



TARTAN TIES

NEWS FROM MACARTHUR ANGLICAN SCHOOL

WINTER 2016



PAGE 5 MACARTHUR'S FORMER
SCHOOL CAPTAINS

PAGE 8 WRITING IN THE JUNIOR
SCHOOL

PAGE 9 ELEVATING STUDENT
PERFORMANCE

ENTER TO LEARN

GO OUT TO SERVE

FROM THE HEADMASTER



Anniversaries

I love history, having studied both Ancient and Modern History at school and at university. I trained in part as a History teacher and love imparting the lessons of the past on the leaders of tomorrow. We are shaped by the past both as individuals and as a community and we do well to mark history's milestones.

For the people of the United Kingdom, 2015 was a significant year of anniversaries as they celebrated some great triumphs of the past. There was the triumph of the Barons over the King with the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215, leading ultimately to our democratic system of government; victory at the battle of Agincourt in 1415 and victory in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

2016 also has its share of anniversaries, though for perhaps less triumphant reasons. In 1066, 950 years ago, the Normans at the Battle of Hastings defeated the English army under King Harold, the last time the British Isles were successfully invaded¹. In 1616 William Shakespeare died and in 1666, three hundred and fifty years ago, there was the devastating Great Fire of London. On 1 July 1916, history records the first day

of the Battle of the Somme as the most disastrous day in Britain's military history with around twenty thousand men killed in one day. And fifty years ago in 1966, the year the current Prime Minister, Mr David Cameron was born, England last won the World Cup². However, as a dual Australian/English citizen, I warn you that you remind any Englishman of this fact at your own risk!

Here in Australia, we will also mark several anniversaries this year. In 1616, a Dutch explorer named Dirk Hartog nailed a pewter plate³ to a post on the coast of Australia, about 800 kilometres north of Perth. This was the first physical record of a European visiting this continent, more than one hundred and fifty years before James Cook visited the east coast.

In 1816, the convict Francis Greenway was appointed as the first Government Architect. Some of his work still stands, such as the Hyde Park Barracks, the Macquarie Lighthouse and St James Church Sydney. And in late July 1916, Australian troops, having successfully evacuated Gallipoli in January, joined the Battle of the Somme at the Battles of Pozieres and Fromelle with the greatest loss of Australian lives in our history – thousands killed and more than forty thousand casualties overall.

More recently, we have already celebrated fifty years of decimal currency in Australia, when on 14 February 1966, dollars and cents replaced pounds shillings and pence, the currency that we inherited from the United Kingdom.

At Macarthur, we will note two small anniversaries in 2016. Ernst Nel, School Captain for 2016, is our thirtieth School Captain following the appointment in 1987 of the first Captain, Mrs Susie McGlinn (née Svaabeck, and now a member of the Macarthur staff), by the Foundation Headmaster, the late Mr David Lloyd. An article on Page 5 reminds us of what a few of these thirty outstanding people have achieved since graduating from Macarthur. Also, at the end of 2016 the school will complete twenty years of teaching and learning at the Cobbitty Campus⁴ after the first classes held here in January 1997. These milestones are significant as they

show how Macarthur has matured. In a few years, we will enrol the students who will graduate in our fiftieth year. While anniversaries reflect the passage of time, the way in which the school has matured is the result of intentional, earnest and vigorous endeavour, as this edition of Tartan Ties demonstrates.

In my time at Macarthur, I have witnessed the school's maturation in a number of areas. Most importantly, we have matured the Pastoral Care Programme, which is now seen as a model for other schools. The same can be said for our Work Health and Safety policies and procedures. And very importantly, the academic standing of the school has matured with outstanding HSC results, which over time have gone from strength to strength. In south-west Sydney there is no comprehensive school, Independent, Catholic, or Government, co-educational or single sex, where the students have produced such consistently wonderful results. This is true for the most academically able students and for students right across the academic continuum. As an educator, I am excited by how these results expand the post-school options available to Macarthur's students.

Looking at Macarthur's past and being thankful to God for his providential care, the future looks very bright indeed. I look forward to watching and guiding our students as they write the next few chapters of this great school's history!

¹ Other invasion attempts that failed included those by Spain (the Spanish Armada in 1588) and by Germany (defeated in the Battle of Britain in 1940).

² England defeated West Germany 4-2 in the final. Since then, West Germany or Germany have won it three times.

³ Another explorer found the plate eighty years later and took it back to Amsterdam. Australia would like to see it in one of our museums but the Dutch won't let it go.

⁴ The last students with any memory of attending Macarthur at Narellan will graduate in 2018.

DR DAVID NOCKLES
HEADMASTER

Cover Photo: Nicola Dobing (Year 10) is a picture of concentration as she works with charcoal on a still life during a Visual Arts class.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS REGISTRAR: TRISH CARTWRIGHT

As Australia's links with China deepen through increasing trade, Macarthur has also increased its relationship through the enrolment of International Students from mainland China rather than Hong Kong where most International Students came from in the past.

The person with the responsibility for settling these students into their homestay accommodation and their life at Macarthur is Mrs Trish Cartwright, the International Students Registrar.

Mrs Cartwright grew up in Geurie near Dubbo before moving to Bowral and attending Frensham School, then Oxley College. On finishing school, she won an Australia-Britain Scholarship for a Gap Year in England. During this time, she worked as a teachers aide at Riddlesworth Hall School in Norfolk, a school attended by the late Princess Diana.

On returning to Australia, Mrs Cartwright enrolled in Passmores Business College, where she graduated with a Diploma in

Marketing and Advertising with Honours and a Diploma in Business with Honours. Most of her previous positions have been in the area of medical practice management. She also ran her own business consultancy and information service for senior school students. Mrs Cartwright was connected to the school before taking up her current position, through her husband Mr Tim Cartwright, the Dean of Students and as a parent of Henry (2015) and Richard (Year 11).

While most International Students are from China, Macarthur is also hosting students from Thailand, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Laos and Korea. Mrs Cartwright is very happy to hear from



Trish Cartwright

families who may be interested in hosting one of our International Students and may be contacted direct on 4629 6229.

COUNCIL MEMBER PROFILE: The Reverend Chris Moroney

The Reverend Chris Moroney was appointed to the School Council in April 2015. Mr Moroney is the Senior Minister at St James Anglican Church, Menangle. Originally, he trained as a secondary teacher, gaining a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma in Education from the University of Sydney. He then completed a Licentiate in Theology (ThL) through Moore Theological College and a Bachelor of Divinity through the University of London, before being ordained.

Mr Moroney's appointments have included Assistant Minister at St Barnabus Anglican Church, Broadway, Rector at St Thomas's, Anglican Church Moorebank and Senior Assistant Minister at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. He was also a member of Standing Committee as the Clerical Secretary of the Synod from 1993 to 2013. From 2010 to 2015, he was the Executive

Assistant to the Director of Continuing Education for Ministers, involving the selection and training of candidates for ministry in the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Sydney. This also involved the ongoing training of ministers after they completed training at Moore College. In 2015, Mr Moroney took up his present position at St James, Menangle.

As a member of the School Council, Mr Moroney says that he is keen to support and promote the Christian ministry of Macarthur Anglican School. "The role of the Council," he says, "is to be committed to good governance of the school's business and legal obligations, but we are also able to give the Head every encouragement in promoting Christian values and the Gospel of Christ, through the high quality education being offered at the school."



