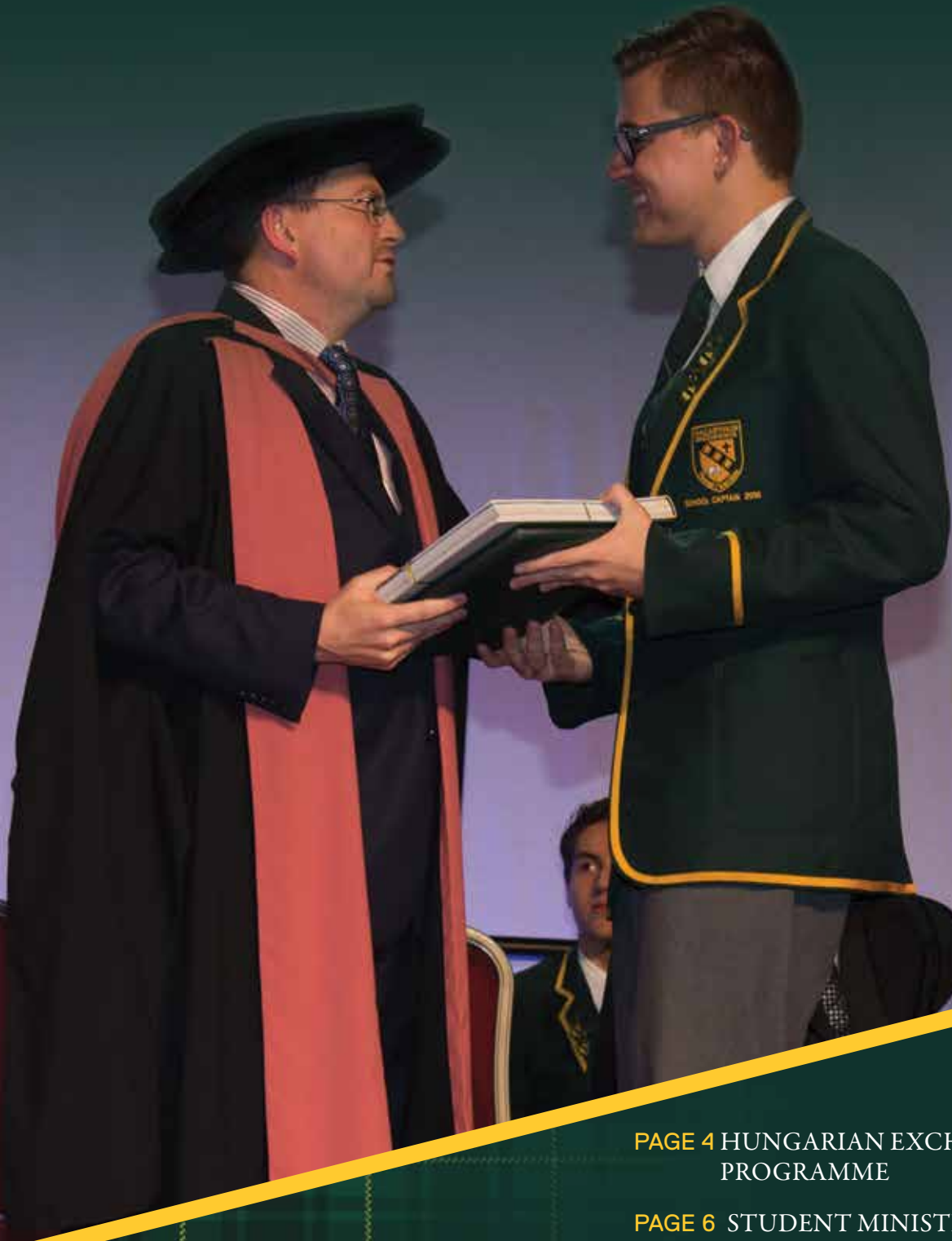




TARTAN TIES

NEWS FROM MACARTHUR ANGLICAN SCHOOL

SUMMER 2016/17



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PROGRAMME

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MACARTHUR

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STAGE

ENTER TO LEARN

GO OUT TO SERVE

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Learning without thought is labour lost; thought without learning perilous.

Confucius, Sixth Century
BC

It is possible to learn 'stuff' without thinking. I can, for example, learn *what* happened in history, without really knowing *why* it happened. I can be affected by a piece of advertising without really understanding why it has appealed to me. I could go through life like this, knowing a great deal, but never truly understanding... never delving below the surface of things to *know deeply*. If I want to know something deeply I need to *think* deeply. To think deeply, I need to examine my subject and ask questions... and keep asking them. Knowing deeply gives birth to true understanding and wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to sensibly apply to new situations, the knowledge we have learned.

It was the Fifth Century Athenian philosopher Socrates who said, 'The unexamined life is not worth living.' To Socrates it was important for people to ask questions about life; to test their thoughts and actions. In the Socratic method, a series of questions are posed to assist a people in uncovering their underlying beliefs and principles, and by doing so test the true validity of their assumptions. This is the aim of our teaching at Macarthur. Macarthur even has a course on Socratic thinking for teachers, facilitated by our senior staff, that is endorsed by the Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards.

Socrates lived at a time when the Athenian democracy made oppressive and questionable use of its military power over its weaker allies. Socrates questioned the general views and actions of the politicians and people who elected them. Socrates' student Plato described him as the 'gadfly of the state'. For just as a gadfly stings the horse into action, so Socrates' questions stung the Athenian people and their politicians to consider

the justice and morality of their decisions. It compelled them to deeper thinking.

Jesus' method of instruction also involved probing and searching questions. To the one who asked him to identify the greatest commandment, Jesus replied not with an answer, but with a question: 'What is written in the Law? How do you read it?' (Luke 10:26). The disciples' understanding and commitment was tested when Jesus asked them, 'Who do you say I am?' (Matthew 16:15). To the religious establishment he asked uncomfortable questions like, 'Why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?' (Matthew 15:3).

In both cases Socrates and Jesus used the art of questioning to develop wise thought and appropriate action. Neither were afraid to question power, though ultimately both paid for it with their lives.

At Macarthur, we want students to apply *deep thinking* to all parts of life. No subject should be out of bounds, including questions of faith... or rather, especially faith. A faith that is unquestioned is a faith that is untested. If a faith is true as its adherents declare, then it should stand the scrutiny of questioning and examination. At Macarthur we have no difficulty with students raising questions about Christian beliefs. This is a far preferable state of affairs to apathy or blind disregard. In the same way, we hope students ask probing questions about society in general, and even dare to question power when called to do so by their moral consciences. I would hope that they meet a happier fate than Socrates or Jesus, but I hope more that they live examined and principled lives asking the right questions and ultimately living the life worth living.

