



# TARTAN TIES

NEWS FROM MACARTHUR ANGLICAN SCHOOL

SPRING 2017



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HARRIS

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*CINDERELLA*

*ENTER TO LEARN*

*GO OUT TO SERVE*

## FROM THE HEADMASTER



We at Macarthur Anglican School were saddened to hear of the passing of Mr Rex Harris, a former member of staff. Mr Harris was unwell for some time, but faced his afflictions with courage and faith. Many current and former students and members of staff will remember Mr Harris as he shared his staunch faith in Jesus and as the one who brought them to faith. Mr Harris served at Macarthur for seventeen years from 1997 to 2013. He taught Biblical Studies, was an assistant to the Chaplain and in Chapel services challenged students to consider the example of service set by Christ. Based on his earlier experience in running Christian campsites, Mr Harris planned

and ran Macarthur's camping programme. Undoubtedly, he will be missed by many people, who will remember vividly how he touched their lives. On another page in this issue, there is a more detailed tribute to Mr Rex Harris by the former Headmaster Mr Riley Warren AM.

Many shifting dynamic forces are influencing the Twenty-first Century educational landscape in this digital age. This is why I announced over a year ago, the re-imagining of the Library in the Stoddart Centre into the Innovation and Research Centre, or IRC. As educational practice evolves, and as we at Macarthur are committed to helping students to learn for enduring understanding, I set the IRC staff with the challenging task of designing and refitting the learning spaces to achieve higher levels of student collaboration and engagement.

A Twenty-first Century learning space needs to be fluid by nature and cater for learners of the future. The staff of the IRC have transformed the interior of the Stoddart Centre into a stimulating learning environment that inspires new and different ways to enrich learning. Their focus has boosted student engagement and created an environment where learning thrives. I commend them for their passion under the leadership of Mrs Rebecca Fitzpatrick, in designing learning spaces that will excite and inspire our students. What they have achieved is an innovative, flexible,

purposeful space, which is aesthetically pleasing and exuding energy and vitality. IRC staff have reported significant growth in the use of the IRC and a discernible growth in academic culture, increased collaboration between teachers and students, and a progression towards students teaching other students in diversified ways.

This year, we held the second International Dinner, a fitting way for the school to show respect to those students who have chosen Macarthur, and appreciation for the families who provide homestay accommodation. I congratulate the International Registrar, Mrs Trish Cartwright, and her Assistant, Mrs Linda Ebeling, for their ingenuity in pioneering this event. Our Guest Speaker, Mr Quincy Law, came to us from Hong Kong and became a School Prefect when he was in Year 12. When he graduated in 2010, Quincy followed his desire to serve others by completing a degree in Social Work and is now a project manager for the NDIS. Quincy's description of his initial struggle to communicate in English reminded me of my own experience of arriving in Australia from a non-English-speaking background. His explanation of how he overcame his difficulties by throwing himself into school activities, was an inspiration for today's International Students. We can all be proud of this young Christian man for what he has achieved in coming to Macarthur to learn, then 'Going out to Serve.'

Finally, I thank Mrs Karyn Ingram for organizing such a wonderful Annual Dinner, held recently in the Camden Civic Centre. As importantly, I thank those parents and friends of Macarthur who attended. Your support of the school in its efforts to raise funds to add to the amenity of the school is sincerely appreciated. Both occasions are featured elsewhere in this issue of *Tartan Ties*.

**DR DAVID NOCKLES**

HEADMASTER



Quincy Law (2010), with the Headmaster at the 2017 International Dinner

Cover Photo: Some Middle School boys working together in the redesigned Innovation and Research Centre.



## HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL: MRS ESTELLE STELZER

Before commencing at Macarthur Anglican School as Head of Junior School from the beginning of 2017, Mrs Stelzer developed extensive experience of teaching in Anglican Schools.

She commenced teaching at St Peter's Anglican Primary School, Campbelltown, before teaching at John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School in Perth, Western Australia. After having her children James and Lauren, who both attend Macarthur, Mrs Stelzer returned to St Peter's, where she became the Director of Primary from 2014.

In her role at Macarthur, Mrs Stelzer hopes to continue her approach to education by encouraging children to become lifelong learners, who are prepared to take risks and learn from failures. She highlights the importance of providing leadership to the staff, and of modelling Christlike behaviour for the students of the Junior School.

Mrs Stelzer would like to see children develop a growth mindset, meaning an attitude of intrinsically motivated learning, rather than one relying on external prompts for learning. Her role, she says, is also to foster the partnership between families and the school by providing academic and pastoral support that will help children grow both socially and emotionally.

Mrs Stelzer and her husband Ben, an engineer, worship at St Peter's Church Campbelltown, where they are involved as members of the Music Team. They are passionate followers of netball competitions and the AFL, supporting the Sydney Swans team.



## Mr Benjamin Nunn: Digital Services and Research Assistant

Mr Benjamin Nunn has been appointed as a member of the team staffing the Innovation and Research Centre. (See main report on pages 8 and 9). Mr Nunn completing his schooling with a result that would allow him to enter any course in any university. With a passion for writing and history, he chose a Bachelor of International Studies at Macquarie University, including a six-month exchange in the French-speaking area of Switzerland supporting his French language studies.

Following graduation, Mr Nunn worked for Eriksson, a communications company, writing closed captions for television programmes, (preferably documentaries rather than reality entertainment shows). In 2016, Mr Nunn pursued his passion for hiking by completing the Pacific Crest

Trail – an astonishing achievement. The trail follows the highest portions of the Sierra Nevada mountain range near the US Pacific coast, from Mexico to Canada. On returning to Australia, Mr Nunn was employed writing transcriptions of ABC current affairs programmes including *7.30* and *Lateline*.

Mr Nunn loves words and language and from a young age has enjoyed making up and writing stories. He loves the Fantasy and Sci-fi genres in literature and is enthusiastic about how he can help students with their research and writing tasks, including those students involved in the Aristotle and Socrates programmes. He is an active member of the Christian City Church in Carlingford, having been involved in pastoral work with children, and as a Youth Group and Bible Studies Leader.



# MACARTHUR FAMILY

## A TRIBUTE TO MR REX HARRIS, BEM

Macarthur Anglican School lost a very special, much loved and respected member of its community in May this year – Mr Rex Harris.

