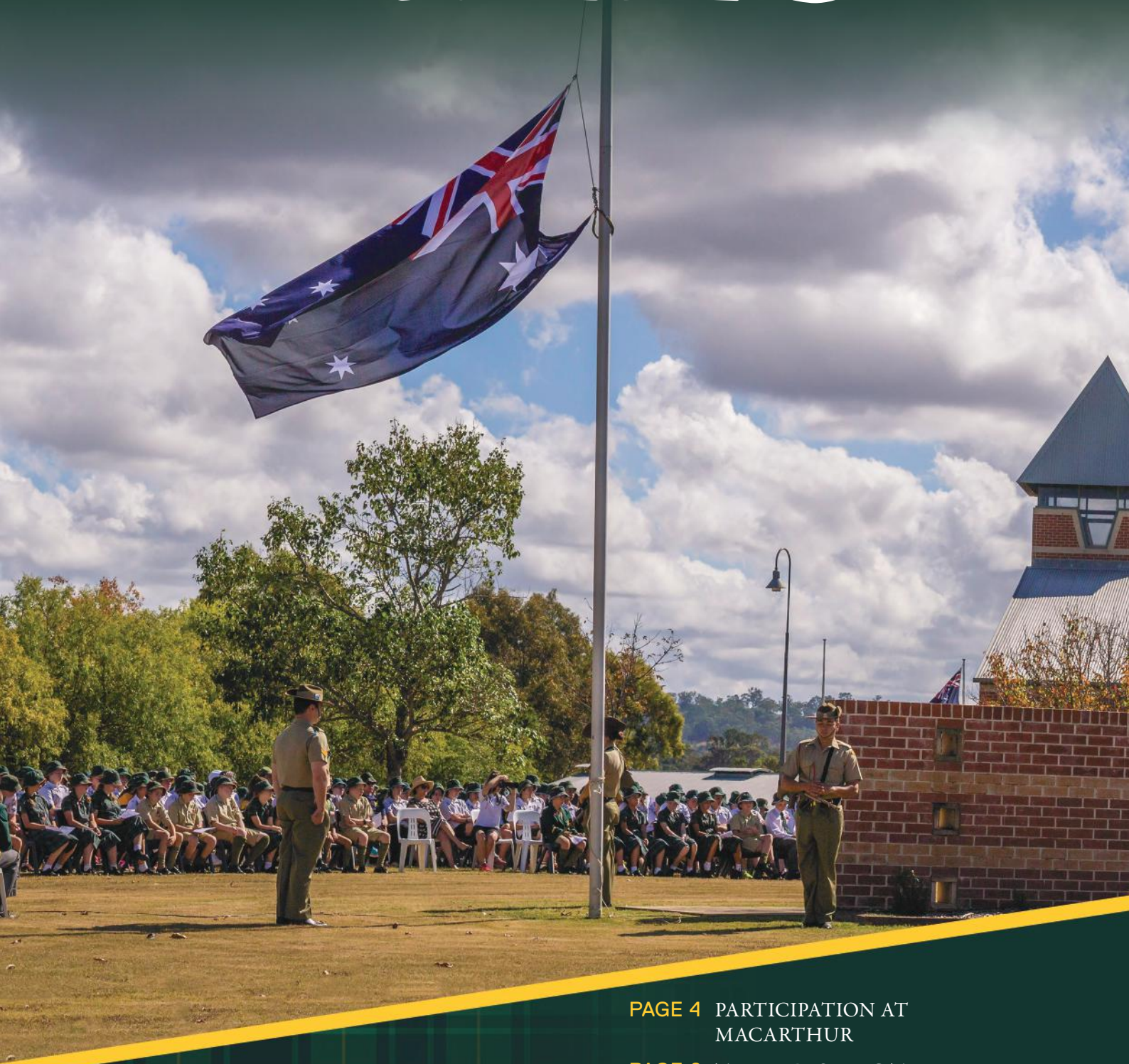




# TARTAN TIES

NEWS FROM MACARTHUR ANGLICAN SCHOOL

WINTER 2018



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MACARTHUR REMEMBERS

*ENTER TO LEARN*

*GO OUT TO SERVE*

# MACARTHUR PEOPLE

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## FROM THE HEADMASTER



*It was a great pleasure to witness the Official Opening last term of The Exploring Tree Macarthur: Early Learning Centre by Mr Christopher Patterson, MP and Councillor Lara Symkowiak, Mayor of Camden.*

The large attendance demonstrated the high level of interest in this project, first planned in 2014, and which has taken until now to reach completion. Everyone who walked through the Centre must have been impressed by the beautiful facilities our young children will enjoy. I am especially grateful to Mrs Robyn Legge, the Manager of *The Exploring Tree Macarthur*, who apart from her long experience in early childhood education, has been significantly involved in the life of Macarthur for many years.

Meanwhile, the ongoing education of students at all levels from Transition to Year 12 continues, as does the ongoing education of our staff! You could say that no-one side-steps Macarthur's strong learning culture, whether you are a student or teacher.

The focus with our students is more than simply the acquisition of knowledge. It is often said that many of the occupations our current students will embark upon in the future are unknown to us in the present. So how do we prepare our students for occupations that do not yet exist? How do we 'future proof' them so that they have the necessary skills and mindset to go beyond what they already know and meet the challenges that will come their way? Another way of putting this is to ask how we can give our students the ability to reinvent themselves and 'upskill' when the time comes.

This is where the development of a *growth mindset* is so important. To put it simply, a growth mindset means being able to accept setbacks, indeed failures from time to time, and see them as opportunities to learn and grow in confidence for the next challenge. Closely aligned to this is a vital understanding for parents and teachers, about how to support students when faced with setbacks. The attention of parents was drawn to this matter recently, in an article by our Deputy Headmaster, Mr Andrew Kokic.

As explained by Mr Kokic (Macarthur Bulletin No. 5, 2018) under the heading *Our Children and the Happiness Trap*, many things in life "never seem to be going quite the way we hoped, imagined or expected". With reference to social commentator Hugh McKay, Mr Kokic explained that young people can be easily conditioned to always expect highly positive feedback for every effort they make, and indeed for every obstacle to be removed from their path in what McKay calls "a rich diet of self-esteem-boosting praise." Unfortunately, life as a maturing student and as an adult will not continue like that all the time – hence the need for the right mindset, a *growth mindset*, where every challenge and every setback, along with every achievement, is accepted as a learning experience.