ANDREW KOKIC

ACTING HEADMASTER



Mr Kokic wrote this message for Tartan Ties while the Headmaster was on Study Leave during Spring Term. Before his appointment as Deputy Headmaster, Mr Kokic was the Faculty Head of History and International Studies, specialising in the teaching of Ancient History.

Cover Photo: The Headmaster presenting awards to the outgoing School Captain of 2016, Ernst Nel. Cover photo and rear cover photos of Junior Presentation Day awards, courtesy of Mrs Kylie Lyons of Handprint Photography, Wilson Crescent, Narellan.
www.handprint.net.au

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING MANAGER: MRS KARYN INGRAM

Mrs Ingram joined the Macarthur staff in May 2016, having been associated with the school since 2009 through the enrolment of her children Isabelle (Class of 2016) and Charles (Year 10).

After studying Public Relations and Marketing, Mrs Ingram worked for the NSW Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service on the Publicity Team. She left full time work after having her first child, Alexander, who has significant disabilities.

As a parent and carer, Mrs Ingram undertook many voluntary roles advocating for and supporting families in similar circumstances. She was a *Families in Partnership* board member, a *Camden Access Community Advisory Group* member, part of the *Camden Council Children and Families Strategic Plan* (2005 – 2010) a *South West Sydney Families First Consultative Forum* member and community representative.

Mrs Ingram has spoken at the Early Childhood Intervention Australia (NSW)

Annual State Conference on disengaged parents and was a guest lecturer at Campbelltown TAFE. She appeared before the NSW Legislative Council *Inquiry into the Provision of Education to Students with a Disability* and has provided a number of submissions to government concerning the needs of people with disabilities and their carers.

Mrs Ingram fulfilled another role that entailed a significant degree of community liaison work. She was an assistant to Mr Graham West, a former State Member of Parliament, dealing with a variety of people connected to his portfolio in government, developing media releases and newsletters, and managing the Member's liaison with community groups. With such a depth of experience in



Karyn Ingram

community liaison work, Mrs Ingram is eminently qualified for her new role at Macarthur Anglican School.

The School Council

The School Council is the body that sets the policy direction for Macarthur Anglican School. Apart from employing the Headmaster, who in turn selects staff for every other position in the school, the Council has the task of ensuring that the school remains true to its charter of providing an education which in its content and environment allows for full individual development in the spiritual, academic, physical, artistic-creative and social domains, based on a clear biblical perspective... (From the original Mission Statement of the school).

Council members are invited from the community to serve in a voluntary capacity. Among them, one finds a wealth of knowledge across a range of disciplines, including Education, Finance, Business and Law. The current Chair of Council, Mrs Annabelle Michie,

commenced in her position in 2013, overseeing the monthly meetings and the work of Council sub-committees. The Chairs of Council over the last thirty-three years are acknowledged for the important contribution each one has made to the history of the school.

Former Chairs of the Macarthur Anglican School Council:

1984 – 1988: The Reverend Canon Alan R Patrick, BA, DipRelSt, ThL

1989 – 1993: The Venerable Victor W Roberts, DMin, ThSchol, DipRE, ThL(Hons)

1994 – 1997: The Venerable Lindsay M Stoddart, BTh, MPhil, DMin, DipLaw

1998 – 2006: Mr John M Waterhouse, BA, BEd, BD, ThL

2006 – 2013: Dr Allan K Beavis OAM, BSc, MEdAdmin, PhD, DipEd, AMusA, ARCM, FACE



Former Chairs of the Macarthur Anglican School Council

MACARTHUR INTERNATIONAL

HUNGARIAN EXCHANGE SUCCESS

Macarthur's relationship with the *Lévay József Református Gimnázium*¹, has been in place now for many years. Often referred to simply as *Lévay József*² or just *Lévay*, it's a Christian School in the Reformed Church tradition in Miskolc, Hungary.

Since 2002, Hungarian students and Macarthur students have participated in a very effective exchange programme that assists Hungarian students in developing their skill in speaking English, while many Macarthur students have gained a detailed insight into Hungarian culture as they learn the Hungarian language.

This year the exchange programme passed a significant 'milestone' with more than fifty students from the two schools benefiting from this partnership. Twenty-seven *Lévay József* students have attended Macarthur, while twenty-four Macarthur students have attended *Lévay József*. In addition to these fifty-one young people, sixteen *Lévay József* teachers have visited Macarthur for observation and professional development, while ten Macarthur teachers have now visited Hungary, spending varying lengths of time at *Lévay József*. Obviously, much has been gained through this exchange.

Recently, Mrs Annette Fitzgerald, who has co-ordinated the programme over these years, contacted several Hungarian former students to catch up with what they are now doing. Many of the former students responded, expressing their fond memories of their time at Macarthur. Apart from noting how they have spread out through Hungary and beyond, it is significant that many have made good use of the English language skills they gained while at Macarthur.

¹ 'Gimnázium' is the name given to secondary schools in parts of Europe, such as Germany,

Austria and Hungary. These schools have a strong emphasis on academic learning, with a focus on preparing students for entry into university. The Lévay József school commenced in 1561, was taken over by the communist government in 1948, but re-opened in 1993, once again operating as an independent Christian school.

² *Lévay József (or Joseph Levay) was a Hungarian poet, after whom the school is named.*



Ábrám, Dániel attended Macarthur in 2003. After graduating from *Lévay József*, Dániel graduated from university as an electrical engineer. He

worked for a few years in this field before becoming a trader and finally, a software developer. He is now studying for a PhD in artificial intelligence at Eötvös Loránd University (known as ELTE) in Budapest, and working part-time at the Institute for Computer Science and Control at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.



Lénárt-Muszka, Attila (attended in 2004) is living in Hungary's second largest city, Debrecen. He is a part-time instructor at the Institute of English and

American Studies, at the University of Debrecen. This semester he is teaching Translation, Writing, Composition and American Culture and Institutions. Apart from his duties at the university, Attila is doing a three-semester teacher training programme and teaches English at a language school. Together with his wife of five years, Zsuzsanna, they are raising their beautiful two-year-old daughter, also called Zsuzsanna.

Unfortunately, Attila says, he is unable to pursue music and acting anymore, but remembers fondly the amazing musical and theatrical productions he was part

of at Macarthur. 'It was so great Down Under', Attila says. 'My year at Macarthur had an amazing impact on my life for which I cannot be thankful enough.'



Babina, Nándor (attended in 2012) now lives in Mannheim, Germany. He moved there after finishing at *Lévay József*, following the offer of a position by

a German company. He is now working for SAP, a large software development company. Nándor says he is doing something he always wanted to do. At present, he is working in mobile phone development, but has worked in other areas of development such as wearable devices or PC's. Nándor is studying at Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg University, and says he is very happy that he took the exchange opportunity four years ago as it has helped him significantly in his career.



