



## From The Headmaster's Desk

Welcome back to a new school year which has begun with great success. The Junior School have a wonderful new focus for the year with Bima the Bee. As the year progresses students will be encouraged to "BEE . . ." It is our hope and prayer that the students across the School can make a lifestyle choice of being involved and doing so in a way that honours them, their families, their school and our God.

The Middle School students have also begun well with the investiture and training of the Middle School Prefects and a number of innovations that will be brought into the school programme as the term and year progresses.

I trust that you have had an opportunity to look over the publication covering the HSC successes. If not, can I encourage you to do so, a link can be found on the School Website under the 'About Macarthur' tab. Each year the School has an external audit conducted of its HSC results and as a result we have been able to put into place programmes that provide value adding opportunities for students.

It is a delight to see that the HSC cohort of 2014 took up these opportunities to stretch themselves and in so doing have achieved wonderful success. What is most pleasing about the results is that the successes achieved have been spread right across the academic spectrum. The most academically capable students have certainly performed well but a close inspection of the results across the board demonstrate that the

plodders and the strugglers have achieved wonderful results as well. There are many students who, in spite of their lack of confidence or insecurities, have achieved results that have and will continue to open significant doors for them in both work and further education.

Essentially, education is about broadening the life chances of students. These results demonstrate that Macarthur students, whatever their innate ability, work hard, are supported by wonderful teachers and as a result can achieve well.

My sincerest congratulations must go to the entire cohort for their application, energy and resultant successes. I do hope that the current students look at this cohort and realise that they have similar potential to set sensible goals, as well as perhaps some that will stretch them, and with hard work and consistent effort will be able to achieve great success too.



# From the Deputy Headmaster

Is your child a perfectionist? Did they inherit it from you or your partner? If so, we have a problem.

Perfectionism will probably get your child great academic results and help them to excel at anything that they put their mind to, but it will never allow them to enjoy those successes, because perfectionism runs counter to reality and is a risk to mental well-being.

The perfectionist battles a permanent sense of discontent because they believe:

- Things can always be done better...(and perhaps they can, but at what cost?)
- Everyone should hold the same standards as they do...(but they don't and never will).
- They can rest when the work is done...(but work is never completely 'done.')
- They are only as good as their last performance...(and so are permanently anxious)
- The world can be made ideal through sheer hard work...(it can't. It is a fallen, imperfect world...just ask the former Communists about their promised 'Worker's Paradise.')
- They are unacceptable to others being less than perfect...(they aren't...I still manage to love my wife and children )

Perfectionism is really about two things: Control and the desire to be accepted/loved/valued by our efforts. But we are not in total control of our lives and bad things can happen to us no matter how hard we try or work to make our lives perfect. Effort will have its limits. As Jesus said, 'In this world you will have trouble...' (Jn 16:33)

The Christian is freed from perfectionism because:

- Jesus was punished for our forgiveness...(neither our performance, nor our own effort is what really counts. Jesus has done the perfect, acceptable work on our behalf)
- Jesus was perfect and so we are free to fail (and from time to time we must expect to fail. When we fail, we can be forgiven).
- Because Jesus was extraordinary, we are free to be ordinary (Permanently, acceptably ordinary...how beautifully freeing!)

Perfectionism? He has done it. It is finished. Perfectly.

**Andrew Kokic**

## Holidays Taken by Students Outside of Vacation Periods

As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.

In exceptional circumstances, parents should write to the Headmaster seeking permission and giving reasons as to why leave needs to be taken during School Term time. Depending on the reasons given the absence from school may need to be recorded as 'Leave' or as an 'Absence'.

The Application for Exemption from Attendance at School is still to be completed if the student needs to be taken out of school in term time for employment in the entertainment industry or elite sporting events.