Mr Harris spent almost all of his working life serving God through various agencies of the Anglican Church in the Sydney Diocese, exercising a ministry mostly with children and young people whom he loved with a passion. He was born in 1936 and grew up in the suburb of Auburn where he attended St Philip's Church. As a child, he was very unwell with rheumatic fever, causing absences from school for many extended periods, such that he only had seven years of formal schooling. Despite a lack of formal academic qualifications, he was well-read and possessed an extraordinary range of God-given talents.

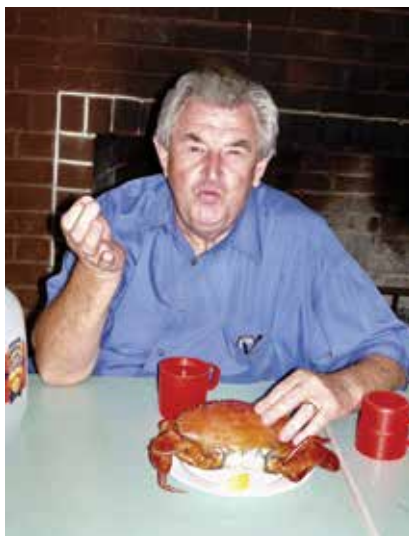
As a young man, Mr Harris led the youth fellowship of some three to four hundred young people in his own parish. It was the biggest fellowship in the diocese. To better equip himself and to gain a greater understanding of the mission of the Church, he underwent training to become an officer of the Church Army (a mission arm of the Anglican Church similar in structure and purpose to the Salvation Army) and graduated as a Captain. The Church Army worked in struggling parishes, both new and very old. Mr Harris took on the tough assignment as the Inner-City Worker for the diocese and it was in this capacity that I first met and worked with him on a voluntary basis.

After his Inner-City work, Mr Harris was appointed Church Army Captain to the Parish of Lurnea, Cabramatta and Green Valley. Although he had no formal music training, he loved singing and could play the piano by ear. It was while he was there that he established the very successful Green Valley Choir, which he took on a world tour. He was presented to the Queen when some of his choir

boys joined with Peter Allen to launch his song, *I Still Call Australia Home*. It was while he was in Green Valley that he met and married Norma.

Rex Harris would say that his appointment to oversee the Anglican Campsite, *Camp Howard* at Port Hacking, was one of his most important and enjoyable ministries. He transformed the site by upgrading facilities, undertaking extensive building programmes and expanding its offerings for children and young people, such that it took in school groups during term time and ran holiday camps in school breaks. He was much saddened when his time to leave *Camp Howard* arrived. He and Norma bought a house in Woodbine where they lived after leaving Port Hacking.

I met up again with Mr Harris just after he moved to Woodbine and asked if he would consider working at Macarthur as Assistant Chaplain, and there began the next seventeen years of his ministry to the boys and girls of Macarthur. His great desire was to show that a life of following Jesus was not dull, boring or uneventful, but one of joy, excitement and fulfilment. He wanted the students to see that to follow Jesus was to live life to the full, which he modelled in his own life.



At a school camp



Mr Harris spoke often at Chapel services, taught Biblical Studies and transformed the school's camping programme, setting educational as well as challenging goals for each school grade. He was very funny and would have children in stitches of laughter with his antics at the camps. His innovations, such as the *Dads and Daughters* camp and the Year 6 North Queensland Outreach to aboriginal communities, are now an integral part of Macarthur life.

Captain Rex Harris received recognition for his work in the community on a number of occasions, including Rotary's highest honour – a Paul Harris Fellowship and in 1980 he was awarded the British Empire Medal. However, he would say that serving God and telling people about Jesus was his greatest honour.

### RILEY WARREN AM

HEADMASTER, 1989 - 2008



Conducting the School Choir at Easter

# MACARTHUR INTERNATIONAL

## ON EXCHANGE IN HUNGARY

The Headmaster recently announced his selection of Morgan Smith and Sarah Watson as the next two students to visit Lévy József Református Gimnázium, Macarthur Anglican School's sister school in Miskolc Hungary. The Headmaster said that the number and calibre of students who applied for this opportunity was very impressive. Several Macarthur students have already travelled on exchange to Miskolc over the last decade. Two recent exchange students, Vanessa Gooden and Samuel Nockles, who returned to Macarthur early this year, can give Morgan and Sarah some idea of what to expect. Here are their thoughts on the fascinating time they experienced at the Lévy József school.

*The experience of going and discovering a completely different country on the other side of the world, in a way that I will never experience again, has been an opportunity of a lifetime. I refused to let this chance pass me by. I knew close to nothing about Hungary and so from the moment I arrived, I was in culture shock. It was something for which you cannot prepare.*



Vanessa Gooden (centre) with some of her Hungarian friends

However, this shock quickly passed as I began to reach out to everyone and anyone, and many Hungarian people soon became my newfound family. The dormitory at the school was three stories high, with a cafeteria in the basement. Every day was spent trying a new traditional Hungarian meal and learning new Hungarian words. The Hungarian language is beyond difficult, however by the end of four months I was able to achieve the most basic of conversations.

The host stay, who were kind and loving enough to welcome me into their family, made it feel like home. Many people since returning have asked me what the hardest

*part of the whole exchange trip was, and my response to them is always the same; leaving and having to say goodbye to a place that you learned to love with all your heart and to people who you are as close to as anyone at home. Not knowing at this stage when I will return, is the most heart-breaking experience.*

Vanessa Gooden

*Going to Hungary was the best experience of my life. I thoroughly enjoyed living the Hungarian lifestyle, not as a tourist, but as someone living there (although I did some tourist activities). The main reason why I enjoyed this experience is because Hungary is very different – like taking a step back in time.*



Samuel Nockles with his Hungarian homestay family when his parents came to visit. Second from the left is Zsuzsanna Berdó who came to Macarthur in 2015

A day in my life when I was over there was waking up and getting ready to go to Hungarian lessons, which was a ten to fifteen-minute bus trip from the school. Vanessa, Lincoln and I all went on Monday to Thursday for an hour and a half for these lessons. After the lessons, we generally caught the bus back to the town and every now and then, stopped to get a coffee to warm ourselves up in the minus-fifteen-degree weather.