Szalontai, Veronika attended Macarthur more recently in 2014. She says that her experiences at Macarthur have had an impact on every

day of her life ever since. Veronika is now a senior student at *Lévay József* and about to graduate and continue her studies at university. She still lives in Miskolc, though next year she will move to Debrecen to study Anglistics (English Studies) and Biology at the local university. The knowledge she gained in Australia, Veronika says, made her determined to choose Anglistics. Veronika stays connected to Macarthur and the friends she made while attending here. 'This is a kind of belonging I would love to maintain for the rest of my life', she says. 'I hope at some time in the future I will be able to visit the school and my beloved friends'.

MACARTHUR INTERNATIONAL

HUNGARIAN EXCHANGE SUCCESS



Buda, Lilla
(attended in 2007) says that it is nice to know that she has not been forgotten in Australia. After finishing school, she went to France to do a

voluntary year before starting university. During her tertiary studies she lived in Strasbourg, Germany and finished her Bachelor's degree in Applied Foreign Languages (English and German). As part of her studies she worked as a trainee in the European Parliament's Information Office in Strasbourg during 2015. In September 2016 she commenced a Master's degree course in Translation and Interpretation back in Hungary. At the same time she works as an assistant in the Plant Management Department of the Bosch company, which produces power tools.



Kocsis, Máté (attended in 2002) was one of the first two students to visit Macarthur under this exchange programme. Máté and his wife Eszter have a two-year-old son named David and live in a small town near Gyöngyös, eighty kilometres east of Budapest. After graduating from Lévy József he attended university in Gödöllő and qualified as an animal husbandry engineer with further studies on animal nutrition. At present, Máté is a poultry specialist at the Bonafarm Bábolna company, one

of the biggest agricultural companies in Hungary with more than five and a half thousand employees.



Farkas, Fanni
(attended in 2012) graduated from Lévy József in 2015. She is now studying Social Studies in Budapest at Eötvös Loránd University, and is

really enjoying what she always wanted to study. After completing her studies, she wants to become a family therapist or a criminal psychologist. When she has time after her studies, she sometimes works as a hostess in restaurants. Fanni is planning to return to Australia in July 2017.



Serfoz, Evelyn
(attended in 2010) lives in Sopron, a town located in the western part of Hungary. Evelyn is looking forward to her wedding at the end of July 2017. She is in her

final year of study at the University of West Hungary in Sopron, studying timber industry engineering. Evelyn also has a full-time job working as a designer at a local family enterprise, building block houses and prefabricated houses.



Szabó, Tibor
(attended in 2002), one of the first to come to Macarthur, attended the University of Debrecen, studying English and History.

After graduation he taught English for three years in a language school for the employees of a multinational IT services company in Debrecen. Tibor also studied economics in Debrecen, and took up a position with T-Systems as a Project Co-ordinator. He works in a small group

with one Hungarian and three German colleagues, with responsibility for planning, initiating and monitoring the cost reduction programme of their department.

Tibor was married in July, 2015 to Melinda, who studied law at the University of Debrecen and is working in a local government office in a smaller town nearby. Their daughter, Anna, was born in May, 2016, bringing them much joy. Tibor and Melinda have just bought a flat in Debrecen, which they are now renovating ready for moving in during 2017.



Szondi, Borbála
(attended in 2009) lived in England for two years, working as a support person for people with autism spectrum disorder, learning difficulties and

challenging behaviours. After that, Bori (as she was known to her friends) had a quiet year working as a waitress in Hungary, and travelling. Right now she is studying Psychology at the University of Pécs in southern Hungary. She has many other interests, such as teaching her friends how to bake, knit and crochet. Bori has her own small business, using her craft skills to make baby shoes, teddy bears and blankets, and so is quite busy with life but enjoying every minute.



Vári, Gabriella
(attended in 2005) was recently home again in Miskolc, visiting her parents. Gabriella has lived in Dublin, Ireland since 2012 and works as a

Human Resources and Recruitment Co-ordinator at a multinational IT company. Two years ago she was attracted to a Frenchman, and was soon engaged to be married. She is currently on maternity leave with her sweet four-month-old baby girl, Alys.

MACARTHUR LEADERSHIP

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AT MACARTHUR

Under the leadership of the School Chaplain, The Reverend David Hayman, Christian ministry at Macarthur is flourishing. A large part of the success can be attributed to how students see it as an authentic part of the school, due to the number of activities organised and led by the students themselves.

James Key was appointed as the Student Ministry Leader in October, at the beginning of the new academic year. Here are some of his ideas on the value of the groups being run by the students themselves:

*The **Christian Ministry Team** run many groups during school hours. There is a very inclusive and encouraging attitude when it comes to student involvement. 'Junior Oasis' for Years 3 and 4 is run by Year 7 to 12 students, together with Mr Langley. It features a short talk followed by games. 'Oasis in the Middle', for Years 5 and 6, is very similar – run by Year 7 to 12 students with the help of Mrs Tuft. For*

Years 7 to 12 there are year group bible studies each Thursday during lunchtime – great times for discussing theology, key bible verses and for encouragement.

Each term we run a 'Mega Oasis', with a talk and some music. Recently, we debuted a new event called 'It's Free' which is a free lunch for anyone at school, no strings attached, just simply to show God's love. (see photos)

The Chapel Band is student run, with the help of Mrs Marrable and provides two worship songs, three days a week at the beginning of Middle and Senior School Chapel services. Morning devotions led by teachers are a great way to focus on God and pray before the school day begins.

With all of these groups we hope that all the students find one (or more) in which they can be involved and connect with God.

James Key

These aren't the only groups run by the students. Other groups that were conceived by the students and organised by them are described here by Kaitlin Taylor and Noah Gray:

***Faith in Action** is an all-girls, student-led Christian group for Years 7 to 12. Through Faith in Action, girls in both the Middle School and Senior School have the opportunity to build a Christian community, not only within their own year group, but with other year groups as well. These friendships provide a*

positive community and an opportunity to gather together to talk about God, and to discuss relevant issues and themes in our lives. Senior girls are given the opportunity to act out their faith, enabling them to be mentors to younger students as they grow in their own faith. Faith in Action is allowing all of us to grow in our faith in God, and also to grow as young women.

Kaitlin Taylor

***Guys, Games and God** (GGG) is a group for boys in Years 7 to 9, held every Wednesday lunchtime in either the gymnasium, on the basketball courts or on the oval. We play various competitive sports, including ultimate Frisbee, Basketball, Slide Hockey, Indoor Soccer, Modified Gridiron and an indigenous Australian game called Burungi. At half time a senior student or teacher delivers a 90 second talk based on a passage from the Bible followed by a thoughtful prayer.*

The aim of GGG is unlike many other Christian Ministry activities at Macarthur. GGG's purpose is to build a sense of Godly fellowship within the group which can be continued throughout the boys' schooling. GGG provides a warm environment where young men can learn from God's word, look up to their more senior peers, and enjoy good hard rigorous sport.