# From the Dean of Studies

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## Thinking and Writing

### Thinking Deeply

Teaching students to think deeply will be a focus for all students this year at Macarthur. In order for students to develop enduring understandings, it is essential that they learn how to think critically and creatively rather than just acquire and store knowledge. Funnily enough, thinking doesn't come naturally to everyone and when we tell students to think, unless they are guided, they don't necessarily know what to do. For this reason, teachers at Macarthur are helping students activate their thinking by making it visible in the classroom with explicit instruction and thinking routines. Much of this has been informed by the work of educators Ron Ritchhart, Mark Church and David Perkins as part of their work at Harvard Graduate School of Education. It is our goal to build an academic environment at Macarthur that fosters positive and thoughtful learning attitudes.

There are six principles of thinking and in each Bulletin I will explore one. The first of these is "*Learning is a consequence of thinking.*" Students' understanding of what they learn and their memory of what they learn increases when they think deeply about the content, concepts and skills they are studying. Thinking deeply means looking at things from different

perspectives, looking at new possibilities and brainstorming hypothetical outcomes and considering why you come to certain conclusions. All of this involves talking and sharing with others. So when a child comes home and you ask 'How was School today?', add the question, what did you learn to think about today in class?

Reference – Ritchhart, R and Perkins, D *Teaching Students to Think* Educational Leadership Feb 2008, 57-61

### Writing

For the past number of years, we have been analysing our external tests results such as those from Naplan and Allwell. While Macarthur's results in these tests are pleasing, we want to continually strive for excellence and improve. As such, after reviewing the data, we have decided to concentrate on improving writing. This term the Transition to Year 6 staff are participating in professional learning in the area of writing and employing a range of teaching strategies to enhance writing in the classroom. One of the students' learning goals will also have a writing focus and we encourage parents to discuss this goal at home. Once again, teachers will be selecting the best student work for 'Macarthur Musings' which will be published each year. It is anticipated that the first version of this will be available at the end of February.



Melissa Gould-Drakeley

# From the Dean of Students

## Gold Duke of Edinburgh New Zealand Trip

It was a challenging four day hike over the Kepler Track on the South Island of New Zealand for our Gold Duke of Edinburgh test hike. Thirty two students participated and all successfully managed the rigours of the hike, which combined significant uphill gradients with spectacular views. Day one was a climb of 950 metres in misty conditions which proved to be challenging to all as packs were full and the track has no flat sections until the first camp close to the summit of Kepler. Day two was definitely the most rewarding with sunny breaks and glimpses of the 360 degree view over Te Anau and surrounds. Very steep climbing where the end of each climb was shrouded in mist gave no clue as to the length of the rise and very exposed ridges where the wind chill gave an appreciation of how rugged the terrain was that we were trekking through.

Day three and four were significantly easier with wonderful scenery as the track wound its way through the rainforest alongside the icy rivers back to the starting point. This was an achievement that will be long remembered by all of our students and a wonderful time for forging friendships in these unique circumstances.

The remainder of the trip had its highlights in other ways. A day trip to Milford Sound proved to be spectacular with clear blue skies, dolphins and incredible landscapes. On the way back, a climb to a nearby glazier filled hours of entertainment as students slid on the icy slopes, or scrambled besides the near freezing waterfall. Shopping, Thunderjet and Luge rides in Queenstown were a treat for all and a great way to finish the trip as the culmination of Duke of Edinburgh adventures with this group of students.

The camaraderie that has bound this group of Year 12 students together has been founded upon friendships that have developed since Year 9 when the same students started their Bronze level. Each of these students has gained skills and experiences needed to allow them to face similar adventure challenges and overcome future difficulties with the same mental strength tested over the course of their Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

This extra curricular activity is one that I encourage all students to consider with the rewards of long term perseverance and commitment being experienced by all participants of this years New Zealand trip. Many thanks to Miss Cameron, Mr Hughes and Mr Horne for their dedication in planning and efforts in keeping up with the energy levels needed for such a trip.

Tim Cartwright





# Chaplain's Chat

## Happy New Year!\*\*\*

Each new year brings so many new things. I remember (when I was at school) eagerly wanting to get to school to see how much had changed for my friends and me.- not the least of which was how we had changed in height and physical appearance! Of course there are other new things – new teachers, new students, new subjects, perhaps new interests.