The Reverend Chris Moroney

MACARTHUR LEADERSHIP

SCHOOL CAPTAIN PROFILE

As the thirtieth person to hold the coveted title, Ernst Nel is the School Captain for 2016. Ernst, who commenced at Macarthur as a Year 9 student in 2013, was born in South Africa in a family influenced by a mix of Dutch, French and German cultures. He quickly made an impression at Macarthur as a potential leader, participating in the school productions of *Peter Pan* and *Wendy* and *Aida*, plus involvement as a Peer Support Leader, on the Thailand Outreach and as a member of the school's Debating Team.

On leadership, Ernst believes that the fundamental characteristics of a successful leader are being able to listen, love and respect others with the ability to collaborate with people. A leader needs to tap into the individual skills of others to identify and solve problems in new and creative ways. Furthermore, he believes the world is currently not equipped to solve its complex problems because it is not open to collaboration. However, at present he counts himself fortunate to work with a Year 12 team of diverse people with manifold ideas, skills and personalities.

With regard to his time at Macarthur, Ernst says, "Through debating and drama, I became more confident and quick-thinking. Through bible studies and the Thailand Outreach, I saw God's love in action and my faith has grown immensely. I have been challenged by Macarthur to personally test my limits so I can grow, become stronger and flourish in the world beyond."

As the student leader for the whole school, Ernst says that our younger students need positive role models and that it's important for leaders of the school to get involved with the young to set an example. By showing love, respect, kindness and compassion in our behaviour, he says, we become the best role models we can be.

Ernst is widely travelled throughout Australia, with even more destinations on his 'bucket list'. He has also been fortunate enough to travel to Thailand on outreach, Sweden on exchange and to the United States and South Africa on holidays. Although privileged to have these experiences, Ernst is very passionate about equality. "It shocks me how



Ernst Nel, School Captain, and the Vice Captain's Emma Bywater and Tate Lindsay.

human beings can be so discriminating, oppressive and prejudicial towards people they perceive as 'inferior.' I believe that as Christians we need to eradicate this attitude in society by loving our neighbour, despite race, gender, ethnicity, religion or sexuality. All are equal."

Ernst plans to study International Relations at university and would like to make a positive impact on the world by advocating for human rights and by helping to solve political issues. He also has a passion for writing, acting and film – spheres he would love to be involved in. However, he believes God has a plan for his life, which may differ from his own plan, and is excited to see what that plan is.

LEADERSHIP AT MACARTHUR 2016

'Our desire to develop an ethic of service is modelled on the life of Christ, who, although He was the Creator of the universe, did not come to earth to be served, but to serve. Learning to serve will help all of you become better leaders.'

From The Macarthur Way, Middle School and Senior School Diary, 2016, Page 9

School Captain: Ernst Nel

School Vice-Captains: Emma Bywater and Tate Lindsay

School Prefects: Jessica Attard, Jasmine Brooker, Ellê Burke, Patrick Dickinson, Madeline Elliott, Justina Hanna, Sabrina Harris, Ante Kolanovic, Nathaniel Locano, Elise Mackie, Sean McIntosh, Natasha Panapiti, Austin Perich, Aimanur Rahman, Meghan Sproule, Patchanon Tungkiatsilp, Charles Wearne

House Captains: Elise Mackie (Barker), Madeline Elliott (Broughton), Austin Perich

(Hassall), Ante Kolanovic (Heber), Justina Hanna (Johnson), Jasmine Brooker (Marsh)

Captains of Activities: Austin Perich (Swimming), Austin Perich (Athletics), Emanuel Pediotis (Cross Country), Addison Kubik (Snowsports), Charles Wearne (Theatre Performance) Sean McIntosh (Agriculture Show Team)

Christian Ministry Leader: Nathanael Locano

Music Leaders: Claudia-Rose Hackney (Choirmeister), Justina Hanna (Orchestrasteister), Elise Mackie (Bandmeister).

Middle School Prefects: Elodie Creber, Joshua Hand, Tobias Howard, Isaiah Kezelos, Alana Kolanovic, Brodie Leone, Amy Lidbetter, Georgina Seton

Year 6 Student Leaders: Megan Baker, Hannah Davey, Austin Ebeling, Isaiah Gray, Rose Jansen, Adam Krvavac, Alister Munro, Claire Sich, Luke Stewart, Paris Williams

Peer Support Leaders (Pastoral): Sarah Alexander, Reanna Bourne, Fiona Chohaili, Monique Drieman, Brooke Duncan, Aidan Gandy, Noah Gray, Joseph Hartono, Stephanie Hennings, Akshay Jaikumar, Jack Jansen, Daniel Jones, James Key, Julia Kocic, Sarah McDonald, Sarah Michie, Daisy Morphew, Rebecca Mortier, Mia Mylonas, Matilda Offord, Lisa Panetta, Laura Perich, Sophia Seton, Ashleigh Sherrell, Andrew Simmons, Kaitlin Taylor, Emma Whitelaw

Peer Support Leaders (Academic): Laureen Albarouki, Sarah Alexander, Reanna Bourne, Christopher Browne, Monique Drieman, Aidan Gandy, Stephanie Hennings, Jack Jansen, Daniel Jones, Georgia Klonis, Julia Kocic, Olivia Locke, Samuel Macdonald, Lucas Messer, Mia Mylonas, Matilda Offord, Laura Perich, Dante Petrin, Ciara Platt, Aleesha Santos, Sophia Seton, Ashleigh Sherrell, Abbey Stevens, Kaitlin Taylor, Sheldon Taylor, Benjamin Tisdale, Chanel Yin

MACARTHUR LEADERSHIP

SCHOOL CAPTAINS OF THE PAST

Thirty young people have held the title of School Captain of Macarthur Anglican School. These outstanding people are now achieving in their post-school lives.

We can't mention every one of them, but here are a few from earlier times, with brief details of what they have done during the intervening years.

Susie McGlinn (née Svaabeck, 1988) was the first School Captain of Macarthur Anglican School, appointed by the Foundation Headmaster, the late Mr David Lloyd. After working in public relations and marketing, she wrote material for the Qantas In-Flight Magazine and enjoyed the associated travel opportunities to the USA, Europe and Japan. Susie also completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring English Literature. After having children, she worked from home as a media analyst and completed a Bachelor of Teaching, leading to her employment in the library at Macarthur in 2009. Susie is on leave in 2016, writing children's chapter books for eight to ten-year-olds. Watch out for the publication of the adventures of young Finn McMartin!

Erica Looyen (née Stootman, 1991), recently featured in *Tartan Ties*, graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Education degree. She taught at Bishop Druitt College in Coffs Harbour and at Green Point Christian College and Park View High School in Virginia, USA. Erica joined our staff in 2005 and follows her passion for teaching Ancient History along with Geography. For several years she was the Head of Sport and has accompanied Macarthur students on several history tours to Europe.

Elizabeth Youdale (1995) embarked on a GAP year, working among physically disabled adults in the UK and as a ski instructor in Canada. On returning to Australia, she studied for a Bachelor of Applied Science, qualifying as a Speech Pathologist, then worked with moderately to severely disabled and autistic children.