There is an abundance of tests that can be administered to diagnose and measure student performance. Every year, we see outstanding results by many students, from Year 3 NAPLAN tests to

the Year 12 HSC results. However, the results also show how some students face more challenges than others. A *growth mindset* helps students to accept the feedback from test results without undue disappointment, to learn from them and to believe that with determination to succeed, they can be better with help from their parents and teachers.

The Professional Development Programme at Macarthur is continually focussed on building this strong and encouraging learning culture, by helping our teachers to identify and implement strategies that require deep thinking techniques as they promote learning through inquiry, problem solving, critical thinking and creativity. Our standards in professional development have led to Macarthur being accredited by the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) as a Professional Learning Organisation, authorised to provide professional learning courses that Macarthur staff and teachers from other schools can use as part of their ongoing teacher accreditation. Not many schools achieve this NESA accreditation. Clearly, our learning culture, extending across students and teachers, has been recognised at the highest level.

Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Annabel Michie for her service to the school by carrying out the role of Chair of Council for the last five years. Mrs Michie has been a member of Council for twelve years, a fine example of the selfless commitment shown by members of Council for the betterment of the school. At the same time, I welcome and extend my thanks to The Reverend David Barrie who will now commence in the role of Chairman of Council.

**DR DAVID NOCKLES**

HEADMASTER

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*Front Cover: A Catafalque Party in position while Macarthur students, staff and special guests attend the Anzac Service at the school's Memorial Wall.*



# MACARTHUR PEOPLE

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## Mrs Robyn Legge: Manager, Exploring Tree, Macarthur: Early Learning Centre

Mrs Legge attended schools in Forestville and Moss Vale, where both of her parents were teachers. She was employed in a number of part-time jobs during her training as an early childhood teacher, leading to a Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education from Charles Sturt University. She then taught certificate courses in Childcare at Liverpool College of TAFE. After commencing as the Director of Ruse Childcare, she became a partner in the centre, eventually becoming the sole owner, and bringing about a growth in the centre from thirty-eight places to one hundred and ten.

Mrs Legge was then involved in the establishment of Macarthur Early Learning in Elderslie, before transferring her attention to the establishment of *Exploring Tree Macarthur: Early*

*Learning Centre*. Together with her husband Brett, who was the builder, she was able to utilise her extensive experience in the design of the building.

With two children, Aleysha and Christopher, who attended Macarthur, Mrs Legge has been associated with Macarthur Anglican School for more than fourteen years. She also helped in the school's Community Relations field, supporting Annual Dinners, with setting up the school's Playgroup and is involved in *Talkback Thursday*, a Christian discussion group run by Mrs Karyn Ingram. Beyond her demanding level of involvement in running two early learning centres, Mrs Legge finds time to pursue her interest in music and travel, having toured Europe on two occasions.



## The Reverend David Barrie: Chairman of the School Council

At the June meeting of the School Council, Mrs Annabel Michie stepped down after five years as the Chair of Council. As stated in a letter to parents from the Headmaster, The Reverend David Barrie was then elected as the Chairman of Council.

Mr Barrie grew up and attended schools in the Menai area of Sydney. He had a gap year when he and a friend travelled through the United States and worked in Vancouver, Canada. Mr Barrie studied at the University of New South Wales, completing a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Physics. He then worked as a Production Support Engineer for a communications company in North Ryde, where he was involved in cutting-edge research into optical fibre technology.

Mr Barrie's next step was to enrol at Moore College for theological training in preparation for a future in Christian ministry. After completing a Bachelor of Divinity, he was ordained

and served for seven years as the Assistant Minister at All Saints Anglican Church, Balgowlah. In 2014, Mr Barrie was appointed as the Rector of St Paul's Anglican Church, Cobbitty.

Mr Barrie has four children, Kaitlyn, Sophie, Samuel and Jasmine, who attend Macarthur, which he says provides a first-rate education. "There is an abundance of co-curricular opportunities and an environment of pastoral care second to none," Mr Barrie says. "I am in awe of how Mrs Michie led the School Council over the last five years and feel honoured to be following her as Chairman. Along with the rest of Council, I hope to support and strengthen the great work already being done by Dr Nockles and his staff. Together, we are always looking for ways to improve the school. I am thrilled by the innovative plans we have in the pipeline and excited to see where God will take our school over the coming years as we continue to trust in him."



# MACARTHUR PARTICIPATION

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Getting involved in co-curricular activities, including clubs, musical groups, Duke of Edinburgh awards, or service and leadership roles, is strongly encouraged at Macarthur Anglican School. In the 2017 Yearbook, a new feature will be a listing of all students who participated in these activities, as reported in the Semester 2 Reports, November 2017. It shows more than two thousand memberships and roles taken on by students in activities as widely varied as one may imagine. For example, students participated in the Agriculture Show Team, Equestrian Gala Days, GATEway 8, the HICES Music Festival, MISA Debating, Snowsports, bands and orchestras, the school musical production . . . the list goes on and on. As well, many students perform a valuable service or leadership role as Peer Support leaders, on outreaches to North Queensland and Thailand, as Super-Cru camp leaders and as House Captains, Prefects and School Captains. All activities contribute to the school's desire for our students to *Enter to Learn* and *Go Out to Serve*.



Mr Palmer instructs team members controlling sound equipment at the outdoor Anzac Service

Two groups that work quietly behind the scenes are the *Academic Mentors* and the *Technical Support Team*. The Academic Mentors are Year 11 Peer Support leaders who mentor Year 7 and Year 8 students, helping them with time management, general organisation and study skills. The Academic Mentors volunteer for this valuable service and are selected and trained by the Head of Middle School, Mrs Kylie Elling. Completing assessment requirements, including examinations, can be stressful for young students unused to strict deadlines and the experience of sitting in examinations, under the watchful eyes of invigilating teachers. In addition, some mentors are selected by the Head of Senior School, Mrs Rebecca Joel, to provide coaching for a few students in areas of Mathematics and English. This help is given under the oversight of Mrs Rebecca Fitzpatrick in the Innovation and Research Centre. The Year 11 Mentors give their time freely during lunch periods and after school to extend their Peer Support involvement well beyond that of just helping young students to settle into secondary schooling.