At Macarthur students are encouraged to take the (good) risks to try new activities. I want to invite you to **try the 'Bible Studies' and Oasis meetings**. Don't let the names scare you off (the idea of 'bible' and 'study' at lunchtime may not sound really exciting!).

What you will find is a really friendly bunch of students who are having fun together and trying to sort out how to relate what God wants of us (through his word) in our daily lives as we live for Jesus...and a teacher or two (who are also really friendly) who help lead the discussions... and if you are not really that keen – come anyway and check it

out. (there are about fifty-sixty students who come each week!)

Years 7-12 meet on Thursday lunchtimes (Years 7-8 in the Chapel, Year 9 in the Chapel Foyer, Senior group (Years 10 and 11) RR5, Year 12 boys PR 9 ¾, Year 12 girls PR3). And occasionally we have 'Mega Oasis' meetings – you will need to ask about these later.

Years 5-6 meet as 'Oasis in the Middle' on Tuesday lunchtimes in the Chapel Foyer.

Years 3-4 meet as Junior Oasis on Friday Lunchtimes in Paul 3.

And there is a Year 5 girl's bible study that you will have to ask Mrs Elling about (Thursday lunch).

### Bulletin Bible Verse

"Sing to the Lord a new song." (Psalm 96.1)

Reverend David Hayman



### Thank You Parents and Friends!

We now have new signage located around the School which have been provided by funds raised by our Parents and Friends.

# Parents & Friends and Community Chat

At Macarthur, Parents and Friends is run a little differently to most school models. We realise that family time is precious and most people seem to be time poor these days so we have altered our Parents and Friends structure to accommodate the pressures and demands of life.

Parents and Friends consist of many smaller groups: Women at Macarthur, Men at Macarthur, Talk Back Thursday. All these groups are supported by, and work for, Parents and Friends. These groups primarily run community building activities, fundraising being secondary to this. This model of P&F runs with little commitment to long meetings. Communication is usually through email and the occasional meeting when planning an event. Playgroup is also a group run and supported by our P&F.

If becoming a member of any of these groups is of interest to you or if you would like a Community Booklet to find out more about our School Community please contact me.

I hope you have all been able to relax and spend some time with family and friends during the recent Christmas break. To those of you returning to Macarthur for another year welcome back, to those new to the Macarthur family a very warm welcome. I hope it is not long before you are feeling a true sense of belonging.

On that note, I would like to thank the Women at Macarthur (W@M) and Talk Back Thursday



group(TBT) members for hosting our very first "Tears and Tissues" morning tea. This morning tea provided an opportunity for those new to the school to meet existing families and others like

themselves, who are also new to our school. Thank you to the TBT group for putting together some welcome packs. Fresh scones and homemade biscuits made all feel a little less apprehensive. Thirty guests was certainly encouraging for the first time such an event had been held.

The New Family Breakfast will be held on Tuesday 17 February in the Cranmer room. All families new to the School should have an invitation to this. Please contact me if you have not received this email and you are new. Please RSVP through the Try Booking link in the letter as soon as possible.

At the end of 2014 the W@M held a fundraising ham drive!! Community Partner Kaczanowski & Co provided the hams for us to sell. This fundraiser was not only a bit of fun but also generated funds. We sold just over thirty hams. I am sure this fundraiser will gather momentum over the years.

The first Men at Macarthur (M@M) monthly BBQ breakfast was held last Friday. It was great to see so many regulars as well as new families attend. Thank you Michael Banks ( RAMS HOME LOANS)



for continuing to support this activity by providing all produce. Thank you also to all who donate valuable time each month to host these events.

If you would like any more information regarding W@M, M@M or TBT please contact Sharon Pascoe-Thomas on 4629-6207 or email [spascoethomas@macarthur.nsw.edu.au](mailto:spascoethomas@macarthur.nsw.edu.au).