The weather was something we all became used to very quickly. The worst thing about the weather is the number of layers you had to wear to keep yourself warm. However, the weather was beautiful. Having no rain for months is something many Australians can say they have been through. The cold weather was very different from Australia. In Hungary, the cold is a dry cold while in Australia it is a wet cold. In Hungary, you don't get as sick because of the dry, cold weather, which is a plus.

Samuel Nockles

Macarthur Students on exchange to Lévy József Református Gimnázium, Miskolc, Hungary.

2002	Sarah Lambert Alexander Bartusz
2005	Courtney Dunn Alexander Bell
2006	Julia Forgach Adam Hughes
2007	Ebony Schoenfeld Courtney Bell
2008	Ben Nicastrì Emily Wheeler
2009	Stacy Heaney
2010	Alexandra Mariotto Joshua Watson
2011	Jonathan Nash-Daly Eamonn Kearney
2012	Amy Cooper Tabetha Lane
2014	Ante Kolanovic Jasmine Brooker
2015	Olivia Locke Ciara Platt
2016	Lincoln Bartlett Vanessa Gooden Samuel Nockles

Vanessa and I were very fortunate to have a snowfall in our last couple of weeks. This snowfall not only made us excited but also the locals, because it had not snowed in a few years and they were happy to see it back.

The food was amazing! Most meals were had in the dormitory and consisted of meat and pasta, potato and bread. Not often do you get vegetables other than potatoes. My favourite dish was the Hungarian pancakes coated with Nesquik. They were amazing! Although I had a lot of delicious traditional food, it was good to have a few chicken nuggets from the local McDonald's, to end my craving for some western-style food





## JUNIOR SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THE IRC

Macarthur Anglican School's new Innovation and Research Centre serves the entire school. Junior School students begin their development of research skills at an early age, with Mrs Shannon Laird overseeing Transition to Year 2 learning, while Mrs Estelle Stelzer equips Year 3 and 4 students with research skills to augment classroom topics.



Earlier this year, Transition student learning was linked to *Pets*. During their learning time, Mrs Laird read fiction and non-fiction books and led discussion on how different categories of information help us to learn.

Kindergarten's History Unit, *In the Dreamtime*, focussed on how oral history is important to indigenous people. In the IRC, students read many Dreaming stories and reflected on what *The Dreaming* means to a variety of people. Teaching this with a Christian worldview was exciting as classes discussed 'truth' and how different people make sense of the world around them. Students also learned about how Aboriginals used symbols in stories or to give directions and how traditional peoples drew them in the sand or on stones and boomerangs.

The Year One unit, *Where's Wally* helped students understand that books are organised in alphabetical order. The focus was on physical activities, allowing the children to explore using the library catalogue. By hiding *Where's Wally*

around the library to be found each week, we built 'book detective' skills while keeping it fun.

As part of the *People and Places* Geography unit, Year 2 explored Australia and its location in the world. They explored international and local maps and enjoyed finding their country, state, city and finally their own localities. They also did guided research on the Great Barrier Reef and various tourist destinations around Australia. At the end of Autumn Term, they were taught specific research skills such as how to find a good picture, or a good website and how to show where their ideas came from.

Earlier in the year, Year 3 utilised research skills to locate authentic sources and research key events in the life of Roald Dahl, using the iPads in the IRC. They also examined the literary techniques he uses to influence his readers. This unit linked with a classroom literacy unit where students studied *Matilda*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Twits*.



Year 4's focus for learning in the IRC has been *Website Evaluation*, employing the 5W's of research: *Who*, to determine the author's expertise; *What*, to determine the purpose of the website; *When*, to determine if the information provided is current; *Where*, to consider links and the location of further information; and *Why*, to clarify the purpose of the information.

The IRC is an integral part of the Junior School as we equip students to increase the range of their research skills and to encourage them to be lifelong learners.



# MACARTHUR INTERNATIONAL

## INTERNATIONAL DINNER SUCCESS

Macarthur Anglican School's International Student Programme has been enhanced through the introduction of an annual International Dinner, bringing together current and former students from a multitude of national backgrounds, their homestay carers and members of staff.

The dinner is also a way for the school to acknowledge and thank the many families who provide accommodation and practical guidance for the students in their care.

The highlight of the dinner is an address by a former International Student who can relate their experience of attending Macarthur and how they faced the challenges of learning English, dealing with the Australian education system and living within our Australian culture. At the inaugural dinner held in 2016, Jia Yee (Ashley) Tan (2014) from Malaysia, gave the address. At the second International Dinner held recently, Quincy Law\*\* (2010) spoke of his experience of moving from Hong Kong when he was in Year 9 to continue his education at Macarthur.

Quincy described how he could barely speak English when he first came to Australia, taking ages just to finish a complete sentence. Undoubtedly, many of the current International Students

listening to his address could identify with this initial experience. Quincy went on to describe how he was very quiet in his first year, and began to think people would see him as unintelligent because they barely heard him say anything. Initially, he found it hard to make friends and express his feelings or ideas because he didn't know how to say anything without feeling awkward. Unfortunately, Quincy said that he slowly became shy, and drew himself.

"But here's the turning point," Quincy said. "I have always been a Christian. I learnt this one golden rule in Sunday School, one golden rule! And it is treat others how you want to be treated. I told myself 'I have to step up.' I had one goal in mind! Make at least one friend in Year 10. I knew God was listening to my prayer and he understood my feelings better than anyone. I had a few plans to make friends and become 'somebody' in my year. I started to open up myself to say nice things to others and took it as an opportunity to improve my fluency in speaking. And I tried to get involved in school activities. I joined the school Bible Study called Oasis, I participated in after-school activities, and became a Prefect as well. I am thankful for joining Oasis because I met so many students and they would actually listen to me when I spoke to them. They listened, understood me and cared about me. It was the group of friends I longed for. I was so involved in Oasis I started to do announcements in front of the school every Tuesday."

Quincy went on to say that participating in school activities makes you a proactive person and shows to others your willingness. Although it might seem

challenging at the beginning, he said, your character will be slowly shaped so you become a person who wants to be part of the school. "I guess what I am trying to say is that although it can be hard to fit into a different culture with a different language, you can still explore within and develop your strengths, whether it is social or in using your language skills."