The Technical Support Team has eighteen members under the guidance of Mr Kent Palmer, one of the school's Technical Support Officers. They provide support such as sound, lighting and recording throughout the year for school musical productions, all Chapel services, drama productions, assemblies, the 326 Dance, the Anzac Service, the Annual Benefit Concert, the Festival of Performing Arts, various recitals and finally, Speech and Awards Night at the end of the year. Their unobtrusive presence at all of these events makes a significant difference to the standard of presentation and the experience of those who attend. However, involvement in the Technical Support Team is a learning activity as well as one providing a service supporting other activities. The group meets in their own time every Tuesday afternoon where they help with the distribution and set up of new computers, learn how to assemble new audio and ethernet cables, how the school's network functions and even

learn about how the school's alarm and internal phone systems operate. Any students with an interest in all things technical and who would like to join the group should contact Mr Palmer.

The service these groups and so many others provide is an invaluable way in which students can *give* to other students at the same time that they are receiving so much from their own teachers and peers.



Technical Support Team members, video Speech Night



Team members operate sound and lighting equipment during a musical production



# MACARTHUR INTERNATIONAL

## TEACHING IN HUNGARY

A number of Macarthur Anglican School teachers have travelled to the city of Miskolc, sharing their expertise and learning from the staff of the Lévy József Református Gimnázium, Macarthur's link school in Hungary. Most recently, our Chaplain, the Reverend David Hayman and his wife Romayne visited Lévy József in the Summer Vacation this year, while Mr Peter Langley and his wife Rosalind visited three years earlier. Here are some impressions on their time in Hungary.

Mr Langley was immediately struck by the long history of the school and the intense cold during a Miskolc winter. He taught English classes with presentations on Australian Geography, History and Sport, giving the students the opportunity to practise their listening skills, while he sought to overcome a natural reticence in conversational English. A highlight was teaching while it was snowing heavily outside – a surreal experience!

Mr and Mrs Langley stayed in the school's well-heated boarding house, eating with the students at breakfast, lunch and dinner. The food in Hungary, he says, was amazing. Sometimes they enjoyed eating at a local restaurant, where they enjoyed the infusion of fruit into the main dishes. At the end of his stay, Mr Langley organised an Australian afternoon of cricket in the freezing cold, and shared some Australian food they took with them, (including Tim Tams, Lamington fingers, and Vegemite), then played trivia with questions about Australia. Overall, Mr and Mrs Langley



*Peter Langley teaching English to a class of Hungarian students*

enjoyed their stay in Miskolc with afternoons after teaching visiting local cafes and shops and exploring the town.

Mr and Mrs Hayman enjoyed a "fascinating and enriching experience" through their involvement in the school and community. Mr Hayman did some class teaching, preached at the school several times, attended worship and Christian groups within and outside the school, and had many individual chats on the exchange programme, Reformed life, Biblical Studies and Christian formation programmes. He found that the partnership between our schools is highly valued and respected by the school's Headmaster, Mr Tibor Ábráms, as well as by the executive staff, teaching staff and students.

Connections were made with the Macarthur students attending the school on exchange as well as with past Lévy József students who attended Macarthur. The school tailored his visit to take advantage of his experience in Christian



*A scene in Miskolc during the Langleys' visit*



*Former exchange students to Macarthur Petro Horváth, Áron Bucsi, Abigel Madarász and Zsuzsanna Berdó with Mr Hayman*

ministry and in classroom teaching. "As with much of Hungary", Mr Hayman says, "the school was a fascinating mix of older style teaching and facilities side by side with modern state-of-the-art facilities."

Mr and Mrs Hayman had the delight of worshipping in Sunday Reformed congregations, at a home fellowship group, at school fellowships held in the boarding house, and at the weekly *If He* fellowship. Mr Hayman concludes saying, "We both loved the history, the art and the music. We also loved the opportunity to reflect on Australia from afar, and to observe a culture emerging from communist rule, and in particular, the role of the church and people of Christian faith in this process – in society, in the church, in schools and in the Parliament".

## Who was Lévy József?<sup>1</sup>

József Lévy (1825 – 1918) was a poet and a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In 1847 he became a lawyer in Miskolc but later travelled to Pest<sup>2</sup> to work as a journalist. In 1852 he returned to Miskolc and until 1860 was a Hungarian-Latin teacher at the Reformed Grammar School which later bore his name. He was

a popular poet of his time, honoured with a doctorate and prizes at the Budapest University. His poetry characterised the simplicity and smallest pleasures of rural life. He also translated the works of Robert Burns, Molière, Shakespeare, and others into Hungarian. In 1934, a statue of József Lévy was erected in Miskolc.



<sup>1</sup> In the Hungarian tradition family names are spoken first, followed by given names.

<sup>2</sup> Buda and Pest were two cities either side of the River Danube, which were officially merged in 1873 to be known since as Budapest.

# MACARTHUR LEARNING

## EXPLORING TREE MACARTHUR: EARLY LEARNING CENTRE OFFICIAL OPENING

*Fine weather and a huge attendance by members of the school community made the opening of Exploring Tree Macarthur: Early Learning Centre a memorable event.*

Prior to the official opening, children from *Commotion* and songs by *Emalia* entertained everyone, after which the centre was dedicated by the Right Reverend Peter Hayward, Bishop of Wollongong.



*Exploring Tree Macarthur* is the result of planning and co-operation between Macarthur Anglican School Council and Mrs Robyn Legge, the Manager of the Centre. In addition, the building was constructed by Mrs Legge's husband, Mr Brett Legge of *BJ Legge Builders*, who co-ordinated several sub-contractors,

many of whom are also connected to the school. The architect was Ms Robyn McKay of *McKay Architects*.

Following the official opening, parents and children were invited to walk through the building and play areas, taking in the amazing indoor and outdoor design





# MACARTHUR LEARNING

features that set the standard for an early childhood education facility. *Exploring Tree Macarthur* is registered to enrol ninety-four pre-school children and can also accommodate a further forty children in after-school care. Led by Ms Jessica Owens as Director, the large staff includes several who are former students of Macarthur, as listed in the Alumni section of this issue.

"We take inspiration from the principles of Reggio Emilia," Mrs Legge said during her address at the opening, "where we view children as extremely capable, creative and intelligent. We are looking forward to providing a safe haven for your little ones to learn and grow in a loving environment." Guiding principles for the operation of the centre are stated as follows:

Love and Passion for Early Childhood Education is the *doorway*.  
Faith is the *Foundation*.  
Authentic Relationships are the *support*.  
Belonging, Being and Becoming is the *outcome*.  
Inclusive Community, Generosity and Joy is the *overflow*.



