were not the only productions enjoyed by the students who took part and the audiences who came to see them. An early dramatic production staged in 1996 was the comedy thriller by George Robbins, *A Tomb With a View*, about a family of eccentric characters who came together to hear the reading of a will. Also directed by Mr Vernon Flay, the play starred Matthew Scott, Bryan Seidel, Carolyn Fisher, Lisa Donaldson, Joel Costello, Kaylene Errington, Tanya Emes, Dion Tsoukalis, Michael Schwarz and Sophie Little. Unfortunately, photos of this production could not be found.

As we said in the last issue, the archives are not complete with photos and programmes from all of these wonderful events. If any readers have extra copies of photo prints from early musicals they took part in, the school would be grateful to receive them to add to the archive collection.

In the last edition of *Tartan Ties* we began to look into the tradition of outstanding musical productions that have taken place over the years. With the extraordinary commitment of the staff and students involved, musical productions are a showcase for the talents of Macarthur students, as well as memorable times of entertainment for families and community who made up the audiences.
After graduating from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Mr Timothy Norman taught at Al Sadiq College in Greenacre and at Rosebank College before his appointment to the staff at Macarthur in January 2014. Mr Norman majored in piano at the Conservatorium and taught piano while he was a student. Currently he is studying for a Master of Education degree at the University of New South Wales.

Mr Norman and his wife Andrea, a teacher at Nepean Christian School, have travelled extensively through China and Vietnam, with fond memories of The Great Wall and Halong Bay. As a student he travelled to Bali, leading to his involvement in a Sydney-based Balinese Gamelan group, Sekaa Gong Tirta Sinar, which performed at the Conservatorium of Music and ran workshops for the public.

Mr Norman says he is enjoying the breadth of teaching experience he is gaining at Macarthur by teaching music from Year 3 up to senior classes. He also takes a Boys Choir and a Year 5/6 Vocal Ensemble. At the beginning of 2015, Mr Norman gave all of the Christian Studies talks at the Year 7 Camp and is involved with Year 7 to 10 lunchtime bible study groups.

“I am passionate about helping my students grow and develop in their knowledge, skills and understanding both as young musicians and as global citizens,” Mr Norman says. “I want them to realise that music is an exciting global phenomenon that has an important place in all of our lives, regardless of whether one pursues it just out of interest, or through further study or as a career.”

Mrs Sarah Stewart grew up in Pennsylvania, USA. She and her sister saw much of the United States while her father, an Australian Olympic Team show jumper, competed. She attended Millersville University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, then left for London, to work as a nanny.

Back in Sydney, Mrs Stewart studied teaching at the University of Sydney, eventually commencing at Macarthur in 2011. “I hope to contribute to the growth and well being of the students,” Mrs Stewart says. “and to develop a deeper understanding of how intellectual and social development affects their learning.”

Mrs Stewart enjoys the school camp and getting to know the students in a comfortable yet challenging environment. In 2014, she accompanied the Thailand Outreach team, a particular highlight in her experience so far at Macarthur. She looks forward to continued involvement and to furthering positive relationships with Macarthur families.

While Mrs Stewart enjoys gardening and crafts such as card making, and scrapbooking, her two energetic boys and their father enjoy outdoor games, especially cricket. She loves animals and says she will give almost anything a home. “I have a keen interest in travel,” Mrs Stewart says, “and would like to set foot on every continent. The cultural experiences one has while travelling are memorable and immeasurable. I look forward to sharing those memories with my boys and with the students I teach.”

Mr Simon Joel brings a very broad industrial and technical experience to Macarthur. After serving for ten years as a qualified electrician with Sebel Furniture, he worked at Consonic Engineering as a Senior Electrical and Electronic Service Technician. His duties included installing and servicing injection moulding machines, robotic machines, material handling systems, sterilisers, ultrasonic equipment and programmable logic control (PLC) systems. At Fairfax Pty Ltd, he was a Publishing Operator working on PLC systems for logistics and dispatch.

Few people bring such a wealth of experience as Mr Joel to the role of IT Support. He is the first port of call for students and staff, helping them to solve issues with iPads and computers. He also works as a member of the IT Team maintaining the school’s fibre-optic network, computer servers, audio-visual equipment and printers, as well as preparing upgraded equipment ready for distribution.