Noah Gray



Student Ministry activity - 'It's Free'



Joseph Hartono in charge of the cooking for an 'It's Free' lunch

UNDERGOING CHANGE – THE INNOVATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE

At Speech and Awards Night in 2015, the Headmaster announced that the library in the Stoddart Centre would be transformed into an 'Innovation and Research Centre', under the leadership of Mrs Rebecca Fitzpatrick. Progress in this transformation is described below.



Duplicate and outdated resources ready for disposal



Learning spaces will take on a new look in the future

"To bring about change", Mrs Fitzpatrick says, "we have to objectively assess what it is we are doing, to look at it from all perspectives, and bravely forge a new path. This year has afforded me the opportunity to immerse myself in the Innovation and Research Centre (the IRC) and to observe how it is operating up to the present time."

Student voice in the form of electronic surveys and focus groups, together with the views of teachers through group discussion, surveys, and observation, have been a guiding force in planning the first stage of the IRC transformation with the design of new learning spaces. Mrs Fitzpatrick has made many site visits to modern learning spaces and sought expert advice from specialists and designers.

In an ever-evolving space, there will be multidisciplinary and communal spaces, capable of being configured in a number of ways for specific learning experiences and to suit a variety of learning styles. All work spaces will be flexible and designed to support all approaches to teaching and learning.

In order to create the resources and spaces we need, Mrs Fitzpatrick says that our existing range of resources had to be evaluated and streamlined. This has been an extensive task throughout 2016 with many duplicate and obsolete items removed to create more space for learning. Many of these resources have been offered to staff and a range of charities, or are bound for overseas where they will be greatly valued in destinations such as Tanzania, The Philippines and Uganda.

Although resources have been streamlined, many books will continue to play a critical role in supporting student learning, while digital technologies will offer additional pathways to learning.

Some aspects of the vision for the IRC into 2017 and beyond are to:

- be a dynamic and innovative team, committed to providing first rate library, digital and research services to both staff and students;
- become a hub of learning in the school, as a key facilitator enabling and supporting learning;

- be a place where visible, creative and critical thinking can take place, encouraging the integration of information and computing technologies to develop Twenty-first Century 'soft skills';
- be a place for creating, developing and encouraging readers to develop a passion for books and reading across different formats;
- be a place that encourages reading for fun and lifelong learning;
- become a space that generates awe, enrichment, exploration and curiosity.

Physical changes to the Stoddart Centre, as the library transforms into the Innovation and Research Centre, will allow it to cater for the needs of our Twenty-first Century learners. As the school enters this exciting period, anticipation is building in terms of how we provide the best environment for innovation and research. Increasingly, the school will work alongside our students, to be stewards and facilitators of collaboration and innovation.

MACARTHUR ON STAGE

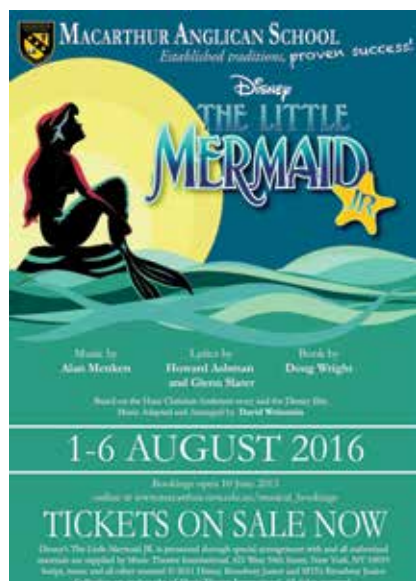
JUNIOR MUSICAL: THE LITTLE MERMAID

Although the musical is from Disney, the story of *The Little Mermaid* was written by Hans Christian Andersen in 1836. By the quayside in Copenhagen in Denmark, a statue of the Little Mermaid attracts thousands of tourists with fond memories of the story and the musical production.



Our production was notable for the vast number of students who took part as lead characters or as one of the chefs, gulls, sailors, tentacles or as a member of the sea chorus. A wonderful description of the story was given in the programme by our Director, Mrs Nadine James:

There are many loveable characters that make up this Disney musical – from the beautiful mermaid, Ariel (Sarah Peck), to the cutest and spunkiest little fish ever; Flounder (Sascha Masjuk). Stir into the mix Ursula (Caroline Psarris), a manipulative sea witch trying to overthrow Ariel's father, King Triton (Miles Prpic), and you have quite the intriguing and entertaining story brewing. Add in the meticulous and anxious crab, Sebastian (Ryley Paki), and a funny, off-beat seagull, Scuttle (Marcel Rickman), and you have the makings for a great Disney classic. This crowd pleaser for all ages includes the hit songs *Part of Your World*, *She's in Love* and the Oscar winning *Under the Sea*.



MACARTHUR ON STAGE



THE CAST

ARIEL	Sarah Peck
CARLOTTA	Jemima Thornton
CHEF LOUIS	Joel Looyen
FLOTSAM	Joel Offord
FLOUNDER	Sascha Masjuk
GRIMSBY	Luke Stewart
JETSAM	Jasmine Beck
KING TRITON	Miles Prpic
MERSISTERS AND PRINCESSES	Megan Baker, Claire Cooper, Hannah Davey, Elliot Herd, Sylvia Rickman, Sophie Ristancevski
PILOT	Ethan Watts
PRINCE ERIC	Isaiah Gray
SCUTTLE	Marcel Rickman
SEBASTIA	Ryley Paki
URSULA	Caroline Psarris
CHEFS	Mikayla Butler, Niamh D'Arcy, Gabriella Hand, Lucy-Lei Mingay, Sakura Murakami, Tess Perich, Felix Petrin, Harmony Phillips, Mark Relyea, Gabriella Seghabi, Emily Simpson, Keon Smart, Ethan Watts, Flynn Williams, Jonah Williams
GULLS	Mikayla Butler, Niamh D'Arcy, Gabriella Hand, Lucy-Lei Mingay, Tess Perich, Felix Petrin, Harmony Phillips, Gabriella Seghabi, Emily Simpson, Keon Smart
SAILORS	Anthony Ellsmore, Gabriella Hand, Joel Looyen, Felix Petrin, Mark Relyea, Gabriella Seghabi, Emily Simpson, Keon Smart, Flynn Williams, Jonah Williams
TENTACLES	Jorja Baker, Anastasia Condoleon, Sienna Defrancesco, Tahlia Harris, Shay Jensen, Lilly Siemon, Hannah Smith, Alyssia Tummarello
SEA CHORUS	Laura Ball, Sophie Barrie, Makyah Darby, Bethany Davey, Rebecca Dunbier, Amy Fairlie, Sienna Harris, Summer Herta, Marielle Lucia, Paige Prpic, Georgia Roberts, Kyah Roy, Katelyn Scorgie, Elizabeth Sutton, Paris Williams, Anneke Willis, Tiana Wilson

As with all MacArthur musicals, a great many people worked behind the scenes to ensure its success. A full list of cast and credits will be included in the Yearbook for 2016.