Elizabeth also worked with a state-wide behavioural intervention clinic dealing with mental health issues and people caught up in the criminal justice system. Elizabeth found Yoga invaluable when involved in work of such an emotionally demanding nature. She has travelled to India for ongoing training and is now running her own studio south of Sydney.

Keegan Luiters (1997) completed a Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) and a Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary PDHPE). Now he is studying for a Master's degree in Business Coaching. Keegan has worked across several industries in education, sport, not-for-profit and corporate organisations. He maintains his passion for cricket and played until 2011 including a season playing in England in 2002. He is now club coach for Western Suburbs in the Sydney Grade Cricket competition. Fitness is important to Keegan who has now run four marathons, including the London Marathon in 2009. He has travelled to Europe, to South Africa to see his extended family and to New Zealand to visit his wife's family.

Christine Wheeler (née Lea, 1999) is currently working as Secretary for the Aspect Macarthur School, one of several schools operated by Autism Spectrum (autismspectrum.org.au), a non-profit organisation providing early intervention specialist services for children with autism. Christine completed an Advanced Diploma in Human Resource Management and worked in retail management and as the Office and Human Resource Manager for AC3, a company that specialises in helping businesses make the best use of information technology.

Timothy White (2000) will be remembered for his role in one of the school's best-loved musicals, *South Pacific*, in 1999, which was featured in a 2015 edition of *Tartan Ties*. Timothy studied Law, Asian Studies, and Mandarin language at ANU, before commencing with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2007. He is now fluent in reading, writing and speaking Mandarin, an extraordinary achievement in itself. In 2010, Timothy was appointed to the Australian Embassy in Beijing. Then in 2014, he was appointed as the Deputy Consul-General in Shanghai.

Most recently, he became the Deputy Consul-General at the Australian Consulate in Chengdu, south-west China.

Following his passion for books, **Andrew Pitt (2005)** worked with Borders Bookstore, eventually moving to Perth as a Manager. Andrew still lives in Perth but moved on, becoming the PA to the Director of BHP Billiton during the mining boom. However, Andrew's heart is in travel and so began working with Flight Centre in Perth City, quickly becoming the Branch Manager. He recently moved to another agency specialising in cruise and luxury travel. Andrew has incredible opportunities for travel and has already visited the USA and UK, all over Europe, Turkey, India, Indonesia and Thailand, with a European river cruise and Amalfi Coast sailing on the horizon. What a life!

SCHOOL CAPTAINS OF MACARTHUR ANGLICAN SCHOOL



James Waterhouse



Jonathan Clipsham



Renee Jones



Kristen Grant

1987	Susie Svaabeck
1988	Joanne Onley
1989	Narelle Nixon
1990	Matthew Quinell
1991	Erica Stootman
1992	Peter Dunlop
1993	Alexander Palmer
1994	Jeffrey Flanagan
1995	Elizabeth Youdale
1996	Alison Jennings
1997	Keegan Luiters
1998	Carolyn Fisher
1999	Christine Lea
2000	Timothy White
2001	James Waterhouse
2002	Travis Hodgson
2003	Katrina Matus
2004	Jonathan Clipsham
2005	Andrew Pitt
2006	Renee Jones
2007	Kristen Grant
2008	Joshua Fleming
2009	Elyse Glynn
2010	Tessa Fleming
2011	James Murdoch
2012	Joshua Sawyer
2013	Katherine Harris
2014	Maire Playford
2015	Tracy Gidies
2016	Ernst Nel

MACARTHUR ANNIVERSARIES

TWENTY YEARS AT COBBITTY

Macarthur Anglican School is in its thirty-third year, but in its twentieth year of teaching and learning at the Cobbitty Campus. Those years have seen great changes.



The school today from the air

From 1984 until 1996, the whole school operated at Narellan. In 1997, almost twenty years ago, secondary lessons commenced at the new much larger site at Cobbitty. In 2005, the Narellan site was sold and Transition to Year 6 classes commenced at Cobbitty, bringing the school together again.

As we consider all that has happened during those twenty years, it is worthwhile looking back further to understand what Cobbitty was like long before the arrival of Macarthur Anglican School. This description of the area from the Sydney Morning Herald in September 1847 gives some insight into what it was like more than a century and a half ago:

From the hill which forms Narellan, is seen to the north west in the foreground a range of lofty cultivated hills called Orielton, and overtopping it and, as it were peeping over their shoulders, the more distant wood crowned summit of the Cuthills. Between these two ranges and near the river is the sweet little hamlet of Cobbitty, surrounded by the estates of Wivenhoe, Denbigh, Matavai

and Brownlow Hill – all beautiful in their own way...

It was from the property of Denbigh that a portion of land, forty-four and a half hectares in size, was purchased in 1995 for the school to be built. Construction of the first phase took place in 1996 and classes commenced in 1997. At the time, the construction of the first stage of school buildings was the biggest single change to take place along Cobbitty Road since the 1940's, when part of the property was used as a military camp. Now, Macarthur Anglican School is part of the history of Cobbitty, while the Cobbitty district is undergoing even more dramatic change as housing estates spring up around the school property. At this stage, the wonderful vista towards the Blue Mountains is unchanged as no housing development has taken place on that side of the school. But what does the future hold?



The former Headmaster, Mr Riley Warren and the Bishop of Wollongong, The Rt Reverend Reginald Piper, inspecting the construction of the School Chapel in 1996



The Macarthur site as it was in 1994

TEACHING DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Over several issues of *Tartan Ties*, we examined a range of secondary subjects and how they are taught at Macarthur. In this issue we examine a favourite elective for many students: *Design and Technology*.

In Years 7 and 8 every student completes a course known as *Technology Mandatory*, which lays the groundwork for the study of Design and Technology from Year 9 through to Year 12. During the mandatory course, students complete eight projects that involve the design processes of perceiving a need, researching existing ideas, deciding on features to include, sketching a design, determining the best materials and then completing the project. Imagine taking these steps to design a simple mobile phone cover, or at a more complex level, designing the solution to spanning a space between walls sufficient to carry a roof load.

There are many options within the mandatory syllabus. At Macarthur, the projects cover architectural, interior and structural design, fashion and accessories design, communication, software and digital media design. Students use a range of technologies – graphics, information and media technologies, metals and model-making technologies, polymer and textile technologies.

In the Year 9 and 10 Design and Technology course, students are led to understand that everything around us, such as desks, chairs, sets of shelves, buildings, bridges, roads and cars have been through a design process that embodies the same steps mentioned above. However, many designed items have been created within certain constraints such as overall size, final weight, efficiency for purpose and cost. To illustrate this process and some of the constraints that could apply, students complete a project that involves designing and making a child's toy. The constraints imposed are that it must be made as a flat



pack item than can be packed into a box of limited dimensions. It needs to be appealing to children, safe to use and durable, while the selection of non-toxic materials is a critical consideration. As the project progresses, students check their ideas against this list of criteria for a successful product.