M@M Christmas Barbecue



W@M Morning Tea



Playgroup's Christmas Party



W@M and M@M Cocktails at Fernhill



# 2015 Snowsports Programme

The Snowsports Programme is open to all students from Year 3 to Year 12 and caters to all levels of ability, from first-timers to advanced skiers and boarders.

The purpose of the Programme is to enable students to learn or develop their snowsports skills and/or give students the opportunity to compete in the NSW Interschools Snowsports Competition.



Due to accommodation being very limited in the snowfields during the holidays we need to know numbers early to ensure there are enough beds for all interested students.

Booklets with all the details regarding the 2015 Snowsports Programme will be available in the coming week from either the Staff Centre or the Administration Centre.

An informal Parent Information Night will be held on Thursday 19 February 2015 from 7.00pm in the Chapel. Permission notes and deposits will be due by Friday 27 February 2015.

Should you have any questions regarding the Programme please feel free to ring Mr. Bedingfield at the school on (02) 4647 5333.





# Student Achievements

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Congratulations to Rebecca Mathews (Year 9) on receiving a High Distinction for her Classical 3rd Grade singing examinations. Well done Rebecca!



Claudia-Rose Hackney (Year 11) has competed against hundreds of singers in 2014 in the Fast Track Singing Competition and has been chosen to compete in the top 20 contestants in the Intermediate Grand Final on Saturday 28 February. We wish you all the best Claudia.

Mitchell Robinson (Year 12) was graded to Shodan Ho in GKR Karate on 6 December 2014. This is a significant achievement for Mitchell and represents over seven years of consistent commitment, effort and discipline with over three hours of training each week. Congratulations Mitchell!



# Student Achievements

Callum Masjuk (Year 9) travelled to Colorado on 10 December to train and compete in various styles of snowboarding competitions. He competed in two Snowboard GS races and placed second and third and one Snowboard Slalom race and was again placed third. In the events above they race on Alpine Snowboards, designed for these events. Callum raced in his BoarderCross race board so these achievements are quite amazing.

Callums other events and placings are as follows:

- 2 half pipe events placing fourth and eighth
- 2 railjam events placing fourth and twelfth
- 1 slopestyle event placing sixth.

On the 15 March Callum will find out whether he has made the USA Nationals which will be held 27 March to 4 April in Colorado. Well done Callum!





**ADFAS Camden PRESENTS**

The Fourth

# CAMDEN TODDLER PROMS

Featuring: **FISHER'S GHOST YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

Conducted by **David Griffin**

Camden Civic Centre

Oxley Street, Camden

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March: 2.15 for 2.30 pm**



For the very young – A delightful  
introduction to music and the  
orchestra



**TICKETS:**

\$5 per child aged 2 – 6  
years with a parent/carer.

**Extra adults:** Gold coin donation at the door.

Tickets available from:

**LOOKING CLASS**  
71 Argyle Street  
Camden

Enquiries and phone bookings:

Carla: 4655 9724  
Hugh: 0422 341 310  
Julie: 4651 2236



Supported by: **CAMDEN COUNCIL**



**MACARTHUR ANGLICAN SCHOOL**



# Headmaster's Golf Challenge.



**When: Monday 13 April**

**Where: Glenmore Heritage Park Mulgoa**

**Cost: \$50pp includes 18 holes, golf cart and lunch.**

**Bookings: online [www.macarthur.nsw.edu.au](http://www.macarthur.nsw.edu.au)**

**More information:**

**email: [dstewart@macarthur.nsw.edu.au](mailto:dstewart@macarthur.nsw.edu.au)**



With grateful thanks to our Annual Community Partners





## WELCOME BACK - A WONDERFUL WEEK

Welcome, or welcome back to all the Junior School families for 2015.

It was wonderful to meet so many of our new students over the past week as they continue to settle in so smoothly. Our youngest students in Transition and Kindergarten were settled and happy for their first week of school.

## MEET 'BIMA' THE BEE

'BIMA' the Bee flew in to guide and look after our Junior School Students this year. **Bima** (pronounced bee-mar) is an Indonesian boy's name. **Bima** is taken from a heroic character from a traditional Javanese story based on a Hindu epic. He is brave and strong and through his life on the battlefield finds spiritual enlightenment. His journey shows him that it is important to be close to God rather than rely on materialism.