Quincy's address was warmly received, with its very practical advice for the current group of International Students. At present, there are twenty-one International Students attending Macarthur, from Thailand, China, Papua New Guinea, Japan and Hong Kong. If you would like to be involved as a homestay parent in the International Student programme, contact Mrs Trish Cartwright, the International Student Registrar, by ringing 4629 6229 or by email at: [pcartright@macarthur.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pcartright@macarthur.nsw.edu.au)

\*\* Following his graduation from Macarthur, Quincy completed a Bachelor of Social Work degree at the University of Sydney and is currently employed as Project Manager in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



Vicky Chen, Aiden Chen (2016) and Lindsay Wu with Special Guest, Quincy Law (2010)



Stacey Zhu, Sophie Wang, Vicky Chen, Lindsay Wu, Ariana Liu and Nancy Fang at the International Dinner



Steven Zhang delivering a welcome speech at the International Dinner



## UNDERGOING CHANGE – THE INNOVATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE

This is the second instalment concerning the implementation of the Headmaster's announcement at Speech and Awards Night in 2015. On that occasion, the Headmaster announced that the library in the Stoddart Centre would be transformed into the Innovation and Research Centre (IRC).

During 2016, following Mrs Rebecca Fitzpatrick's appointment as the Head of the Innovation and Research Centre, much investigation was carried out to determine the 'shape' and function the IRC should take on. Some of this was achieved by observing changes in other school libraries and some was achieved by giving both students and teachers a voice through online surveys and focus group discussions, where suggestions on how they perceived the IRC were recorded.

While the actual function of the IRC will be dynamic and continue to evolve over future years, enough information was gained to determine the physical changes that were desired. The summer vacation gave the time for these changes to be put into effect.

Many libraries have abandoned the traditional view of an almost silent space in which visitors worked in solitude. Embracing the development of 'soft skills', including the ability to be adaptable and work in association with others, the IRC is now designed to encourage collaboration among students, pooling their knowledge

and experience to achieve agreed outcomes. However, there is still provision for those who wish to work alone through the inclusion of a dedicated 'Silent Work Area', transformed from the existing staff work area seen in a photo in the last edition.

Popular with the students are a number of group work booths along the northern side of the main work area with facing seats to encourage interaction between students as they work there. A bank of computers at standing height allows students to quickly look up a reference and return to their work position. Small, easily moved tables allow flexibility in setting up group work areas. The removal of many of the old book stacks, has liberated a large area for the installation of lounges and tables making an attractive group activity area. The books are still available to students but are stored in two space-efficient compactus units.

The new décor, including bright colours on the pillars surrounding the main work area, has received a very positive response from the student body.



### IN THE WORDS OF THE HEAD OF THE IRC:

To instill transformational change, we have focussed on flexible student-learning spaces based on fluid design principles. The learning spaces available include:

- two collaborative seminar rooms for group discussion or small class sessions with teachers (one equipped with Apple TV)
- a silent study room with individual carrels - in the words of a senior student a "boot camp room to just get on with it with no distractions"
- multiple collaborative classroom spaces with flexible furniture that can be configured in a number of ways to suit a myriad of pedagogical needs (students enjoy designing their own desk layouts to suit their specific needs)
- a series of collaborative cafe booths that have proven most popular with all age groups (and staff)

Our focus now is to encourage the following:

- to model and coach the pursuit of a self-efficacy and passion for learning;
- to encourage collaborative learning processes to reflect the dynamic workspaces that our students will be entering;
- to continue to foster a love of reading and the pursuit of knowledge;
- To promote self-guided research and discovery. The IRC is a place to 'learn how to learn'... a crucible for learning;
- a continuing shift towards bespoke facilities and new pedagogies;
- stimulating and encouraging critical and creative thinkers to explore, experiment, create and enhance knowledge;
- developing strategies to assist teachers;
- the collaboration between IRC staff, teachers and students to find, use, share and create information.



# MACARTHUR LEARNING

## THE LIBRARY BEFORE BECOMING THE IRC:

The difference within the Stoddart Centre is remarkable, as one can see in these photos of the Senior Library as it used to be. More than half of the available space was taken by Macarthur's extensive book collection, which remains, but is stored in a more space-efficient manner. The liberated space and the appealing design and layout of furniture, encourages students to work in a more collaborative manner.



## SNOWSPORTS GROWING IN POPULARITY

From small beginnings twelve years ago, Snowsports during the winter season has grown to be a much-anticipated activity at Macarthur Anglican School.

This year, around eighty students took part in various Snowsports activities, with the Macarthur contingent making an impressive entrance as they arrive in the school's coaches. Initially, all students attend our own Macarthur Snow Camp. About half have the aim of just enjoying the experience, with the more accomplished skiers helping the younger members of the team and those who are new to the sport. Those about to engage in competition use the time to train as they prepare to take part in the Interschools Competition and Redlands Cup against more than a hundred and fifty other participating schools.

Competition is keen and one can see from the results of previous years, Macarthur is always well-placed with several outstanding individual performances. Some students have even

progressed to participation in national and international competition. Such is the enthusiasm for this sport that at the beginning of 2017, several seasoned members of the Snowsports Team toured Japan to take advantage of the Northern Hemisphere snow season.

Age is no barrier to participation in Snowsports. This year, the Macarthur team included students from Transition to Year 12. Our students are accommodated at a motel in Jindabyne, from where they travel to Thredbo and Perisher according to the activities and competitions in which they are involved. At night, the fun continues as appetites are satisfied, the state of the snow is discussed, and waxing and preparation of skis is carried out. Sometimes there is a team meeting or night races for the more experienced skiers. Among the wonderful outcomes

from the Snowsports programme are the close relationships that form between young and old students and the mutually supportive team spirit among those who compete in competitions.

As in previous years, Macarthur students recorded several outstanding performances in this year's competitions. Macarthur competes in the Northern Region of NSW, covering all schools north of Mittagong other than those in the inner-city region. Macarthur came second in this large group of schools, with seventeen students selected for representation in the State competition. Readers should watch for more news on our students' Snowsports achievements in the Macarthur Anglican School Bulletin, Issue N° 10, 2017 onwards.