At the senior level of Years 11 and 12, students work on a Major Design Project (MDP) which will eventually be examined by HSC markers as part of their overall HSC assessment. Importantly, it is not the finished product of the design project which is exclusively examined, so much as the process the student has followed in reaching their goal. It is the design process from the project proposal and project management phase, through project development and realisation, to project evaluation that is central to the course. Thus projects are not limited in scope. In some cases, the manifestation of a project may be in the form of a drawing or model when it is impractical to complete to a full-size scale. A project may entail skills that are beyond the expertise of the teaching staff to pass on and so the process will include plans for where or how these skills may be obtained.

Undoubtedly, Design and Technology involves a change in focus from developing a narrow skill set for a vocational purpose, which is what many readers experienced in studying Industrial Arts, to a focus on the whole design process. Macarthur graduates of the Design and Technology course are now completing courses in graphic, web and programming design, architecture, town planning and engineering.



WRITING IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

It has long been recognised that learning to read and write is critical to a child's success at school and later in life.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children noted in 1998 that one of the best predictors of whether a child will function competently in school and go on to contribute actively in our increasingly literate society, is the level to which the child progresses in reading and writing. Although reading and writing abilities continue to develop throughout our life span, the Association says, it is the period from birth to the age of eight years which is the most important period for literacy development.

If we give a moment's thought to how we operate during any day of our lives, the importance of writing is immediately clear. Obviously, we need writing skills in that part of our lives devoted to employment. However, outside of that time, we write emails, update our Facebook pages and write Twitter comments (in some cases), write notes, birthday cards, signs, eBay advertisements, shopping lists, speeches... the list can go on and on. No matter how old we are, writing is a vehicle for communication and connection with others, and an enabler of creativity. It allows us to learn and grow, can be real fun and sharpens our senses.

The Junior School has a strong focus on writing. To give it structure, students become acquainted with the six traits of writing, namely Ideas, Voice, Conventions, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency and Organisation. Using these concepts across all classes from Transition to Year 6 gives everyone, students and teachers, a shared language to discuss progress in writing as well as a consistent approach by all staff as students grow and move from grade to grade.

"When students write it makes their thinking visible," the Head of Junior School, Mrs Kylie Elling says. "Writing contributes to the strong focus throughout the school on thinking skills."

Classroom writing, which takes place every day, is augmented by activities that focus on the purpose of writing.

Students are given every opportunity to enter competitions, where many have had their writing recognised and promoted as they progress through higher levels of competition. Visiting authors are also important, so that young students experience their passion for writing and hear how a professional writer's ideas can improve their own writing. In 2015, James Roy, author of more than twenty novels for young readers, visited Macarthur to present interactive writing

workshops. Jacqueline Harvey, author of the *Alice-Miranda* and *Clementine Rose* series, also visited and gave a number of demonstration writing lessons. Children are inspired by real authors describing how they approach their own writing tasks.

As Mrs Elling says, "Teaching how to write effectively is one of the most important life-long skills educators impart to their students."



ELEVATING STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Macarthur Anglican School can be justly proud of the outcomes achieved by its students in each year's Higher School Certificate examinations.

A sample of individual achievements may be found among the Alumni News pages of this issue. Indeed, among non-selective schools, which is what Macarthur is, the outcomes are extraordinary. Does this mean that the school can be satisfied with the levels it has achieved? Far from it! In fact, the school is always looking to heighten student performance.

But firstly, let's think about the way that schools are ranked and compared in our educational environment. Officially, schools are not ranked according to student performance. It is the media that ranks schools each year following the release of HSC results. Normally, a very simple measure, the percentage of Band 6 or Extension 4 results is used. This is a long way removed from the manner in which schools are ranked in the United Kingdom. For an eye-opening experience of how this occurs, go to www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance, or to www.best-schools.co.uk/uk-school-league-tables. This practice is so detailed that a school's position on the so-called 'league tables' can determine real estate values in the adjacent vicinity, driven by families seeking to move into a top school's drawing area!

The simplistic method used by the Australian media does not tell the whole story. While it may be argued that comparing schools has no benefit educationally, the published results and school rankings we see anyway need to be set against recent commentary concerning how Australia's most capable students are performing in relation to the top students in the rest of the world. This is why Macarthur will continue to pursue even higher standards of performance from its students in the future. Consider these recent statements concerning the performance of Australian students:



Australia's performance in the PISA tests [Programme for International Student Assessment], held every three years, has shown a steady decline. In 2000, when the first tests were held, Australia ranked 6th for Maths, 8th for Science and 4th for Reading (out of 41 countries), dropping to 19th for Maths, 16th for Science and 13th for Reading in 2012 (out of 65 countries).

Colleen Ricci, Sydney Morning Herald,
31 May 2015

Many students in our schools are judged to be performing well because they achieve high grades on middling expectations for children of their age. Rather than being stretched and extended, many very able students achieve year-level expectations with minimal effort. Brightest students not being challenged.

Professor Geoff Masters, AO,
CEO, Australian Council for Educational
Research

The evidence strongly suggests that the most capable students in Australian schools are being insufficiently challenged. It's an unfortunate phenomenon that's called 'coasting' and it's reflected in the flattening of the achievement profile of Australian students at the top end, as indicated in multiple international surveys from the OECD. We really do need to take action on that.

Professor John Hattie – Chair of the Board
of the Australian Institute for Teaching and
School Leadership (AITSL) 2015

It is against this background that Macarthur was recently chosen as one of the first cohort of fourteen schools to be part of a 'Community of Practice' in a programme known as Elevate. This programme has been initiated by the Association of Independent Schools

of NSW (AISNSW) and amplified by strategic partnerships with the UK-based 'Innovation Unit' (IU), and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL). Participating schools, such as Macarthur, will help ensure all learners have the support and opportunities to reach their highest potential, through realising these five goals:

1. Leaders creating the conditions that enable a shift towards more powerful and effective teaching and learning experiences for high potential learners embedded throughout the school.
2. Teachers having the confidence, competence and agility to reshape practices for their context and improve the evidence base to enhance achievement, wellbeing and engagement of high potential learners.
3. Emergence of curriculum and pedagogic designs that are responsive to pace, depth and level of complexity for high potential learners, creating challenges and opportunities to achieve excellence and become further motivated.
4. Assessment practices and data literacy sharpened to inform the design of optimal learning experiences that meet and extend curriculum opportunities and amplify impact with high potential learners.
5. Participating schools successfully using a basket of measures to monitor effectively the progress and growth of high potential learners.

Clearly, the aim of elevating student performance is ongoing, as current students, together with their teachers, seek to build on the outstanding results of the past.

SHOW TEAM'S OUTSTANDING SUCCESSES

In the last issue of *Tartan Ties*, a page was devoted to illustrating and describing the involvement of Macarthur students in the Macarthur Show Team, and how they spend much of their own time preparing and parading animals at no fewer than four country shows and at the Royal Easter Show.

In this issue, we bring you their outstanding results achieved during the first few months of 2016.

Without a doubt, the most outstanding success was by Sean McIntosh, featured on the cover of the last issue of *Tartan Ties*, who won the title of **Champion School Parader** at the 2016 Royal Easter Show. This was the first time a Macarthur student has won this title, against all other competing schools in New South Wales.

However, there were countless creditable performances by members of the Show Team. Here are some of the best results from just the Canberra, Camden and Sydney Royal Easter Shows, although students also did well at the Kangaroo Valley, and Moss Vale Shows. A full list of student achievements may be found in the School Bulletins.