Be sure to look out for 'Bima's' messages as he reminds the students to 'bee-have' themselves, 'bee' kind to others and 'bee' respectful and honest.

## LET'S FOCUS ON WRITING

As part of all Literacy programmes across the Junior School we are focussing on developing the student's writing skills. We will be implementing a programme which explicitly teaches the '6 Traits of Writing'. These include **Ideas, Organisation, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Voice and Conventions.**

The aim is to empower students with the understanding and vocabulary to identify the effective elements of writing they are using and identify the skills they are working towards. Students will be writing every day. This will link closely to the student learning goals formulated each term.

## MEET THE TEACHER EVENING

This will take on a new format this year as we are hoping to make it an evening that is informative and casual in that you are able to have supper with the T-4 teachers before moving to a number of specific sessions, concluding with a visit to your child's classroom to look at a work sample of their writing and their learning goals for Summer Term. Please note: This evening is general in nature. If you would like to speak to your child's teacher about your child specifically please make a time to do this separately to this evening.

## NUT AWARENESS

I remind families that we are a 'nut aware' School. This means that students are not permitted to bring food to school that contains nuts. This is because we have a number of students at our school who are extremely allergic (anaphylactic) to nuts and we want to keep them safe while in the Junior School. Your assistance in doing this is greatly appreciated and perhaps if your little one really loves peanut butter or Nutella, then this would be a great afternoon tea when he or she arrives home.





# WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS IN YEARS K-4!



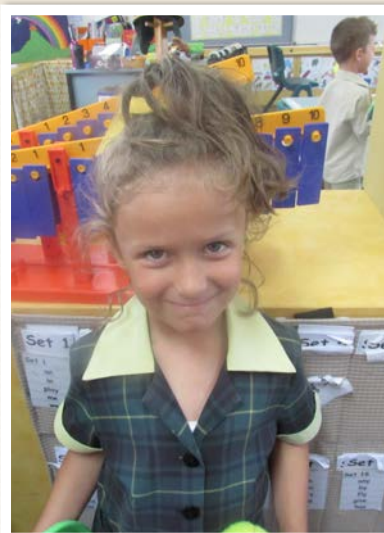
Elizabeth Blackie K



Michaela Condoleon K



Mitchell Dawes-Lynch K



Charli McMartin K



Cameron Siemon K



Evelina Blackie Yr 1



Ben Kanatli Yr 2



Joel Sutcliffe Yr 2



Yolanda Warren Yr 2



# WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS IN YEARS K-4!



Anjali Mavji Yr 2



Ellie Finlay Yr 3



Marshall Price Yr 3



Christopher Sutcliffe Yr 4



Hannah Watson Yr 4



Jemma Watson Yr 4



Creating in Transition



Minding 'Bima's' hive



'Bima' with some friends



# FIRST DAYS IN TRANSITION AND KINDERGARTEN





# Enduring Understandings

## A Wet Start

Despite it being Summer Term it started quite wet as students arrived for the first day back in classes for Years 5-6. The motivation for those in Years 7-9 needed to be high as they headed off to camp.

A warm welcome to both existing and new families to the School in 2015. I hope that you and your families have had a wonderful time over the holiday period. As we look at the term and year ahead, 2015 looks to be another exciting and adventurous year for the students in the Middle School.

As the Headmaster finished the year with a focus on enduring understandings in his Speech Night address. We will begin the year in the Middle School with this as our focus. As well as a significant focus on writing.

What does that mean? What does it look like?

*There is a lot more to education than to learn for a test or exam. Long term understanding comes from authentic learning that can be built on what the students already know and understand. As educators we will be working on students having a deeper understanding of what they are learning and how they learn. We will be talking to them about what they think and helping them to communicate their ideas and understanding to others as they work collaboratively.*

To aid in this process in Year 5 and 6 teachers will be assisting the students in some Visible Thinking routines that give them the opportunity to communicate their thinking to others in the class.