*Lined up and ready to ski*



# MACARTHUR SPORT



*Joshua Drayton, Jessica Turner, James White and Christina Chan*



*Sienna Fuller*



*Sascha Masjuk*



*Jessica Turner, Taylor Drayton, Jessica Hall*



*Paris Kellner*



*Lucy Bedingfield of Transition*



*A group of up-and-coming Snowsports competitors*



*Lincoln Bartlett*



*Alec Langov, Nicholas Stewart, Ethan Watts and Isabella McNally*

# MACARTHUR ON STAGE

## SENIOR MUSICAL: CINDERELLA

### FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Rodgers and Hammerstein's enchanting adaptation of the timeless fairytale, *Cinderella*, was their only musical originally composed for television. When it first appeared on television sixty years ago, starring Julie Andrews as Cinderella, it was the most widely viewed programme at that time. Since then, Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* has continued to charm audiences in stage productions and on television.

Our production of *Cinderella* had a focus on costumes, for which we thank the staff from *The Wardrobe*, Chatswood, who worked closely with us to match our vision for the production. As usual, the students were at the centre of the production. As well as the performers involved in acting, singing, and playing in the orchestra, others were involved in making props and sets, setting and operating the sound and lighting, and running the backstage set movements during the show. There were eighty-four students involved in the overall production and each one played a vital role in the success of the show. Of particular mention in this production was the role of our conductor, Bailey Pickles [Year 8], who fulfilled this role and also played trumpet. Truly outstanding!

Mrs Nadine James

### AND FROM THE HEADMASTER

Each year we are surprised at the talent we have at Macarthur, not only in the student body, but amongst our staff. The music for this production was performed by a very talented group of students and staff. In particular, Bailey Pickles was very impressive in both conducting the orchestra and playing trumpet, while Mr Matthew Kelly of the Grounds Staff, who is also one of our bus drivers, revealed his splendid talents on percussion. I acknowledge the extraordinary work of Mrs Nadine James as Director and Producer, along with the commitment of several other members of staff, who worked intensively to allow our students to demonstrate their talents. My thanks to Mrs James along with Mr Kent Palmer, Mrs Hayley Tuft, Miss Brianna Iturra, Miss Sabrina Martinez, Miss Kirsten Jones and Mr Matthew Reid.

*More photos from the Cinderella performance may be seen on the rear cover of this issue.*



## CINDERELLA CAST MEMBERS

<b>CINDERELLA</b>	Lucy Webster
<b>PRINCE</b>	Samuel Nockles
<b>GODMOTHER</b>	Jaclyn Bartlett
<b>STEPMOTHER</b>	Kayla King
<b>STEPSISTER – PORTIA</b>	Jessica Looyen
<b>STEPSISTER – JOY</b>	Natalie Ristancevski
<b>KING</b>	Thomas Wood
<b>QUEEN</b>	Rebecca Mathews
<b>HERALD</b>	Jarrod Webster
<b>CHEF</b>	Elizabeth Guy
<b>STEWARD</b>	Harrison Barrett
<b>ENSEMBLE</b>	Sashenka Adikaram, Ruth Alexander, Megan Azocar, Isabelle Banks, Georgia Bywater, Laura Chillmaid, Sarah Corby, Mia D'Ali, Joshua D'Mello, Hannah Davey, Matthew Eder, Sally Fowler, Bayley Gandy, Ayva Gibbs, Timothy Gidiess, Elijah Gray, Isaiah Gray, Madina Herta, Olivia James, Chloe Jones, Jonathan Kennedy, William Kennedy, Henry Key, Daniel Kocic, Alana Kolanovic, John Lawless, Julia Lawless, Carol Morgan, Elizma Nel, Claudia Petrin, Kenshin Power, Marvin Radley-Bell, Sophie Ristancevski, Georgina Seton, Austin Sierra, Luke Stewart, Sayumi Thanappa Hettige, Sarah Watson, Amelia Wood.

*A full list of Cast and Credits will be included in the 2017 Yearbook.*





# MACARTHUR NEWS



## LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

A Long Day Care Centre is coming to the Macarthur Anglican School campus. Work on the facility, which is to be known as *The Exploring Tree Macarthur: Early Learning Centre* has begun. The child care centre will be operated by Learning Tree Pty Ltd, under special lease arrangements with the School covering its operations and the building. *Exploring Tree Macarthur* is expected to open in the first half of 2018, but students and visitors to the school can already see early progress on the construction, which includes a very attractive mural which will form the eastern perimeter of the outdoor play area.



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

For any student to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Scheme at the highest Gold level is an outstanding achievement. Many only complete their programme at a later time, after completing their Higher School Certificate examinations and we do our best to recognise them when they complete their award. However, some students have the distinction of completing their Gold award even

before they complete Year 12. One such student is Patchanon Tungkiatsilp (2016), one of our International students, who completed his award and received his presentation this year from the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC (Ret'd).



International Student, Patchanon Tungkiatsilp, receiving his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award from the Governor of NSW, General The Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC.

## STEM AT MACARTHUR

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are tipped to be areas of employment growth in future years. With this in mind, Macarthur Anglican School held its first STEM Day for students of Year 7 at the end of Autumn Term. Among the tasks set to 'stretch' the thinking and learning experience of the students was one involving the design of an environmentally friendly toy for a young child that would work using non-contact forces such as magnets, wind, elastic, even balloons, or anything students could think of to make the toy actually move by itself. This would challenge anyone, and was just one of several STEM related activities during the day. More STEM Days are planned for the future.

# MACARTHUR COMMUNITY

## OUR COMMUNITY

Thank you to everyone who has supported me in the first nine months of settling in to this position at Macarthur Anglican School. The Community Relations and Fundraising role is large and diverse, and Sharon Pascoe-Thomas left big shoes to fill, but the encouragement I've received has been exceptional. I am very grateful.

In 2017, we introduced a **Welcome Tent** for parents dropping children at the Junior School on their first day. Volunteers in the Welcome Tent, which was situated near the Junior School car park, pointed parents in the right direction on arrival and then provided support and information on departure. Day One of school can be just as daunting for parents as it is for students and I hope the Welcome Tent will provide a friendly and reassuring face.

Our first community event for 2017 was the **New Families Breakfast**, with more than sixty parents and students welcomed to the School over a lovely buffet breakfast. The breakfast is a terrific opportunity for new families to meet the Headmaster, staff and other new families.