CODING IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Junior School students have recently commenced a new activity called 'Coding'. In this interview with the Head of Junior School, Mrs Kylie Elling, we gain an insight into how are younger students are involved.

WHAT IS 'CODING' ALL ABOUT?

Mrs Elling: This is a form of computational thinking that requires students to programme a game using a sequence of commands. Coding is a wonderful way for students to learn and understand the concepts of problem solving and design thinking.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF CODING?

Mrs Elling: Teaching this skill is beneficial to our students as it is estimated that more than 70% of future jobs in 'STEM' (the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) will involve coding. The sequencing and algorithmic thinking skills that students learn through coding are of a benefit to them, not only in Mathematics and ICT, but across all subjects. For example, it helps with the sequencing of ideas in writing.

HOW YOUNG CAN STUDENTS START CODING?

Mrs Elling: Coding started with our Kindergarten students during Mathematics groups. Our clever students started using *Scratch Jnr* to create their own sequences and games where they could create farms, devise a soccer game and send their character into space on a rocket!

AND THE OLDER STUDENTS?

Mrs Elling: Students in Years 3 and 4, also known as our 'Code Clubbers', started coding during Tuesday lunchtimes with Mrs Pesic. They learnt how to code through an initiative called the *Hour of Code*, where they begin sequencing and understanding the concepts while gradually progressing through fifteen levels. Once this was completed they applied their newly acquired knowledge to use programmes called *Tynker* and *Scratch*.

WHAT OUTCOMES HAVE YOU SEEN SO FAR?

Mrs Elling: All of the students who engaged in coding showed immense skill and had a great time controlling their own computer. As one Kindergarten student said, 'We are smarter than the computer because it needs us to tell it what to do!' Some students were then able to create their own games or make 'mods' (modifications) to video games by changing the coding (instructions) to alter it in some way. They also applied their

skills against students from thirty-five other countries in the *Bebras Worldwide Computational Thinking Challenge*. (www.bebbras.org) We look forward to exploring coding further with our Junior School students, together with other aspects of computational thinking.

Spotted recently in the book section of a large department store: books on Coding – for parents who would like to know more about how their children are learning and developing their thinking skills!



Hard at it - coding in the Junior School



Junior Coders - Max Medich, Aneeka Willis, Paris Newman and Stirling Knox (all in Year 3)

MACARTHUR NEWS

CHESS NEWS

A Macarthur team took out second place in the NSW Junior Chess League Metropolitan South West Regional Final on 19 October. The team, consisting of Peter Cruz, Luke Stewart, Isaiah Gray and Rowan Hey, played two gruelling matches in the final against very strong opponents. However, the boys managed to hold their own very well, with each match lasting for more than thirty minutes. During their post-match debrief, the boys made respectful comments about their opponents' clever moves and errors, demonstrating grace and great sportsmanship in the face of defeat. "The experience was priceless," Mrs Kirsten Hey, the Chess Co-ordinator said. "It was a joy to watch these brilliant minds in action."

Just to show that they really mean business, Macarthur Anglican School's A team won the NSW Junior Chess League one-day tournament held in Campbelltown on 24 October. In this competition there were fifty-eight teams, with Macarthur entering seven teams. At the NSW Junior Chess League State Finals held in North Sydney on 27 November, our team competed against fifty teams from all over NSW. They played seven half hour games and experienced several wins. They also learnt a lot in their defeat against some strong opponents. While they weren't victorious overall, the team represented Macarthur Anglican School and the broader Macarthur region with pride.



The A Team- Peter Cruz, Luke Stewart, Isaiah Gray and Rowan Hey

ESSAY COMPETITION ACHIEVEMENT

Hannah Davey of Year 6 recently won a NAIDOC Medal for her essay titled *The Day I Met My Indigenous Role Model*. NAIDOC Medals are awarded as part of the NAIDOC Week School Initiative

Competitions, celebrating the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Hannah's essay of almost a thousand words was focussed on her discovery that her idol, Jessica Mauboy, really wanted to be recognised and respected as a person, not just as a singer or just for her songs. In having her essay chosen for a NAIDOC Medal, Hannah has completed an outstanding achievement, since just forty essays were chosen out of 5200 entries.



Hannah Davey with the Acting Headmaster Mr Andrew Kokic, following her presentation with a NAIDOC Medal

ELEVATE NEWS

The school was honoured recently to host visitors from the Innovation Unit (www.innovationunit.org) in the United Kingdom, to observe the work Macarthur is doing as one of the first schools to be part of a 'Community of Practice' programme known as *Elevate*. This programme was described in an article about elevating student performance in the last issue of *Tartan Ties*. Visitors included Mr Paul Roberts, Board Chair of Innovation Unit and Ms Sarah Gillinson, Managing Partner of Innovation Unit. Senior students showed the visitors around the school, while detailed discussions took place with the Headmaster and the Dean of Studies, Mrs Melissa Gould-Drakeley. The *Elevate* Programme was initiated by



Kaitlin Taylor (Year 12), Mrs Melissa Gould-Drakeley, Mr Michael Bignill, Assistant Division Head, School Innovation at the Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales, Ms Sarah Gillinson, Managing Partner, Innovation Unit UK, Mr Paul Roberts, Board Chair Innovation Unit, UK, the Headmaster, Mrs Rebecca Fitzpatrick and Julia Kokic (Year 12)

the Association of Independent Schools of NSW (AISNSW) and is supported by 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.

GYMNASTICS STAR

Lauren Tisdale (Year 9) is an elite performer in the field of gymnastics. During November she travelled to Canberra to train with 'Team Future', a small group of gymnasts who will benefit from the



Lauren Tisdale

expertise of Australia's Olympic coaches. Recently, Lauren competed in the State Championships and then the Australian Championships, where she won a Bronze Medal on the beam at the Elite Level 9 stage. Early in 2017, she is expected to move to the Junior International level – just one stage below the level required to compete in Commonwealth and Olympic Games competition. Training as a gymnast is hard and sometimes painful work. Lauren trains for more than thirty hours per week and has suffered stress fracture injuries because of the high work load on her body in this type of sport. However, Lauren carries on bravely with her eyes set upon national representation in the future.