# MACARTHUR LEARNING

## THE EARLY LITERACY PROJECT

*Parents are always interested to know how their children are being taught the basic skills of Literacy and Numeracy. In the following article, the Head of Junior School, Mrs Estelle Stelzer, explains how the school is taking advantage of a new research project to enhance the teaching of Literacy.*

The Association of Independent Schools (AIS) of NSW has developed the *Early Literacy Project* which aims to promote the explicit teaching of early literacy skills in independent schools. Macarthur Anglican School has formed a partnership this year with the AIS, in which teachers from Transition to Year 4 are participating in professional learning that provides evidence-based strategies to inform, not only what to teach in terms of early learning concepts, but how best to structure and sequence this learning. The professional learning is supported by instructional coaching sessions and observations to ensure the transfer of these strategies to the classroom context. A total of eight modules will be covered across the first three terms of this year, in addition to online self-paced learning modules.

The Early Literacy Project is based on the research and findings conducted in the *National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy*. The inquiry recommended:

- That teachers be equipped with teaching strategies based on findings from rigorous, evidence-based research that are shown to be effective in enhancing the literacy development of all children, and
- That students learn best when teachers adopt an integrated approach to reading that explicitly teaches phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary knowledge and comprehension.



To this end, our staff is focussed on the five essential skills for reading:

**Phonemic Awareness:** The ability to identify and manipulate the distinct individual sounds in spoken words.

**Phonics:** The ability to decode words using knowledge of letter-sound relationships

**Fluency:** Reading with speed and accuracy. Fluent readers are able to focus on reading for meaning.

**Vocabulary:** Knowing the meaning of a wide variety of words and the structure of written language. Oral and reading vocabulary are important in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

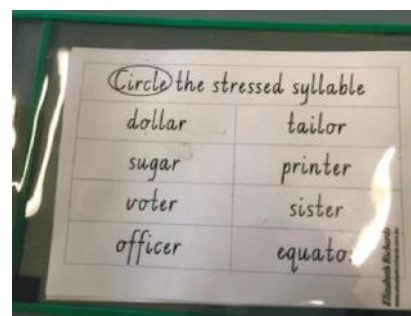
**Comprehension:** Understanding the meaning and intent of text using knowledge of words, concepts, facts and ideas.



This year in Transition, we commenced an early literacy preparation programme called *Pre-Lit*. It is designed to complement a play-based learning environment and provides children with a sound foundation for learning to read. Designed by Macquarie University, this programme focusses on the two components of phonological awareness and oral language development through structured book reading. This programme forms the foundation required for reading.

From the commencement of Kindergarten, students are taught sounds and high frequency words, along with spelling rules, all of which are constantly revised. Children are encouraged to apply this learning in their daily writing. In the younger years, home readers also form a vital part of a child's learning as they practise decoding and comprehending text. Reading at home is an opportunity to monitor the child's fluency, grasp of new vocabulary and comprehension of text. The enhancement and teaching of fluency skills and specific vocabulary is also imperative in all teaching years. Macarthur staff address these skills in all Key Learning Areas and provide effective support to students to reduce literacy gaps which may be present.

The impact of reducing the number of struggling students through more effective initial class teaching should not be underestimated. School resources and teacher time can be deployed more effectively, learning enhancement can be targeted to children with specific learning difficulties, and benefits for students extend from improved educational achievement through to a lower likelihood of the mental health and behavioural concerns that frequently arise following reading difficulties. Our Junior School staff are committed to all children developing the five essential skills for reading and have been encouraged to see how the implementation of these skills has continued to grow and develop our students' learning. After each teaching module, an AIS Consultant observes our staff teaching specific concepts in classrooms, and provides valuable feedback to assist them in their future teaching.





# MACARTHUR NEWS

## GONE FOREVER

Alumni who attended Macarthur Anglican School from its opening in 1984 until the final transfer of the Junior School to Cobbitty in 2005, will be surprised if they want to visit their old school. The former Narellan site of the school has now been levelled and construction has commenced on new buildings, where once Macarthur students were educated.

The site at Narellan was chosen by the original School Council, ahead of two other sites under consideration, because of its proximity to bus routes along Camden Valley Way. However, the demand for places in the school, together with the commencement of the Junior School, led to a need for room to expand. A search for land was carried out, leading to the school's relocation to its present position. All Year 7 to 12 students moved to Cobbitty in 1997 and Transition to Year 6 moved in 2005. There are now just sixteen students in Year 12 who could have any memory of commencing Transition at Narellan. The site was sold and is now owned by the Department of Education.



The Narellan site as it appeared early in 2018

## BRILLIANT CONCERT

Mr Jonathan Békés (2010), who was featured in an earlier issue of *Tartan Ties* (Winter 2015), performed in an outstanding concert in the Macarthur Anglican School Chapel on Saturday 24 March. Accompanied by pianist Ying Ho, Jonathan performed a repertoire he titled *Forwards Backwards* reflecting modern Twentieth Century 'cello music by Henri Dutilleux (*Trois Strophes Sur La Nom De Sacher*) and Alfred Schnittke (*Cello Sonata No. 1*). These pieces were in contrast to the music of Nineteenth Century composer, Sergei Rachmaninoff (*Cello Sonata in G Minor, Op. 19*). Jonathan and Ying Ho also

performed at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music the night before.

In recent years, Jonathan has studied at the Australian National Academy of Music, while frequently travelling throughout Asia, Europe and North America to study and to perform in concerts and competitions. He is now a full-time member of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, frequently featured on ABC Radio Classic FM.



Jonathan Békés in performance

## ANZAC FUN RUN

Four Junior School students, Riley Newman, Oscar Saunders, Joshua Lenehan and Jackson Neumann received, on behalf of the school, a commemorative picture on *The Spirit of Anzac* in recognition of the school's consistent support of the annual Lions Club Anzac Fun Run. A notable result in this year's Run was by Lauren Ward, who came first overall in the female five-kilometre event in just over eighteen minutes.



Riley Newman, Oscar Saunders, Joshua Lenehan, Jackson Neumann

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Many school families have helped in providing accommodation for International Students, either permanently enrolled students, or those on short-term study tours. Until now, most of these students are from home countries located in Asia, especially China and Japan. However, with the widening of the International Student Programme, we are now seeing many students whose first language is French, German, Spanish or Italian. Apart from European students, we recently had students from the French territories of Martinique in the Caribbean and Réunion Island in the Indian Ocean. It is possible that students from South American countries will form part of the International Student group in the future.