Friday 17 March was **Grandparents Day**, a highlight of the School's Calendar. There was a great deal of excitement as students, teachers and staff worked particularly hard to prepare for this wonderful day. With Grandparents Day becoming increasingly popular, we were delighted to have the help of nearly twenty parent volunteers who helped top seven hundred scones with jam and cream and serve four hundred cups of tea or coffee.



**Camden Show** was held on Friday 31 March and Saturday 1 April and Macarthur was again involved in a number of ways. We had students competing at the Show, we were a Champion Sponsor and our interactive display tent continues to draw a crowd. Playfoam, bubbles and Kinetic Sand was available for our younger visitors and parents were given a Snow Pea seedling from our Year 2 students.



Our **Chess and Robotics teams** were on hand to showcase their skills, both of which gained a lot of attention. Who knew chess would be so popular with many stopping by to enjoy a spot of shade and a quick game? The Robotics though is the real Show stopper! Belinda Watson from our Technology Faculty continues to inspire our students in Robotics and it was impossible to count the number of children who spent time at our display to drive the robots.



**The Annual Headmaster's Golf Challenge** was held on Friday 21 April, during the school break. The day was attended by forty keen golfers who enjoyed lunch together after their eighteen holes.

In May, we had the **Mother's Day stall** and the **Mother's Day breakfast**. Wrapping gifts and helping out with the Mother's Day stall are not the most glamorous jobs so I was very pleased to have so many mums volunteer. Thank you! The Mother's Day breakfast was delightful and, this year, included a performance by students on the lawn. We do hope you enjoyed it.



*Hope Sebenzo [Transition] lets her Mum know how much she loves her.*

**Women at Macarthur (W@M)** and **Men at Macarthur (M@M)** are our two parent groups that organise networking and socialising opportunities. Through email and face to face meetings, these two groups work hard to help all parents feel connected to the School.

On Saturday 20 May, **W@M hosted High Tea at Harrington Grove Country Club**. The High Tea included a Business Showcase with women from our school community providing information and displays of their business. This was particularly popular with guests who were very willing to support the businesses showcased. Music was provided by soloist, Olivia and guests were treated to luxurious hand massages.



# MACARTHUR COMMUNITY



Sandra Jensen, Deborah Putt and Nicole Saunders at the W@M High Tea

**M@M** have continued with their **monthly BBQ Breakfasts**. This has become such a fixture that many dads within the school are now taking the opportunity to 'do the morning school run', grab a bacon and egg roll and linger for a while to connect with other dads.

**Playgroup** continues to meet each Monday morning, 8.30am – 9.30am. We've welcomed a number of new little people with their mums, dads and a Grandpa also joining us. It's not all about playdough though. We have been exploring what happens when we squirt coloured vinegar into Bicarbonate Soda, squish paint under plastic wrap and plant Snow Peas.



Charlie enjoying himself at the Macarthur Playgroup

**Talk Back Thursday (TBT)**, a parent group that provides the opportunity to explore Christianity, started the year with a look at the need for clear boundaries

in living a healthy and balanced life. This proved to be a particularly popular theme and a number of women joined the group as a result. I encourage you to consider joining us on Thursdays during term, at 8.30am in the meeting room at the back of the School Café.

Now that we are more than halfway through the year, can I encourage you to check your School Community Calendar when you're in need of a business or tradie? Many businesses support the School through advertising and sponsorship and it would be lovely to support them in return.

We also have many businesses who support our school throughout the year, both financially and with in-kind donations. You will see mention of them occasionally in the School Bulletin and I ask that you keep an eye out for them. Support of this nature is greatly appreciated.

Speaking of support, in 2017 we have four **Community Partners** (see below) – Handprint Photography, Harrington Grove, Harvey's Auto Traders and Oran Park Dental Care. We are very grateful for the commitment of each of the Partners to our School and you can find further information about them on our new Community Partners board situated outside the Uniform Shop.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who has contributed to the School's Annual Appeal. In putting together this year's Annual Appeal, we brought you our Year 12 students who have been at Macarthur since Kindergarten, with some having started here in Transition. A number of current Kindergarten students were included in the photo shoot and, as our Headmaster Dr David Nockles said at the time, it was wonderful to see the genuine interaction of our eldest students with our youngest.



School Captain, Noah Gray, connecting with Kindergarten

## MRS KARYN INGRAM

FUND RAISING AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER



Year 12's who commenced in Transition or Kindergarten with this year's Transition and Kindergarten children



With grateful thanks to our Annual Community Partners



HARRINGTON GROVE



Oran Park  
DENTALCARE

# MACARTHUR COMMUNITY

## ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

The 2017 Annual Fundraising Dinner, held on Saturday 19 August, highlighted Macarthur Anglican School's international programmes through its theme, *Around the World*.

Guests were treated to a Lion Dance, a Jigsaw Table, silent and main auctions, and music provided by Corinne Rushby and *Let's Groove Tonight*. And just as one of our former International Students, Quincy Law, graced the International Dinner (see Page 7), Miss Ashley Tan from Malaysia, (2014) acted as MC for the evening. In addition, Dave Harvey rocked the room as our auctioneer.

The centrepiece of the evening was a video presentation of our school's international programmes through the eyes of our students, opening with a series of welcomes by our International Students and their Australian buddies. This segment included Frank He, from Shanghai, who spoke of the impact and importance of homestay families, thanking them for their commitment.

The History and Art Tour of Europe, which was held during the Autumn Vacation, was depicted with a collection of favourite photos provided by the students who took part. Each photo together with remarks by the students, gave an insight into why this tour becomes such a memorable experience.

The Hungarian Exchange Programme was brought to life through a display of text messages between Vanessa Gooden and her mother, Jill, during Vanessa's time in Hungary. These succinct comments and replies highlighted the challenges our students and their parents face and the ultimate benefits of the student exchange programme.

Our students of Indonesian spoke about their experiences of Indonesian language and culture, both here at school and during their tour to Indonesia earlier this

year. Each student spoke in Indonesian while English subtitles were displayed.

Lastly, the Thailand Outreach was captured by a number of students using a GoPro camera and a drone. The resulting video, shot by Samuel Buda and edited by Jacob Elliott, was a showpiece. These Annual Dinner presentations demonstrated how Macarthur provides exceptional opportunities for our students to explore the world.