MACARTHUR ON STAGE

ALICE IN WONDERLAND



Fifty-four enthusiastic actors from Years 7 to 11, along with a large backstage crew and the Technical Team, worked hard for months to put this complex text on the Macarthur stage.

Students workshopped, improvised and polished their scenes, allowing them to be part of the theatrical creative process.

The script for the production of *Alice in Wonderland*, a play performed by Macarthur students in November, is taken from the original text by Lewis Carroll. It uses various scenes and characters, some unfamiliar in the popular film versions by Disney and Tim Burton. The set, props, costumes and lighting were selected to show Alice's journey of change, symbolised through changes in lighting colour. Alice comes out of Wonderland less selfish and petulant, as she discovers she is just as 'mad' as the inhabitants of this strange land. The friendships she develops help her to reflect on her actions, her treatment of Mrs Talon, and her attitude to her studies. Audiences who came to see *Alice in Wonderland* were treated to a stunning display of the many varied talents of our Macarthur students.



MACARTHUR ON STAGE



PRINCIPAL CAST MEMBERS

Daisy Morphew	ALICE
Andrew Simmons	WHITE RABBIT
Noah Gray	BILL
Jasmine Apps	CARD GUARD #2
Luke Platt	CARD GUARD #5
Paris Prpic	CARD GUARD #7
Emma Whitelaw	CARPENTER
Natalie Ristancevski	CATERPILLAR
Laura Perich	CHESHIRE CAT
Jessica Looyen	COOK
Sanya Mann	DODO
Adena Toribio	DORMOUSE
Megan Fortescue	DUCHESS
Samuel Macdonald	EXECUTIONER
Djannie Platt	FATHER WILLIAM
Angus Murphy	FATHER WILLIAM'S SON
Kathryn Keane	GRYPHON
Erica D'Ali	HORSEFLY
Elijah Gray	KING OF HEARTS
Amy Lidbetter	KNAVE OF HEARTS
Lucy Webster	LADY LAVENDER
Tareva-Chine Atkin-Zaldivar	LORD MILQUETOAST
Jonathan Kennedy	MAD HATTER
Elizabeth Guy	MARCH HARE
Ruth Alexander	MOCK TURTLE
Kate House	MOLE
Indigo Margin	MOUSE
Kayla King	QUEEN OF HEARTS
James Key	SPIKE
Georgina Seton	TWEEDLE DEE
Sophia Seton	TWEEDLE DUM
Ciara Platt	WALRUS

A full list of Cast, including another twenty-five students who played roles as Card Guards, Oysters, Sea Creatures and Jurors, plus Backstage Crew and Technical Support Team will be published in the 2016 Yearbook.

MACARTHUR COMMUNITY

OUR COMMUNITY

The School's two parent groups, Women@Macarthur (W@M) and Men@Macarthur (M@M), have been regularly meeting, planning and hosting a number of events for the whole school to enjoy. In October, W@M again held **Project Pink** at The Italian Food Project in Camden to raise funds for Pink Ribbon. Held in the Courtyard area of the restaurant, it was an intimate and moving evening as we heard from Alex Forster on her personal experience with breast cancer. Thank you to Alison and Guiseppe from The Italian Food Project for providing us with a stunning venue that included an array of gorgeous floral arrangements and a very yummy grazing table. Thank you also to Little Miss Succulent, Helen Macklinshaw, Allison Rae-Darby and Fleur Burge; W@M are grateful for your help to raise over \$1500 for Pink Ribbon.



In the lead up to Project Pink, W@M also collected new and pre loved bras for **Uplift Project**, an organisation that distributes bras to women in disadvantaged communities. It was lovely to see so many bras come in, with a final total of 293! Further information about Uplift Project can be found at upliftbras.org.



As a Christmas event, W@M hosted the **Gingerbread House Workshop**, a fun and relaxed evening for the whole family. Over 40 mums, dads and kids attended the evening, with some experienced decorators and some first timers. There were lollies and icing everywhere and the creations were gorgeous.



M@M have continued with the monthly **BBQ Breakfast** and it's been great to see more dads each month make the most of the opportunity to network and catch up by dropping their children at School on these mornings.



During the last few months M@M have decided to focus on men's health and, in particular, men's mental health. Mental Health is increasingly a concern in our rapidly growing society and M@M believe that starting conversations amongst men about mental health will not only help them, but also model to our students the need to support each other when life is not going so well.

With this in mind, the M@M BBQ Breakfast in September included an **RUOK?** initiative that involved our Year 12 Students. Almost half of the Year 12 cohort attended and it was a wonderful morning, watching and listening to the men engage

with them. This initiative provided an informal and relaxed opportunity to start a very important conversation.



This year, Playgroup hosted for the first time, a **Teddy Bear's Picnic**. Children enrolled to start at Macarthur in 2017 were invited to bring their Teddies as we embarked on a tour of the school before finishing with a fun picnic. The children were delighted to find a row of Teddies at the Junior School Canteen, giggled at the Teddies with Christmas lights at the Staff Centre Reception and were side-tracked by the Lego in the Research Centre. Nothing though, quite surpassed their delight in finding a giant teddy sitting in the Headmaster's Chair! The children and their Teddies certainly needed their picnic by the time they finished their adventure.



MACARTHUR COMMUNITY

OUR COMMUNITY

Talk Back Thursday continues to meet every Thursday in the After School Care room, providing the opportunity for members of the School Community to explore the Christian faith. The group continues to grow in number and regularly supports struggling families with practical help.



The **Annual Benefit Concert**, held in November, is an annual highlight for our students to showcase their music skills as well as an opportunity to raise funds for African AIDS Foundation. AAF is a local charity that supports projects in South Africa and Kenya and the evening raised \$3025 to assist.

Every Musical or Play produced at Macarthur starts with a **Community Performance**. This is a final dress rehearsal for the cast but is also the perfect time to welcome members of the wider community to our School. For *The Little Mermaid* we welcomed students from Passfield Park PS, Mary Brooksbank PS and Beverley Park PS, all of which are schools for children with disabilities.



Nearly forty, very excited, students attended the Musical. *Alice in Wonderland* hosted members of Carrington Care, one of whom had played 'The Mad Hatter' when he was in Year 6. "That was the year the war ended," he told us.

At Macarthur, we have approximately 150 volunteers who help out with anything from reading, maths groups, canteens, equestrian events, musicals and examinations. The **Volunteer's Morning Tea** last month was an opportunity to say thank you and included a display of personal thanks from teachers, students and staff. We are truly grateful to all those who give their time and energy to the School and I hope the Morning Tea reflected that.