## ALWAYS REMEMBERED

The school was saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Phoebe Atkinson on New Year's Day, 2018. Mrs Atkinson worked as the school's Receptionist from 1995 until 2003, making her familiar to many Macarthur parents who rang or visited the school's Administration Centre during that period. She was a kind and thoughtful lady, with an appealing sense of humour. Mrs Atkinson is survived by several children and grandchildren. An uplifting memorial service, in which her colourful life as a model in Sydney and London, as a sailor and aviatrix, was held at St Paul's Anglican Church, Cobbitty on 2 February 2018.



Mrs Phoebe Atkinson

# MACARTHUR REMEMBERS



## *At the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month...*

These words have become synonymous with the Armistice that brought to an end *The Great War of 1914 to 1918*. This year, the hundredth anniversary of that very significant event will be marked around the world on 11 November 2018, as citizens from more than thirty countries that were involved remember the sacrifice and horrific conditions endured by soldiers on both sides of the conflict.

The Great War, which some described at the time as *The War to End All Wars*, was anything but that. In a follow-up article in the next issue of *Tartan Ties*, Mr Stevens will describe the aftermath of the Armistice, in particular, the impact of the Versailles Peace Conference held in 1919, on the rest of the Twentieth Century.

The Great War, which in time became known as World War I after yet another worldwide conflict from 1939 to 1945, had a momentous impact on families, communities, nations and international alliances thereafter. Its significance is so profound that a study of the causes and consequences of The Great War is considered vitally important to an understanding of all subsequent history and is therefore included in the HSC Modern History syllabus.

At Macarthur Anglican School, as in communities all over Australia, the sacrifice of Australia's men and women

of the armed services is remembered in a solemn ceremony on the school day closest to Anzac Day. At the memorial wall, which may be seen on driving around Lone Pine Drive, the insignia of the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force may be seen. The pine tree on the left side of the wall is a 'descendant' of the seeds within pine cones that were returned to Australia by several soldiers, from the Lone Pine battlefield at Gallipoli.



The school is indebted to nearby units of the Armed Forces for supplying a catafalque party as part of the ceremony. A selected student provides a personal commentary on the significance of Anzac, while often a Chaplain of the Armed



Forces delivers an address to the student body (see next page). The service has also been attended by members of the Camden Returned Services League, Mr Christopher Patterson MP, a senior officer of the NSW Police Local Area Command, Macarthur Alumni currently serving as members of the Australian Defence Force and members of the School Council.



# MACARTHUR REMEMBERS



This year the address was given by, Chaplain Mick Flew, from the School of Military Engineering, Steele Barracks, Holsworthy. In part of his address, Chaplain Flew mentioned the following:

*At the end of World War I, a quarter of a million Australian men from a nation of only five million people had been casualties and sixty thousand had been killed. The pride and grief of the nation following Gallipoli and World War I formed a bond, so strong that it made a statement to the world that we had come of age and our armed forces and our citizens were truly one nation.*

*Today reminds us that war and conflict are to be avoided, but when necessary, we will come together to defend and protect our nation and our values. This requires us to reflect upon the past with pride and look to the future and build on the achievements of our predecessors. By upholding the character of the Anzac Spirit – comradeship, courage, tenacity, leadership and pride in service, we will continue to enrich the Australian tradition at home and overseas.*

*Today we give our acknowledgement and thanks to all current and former members of our defence force – the brave men and women who represent and safeguard our country every day. No Australian is untouched when a member of our armed services is killed in action. It is difficult to comprehend the grief associated with the loss at war to a parent, partner, child, sibling or friend. We as a nation will never forget the service and sacrifice – we will remember, we will honour and we will support those left behind.*



# MACARTHUR REMEMBERS

## THE ARMISTICE EXPLAINED

*Coming into effect at 11.00am on 11 November 1918, the time and date of the Armistice has become an annual time of remembrance for all who died in the cause of freedom in the Great War (later to be called World War 1), and in all subsequent conflicts to the present day.*

*Here we have an explanation of why and how the Armistice came about, provided by Mr Paul Stevens, Head of History and International Studies at Macarthur Anglican School.*



*Crowds in Martin Place Sydney celebrate the end of the war on Armistice Day 1918*

By autumn 1918, German morale and the nation's ability to continue the four-year-old conflict were in rapid decline. Revolution, which had swept through Russia only a year earlier, was now fomenting within the borders of the Fatherland itself. During October 1918, allied troops advanced quickly through a series of successful offensives and threatened the last German line of retreat. In the first week of November, the British broke through German lines, taking 20,000 prisoners and 450 guns.

The German government was determined to negotiate a cessation of hostilities to prevent a full military defeat and surrender of her armed forces. General Paul von Hindenburg, the German Army Chief-of-Staff, telegrammed the Supreme Allied Commander, Ferdinand Foch of France, to arrange a time and place to meet for formal negotiations to take place.

As the spectre of socialist revolution hung over Germany, combined with the failure of the High Command to break the stalemate on the Western Front, Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated.

Already the French, German and British delegates were meeting secretly in France to discuss terms to end the Great War. Marshal Foch insisted that every detail of the transaction should be conducted in absolute privacy, so that not a single representative of the French or allied press was present at the historic meeting. The only accounts come from eyewitnesses who took part in the discussions.

The negotiations took place in the forest of Compiègne, in two trains taken there for that purpose. The woods were barred by troops to all comers. There were no houses and no tents. On the railway line stood two trains, one occupied by Marshal Foch and his people, the other by the German representatives. Here for three days they lived, worked, and deliberated.

According to one German delegate, *We read no laughter, no triumph, in their faces. Immediately before the close of the second and last plenary sitting we placed before the enemy in the German language our protest against the treaty, but in the end, we had to sign.*<sup>1</sup>

Although Germany insisted that it would only enter into negotiations if US President Woodrow Wilson's *Fourteen Points* were the foundation for a settlement, the armistice terms were nevertheless punitive. The Allies agreed to an armistice only on the basis that Germany effectively disarmed herself, thereby preventing it from renewing hostilities.

The Allies' armistice terms were presented to German negotiators on 8 November 1918. Alarmed at the severity of the terms, the Germans lodged formal protests before reluctantly signing at 5.00am on 11 November. The armistice was to come into effect six hours later.

At 11.00am on 11 November 1918, the armistice began, finally signalling the long-awaited end to the war. As soon as news of it was made known, cities and towns as far away as those in Australia erupted into celebrations. However, for the troops still on active duty in France, the cessation in fighting was harder to enjoy; they were still surrounded by devastation and held memories of all they had been through and of those who would not be returning.