Macarthur Anglican School is grateful to all who donated items for auction, or their time and energy to ensure the success of this wonderful occasion. The support shown by former students, parents, teachers and members of the School Council who attended the Fundraising Dinner is appreciated. The occasion was also enhanced through the support of our Silver Sponsors, *Hills Commercial Cleaning, Oran Park Podium and Maneto Architectural Joinery*, and our Bronze Sponsors, *HR Macarthur, Fowler's Carpets and Blinds, Grimes Finance and Mortgages, Stonemeadow Photography and Absolutely Fabulous Event Decoration*.



Isabelle Ingram, Mr Ian Walker, Ms Alicia Watson AOM, Mr Alex Michie and the Chair of the Macarthur School Council, Mrs Annabel Michie at the Annual Fundraising Dinner



Former Students Ashley Tan, Sabrina Harris, Isabelle Ingram and Inneka Gewargis who were vital helpers in the preparations for the Dinner



The Headmaster about to be devoured during the Chinese Lion Dance



Mr Dave Harvey, Annual Dinner Auctioneer



Miss Ashley Tan, MC for the Annual Dinner



Teamwork at the Jigsaw Table



# MACARTHUR STAFF

## PATEENAH HORDERN



Mrs Pateenah Hordern has a long association with Macarthur Anglican School, through her husband Quentin, one of our Faculty Heads, and through the enrolment of their children Kiara, Sarah, Niclas and Elias, who attended the school from 2003 through to 2013.

Rather than following the usual path towards becoming a teacher, Mrs Hordern has a very interesting past. She worked with *Youth With a Mission* (YWAM) for eight years, based in South-East Asia, including several years in India helping Iranian refugees. "I have a particular interest in the International Students at Macarthur," Mrs Hordern says, "and their assimilation into the school community and Australian culture. Having studied Hindi in India and having experienced being 'the outsider' in Asia for many years, I can empathise with and have a desire to help students find their sense of connection at Macarthur."

On returning to Australia, Mrs Hordern's focus was on raising her family before returning to full time work as a Personal Assistant at Presbyterian Ladies College, Sydney. While working, she set about studying to become a teacher, completing a Bachelor of Arts degree and Graduate Diploma in Education. Although she has come later than most to teaching, Mrs Hordern's prior experience of serving others in need, will be an inspiration to our students, who are strongly urged to think of how they can serve others during their lives.

A love of good food, wine and coffee means that much of Mrs Hordern's spare time is spent visiting great food places or cooking. She also enjoys art house films, theatre and live music and dabbles in ceramics as a hobby.

## JOHN REES



Mr Rees attended Geelong Grammar School, including an unforgettable time at Timbertop – an experience he shares with Prince Charles. During a Gap year in England, he pursued one of his sporting passions, playing cricket in the Essex League, with his team winning the league premiership. His other passion is AFL, which he umpires in the Sydney Amateur League.

After completing a Bachelor of Applied Science at the University of Melbourne, Mr Rees worked in Land and Water Catchment management in Victoria, but then completed teaching qualifications at Deakin University. Initially he co-ordinated a Year 9 programme of integrated studies, outdoor education and community service. He commenced at Macarthur in July 2015 as a member of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

At Macarthur, Mr Rees enjoys the learning culture, the genuine faith lived out by the staff and their dedication to teaching. He wants to give his all to the teaching of Geography and Earth and Environmental Science, and to encourage students to become passionate global citizens. "I would also like to bring my passion for sport, especially AFL and Cricket, to the sports programme," Mr Rees says, "and contribute to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards programme, given my passion and previous experience in this field."

While he was abroad, Mr Rees travelled to locations in Belgium mentioned in his great grandfather's WWI journal. He would like to travel more in Asia, the Middle East and North America to deepen his knowledge of the cultures, history and natural wonders of the world. Mr Rees is married with a stepson and two pre-school boys. He and his wife Vanessa attend C3 Church in Mount Annan as part of the Young Families ministry team.

## ORCHID KRUSE



After starting as a Junior in retailing, Mrs Kruse rose to become a Service Supervisor in a large retail business. On completion of a university degree, she became a Market Research Analyst, then a Marketing Co-ordinator, project managing trade exhibitions and sales conferences in Asia, America and Europe, and initiating market research to assist with the company's SWOT analysis – all of which could be useful experience for our students of Commerce and Business Studies to tap into.

Mrs Kruse says that she hopes to have a positive impact at Macarthur, serving to the best of her ability in every aspect of her job as a Personal Assistant to the Dean of Studies. There are many opportunities, she says, to get involved in the school community and to widen the scope in which she can serve others.

After having her two children, Lauren and Alexander, who both attend Macarthur, Mrs Kruse worked for the Managing Director of TNA Australia and then on the administration staff at Sherwood Hills Christian School. Now that she is working at Macarthur, Mrs Kruse says that she enjoys getting an insight into the daily education of her children. "Every morning when I drive in and see the beautiful grounds, I say a quiet 'thanks' for the opportunity to work here," Mrs Kruse says.

Together with her husband Adrian, the Faculty Head of Mathematics at Macarthur, Mrs Kruse attends Sherwood Hills Baptist Church where she is involved in music ministry as a member of the choir and leader of a children's choir. She is also a qualified portrait photographer in her spare time.

# MACARTHUR ARCHIVES



## PERFORMANCES FROM THE PAST

### The Pirates of Penzance (2004)

This swashbuckling performance of the Gilbert and Sullivan musical *The Pirates of Penzance* was a significant challenge for our students in 2004. Apart from acting, often in a very comical fashion, the lyrics were particularly challenging to learn and perform, especially those of well-known favourites such as *I Am the*

*Very Model of a Modern Major General*, *Away Away My Heart's on Fire*, and *With Cat-like Tread*. Lead roles in the musical were performed by Thomas Oliver as the Pirate King, Kieran Forsyth as his Deputy, Timothy Ash as Frederic the Pirate Apprentice, Andrew Pitt as the Major General, Elizabeth Wilson as Mabel and Nicholas Ryan as the Sergeant of Police. A memorable feature of the musical was the participation of an International Student in a musical for the first time –

Jimmy Chan from Hong Kong.