Writing will be an important focus as well through the year and the students will be

given many opportunities to write for a range of purposes and audiences.

Setting Goals for the students continues to be a significant planning and organising tool.

If you would like to find out more please feel free to contact Mr Davies or any of the teachers.

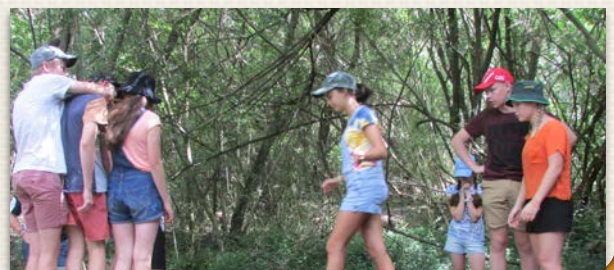


All students whether at camp in the classrooms have had a very pleasing start to the term, reuniting or beginning friendships and routines developed.

I encourage both parents and students to visit the School Website and Calendar to keep updated for the term ahead.

## Prefects and Student Leaders

Congratulations to the Year 9 Middle School Prefects and Year 6 Student Leaders on their induction into their roles for 2015. They have taken on an opportunity to serve others in the school community through their role modelling and application through the year. They participated in the Training day held at Teen Ranch on Tuesday where they learned the importance of communication, problem solving, empathy and characteristics of good leadership.



# YEAR 7 CAMP

Year 7 camp was a unique experience that I'm quite sure no one will forget. While the weather challenged us, we still managed to complete a range of exciting outdoor activities and make the best of things despite the rain.

We tested ourselves with the completion of new activities such as abseiling, canoeing, challenge ropes and fencing. We also enjoyed the giant swing and the dual flying fox. We had the opportunity to get involved in initiative activities that required teamwork and co-operation. This was a great way of getting to know each other in a fun and different environment. It provided an excellent opportunity to welcome the new students into the Macarthur family. We got to meet and make friends with the peer support leaders who were both encouraging and friendly. Immersed in the surroundings, activities and companionship, we were able to try new things and push ourselves beyond the limits. Between the great making of friends and the excitement of the activities, camp provided us with a week of fun that we will never forget.

Emily Moore





# YEAR 8 CAMP

Year 8 camp was an exciting experience for all of our grade. We were able to learn various skills within our time spent at this camp. Four days spent at Waterslea, situated in Nowra was an opportunity we gladly took to bond with our peers.

Our camp started off with a long bus trip. This bus trip was a great way to start off the school term, allowing us to share with our friends about the holidays. Once we arrived at Waterslea, we were amazed by the beautiful scenery of the Shoalhaven River, and surrounding wildlife. As well as the enthusiasm of our leaders.

The weather was not pleasant but that did not put a hold on our participation in activities. The activities allowed us to step out of our comfort zone and to face our fears. Some activities we participated in were the waterslide, jetty jump, a five kilometre hike to a camp out, canyoning, billy kart racing, and abseiling.

The five kilometre hike was a three hour trip into the bush and mountains of Nowra. During the hike we were able to learn how to use a compass and the skills of a helping hand. Running away from fire ants with packs on our back was a challenge that only some of us survived. Although, some unfortunate people did not make it out without a bite ... ouch! Camping out was hard with the limited space in our tents.

By the third day the weather had finally cleared up. Time spent on the waterslide was fun and refreshing. The waterslide was also fast and thrilling.

Teachers and leaders were also very supportive and encouraging. On behalf of Year 8, we would like to thank the teachers for their time and effort spent organising our camp.

Year 8 camp= EVERYTHING IS AWESOME!!!!  
Talía Attard, Sarah Corby and Alana Kolanovic



# YEAR 9 CAMP

Students of Year 9 enjoyed four days at Rathane in the Royal National Park (Port Hacking).