Many soldiers wrote of a sense of numbness in their letters home and in war diaries. It took several days for the reality of the armistice to sink in; to believe fully that this war was over, and that they had survived, some of them for four years under the greatest levels of firepower the world had ever seen.



*The only photo taken on 11 November 1918, showing Marshal Foch holding the signed armistice agreement. There were no photos taken of the actual signing of the document within the carriage - only artists' impressions of the scene*

<sup>1</sup> Source *Records of the Great War*, Vol VI. Charles F Horne, (Ed.) 1923.

In the next issue of *Tartan Ties*, Mr Stevens will write about the Versailles Peace Conference of 1919, and the shadow it cast over the Twentieth Century.



# MACARTHUR COMMUNITY

## OUR COMMUNITY

*Developing and maintaining a healthy school community can be a difficult challenge when many families are so busy, but it is a challenge to which Macarthur is committed.*

To this end, there's a need to be creative in providing opportunities for parents and families to support, connect and network with each other. Some events have worked well and remain largely the same, whereas others are new or evolving.



[Women@Macarthur \(W@M\)](#) and [Men@Macarthur \(M@M\)](#) are the School's main parent groups that have provided valuable insights and direction for 2018. New to 2018, [Women@Macarthur \(W@M\)](#) hosted an afternoon tea in celebration of International Women's Day.

They chose the stunning Melaleuca House at Mt Annan Botanic Gardens, an intimate and beautiful setting, with entertainment by Corinne Rushby and table arrangements by Floral Artistry by Yvonne. Daughters joined their mothers for this lovely, relaxed afternoon around a sumptuous buffet.

[Men@Macarthur \(M@M\)](#) have continued their monthly BBQ Breakfasts. They have worked hard to develop these mornings into an opportunity to connect and network and, as a result, many dads are choosing to do the school run on these days. They have continued to raise awareness for mental health and, as a result, all

proceeds from the BBQ Breakfasts are being directed to Black Dog Institute.



In response to feedback and suggestions from parents, Parents and Friends FAQ Sessions are now being held once a term. The Summer Term Session was *Who do I talk to?*, providing clarity on who to speak to within the school with questions or concerns. In Autumn Term, the topic was *Cybersafety*. Our Guest Speaker was Scott Taylor from International Security Training Academy (ISTA), who provided valuable tips and insights regarding social media etiquette.



# MACARTHUR COMMUNITY



The New Families Breakfast was held early in Summer Term, a popular morning for families to meet staff and other new families over a light breakfast. This year we were delighted to have nearly one hundred people attend, and we hope many new friendships were begun.

Grandparents Day is undoubtedly one of the most popular days on the school's calendar.

Held in early March, over four hundred grandparents attended this wonderful morning. The concert was a highlight with the theme of *Run the Race*. Before heading to classrooms with their grandchildren, our guests were served morning tea by over twenty volunteers.

On Friday 16 and Saturday 17 March, the school again supported Camden Show as a Champion Sponsor. Our interactive display tent was well attended during the Show, despite the exceptional heat on the Saturday. We provided our younger visitors with the opportunity to take part in a science experiment, to play with kinetic sand or get creative with Playfoam. The Robotics display provided visitors the opportunity to 'drive' a robot, a particularly popular activity.

On Friday 27 April, the Headmaster's Golf Challenge took place at the scenic Glenmore Heritage Valley Golf Club. Over fifty players attended, including for the first time, some students.



There were plenty of prizes handed out and the morning of golf was followed by lunch. Planning is already underway for next year, the Tenth Headmaster's Golf Challenge.

The school's Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 2 June at Camden Civic Centre. With a theme of *Step into Tomorrow*, the night brought all things robotics and STEM to our guests. The evening was opened by a flight sequence of four mini drones, choreographed by the Year 9 computing class and continued with Sumo Bots, a Sphero Maze, 3D Goggles and Maths with Einstein.



Former students Stuart McIntosh (2014) in the role of Albert Einstein and Grace Barrett (2015) who helped with invaluable support at the Annual Dinner

Claudia-Rose Hackney from the 2016 cohort brought her exceptional vocal talents to the evening, finishing her set with a truly beautiful rendition of Skyfall. Justine Diana kept the evening running smoothly as MC and David Harvey was again, our brilliant and energetic auctioneer.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for auction or gave their time and energy to make it a great night.



Thank you particularly to the Sponsors. Without your support, it would not be possible to put the night together.

## SILVER SPONSORS

- Combined Real Estate, Camden
- Oran Park Podium
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## BRONZE SPONSORS

- Grimes Finance and Mortgages
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- Stonemeadow Photography
- Macarthur Smiles Dental Care

Lastly, thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Dinner. Although it has a fundraising element to it, it is also a wonderful evening for our extended School Community to enjoy each other's company. I hope you had a great time.

## MRS KARYN INGRAM

Community Relations and Fundraising Manager



With grateful thanks to our Annual Community Partners



HARRINGTON GROVE



Oran Park DENTALCARE



# MACARTHUR ALUMNI REUNIONS

## Alumni Reunions

*At the end of 2017, the school launched a Facebook page specifically for its Alumni. The aim is to provide a central point for Alumni to connect, build networks and be informed about Macarthur events.*

Find the page at [www.facebook.com/macarthuranglicanalumni](https://www.facebook.com/macarthuranglicanalumni)

Reunions are a terrific way to catch up with old school friends. The current format appears to work very well with feedback telling us that pre-dinner drinks at the school, browsing memorabilia and chatting, followed by a cocktail dinner with partners at a local restaurant is the preferred option.

Last year's reunions for the cohorts of 1997 and 2007 were both well attended by alumni and staff. It is always a pleasure to invite you back to the school and hear of your experiences since graduating.

### Details for this year's Reunions are:

Class of 1998, 20 Year Reunion  
– Saturday 20 October

Class of 2008, 10 Year Reunion  
– Saturday 27 October

Bookings can be made through the School's website.

As Alumni, you are welcome to attend the school's Business Networking Event on Saturday 25 August 2018, from 3.00pm. For anyone in business and from any industry, this is an afternoon of networking and connecting on a professional level. There is no charge for this event.