Although planning for the **2016 Annual Dinner** started quite late, it was still a terrific evening. This year the theme was *Wonderland* with guests being treated to games of Giant Chess, Jenga and Connect 4. We welcomed Carmelina Nunnari who painted a gorgeous artwork through the evening and music was provided by SoulArte. Undoubtedly a highlight for everyone was the well-attended Lolly Bar!



Thank you to our generous Annual Dinner Sponsors – Gold, *Wards Accounting*; Silver, *Hills Commercial Cleaning*, *Absolutely Fabulous* and *Oran Park Podium*; and Bronze, *Runnymede Group*, *Fowlers Carpets and Blinds* and *CCU Auto Trim*.

Thank you also to our MC Justine Diana and Auctioneer David Harvey, who worked to keep the evening running smoothly, and the many individuals and businesses who contributed to the night. Your support and generosity assisted us in raising \$25,000!

Our **Community Partners** provide valuable assistance to the School and in 2016 we welcomed some new Partners. Thank you to *Handprint Photography*, *Harvey's Auto Traders*, *Oran Park Dental Care* and *Harrington Grove* for your generosity and support.

Lastly, I'd like to thank you for the welcome and encouragement I've received whilst settling in to this role. It's been an amazing six months and I'm looking forward to 2017. I hope and pray that you enjoy a wonderful Christmas and summer break.

Karyn Ingram
Community Relations and Fundraising
Manager
T: (02) 4629 6207
E: kingram@macarthur.nsw.edu.au



With grateful thanks to our Annual Community Partners



MACARTHUR COMMUNITY

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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Mr M and Mrs Z Herbereau De La Chaise
Mr C and Mrs P Lindsay
Mr J and Mrs M Mathews
Ms C Mavroidis
Dr D P and Mrs R S Nockles

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Family of Mr David Lloyd, FACE

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Mr T and Mrs K Priest

Scholarship Fund

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ANNUAL APPEAL 2016

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Mrs I Dowling
Mr L and Mrs K Elling
Mr R and Mrs J Howard
Mr D Hughes
Mrs N James
Mr T and Mrs S Jensen
Dr L and Mrs L Langov
Mrs A Lesmana
Mrs M Lockwood
Marilyn's Needles and Threads
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Mr T and Mrs L Moore
Perich Group
Mrs D Pleskun
Mrs A Santoso
Mr J and Mrs L Sich

Mr D and Mrs S Stewart
Mr V and Mrs J Towell
Mrs D Watts
Mr M Wilson

MACARTHUR STAFF PROFILES

LINDA BAILEY



Mrs Linda Bailey is the new voice on the line when you contact the school by phone, following her appointment to the Administration Staff as School Receptionist in April 2016. Mrs Bailey worked for the last sixteen years with Penrith Council Children's Services as a clerical administration supervisor and assistant, covering long day care, preschool, before-and-after-school care and vacation care. Before that, she worked in graphic design. On a voluntary basis, Mrs Bailey is the Area State Co-ordinator and Team Leader on the national board of Mothers of Preschoolers Australia (MOPS).

In her present role, Mrs Bailey is hoping she can build relationships with families, students and staff, making herself available to assist, support and encourage others wherever possible. She has three adult children, all of whom attended Macarthur Anglican School – Emily, who has a graphic design business, Christopher, an arborist, and Katelyn, an outdoor recreational instructor and administrator. What Mrs Bailey likes about Macarthur are the beautiful school surroundings and the friendly faces as she meets families and students. She also enjoys catching up with familiar faces among staff who taught her children when they attended Macarthur.

Whenever she can, Mrs Bailey helps her husband Glen, who runs *Cumnock Cottage*, a Bed and Breakfast business at their home in Orangeville, where they enjoy meeting their guests from around the world. Mr and Mrs Bailey worship at Mt Hunter Anglican church and in their spare time enjoy gardening and travelling around Australia, exploring quaint towns, the countryside and the beautiful coastline.

ALAN BLAKE



Mr Alan Blake is well-known among students throughout the school as a teacher of Indonesian to junior classes and to HSC level. He had quite a varied experience before becoming a teacher, working in reception and as a concierge in Sydney hotels, as a landscape gardener and in what he describes as his most unusual experience, living and working on a pig farm in Sweden. At Macarthur, Mr Blake would like to see all students understand the benefits of learning another language, and particularly to improve students' understanding of Indonesian language and culture. He enjoys reading and rates as his favourite book, Albert Facey's *A Fortunate Life*.

Memorable experiences since coming to Macarthur include an excursion with students to Malaysia and two further excursions to Indonesia, exploring local markets, watching the Ramayana (Indonesian) ballet at sunset in an ancient temple in Yogyakarta, and seeing the students explore a new culture and practise the language in country with the Indonesian people. But within the school Mr Blake has also enjoyed travelling with the Snowsports team and attending the Year 10 and Year 12 camps with their great outdoor activities.

Mr Blake is married to Asti Blake, also a teacher of English and Indonesian. They love travelling, especially to Indonesia, where he has explored the country from Sumatra, the most westerly of Indonesia's many thousands of islands, to Roti Island in the east near Timor. Many of these journeys have included his other passions for the water, the beach, swimming and surfing.

LOIDA VERBANAZ



Miss Loida Verbanaz and her family moved to Sydney from Madrid when she was seven years old. She says she is fortunate in that her grandparents and cousins also live in Sydney so that they see each other quite often. Her family love nothing more than getting together over a good meal (preferably involving cheese and olives) and having fun together.

Miss Verbanaz taught Spanish as a private tutor and while at university, worked part time in administration for an intellectual property firm in Sydney. At Macarthur, Miss Verbanaz teaches History and hopes to inspire her students to develop a love of learning. At the same time, she wants to consolidate her role as a teacher as she continues to develop her teaching skills. Speaking of her colleagues, Miss Verbanaz says, 'I've really enjoyed working with people who are professional and passionate about what they do. It is evident that they genuinely care for those around them. It is also a blessing to be able to work in a Christian school where you can openly share your faith.'

Miss Verbanaz is a member of Liverpool Baptist Church, where she is involved in teaching Sunday School. Her students will find that she enjoys a lot of fun. She really enjoys theme parks and going on the most daring rides! She likes watching superhero films and collecting Marvel 'bobble heads', which she has on her desk at work.

Travel is also on her mind as Miss Verbanaz also loves winter and snow and hopes to visit Canada and Alaska in the future.

MACARTHUR ALUMNI

WEDDINGS

It's been the season for weddings among our former students:

Joanne McKell (1991) was recently married to Ian Cherry on Gibraltar on 24 September 2016. Ian is a businessman in Cheshire, England, where he and Joanne will make their home for the time being.