CANBERRA SHOW

Macarthur received the ribbon for the Champion White Suffolk Ewe, and First Places by Megan Baker (Year 6) in the Primary Sheep Parader competition, by Jack Jansen (Year 11) in the Junior Sheep Judging competition, by Brooke Baker (Year 10), Champion Junior Handler and by Jack Jansen, Champion in the Junior Meat Breeds Judging competition.

CAMDEN SHOW

Macarthur's steers 'Clancy', paraded by Abbie Jenkins, won the light/middleweight class and 'Jester', paraded by Jordan Snape, won the heavyweight class.

Jester was the Champion Steer and Clancy the Reserve Champion steer overall. In the Parader competitions, first places were won by Megan Baker in the Primary Schools (under 12's) Class, Grace Jansen in the 13 and 14 Years Class and Jordyn Snape in the 15 Years Class. Jordyn Snape was also the Champion

Cattle Parader for 2016 for the second year in a row. Tareva-Chine Atkin-Zaldivar (Year 9) was chosen to represent our zone at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, while Merryn Bowman (Year 10) was already qualified via the Berry Show.

In the Sheep Section, Macarthur won the Champion White Suffolk Ram, paraded by Hannah Sutcliffe (Year 7) and the Champion White Suffolk Ewe paraded by Sarah Corby (Year 9) with both girls parading in their first show.

SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

Cattle Paraders: Richard Cartwright was Highly Commended in Open Parader class, while Jordyn Snape and Sean McIntosh came first in their heats in the Open Parader class. Subsequently, as already mentioned, Sean McIntosh won the title of Champion School Parader for 2016.

Two first places were achieved with the school's White Suffolk sheep, while Emily Nieuwenhuis was Highly Commended for parading her ram. Mikayla Harris and Emily Nieuwenhuis paraded the Champion Pair of Ewes.

Finally, Merryn Bowman won the State final of the Angora Goats and Mohair Junior Judging Competition. Another Champion in our ranks!



Some of the prize ribbons from the Royal Easter Show, including Champion Parader for 2016 (top)



Jordyn Snape with 'Bandicoot' at the Canberra Show



Jackson Buda with 'Jester' at the Camden Show

MACARTHUR LEARNING



The Headmaster and the Show Team at the Sydney Royal Easter Show



Shaylee Greener awaits her turn for judging at the Royal Easter Show



Mikayla Harris and Emily Nieuwenhuis with their Champion Pair of Ewes at the Royal Easter Show



Jordyn Snape and Abbie Jenkins with 'Jester' and 'Clancy' at the Camden Show



Agriculture teacher, Mr David Baker with Daniel Pearce, Taylor Drayton, Merryn Bowman, Jack Jansen, Brooke Baker, Jordyn Snape and the school's Champion White Suffolk Ewe at the Canberra Show



Cody Peck, Sarah Corby and Cyndell White with their Champion White Suffolk Ewe at the Camden Show



Bayley Gandy, Cody Peck and Aislinn D'Arcy await judging at the Royal Easter Show



Sean McIntosh with his Champion Parader shield



Brooke Baker, first place in the Junior Handler competition and Jack Jansen, first place in the Junior Judging competition at the Canberra Show

MRS SHARON DONALDSON RETIRES

Mrs Sharon Donaldson has been a well-known face in the office and a well-recognised voice for callers to the school for many years. She commenced



at Macarthur in 1989 after working for the Westpac Bank. During her time at Macarthur, Mrs Donaldson was a strong supporter of the Rock Eisteddfod performers during the 1990's when Macarthur was a participant in that programme. Mrs Donaldson held the position of Office Manager, supervising and allocating multiple tasks that fall to the administration staff. What many parents would not realise is the key role she played in the production of school reports, so that they were of the highest standard, consistent with the levels of excellence the school expects. After serving the school for almost twenty-seven years, we wish Mrs Donaldson and her husband Warren God's blessings for this new stage in their lives.

SNOWSPORTS TOUR TO JAPAN

Several students have already signed up for a fourteen-day tour to Japan, to take place during the first two weeks of January 2017. Essentially, this tour has been devised with members of Macarthur's Snowsports team in mind, but is available to any student with an interest in skiing. It includes at least seven days of skiing and snowboarding in some of Japan's renowned skiing locations. After arriving in Tokyo the group will travel by Shinkansen (Bullet Train) to Hakuba in the Nagano Prefecture, close to the site of the 1998 Winter Olympics, where they will experience skiing in at least three different resorts. As well on a rest day, they will visit the Snow Monkeys of Jigokudani, made famous through a number of David Attenborough wildlife programmes. Following these

outstanding experiences, the group will return and tour Tokyo before making a two-day visit to the Third Junior and Senior High School of Tokyo University, the school that conducts an annual visit to Macarthur. What an amazing opportunity for these students.

A CAREER IN THE MAKING

The school congratulates Hannah Sutcliffe of Year 7, who has been successful in selection as a member of the Penrith Strings, part of the Penrith Youth Orchestra Programme. Hannah had to audition for one of five places for cellists in the group, which is mentored by members of the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO). On 15 May, Hannah took part in a very special performance at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, playing alongside the Penrith Symphony Orchestra and the ACO. No doubt Hannah's great interest and skill with the cello has been encouraged by former student Mr Jonathan Békés, who for some time was Hannah's tutor.

A CAREER WELL ON THE WAY

Speaking of Jonathan Békés, who was featured in a 2015 issue of *Tartan Ties*, his performance experience and qualifications continue to grow. As well as his Bachelor of Music degree from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, he holds an AMusA (Associate in Music), and more recently qualified for the LMusA (Licentiate in Music), achieving both with Distinction. He also holds the 2016 Accenture Australia Scholarship and the Sydney Conservatorium Corinna d'Hage String Scholarship. Jonathan is now the Principal Cellist in the Australian Youth Orchestra. Recently, he performed for Arts Bundanoon as part of their Music at Ten programme, accompanied by his colleague Paul Cheung, who is also a graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.



Jonathan Békés and his accompanist friend, Paul Cheung

Jonathan amazed the audience with works by Richard Strauss, Frederick Delius and David Popper. He is continuing his cello studies in 2016 at the Australian National Academy of Music in Melbourne, but looking to study abroad in the near future.

MACARTHUR ART TEACHERS EXHIBITION SUCCESS

Two Macarthur Art teachers, Mrs Harriet Geater-Johnson and Mrs Jackie Murphy were successful in seeing their joint artwork selected for the annual exhibition *Sculpture at Scenic World*. Only thirty-three artists were selected by an independent panel showcasing highly accomplished



Jackie Murphy and Harriet Geater-Johnson, with their selected sculpture depicting a pit pony from the mining era.

artworks across all sculptural and installation mediums, by local, interstate and international artists. The spectacular setting at Scenic World Katoomba, added to the inspiring and creative artworks.

The installation by Mrs Geater-Johnson and Mrs Murphy, titled Pit Pony, was suspended amidst the winding lianas and tree canopy of the Blue Mountains ancient Jurassic rainforest at the foot of the well-known Scenic Railway. They developed the life-like piece from their interest in the roles that humans have forced upon animals. Their artwork focussed on the way we use animals, often mistreating them. Historical resources document a drab existence for pit ponies, who worked at the coal face, only to be slaughtered when they ceased to be an asset to man.