Please direct enquiries to:

### MRS KARYN INGRAM

Community Relations and  
Fundraising Manager

T: 02 4629 6207

E: [kingram@mcarthurnsw.edu.au](mailto:kingram@mcarthurnsw.edu.au)



Members of the Class of 1997



Sharing memories at the Ten Year Reunion



Past memories shared at the Twenty Year Reunion



Enjoying mateship again at the Twenty Year Reunion



The Headmaster with members of The Class of 2007

# MACARTHUR STAFF

TRACEY RIXON



After teaching at Broughton Anglican College, Mrs Rixon commenced at Macarthur Anglican School in July 2017 in the role of Head of Learning Enrichment – Transition to Year 12. Mrs Rixon describes her role as “building collaborative relationships between the school and children and their parents and caregivers, so that students can reach their personal potential.” She says that building relationships with students, families and other members of staff has been the most satisfying aspect of her time at Macarthur so far.

Mrs Rixon is married to James and has three children, Lachlan, Micaela and Charlotte, all in their teenage years, with Charlotte now attending Macarthur. Spending time with her family and friends is a significant focus in her life beyond school working hours. The Rixon family are members St Paul’s Church in Camden.

Mrs Rixon is very enthusiastic about travelling with her family. Her travels have given rise to wonderful memories of visiting the Greek Islands. One of her favourite holidays was taken in the United States, spending Christmas in New York and then travelling across the country with her family in a Winnebago. Apart from enjoying travel and her work in learning enrichment, Mrs Rixon is also a person who loves reading.

TIMOTHY CLARKE



Mr Clarke is a former student of Macarthur Anglican School. During his undergraduate studies at Western Sydney University, he worked in retail and did promotional work for the Western Sydney Razorbacks NBL Basketball team. Upon graduation he was employed in marketing and media within various government departments. He then completed a further degree to qualify as a teacher. Since joining the Macarthur staff in 2007, he has been a member of the Faculty of History.

Mr Clarke aims to encourage students to persevere in all aspects of life in and beyond school. He wants to raise the level of what he calls ‘religious literacy’ in his students, to promote a culture of understanding and discourse. In particular, he would like his students to appreciate the contribution Christianity has made, and continues to make today, to western culture.

Apart from seeing his students persevere and achieve, Mr Clarke identifies his greatest pleasures at Macarthur as his involvement in two History tours to Europe and in taking students to the Nan Tien Temple in Wollongong and the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque to promote knowledge of other religions. He also enjoys supporting Johnson House and the fun of developing the Johnson boat for the House boat races. He is proud of his achievement as coach of the Junior Boys Volleyball team which won the MISA competition in 2018.

Beyond the school, Mr Clarke plays competitive Oztag and Volleyball. He attends Narellan Anglican Church, occasionally leading services and is a member of Synod. He is currently restoring an old family farm and enjoys gardening and landscaping. He is a *Star Wars* enthusiast and hopes to explore more of the French countryside in future travels.

REBECCA JOEL



Mrs Joel began full time teaching at Brentford School in London, teaching Sociology and becoming the co-ordinator of Religious Studies. Since then, she has taught at Macarthur for nine years, achieving a promotion this year to Head of Senior School. She has participated in many school activities, such as the History Tour to Europe and Duke of Edinburgh hikes and camps. She was Head of Hassall House for four years, encouraging students from the side lines in carnivals and also as a Netball coach. “I also enjoy going on the learning journey with my students in Year 12,” Mrs Joel says, “when they undertake the Personal Interest Project for Society and Culture. Every year I learn something new from their research and take great joy in seeing them accomplish such a large research report. I feel very fortunate to be working at Macarthur and appreciate the opportunities the school has given.”

Providing a safe and supportive learning environment and helping to empower young people in setting and achieving goals is Mrs Joel’s aim in teaching. As an example to her students, she continues to expand her own knowledge. “I enjoy learning new things and building on my knowledge base,” Mrs Joel says. “I completed my Post Graduate Certificate in Religious Education recently and have plans to continue with more study in the future.” In keeping with her desire to keep improving her teaching skill, Mrs Joel is actively engaged in HSC marking for Society and Culture.

Together with her husband Simon, a member of the school’s IT staff, Mrs Joel enjoys travelling and hopes to do more in the future. In her spare time, she enjoys listening to audiobooks and podcasts and catching up with family and friends.



# MACARTHUR ARCHIVES

## MACARTHUR'S PERFORMERS AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

The Year 2000, the last year of the Twentieth Century, was a significant year in the life of Macarthur Anglican School. Early in the year, the first of several building projects to follow, a block of seven classrooms, was officially opened and named after the Most Reverend Donald Robertson, Archbishop of Sydney. Since then no fewer than twenty-one additional classrooms have been opened, along with the Gymnasium (opened in 2001), the Rehearsal Hall, and the Staff Centre.

2000 ended on a 'high note' when following an outstanding Annual Concert in November, forty-three members of the Senior Band and Choir, together with six members of staff and parents set off before Speech and Awards Night for the school's first International Music Tour. Two performances were given in Bangkok, one each in Vienna and Salzburg, and another in the Leo Weiner School of Music in Budapest, before the team headed to the school's newly established link school in Miskolc. Several solo, ensemble and 'a capela'

performances and a concert followed at the school (Lévay József Református Gimnázium) before the final concert in the Miskolc City Opera House before the City Mayor, the Bishop of Miskolc and the Australian Ambassador to Hungary.

Our performers kept up the good work in 2001 by playing at a Lifeline fundraising event, where they were commended by Lifeline's special guest, the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard. During that year our students also played outside of St Andrews Cathedral, Sydney, when they took part in a function known as *Music in the Square*.

The highlight of 2001 was undoubtedly the well-loved musical production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I*. With a cast of eighty-six, including children from the Junior School, the performance was directed by Miss Louise Stokes, English and Drama teacher, and co-directed by the Headmaster, Mr Riley Warren, with Music teacher Mr Simon Denley as Musical Director and Conductor of the sixteen-piece orchestra. Another thirty-five students, parents and members of staff worked behind the scenes. Among them, a team of carpenters who constructed a special stage to 'magnify' the King, that extended into the back corner of the Chapel performance space.



Macarthur Stage Band and Choir performing in Hungary



Students of the 2000 Music Tour try some ice skating in Hungary



Principal roles in *The King and I* were performed by Luke Smith (The King), Bethany Anderson (Anna Leonowens), Shaun Deery (Louis Leonowens), Elizabeth Lim (Lady Thiang), Lachlan Hodgson (Prince Chulalongkorn), Travis Hodgson (Lun Tha), Natalie Lim (Tuktin), Lee Thompson (The Kralahome), Adrian Barclay (The Interpreter), Daniel Hordern (Captain Orton), Olivia Hale, Leah Davies Cassandra Stathos (Princess Ying Yawolwak) and Michael Dench (Sir Edward Ramsey).