While the first few days were wet it did not dampen the spirits or enthusiasm of the students. Students at this camp participated in the Youthworks Horizon Programme which included a comprehensive array of outdoor activities including Indoor Climbing, High Ropes, Christian Discovery, Initiatives as well as archery and canoeing.. These activities allowed the students to further develop their outdoor skills and to engage in new activities that were challenging and rewarding.

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

All students also participated in their Practice Duke of Edinburgh Hike doing a modified walk through the Royal National Park. Students hiked from Bundeena to Rathane and the following day hiked from Garie to Otford. While a number of groups stayed on site due to the weather all students who completed the hike found a great sense of achievement.

Some of the Year 9 comments from camp from the students when asked what they enjoyed about the camp were:

*"The Duke of Ed hike was the most enjoyable thing for me at camp because even though it was hard I pushed myself and I loved how the group encouraged each other to persevere even when we got tired. This encouraged me to keep going when i face challenges in my everyday life."*

Claudia Petrin

*"Year 9 camp was fantastic! Everything we did was exciting and fun. From seeing extraordinary views during the hike, to the various group activities which were challenging but incredibly fun, Year 9 camp was a blast. Everyone in the year bonded and had a wonderful time together. I loved how we had free time just to play games and hang out with our friends. It was definitely a camp I will never forget!"*

Elizabeth Guy





# 2015 begins in the Senior School

It has certainly been a most successful start to the new calendar year in the Senior School. Camps were once again a wonderful success and I have no doubt that students have learnt a great deal about themselves and the things they are capable of achieving. Thank you to the wonderful staff who spent time with our Year 10 - 12 students over the last week.

## Examination Term and Homework

It is difficult to believe that we are thinking ahead to examinations this early in the new year. However, Summer Term is an examination Term for Year 10 and 12 students (Year 11 will complete examinations during Autumn Term). One of the best strategies to overcome the stress and pressures of examinations is to be well-prepared and to start their preparation early.

For study or homework to be effective students should be doing a little bit often across all subjects. As a guide students should be completing the following amount of study or homework each week.

Year 10: 10 hours per night.

Year 11: 12 hours per night.

Year 12: 15 - 18 hours per night.

## Senior Study Nights

Senior study night provide the opportunity for students in the Senior School to use the Schools facilities outside school hours. They are nights that are supervised by Macarthur Staff and run from 4.00pm to 7.30pm on Tuesday's and Thursday's, with a half hour Dinner Break. The library is normally open until 4.00pm each day. This is an ideal time for those students that want the support of a structured environment to

assist in their studies, the use of a wide range of resources or struggle with procrastination. An information sheet including cost will be available next week. Spare notes will be available from reception.

## Driving

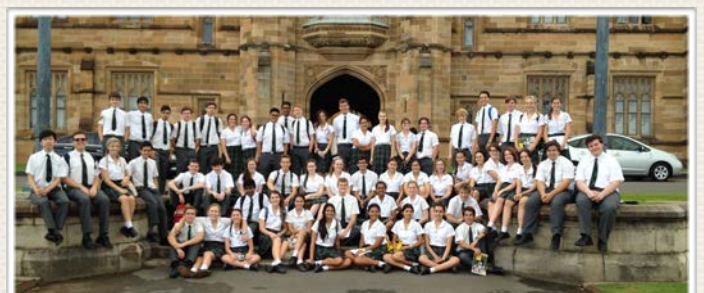
Congratulations to those students who have obtained their Provisional Driving Licence over the holidays. A reminder to parents and students that in order to drive to or from school students will

need to apply for approval after they obtain the license but before they start driving to school. Notes are available from the Heads of School Office. Driving is a privilege and it is important that students appreciate the responsibility.



## University Visits

Students in the Senior Years are strongly encouraged to be thinking about their life beyond school. As such on Thursday Year 12 attended at the University of Wollongong Discovery Day. This was a highly motivating day and has given our Year 12's a lot to consider. In Spring Term Year 11 visited a number of University's including Western Sydney, Sydney and NSW.