Mrs Geater-Johnson and Mrs Murphy used ceramic slip casting, combined with woven metal and hessian to suggest both the fragility of a disposable commodity, and the mechanical influence of human intervention. Prior to the use of ponies in the Industrial Age, women and children did this work. The vulnerability of the suspended animal illustrates the aberrant practices inflicted on ponies, as they were winched blindfolded down the mine shaft.

MACARTHUR COMMUNITY

OUR COMMUNITY

2015 ended with the departure of Mrs Sharon Pascoe-Thomas from the role of Community Relations and Fundraising Manager.

Sharon worked at Macarthur from October 2009 to the end of 2015, but she had a longer association with the school through the attendance of her children Emily (2011) and Daniel (2015), who both attended Macarthur from Kindergarten to Year 12. The school is deeply indebted to Mrs Pascoe-Thomas who as the first person to hold this position, set the standard for others to follow, in terms of organisation of events and in effective fund-raising. Under her leadership, we now have the Women at Macarthur (W@M) and Men at Macarthur (M@M) organisations, the Talkback Thursday (TBT) group and the Macarthur Playgroup. Her energy and organisational abilities came to the fore in the planning and staging of several unforgettable Annual Fundraising Dinners. In addition, she signed up several Community Partners and Sponsors, who make an invaluable contribution to the school through their generosity. There are innumerable improvements to the school's facilities that only took place during recent years because of the work of Sharon and the generosity of the supporters of the school. Thank you Sharon for all that you have contributed to Macarthur Anglican School. We wish you God's blessings in all of your future endeavours.

Despite the departure of Mrs Pascoe Thomas, community events continue to take place, while many people continue to give generously as partners and sponsors, or as donors to one of the school's funds to enhance the important work that is carried on at Macarthur. The first event to occur in 2016 was the **Year 7 Welcome Barbecue** for new students and their parents. This is a very important event, along with the Year 7 Camp held in the first week of term helps to cement the idea in new students who come from a variety of Primary Schools, that they are truly part of the Macarthur Family. As well, it is always a very positive way for parents who are new to Macarthur to get to know the teachers who will be in contact with their children day-by-day.

Thank you to the teachers who attended and to the Year 11 Peer Support Leaders who make such a difference in helping new students to settle in.

Of course there are many new students each year in our Junior School classes as well. **The Annual Welcome Breakfast** was held on 16 February and was attended by many parents with children commencing in Transition and Kindergarten, as well as those with a child entering the school at a higher grade. We are grateful to the ongoing parents and teachers who helped with the organisation of the breakfast. These events are more than enjoyable get-togethers. They are really important in helping new parents see themselves as Partners with the school in achieving the best educational outcomes for their children.

The **Parents and Friends Playgroup** has also been operating from the beginning of the year. Our thanks to Mrs Marie Knox and Mrs Rachel Freestone for getting the playgroup underway and to all of the parents who are supporting it. Children up to four years old may attend – Mondays 8.30am to 10.00am approximately.

The **Camden Show** was held on 11 and 12 March. As a wonderful community event which has been running now for one hundred and thirty years, Macarthur is proud to be supporter and sponsor of the show. The performance of our Agriculture students with their displays, our equestrian students and the Show Team students in the display and parading of animals was outstanding. In addition, many Macarthur students competed in events privately, particularly in the Arts and Crafts section. This was followed up by some outstanding results by our students at the **Royal Easter Show** two weeks later. Details can be found in a separate report in this issue of *Tartan Ties*. As a community contributor, Macarthur once again set up its tent to demonstrate some of the wonderful activities in the school. Apart from the photo display, musical instruments were available for visitors to



Playgroup in action



A great day for golf at the Headmaster's Golf Challenge



Jenson creating a new masterpiece at Playgroup

MACARTHUR COMMUNITY

OUR COMMUNITY

try and the Robotics Club allowed visitors to have a turn at controlling their robots through iPads. As usual, we had kinetic sand and playfoam for the young visitors to the Macarthur Tent. Once again, it was a great display of Macarthur.

Grandparents Day on 18 March was another wonderful occasion for several generations of the Macarthur Family to come together. Following an enjoyable assembly and several songs and performances by the Junior School children, classrooms were opened up to the visitors so that students could show their work to their admiring grandparents. This is always an enjoyable occasion and emphasises the important role grandparents play in the encouragement and support of young children.

The first **M@M Breakfast** was held on Thursday 31 March. Normally they are held on the last Friday of each month and are very well attended by more than

a hundred fathers. What a great way to meet others with their children at Macarthur and to extend your circle of friends and contacts! We thank Michael Banks of RAMS Home Loans Macarthur, for the donation of the food that is served each month at the breakfast. Michael's generosity allows this activity to continue throughout the year for just a gold coin donation by those who attend. We look forward to seeing new fathers at the next M@M Breakfast – remember, the last Friday of each month in school terms, near the Junior School carpark.

The **Headmaster's Golf Challenge** took place at Glenmore Heritage Valley Golf Course during the Autumn Vacation on Monday 18 April.

The Macarthur Community will continue to be active in the months ahead. In particular, keep in mind the **Annual Fundraising Dinner** to be held on **Saturday 20 August, 2016**.

Finally, the school wishes to thank all donors and contributors to the school's Building Fund, Endowment Fund and Library Fund.

Postscript: The Headmaster recently appointed Mrs Karen Ingram as Community Relations and Fundraising Manager, replacing Mrs Sharon Pascoe-Thomas. Karen may be contacted as follows: T: 02 4629 6207 or E: kingram@macarthur.nsw.edu.au



Junior students perform for their grandparents

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MUSICALS PRODUCTIONS FROM THE PAST

We continue looking back on the tradition of outstanding musical productions that have taken place over the years. In this issue, we recall two musicals from this century, one junior and one senior. Once again, the extraordinary commitment of staff and the wonderful talents of Macarthur students were on display during the junior production of *Honk! Jr.* in September 2006, and the senior production of *The Music Man* in July 2003.

Honk! Jr. is based on the much-loved Hans Christian Andersen story, *The Ugly Duckling*. The musical, which was adapted for children from the highly successful Broadway musical *Honk!*, was successful in the United States, but seldom seen in Australia, making it a very special experience for Macarthur audiences.

The cast of *Honk! Jr.* included Jonathan Nash-Daly as Ugly, Hannah Crichton as Ugly's mother Ida and Luke Kennedy as his father, Drake. Other characters were played by Ebony Ager, Karleigh Paul, Lucy Cornwell, Christine Lee, April Ranson, Alexandra Ede, Amanda Baldwin-Clark, Blake Young, Nicole Smith, Veronica O'Neill, Joscelyn Markerink, Roseanna Raymond, Marco van Westing, Jackson Bartlett, Anna-Maria Wosik and Keira Stephenson. As is the custom in junior musicals, almost every student was involved in the support cast, the choir or backstage.

Honk! Jr. continued the tradition of sellout musicals by junior students, following *Go Go Jonah*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Oliver*, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Annie Jr.* over the previous ten years.