# MACARTHUR ALUMNI

**Darren Moon** (1996) has his own landscaping company known as 'Moonscapes'. Darren and his Moonscapes employees won the contract and carried out the landscaping work at the new Exploring Tree Macarthur: Early Learning Centre.

**Samuel Riordan** (2000) worked in the Office of the Foreign Minister in 2017 and more recently took on the role of Chief of Staff to the Federal Minister for Regional Development. Sam is married to alumnus Yvette.

**Yvette Riordan** (née Siladyi, 2000), is teaching English and Drama at Canberra Girl's Grammar School.

**Dr Iain Henry** (2002) is now a Lecturer in Strategic and Defence Studies at the Australian National University, Canberra (ANU). After completing a Bachelor of Arts (UNSW), Iain completed a Master of Arts with First Class Honours and his PhD at ANU, focussing on the issues of reliability and interdependence within America's network of alliances in Asia. In 2014 he was a visiting Fulbright Scholar at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He has published and presented several papers in Japan, the United States and Singapore. Before joining ANU, Iain worked in the field of risk and threat assessment with the Department of Transport and Infrastructure and with Qantas.



**Alana Drew** (2009) is a winner of the *We Are the City*, London's Rising Star 2018 Award in Human Resources and Recruitment. The awards celebrate the professional achievements of women in the 'talent pipeline' – that is those who are below management level and described as "the next generation of

future leaders". In the profile posted on the *We Are the City* website, Alana says, "Kickstarting my career in Sydney, I worked various unpaid internships while studying my degree and then landed my first role in HR & L&D [Human Resources and Learning and Development]. I learnt and honed the skills needed to build a career in HR. I had fantastic mentors and managers who guided me. The big change in my career came in 2017, when I made the decision to move to London by myself and see what the world had in store for me. Two weeks after I landed, I scored my current role at *The Marketing Store*."



**Christine Purvis** (2011) graduated this year with a Master of Publishing degree from the University of Sydney. Congratulations Christine! Christine now works as a content marketer at Oxigen Business Consulting.



**Elizabeth Scott** (née Morgan, 2012) graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Western Sydney University and completed a Master of Teaching (Secondary) at the University of New England. Elizabeth is following in the footsteps of her father Paul, a member of Macarthur's Faculty of Mathematics, by teaching Mathematics at Broughton Anglican College. Elizabeth married David Scott at St Michael's Church, Wollongong, in November 2017.



**Nicole Smith** (2012) graduated with a Bachelor of Laws at Western Sydney University in April this year and on 20 July 2018, was admitted as a Solicitor in the Supreme Court of New South Wales. She is already working as a solicitor in the Sydney CBD at Makinson d'Apice Lawyers, in the Banking and Finance team. In 2019, she plans to commence a Master of Administration in Law and Policy at the University of Sydney.





**James Sawyer** (2012), Christian Ministry Leader that year, was married at Wyong Creek on 4 February 2017 to Lara Hutchinson. James is currently completing a Bachelor of Teaching degree at Macquarie University.

**Joshua Sawyer** (2012), School Captain that year, was married in St Peter's Anglican Church, Campbelltown, on 14 October 2017 to Lisa White. Joshua completed a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of New South Wales and is now employed in that field.

**Lucinda Petchell** (2013) graduated at the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Theatre Production and Performance. Lucinda also received the University Medal. At present she is working in travel and preparing to go overseas by the end of the year. However, in the meantime she will also work as a Tutor in Theatre and Performance, before continuing her studies in 2019 towards a PhD.

**Mia Iorfino** (2014) is studying for a Bachelor of Journalism and a Bachelor of Communications and Media Studies



at the University of Wollongong. Last year, she had her first piece of journalism published in the South West Voice, an online news site featuring news and views in the Macarthur region. Mia's article was about how the Camden area is undergoing massive change as its population booms. She interviewed local residents and business people, as well as officers of Camden Council, about

the challenges of such a rapid rate of growth. Mia's article detailed the efforts of Camden Council as it works with the State Government to deliver new roads, future rail and other infrastructure needs, while long-term residents fear the risk of Camden losing the charm that made it an attractive place to live.

**Sean McIntosh** (2016), a former Captain of the school's Show Team, has already completed a Certificate III in Agriculture at Tocal College, and received a Bronze Medal for Excellence in the Course. Sean has been elected as President of the Student Association for 2018 and was MC for the Graduation Ceremony, welcoming and introducing the special guest and staff. This year, Sean is continuing his studies towards a Certificate IV in Agriculture, while also undertaking a Diploma in Agriculture online. He has been awarded scholarships to the value of \$7500, one being from the Royal Agricultural Society. Sean's passion for agriculture began with his involvement from Year 7 in the Show Team and was fostered by Mr Milton Gower, Mrs Helen Glover and Mr David Baker.

**Tegan Bremner** (2014),  
**Emma Bywater** (2016),  
**Monique Gomez** (2016) and  
**Aleysha Haoui** (2016) are former students of Macarthur Anglican School to be found among the outstanding educators at *Exploring Tree Macarthur*, who are planning to follow a career path in Early Childhood Education.



## 2018 REUNIONS

*Class of 1998  
 20 Year Reunion*  
**Saturday 20 October 2018**

*Class of 2008  
 10 Year Reunion*  
**Saturday 27 October 2018**

**Bookings through**  
 The school website  
[www.macarthur.nsw.edu.au](http://www.macarthur.nsw.edu.au)

**Pre-dinner drinks**  
 in the Cranmer Room  
 (Library Building) at the  
 school from 5.00pm





## JUNIOR ATHLETICS AND CROSS COUNTRY

Autumn Term brings about a flurry of Junior and Senior Athletics and Cross Country competitions. In these photos, taken during Junior competitions held in May and June, we can see both the fun of participating and the dedication of our youngest students, striving to achieve their best performance.



## CONTACT US

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### Postal Address:

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### Enrolment Enquiries:

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*International Registrar:* Mrs Trish Cartwright  
[pcartwright@macarthur.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pcartwright@macarthur.nsw.edu.au)

### Alumni Enquiries:

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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 & Advancement:** Mr David Stewart

**Head of Senior School:** Mrs Rebecca Joel

**Head of Middle School:** Mrs Kylie Elling

**Head of Junior School:** Mrs Estelle Stelzer