Since joining the Macarthur staff in early 2010, Mr Joel says he has expanded his knowledge of computers and networking in what he describes as a new career in IT. He enjoys working in the Christian environment of the school, among young people similar to his own two children, aged thirteen and eleven years.

For leisure, Mr Joel enjoys fishing, cycling, renovating, Karate (GKR) and motorbikes. He is keen to travel and see all parts of Australia (by motorbike) as well as overseas destinations. His long-term dream is to own a house somewhere on the beach, with a boat anchored nearby ready to go fishing.
As a continuation of the article on Macarthur Alumni who have become involved in Christian ministry (Page 5) we list here a number of other former students who are involved in or training for Christian ministry. As the list suggests, the number of our alumni who have gone out to serve in ministry is extensive, but almost certainly, there will be others not mentioned here.

Adam Richards (1992) was a parish worker in the Parish of Narellan, then studied at Moore College for a Bachelor of Divinity degree. He was ordained and became the Assistant Minister in Narellan during 2010 and 2011. He is now a member of Campus Bible Ministries, part of the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students, at the Campbelltown Campus of Western Sydney University. From 2012 onwards he is also the Honorary Assistant Minister at St Peter’s Anglican Church Campbelltown.

Peter White (1992) a former School Captain, trained as a secondary teacher and then completed a Diploma in Theology. For five years he was the Head of Christian Studies at Sutherland Shire Christian School, before joining Anglican Edcomm (formerly known as the Anglican Education Commission) in 2015. He is the Head of Christians in Teaching, an arm of Edcomm concerned with theologically equipping Christians for teaching.

James Edgerton (1999) worked for several years with Anglican Youthworks, often coming into contact with younger Macarthur students when they attended a school camp at Waterslea near Nowra. James is now a teacher at The Illawarra Grammar School.

Timothy French (2003) is a leader of worship ministries at St Stephen’s Anglican Church in Thirlmere. He is also a member of a Christian Band called Southdown, which has taken part in the Black Stump Christian Music Festivals held at Cataract Dam.

Cameron Noakes (2004) is in his final year of studies leading to a Bachelor of Theology at Moore Theological College.

Timothy Ash (2005) is the Youth Minister at St John’s Anglican Church, Camden.

Hannah Blake (2005) is in her first year of studies at Moore Theological College.

Kim Toovey (2006) is due to graduate with an Advanced Diploma in Ministry from the Hillsong Church in Sydney.

Dylan Maloney (2007) is studying at Sydney Missionary Bible College and works part time at St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Camden.

Daniel Favretti (2008) is involved in St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Camden, sometimes leading services and preaching.

Elliot Ku (2009) is attending Christ College in Burwood, an affiliated college of The Australian College of Theology.

David Withington (2010) completed an Advanced Diploma in Theology and Youth Ministry with Anglican Youthworks. He runs a youth group at St James Anglican Church, Minto and is currently studying at the University of Wollongong. He was recently married to Alexia.

James Lane (2010) has a double Diploma in Theology and Ministry and is the Children’s Co-ordinator at St John’s Anglican Church, Camden. He was recently married to Amy.

Quincy Law (2010) is a bible study leader at Gracepoint Presbyterian Church in Lidcombe and active in the Chinese Christian Fellowship at university. (See also: Alumni News, Tartan Ties, Spring 2014)

Alice Neaves (2010) is about to graduate with a double Diploma in Theology and Ministry from Youthworks, and is continuing on to a Bachelor of Theology degree at Sydney Missionary Bible College. Alice was an intern at Figtree Anglican Church for three years, working in children’s ministry. She has plans to also complete a Graduate Diploma in Sexology (the scientific study of human sexuality) at Curtin University.

She runs her own ministry Grace Spot Ministries (The G-Spot) for female sex and porn addicts, which can be found at thegracespotministries.weebly.com

Lukas Taylor (2010) completed a Certificate IV and Diploma in Ministry and this year became the Youth Pastor of the Anglican Parish of Sandy Bay and Tarana, in Hobart, Tasmania. He is also the Assistant Chaplain at the nearby Fahan School, a non-denominational Christian school in Sandy Bay.

Bronte Naylor (2011) is studying at Youthworks College, Loftus and working at St Peters Anglican Church, Campbelltown.
2015 Tour to Indonesia visiting Jakarta and Yogyakarta in central Java