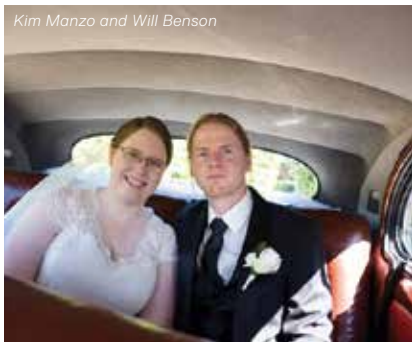
Joanne and Ian Cherry together with Joanne's parents Mr and Mrs John and Sue McKell



Peta Warrington (née Duckworth, 1998) married her partner of eight years, Mat, on the 17th March 2016. Peta and Mat have five beautiful children including two step children - Blake, 17 and Leah, 8 - plus Maddison-Rose, 11, Kasey, 5 and their youngest Mathew who is eight months old. The wedding was a small and intimate occasion with Peta saying she couldn't tell who were more happy, themselves or the children.

Will Benson (2006) and **Kim Manzo** (2006) were also married on 24 September and have bought a new home in the local area, which they are working on to make it feel like their own.

Kim Manzo and Will Benson



Jacinda Webster (2011) was married on 24 September 2016, to Sinisa Dujakovic on a picture perfect day with every detail well thought out by Jacinda, who is an event manager. The wedding took place on the family property in Cobbitty and

was attended by several school friends including Laura Seeney (2011) and Sinisa's cousins Luka, Emilija and Nikola Keravcin, all from Macarthur. Jacinda's sister Lucy and brother Harrison were also part of the bridal party. Study and work commitments have delayed Jacinda and Sinisa's honeymoon until 2017.



Courtney Alchin (2011) married James Sweeney at St Paul's Anglican Church, Cobbitty on 15 October 2016, in a service conducted by The Reverend David Barrie. Courtney is a diversional therapist in aged care and rehabilitation and James is an electrician with Transport NSW. Courtney and James are building their first home at Arcadian Hills estate in Cobbitty.



Alexandra Ede (2011) took a semester off from her Music Education degree to work as a governess at Ashburton Downs Station in Western Australia. While she was there, love blossomed when she met Albert Kiep from The Netherlands, who was backpacking around Australia. Albert returned to The Netherlands to work in

the family flower-growing business at Nieuwaal, near Rotterdam. Meanwhile, Alexandra remained to graduate from the Conservatorium of Music where she was awarded the Tuh Fuh and Ruby Lee Prizes in Music (Violin). She then went to The Netherlands, where she and Albert were married. In September, Alexandra and Albert returned to Australia for a second wedding ceremony and a reception in Bowral for the Australian and New Zealand family and friends as well as Albert's family who flew in for the occasion. Alexandra and Albert are living in The Netherlands for a few years, after which they hope to return and settle in Australia.



MACARTHUR ALUMNI

GRADUATIONS



Thomas Oliver (2007) recently graduated at the University of Wollongong with a PhD. His field of research for the doctoral degree was coastal geomorphology and specifically, how beaches and seashores have changed over time. The research involved analysis of core samples and dating of ancient shorelines that are now sometimes hundreds of metres from the current shore position. Thomas is continuing at the University of Wollongong with postgraduate research in the same field. He says his passion for Earth Sciences was lit up by his former Science teacher, Mr David Ash, who taught him Earth and Environmental Science for the HSC.



Stephanie Ede (2007) completed a Bachelor degree in Agriculture in 2015 at Charles Sturt University and was immediately offered and accepted a cadetship in 2016 at the Teys Cargill company in Wagga Wagga, a company engaged in the competitive global beef market.

River Ibe (2011) graduated in May from New York University in the Class of 2016. River finished four years of study completing a Bachelor of Science in Global Liberal Studies, with a major in Creative Production. In his third year he studied in Berlin as part of the university's global studies requirements. River's parents are very proud of his achievements and say that his time at Macarthur helped develop his academic ability significantly, supporting his desire to apply for entry into an American

university. River continues to live in New York and works as a Campaign Manager with a German advertising company based in Manhattan.



Siobhan Papalia (2006) completed a Bachelor of Biomolecular Science and a Bachelor of Medical Science with Honours at the University of Western Sydney, and then relocated to Canberra where she completed a Master's degree in Biotechnology and Science Communications at The Australian National University. Siobhan moved to Perth at the end of 2014 and is currently working at SciTech, the Western Australian Science and Technology Centre. She continues her Highland Dancing and performed at the Edinburgh Military Tattoos in 2007 and 2009. She has performed in tattoos around the world and was invited to perform before Her Majesty The Queen on two occasions during trips to Scotland in 2009 and 2015. She also competed in the 2015 World Highland Dancing Championships in Scotland. Siobhan has taken up 'Ultimate Frisbee', competing at national championships for the past three years, and representing Australia at international tournaments.

Dragan Sancanin (1996) is the father to three beautiful little children - Xavier 8, Declan 6 and Sienna 4. Dragan and his wife Sonya have been married ten years and live in North Ryde where he works as a Project Manager for Brookfield Global Integrated Solutions, managing the construction of new police stations in New South Wales. At every opportunity, Dragan loves to get outdoors to enjoy

surfing, snowboarding, skateboarding, hiking, camping and going to the gym.

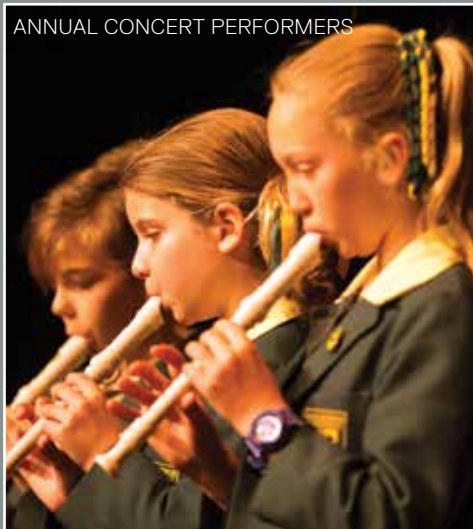
John Tilinger (2011) moved to Western Australia and studied for a Bachelor of Arts (History) degree at the University of Western Australia, graduating 2014. In 2015 he completed a Diploma in Education to qualify as a teacher. During his time with the University of Western Australia, John was involved in Christian mission with the University Christian Union. It was during this time that he met Ester (originally an Afrikaner) with their wedding taking place in December 2016. After his graduation, John moved to Geraldton, about four hundred kilometres north of Perth, to work at Strathalbyn Christian College, where he teaches English, Humanities and Social Sciences. He and Ester worship at Geraldton's Anglican Cathedral.

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If you have completed an apprenticeship, a business course or a degree, let us know so that we can share your achievement with your peers.

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ANNUAL CONCERT PERFORMERS



NEWBORN LAMBS ON THE SCHOOL FARM



JUNIOR PRESENTATION DAY, 2016



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