# YEAR 10 CAMP

The Year 10 students left for camp at 7.00am on Monday 26 January 2015. They travelled by bus to Bungarra Alpine Centre, the base for Action Learning Initiatives; 5km from Jindabyne.

On arrival the students were quickly given ski pants and raincoats by the ALI staff, as the weather forecast for the week was for unseasonably cold weather, which is exactly what we experienced.

Over the four days the Year 10 students and teachers experienced a gruelling programme involving a full day of mountain biking, a 21km hike from Charlottes Pass to Thredbo via Mt Kosciuszko, a half day of river sledding and a half day of abseiling. There was also two overnight camp outs, surviving on ration packs.

The students and staff were amazing. Coping with these physical demands and freezing weather with grace and humility. Every student gave each activity their full effort and was

rewarded with a sense of fulfilment on completing such difficult tasks.

The staff from ALI and other specialist staff for specific activities, had nothing but praise for our students. Their behaviour, attitude, effort and support for each other was fantastic. The students should be very proud of themselves.

I would also like to acknowledge the Macarthur staff who attended this camp: Richard Coward, Ian Garrett, Pateenah Hordern, Erica Looyen, Matthew Sendt and Paul Stevens. They were very supportive of the students whilst being challenged themselves, as they were required to do the same activities that the students were expected to do.

**Nadine James**  
**Head of Year 10 Camp**





# YEAR 11 CAMP

These four days were about the community help and the challenges. Everybody had the opportunity to be a member of a group and to develop relationships and qualities as well. The cooking together, the setting up of a tent (and the fight with it's wildlife!) did expressly need teamwork. We had an opportunity to do community service in collaboration with St Martin's Anglican Church, Milton and helped in the local retirement home by entertaining the residents with music, games or just by listening.

We started every day with a thoughtful devotion and we could challenge ourselves in watersports as well. We learnt to surf in Narrawallee beach and to paddle board on Lake Conjola. The water activities were

challenging, particularly for me as I couldn't really swim before this camp, but I think I can say it was one of the best parts in these four days for everyone!

We also went to the cinema in Ulladulla one night and we went to Funland on the last day.

In conclusion I really enjoyed these days and I think everyone got something from the Year 11 camp. Thank you to all the organisers and accompanying teachers.

**Veronika Szalontal**  
**Year 11 Hungarian Exchange Student**





# YEAR 10 CAMP





# YEAR 11 CAMP





# YEAR 12 CAMP

Year 12 camp, the first of many lasts together as year group. After a long bus trip north, we arrived at Bonville near Coffs Harbour. Students were excited about what this camp had in store for us, especially recreational and adrenaline activities.

With the rain chasing Coffs Harbour, we were wondering how dry we would be over the next five days. Despite this, the program ran smoothly resulting in a most enjoyable time had by students. We quickly hurried off to Sawtell beach, making the most of our time in the waves. Our free time was quickly ended by a storm soaking everyone's towels.

The next two days were filled several activities with half of year twelve white water rafting on the Nymboida River. This was a fair drive from Coffs Harbour approximately 2 hours, with mini buses occasionally getting bogged in muddy conditions. The other half of the year group learned to scuba dive in the local pool, get competitive on the go-kart track, along with an action packed visit to "Wet n Wild" Coffs Harbour. Wednesday night otherwise known as trivia night was the most favored night by students across all five days. Competitiveness

reached an all-time high as all table groups fought hard to be crowned winners.

The most thrilling adrenalin activities came from the full day at Coffs Harbour beach. Students moved through four activities including surfing, sea kayaking, surf rescue and surf rafting. In particular the tiring activity of surf rafting was well worth the wait, with seven paddles trying to synchronise and get past the waves. A few too many times our timing was off and there would be collisions throwing all seven members into the water.

Finally it was Friday and time to head back South. It was the perfect recovery time for everyone, and spend the final moments of our summer holidays with friends. The time in Coffs Harbour was not only about adventure packed activities but a time to build a bigger team unit ahead of our final stages and challenges of year twelve.

**Jaklyn Favretti**  
**Year 12 Student**





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