An innovative programme in the form of a news sheet called the *Penzance Gazette* contained cast and credit lists and performance notes in the form of news items. Some of the headlines read *Pirates at Large! Evil Men with Black Hearts*. *Mayor Recommends Lock Up Your Daughters*. Also, *Sergeant of Police Says His Men are Ready*. *Pirates No Match for Fearless Constabulary*. *Every Man Issued with New Baton*.



### Rock Eisteddfod and Dance Ensemble 1989 to 2000

During the 1990's, Macarthur Anglican School took part in a series of Rock Eisteddfod performances, which were notable for the number of students who were eager to take part and for the high level of community support. Under the leadership of Mr George

Shuter, the Head of PDHPE at the time, and assisted by Mr Milton Gower and Mr Terry Moroney, the students put together innovative themes accompanied by intricate and spectacular dancing. While Macarthur always put together a spectacular performance, first place in the wider competition amongst a large collection of schools always remained elusive. However, the involvement of students, staff, parents and friends

of the school created a bond that is remembered fondly among former students from that era.

Rock Eisteddfod Performances: 1989 Jekyll and Hyde; 1990 I Fell in Love with an Alien; 1991 For the Sake of Marilyn; 1992 Cinderelergy; 1993 Inheritance; 1994 All Adam's Children; 1995 The Tears of Innocence; 1996 Hey Red; 1997 Free Wally; 1998 Animology; 2000 While My Guitar Gently Weeps.



**Andrew Smith** (1994) appeared in a 2014 issue of *Tartan Ties* when he and his wife Siobhan (née Galal, 1995) had one child, Maeve, who was two years old. Now, Maeve is almost five years old and has been joined by twins, Finn and Rory, who are just fourteen months old. Andrew has his own graphic design business and Siobhan is the Office Manager for a Financial Risk company.

Sergeant **Clint Johnson** (2000) attended as a guest at the school's 2017 Anzac Service on 26 April. Clint is a serving member of the Australian Army and is currently an instructor at Duntroon Military College in Canberra. His service includes two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. Clint and his wife Marguerite recently welcomed their first child, Liam.



**Warwick Sidman** (2004) married **Jenna Stafford** (2004) in St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney on 4 March 2017. Warwick and Jenna's wedding was notable for the number of Macarthur friends who made up the bridal party. Warwick is a contract carpenter and Jenna is a childcare manager in Gregory Hills. The bridal party included **Adam Williams** (2004), **Asa Absalom** (née White-Chinnery, 2004), **Joshua Hardy** (2004), **Rowena Green** (née Dench, 2004), **Laura Wiblin** (née Stafford, 2002), **Luke Sutton** (2004), **Bethuen Grady** (née Haviland, 2004) and **Mitchell Sidman** (2006). Warwick and Jenna have moved into their new home at Spring Farm, near Camden.

**Asa Absalom** (née White-Chinnery, 2004) married David Absalom in 2012. Asa is the kitchen manager of *Teen Ranch* in Cobbitty. David manages The *ARHouse* espresso bar and restaurant in Narellan Town Centre. Since David was originally from the UK and as Asa also has family contacts there, frequent trips to the UK are part of David and Asa's lifestyle.



Warwick and Jenna Sidman's Bridal Party. L to R Adam Williams, Asa Absalom, Joshua Hardy, Rowena Green, Warwick and Jenna Sidman, Laura Wiblin, Luke Sutton, Beth Grady and Mitchell Sidman.

**Mitchell Sidman** (2006) is living in Orange, a beautiful regional city, but less well-known as a centre for the mining industry. Historically, Ophir and Summer Hill Creek, north of Orange, were thriving centres for gold panning during the Nineteenth Century gold rush. Today, gold mining continues south of the city. Mitchell is involved in maintenance work in these mines.

**Brendan Hay** (2008), who took part in several musical productions during his years at Macarthur, has established himself as an international entertainer, designer and artist. He performs three 'theatrical faces', *Valère*, a French inspired fop who he created for his HSC Drama performance, *Cruello de Vil*, a villainous, sleek, stylised fashion club kid, and *Song and Dance Man*, an all-jazz-singing, all-tap-dancing, all-cello-playing black and white film star.



As a designer, Brendan's work has appeared on a number of stages including the Sydney Opera House, and in catalogues and magazines such as *Peter Alexander*, *Just Jeans* and *Vogue*. Brendan intends to continue his work abroad with particular interests in New York, Berlin and Paris. More information can be found at [www.brendanjameshay.com](http://www.brendanjameshay.com)

**Jonathan Hartono** (2008) moved to Brisbane immediately after completing his studies at Macarthur where he completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Economics before completing a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery degree by 2014. Jonathan is now the Senior Resident doctor in cardiology at The Prince Charles Hospital at Chermiside on Brisbane and has already given presentations in his field of expertise. His short-term aim is to become a hospital Registrar in Cardiology and Vascular Surgery, while further into the future he would like to enter the six-year programme to become a Cardiology specialist.

**James Murdoch** (2011) married Roslyn Brown on 1 July 2017, at St Paul's Uniting Church, Mackay Queensland. James and Roslyn, who is from Mackay, met through Sydney University Evangelical Union while Roslyn was studying physiotherapy and James Education. They now live in Mackay where Roslyn is a physiotherapist at Mackay Base Hospital and James is completing his internship at Whitsunday Anglican School. They worship at Mackay Evangelical Church, a newly planted church where they are involved in the beginnings of a Worship Team. Jacob Hatch and Matthew Cowper (both 2011) were in the wedding party.





**CINDERELLA**

Elaborate costumes were a strong focus in this year's musical production, *Cinderella*, as these photos of several characters show. Apart from startling the audience, costumes help the actors to get 'into character', one of the ingredients along with outstanding production, direction and technical support that led to another superb performance by our students.



## CONTACT US

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## EXECUTIVE STAFF

**Headmaster:** Dr David Nockles  
**Deputy Headmaster:** Mr Andrew Kokic  
**Dean of Studies:** Mrs Melissa Gould-Drakeley  
**Dean of Students:** Mr Timothy Cartwright  
**Chaplain:** The Reverend David Hayman  
**Director of Business and Advancement:** Mr David Stewart  
**Head of Senior School:** Mr Scott Bedingfield  
**Head of Middle School:** Mrs Kylie Elling  
**Head of Junior School:** Mrs Estelle Stelzer