The Music Man, set in country town USA, follows the fast-talking conman Harold Hill, as he tries to sell musical instruments and uniforms for a band in River City, Iowa. As the programme notes say, 'he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. He does, however, know a dollar from a dime.'

Led by Mayor Shinn, a number of townspeople try to unravel Harold's background, providing much of the show's humour. But as we might expect, Harold falls for the town librarian, Marian Paroo, who tries to convert him into a respectable citizen. The musical is also well-known for

some catchy songs, such as *Seventy-six Trombones* and *Till There Was You*.

Lead cast members included Andrew Pitt, Stephanie Lorenz, Shaun Deery as Harold Hill, Lachlan Hodgson as Mayor Shinn, Victoria Wynn, Timothy Ash, Bendan Hay, Jonathan Clipsham, Kieran Forsyth, Cameron Ferris, and alternating as Marian Paroo, Adriana Mihajlovic and Elizabeth Wilson.



The Music Man



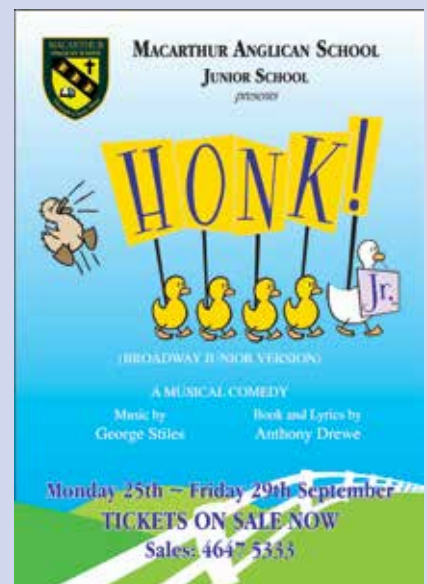
The Music Man



The Music Man



Scene from *Honk! Jr.*



The Honk! Jr. Choir

MACARTHUR STAFF PROFILES

JOANNE FENTON



Miss Fenton, who is a teacher in the Faculty of Foreign Languages, commenced at Macarthur in 2005, after working for nine years at MLC Burwood teaching Indonesian and Japanese. She completed her teacher training at the University of New South Wales, gaining a Bachelor of Arts degree and Diploma of Education, before augmenting her qualifications with a Graduate Diploma in TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language.)

"I am passionate to see our students better understanding themselves and thinking through what it means to be a good neighbour as they learn about the language and culture of Indonesia," Miss Fenton says. "I am also thankful for working in a school that is so supportive of the Indonesian programme, and grateful for the caring environment of the Macarthur staff, students and families. But above all, I am excited about the opportunities to talk with students about faith and to be involved in bible study groups."

An interest in photography, especially when it is combined with visiting a new destination, competes with Miss Fenton's time spent among nieces, nephews, parents, sisters, friends and godchildren. Involvement in her church is a very important part of Miss Fenton's life, where she is a member of the music team and teaches in the Sunday School. Miss Fenton takes lots of short holidays in Thailand, Singapore, Japan, and of course Malaysia and Indonesia where she has accompanied several Macarthur tour groups. More recently, Miss Fenton has developed a desire to see more of Australia, with plans to visit Uluru and the Whitsundays.

TIMOTHY CARTWRIGHT



Mr Cartwright is the Dean of Students, one of the senior positions within the school's executive structure. He commenced at Macarthur in the Faculty of Technology in 2002, but before that worked in the building trade. He deferred his university place to attend a bible college, and worked outdoors with a group that volunteered their services for part of each year. Eventually, he took an apprenticeship with the group, working in New Zealand and on a castle restoration project in Austria for Capernwray Bible College. On completing his apprenticeship, Mr Cartwright worked on National Trust buildings with specific restoration needs.

Mr Cartwright decided to return to his original passion for teaching and completed a Bachelor of Education (Hons) and later, a Master in Educational Leadership and Management. He says that apart from academic knowledge, his hope is to demonstrate how to live out a Christian faith in everyday circumstances. "I am passionate about entering discussions with students about Christianity with no question off-bounds, helping them develop a clear understanding of the Gospel."

A most rewarding aspect of Macarthur life, Mr Cartwright says, has been the eleven annual Thailand Outreach trips he led, acquainting students with part of the world at odds with their own experience. They give the opportunity to talk openly with students about life experience and God's love, grace and salvation through Jesus.

Mr Cartwright is a keen cyclist, but finished racing after a serious crash a few years ago. He rides three or four times a week and enjoys the camaraderie of fellow cyclists each Saturday morning.

KIRSTEN HEY



Mrs Hey holds a Bachelor of Education degree, majoring in Special Education. She commenced teaching by working among students with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities, eventually becoming Assistant Principal at St Andrews Primary School before commencing at Macarthur in 2009.

At Macarthur, Mrs Hey wants to "inspire and encourage students to learn new things and grow." She likes to think about how educators can help students reach their potential. "I enjoy finding answers to questions like 'Why does a particular student have difficulties learning or retaining new knowledge? Sometimes the answer is simple – a hearing or vision impairment; other times the answer is more complex. Intervening earlier rather than later helps children to reach their potential." During the last four years Mrs Hey has run the school's Chess Club, promoting a very social game that she says promotes thinking strategies and attracts lots of interesting people.

Aviation is a particular interest in Mrs Hey's family. Her husband, Alasdair, is also a teacher, who already has a private pilot's license. Last year, the Hey family, including Lachlan and Rowan (Year 7 and Year 6 at Macarthur), went on a flying holiday to Mildura, landing in Broken Hill and other remote places. The exhilaration of flying caused Mrs Hey to decide she could learn to fly as well. Now she is working towards her pilot's license as well and recently flew solo for the first time. "Flying provides me with amazing stories to share with my students," Mrs Hey says. "I intend using my flying experience to educate those around me about the joy and adventures of aviation."

MACARTHUR ALUMNI

Stuart Crooks (1989) was a Foundation Student of Macarthur Anglican School. Stuart now lives in London and works in the finance sector. In recent years he was involved in establishing a foreign exchange trading company with offices in London and Singapore. The company specialises in the electronic trading of five of the emerging market currencies of the world. Stuart was recently back in Sydney for a hurried trip to visit his family, before returning to London.

Joanne McKell (1991) will be married in September 2016. Joanne's wedding will take place in Gibraltar. For several years Joanne worked as a Personal Assistant, but then decided that she would like to perform a service to people in need. For a year and a half she worked with 'Feeding Dreams Cambodia', a charity volunteer organisation in Siem Reap, in northern Cambodia. More recently, Joanne has spent a year teaching English in Shenzhen, China, where she met her future husband Ian, who is from the UK. Joanne and Ian plan to settle in the UK after their wedding.

Renee Golding (née Young, 1992) has been working with her husband Christopher (1992) in the family business, but at the same time has completed a Bachelor of Nursing through Western Sydney University. She is now working in the area of drug and alcohol abuse with the Sydney South West Area Health Service based in Liverpool Hospital.

Matthew Payne (1999). It was incorrectly stated in the last issue of Tartan Ties that Matthew is an ordained minister. In fact, he was a Lay Pastor at Newlife Anglican Church, Oran Park. However, Matthew has now returned to Moore College, where he is engaged in further theological studies.

Joel Ennis (2000) completed an apprenticeship in carpentry and after working for a few years, set out on his own as a self-employed contractor. He is now a project manager supervising work on large building sites, such as projects at the University of Sydney Library and at the University of Technology, as well as many high rise apartment buildings. Joel married Elizabeth Sanderson in 2008 and with their three-year-old son live in Camden South. Joel and Elizabeth have travelled to Ireland (where Elizabeth's parents live) and around Europe.



Joel and Elizabeth Ennis

Kathryn French (née Golding, 2002) was married to Jason, a builder, on 11 March 2016 in the gardens of Camden Valley Inn. Kathryn and Jason are now living in Elderslie. Kathryn and her sister Louise Turner (née Golding, 1994) have been running the Michel's Patisserie in Tahmoor for about eight years.

Daniel Ennis (2003) went to Katherine in the Northern Territory where he did a course to become a jackaroo. He worked on a camel farm outside of Alice Springs, raising camels and conducting camel rides for tourists. Then after completing TAFE qualifications to become a fitter and machinist, he worked for various engineering companies maintaining and repairing machinery. Daniel married Jolinn Thill in 2015, who initially came from the United States to complete practice teaching in music at Macarthur, while being hosted by the Ennis family. Later, she returned from the US and filled a temporary teaching position here at Macarthur. She now has a permanent teaching position back home, while Daniel has received his visa to live in the States. They are now living in Fond du Lac in Wisconsin.



Daniel Ennis and his wife Jolinn

Cameron Noakes (2004) will complete his studies at Moore Theological College by the end of 2016 (not at the end of 2015 as stated in the last issue.) After that, Cameron will take up an appointment as the Assistant Minister

in a new church to be established in Leppington, where rapid residential development is expected with the opening of the new railway line.

Benjamin Tillman (2004) won the Wollongong City Council Arts and Cultural Achievement Award in January. The citation for the award states that Ben "played an integral role in enhancing arts and culture in Wollongong. Through his company, Ben was instrumental in bringing local and international acts to Wollongong over the past years, and successfully delivered two music festivals in Stuart Park attracting crowds from Wollongong and surrounding regions. In 2015 he was also instrumental in bringing an international New Year's Eve party to Wollongong, which was described by In the Mix website as 'the best NYE party ever'. The event received feature article coverage in the Sydney Morning Herald and was recognised by a number of global music blogs."

Claire Koski (2008) played in the Sydney Thunder's victory in the inaugural Women's Big Bash League final early this year. With Claire playing as Wicket Keeper, Sydney Thunder won the match with three balls to spare. Claire figured in two dismissals of Sydney Sixers batters – a stumping and a caught behind – and was in the middle for the final run to win the match.



Quincy Law (2010) has graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Quincy recently contacted the school with this good news and to express his gratitude to the school by saying: "I do want to thank

MACARTHUR ALUMNI

all the teachers for their assistance and guidance. They have successfully raised up a social worker from Macarthur and enlightened my future."



Matthew Cowper (2011) recently graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Engineering degree with First Class Honours in Mechanical Engineering. In addition to this award, Matthew also received academic prizes including the Dean's List of Excellence in Academic Performance, the P G Morgan Memorial Prize in Mechanical Engineering Design and the University of Sydney Academic Merit Prize. Matthew has been immediately employed by Siemens, a well-known engineering firm. Matthew is based in the Siemens Melbourne office, but his work overseeing the servicing of power plants can carry him interstate.



Elliott Margin (2011), along with his brothers Sam and Zaac, is a member of the band The Rubens, which won the annual *Triple J Hottest One Hundred* on Australia Day, an annual music listener poll hosted by radio station, Triple J. The public is invited to vote online for

their favourite songs of the year. Over two million votes are recorded and the one hundred most popular songs were then counted down on Australia Day. The band has released several albums comprising around twenty-five songs. Congratulations to Elliott and The Rubens.

Timothy Norris (2011) is in his final year of a double degree at the University of Wollongong. He is completing a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Spanish and Italian languages and a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil). Timothy spent a year during 2013/2014 living and working in Spain to increase his skill in the Spanish language. He is attending the Baptist Church in Wollongong and has been active in the Evangelical Christian Union of the university.

Tynan Williams (2013) is completing his third year of studies towards a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney, with a view to becoming a teacher of History and Business Studies. Tynan has a heart for mission and recently spent three months with YWAM (Youth with a Mission) coaching soccer in Jimbaran, Bali, Indonesia. This project is a ministry to street children through coaching in soccer skills and by mounting local competitions. In March Tynan delivered an address at Camden Uniting Church, based on his experiences on the Jimbaran mission. Since graduating from Macarthur, Tynan has also travelled to South America and would like to be involved in future mission ventures in Africa.

Niclas Hordern (2011) and Elias Hordern (2013) were involved in the same YWAM project at Jimbaran for six months during 2014. Niclas took a GAP year after the HSC and worked on a farm with his friend from the same cohort, Matthew Perigo. He is now completing a bridging course at the University of New South Wales leading towards a project management career. Elias also took a GAP year in 2014, when he and Niclas worked on the YWAM project in Indonesia. Elias is in his second year of a Bachelor of Arts degree with the intention of developing a career in Psychology.

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CLASS OF 2015 – OUTSTANDING HSC RESULTS

The School Council, Macarthur staff and untold numbers of parents and family members were thrilled with the Higher School Certificate results of the Class of 2015. With an emphasis on developing enduring understanding, not just the acquisition of knowledge, Macarthur's strong culture of thinking encourages students to strive for excellence. And that was certainly evident in the results achieved by this cohort of students. A few highlights of the 2015 HSC results include the following:

- In terms of ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) results, 16% of students achieved an ATAR of 95 or higher, 28% received 90 or higher, 38% achieved 85 or higher, 49% achieved 80 or higher, 55% achieved 75 or higher and 65% achieved 70 or higher. 40% of students were recognized as 'Distinguished Achievers' for gaining a Band 6 or Extension 4 result in at least one subject
- The following students received ATAR scores above 95: Robert Archer (Dux with 99.10), Alanah Monger (98.90), Ellen House (98.60), Tracy Gidiess (97.80), Danielle Santos (97.00), Kate Thomas (96.60), Brittany Taylor (95.95), Jonah Gray (95.85), Jessica Tripp and Madeline Mortier (95.70), Dayna Girven (95.60) and Jacinta Kezelos (95.45)
- Robert Archer and Alanah Monger won places on the HSC All Rounder Award Honour Roll for gaining Band 6 results in at least ten units of study. Our students appeared on the HSC Honour Roll 85 times.
- Ellen House came first in the State in Indonesian Extension, third in Indonesian Continuers and eighth in the State in English Extension.
- The students of this cohort have now embarked upon the tertiary stage of their education, studying courses including Medicine, Veterinary Science, Agricultural Science, International Studies, Law, Engineering, Occupational Therapy, Languages, Computer Science, Architecture, Journalism, Teaching and Economics.



Summer Sports Action

A broad range of sports at Macarthur allows every student to find a physical activity they can enjoy and in which they can be successful. Interschool and House competitions bring out the best in competitive spirit and sportsmanship. Macarthur students have been rewarded for their persistence and teamwork by winning several competition finals.



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