

St Mary MacKillop College respectfully acknowledges the Ngunnawal people who are the Traditional Custodians and First People of the land on which we gather each day.

The College also pays its respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, and any other Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples living and working in the MacKillop community.

Giving Thanks for
25 YEARS



“SEE AND BE GRATEFUL.”

ST MARY MACKILLOP, 1884
2023 LITURGICAL THEME

CONTENTS



Part One **PAGE|22**



Part Two **PAGE|176**



Class of 2023 **PAGE|260**



The Captains **PAGE|12**



Athletics Carnival **PAGE|32**



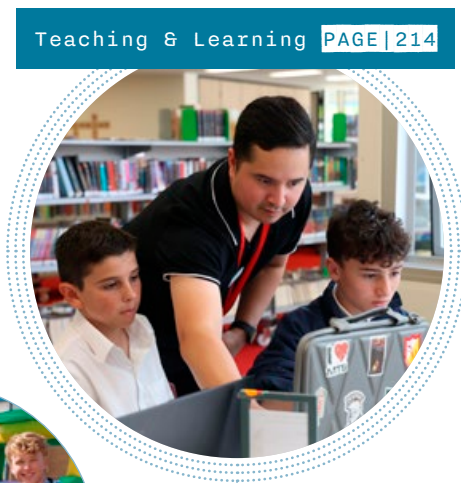
Genesis Owusu **PAGE|44**



Cross Country **PAGE|49**



Student Citizenship Awards **PAGE|179**



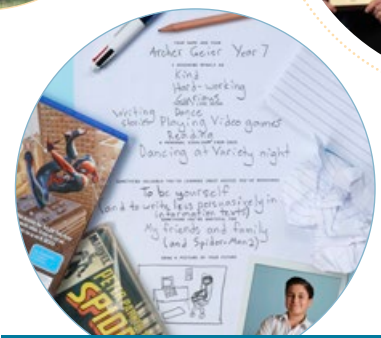
Teaching & Learning **PAGE|214**



Swimming Carnival **PAGE|26**



Relay for Life **PAGE|42**



People & Culture **PAGE|66**



Silver Jubilee & MacKillop Day **PAGE|190**



The Principal **PAGE|6**



25 Years **PAGE|18**

THE SECTIONS

OFFICIAL BIZ

PAGE 006

SCHOOL YEAR PART 1

PAGE 022

PEOPLE & CULTURE

PAGE 066

YEAR GROUPS & STAFF

PAGE 090

SCHOOL YEAR PART 2

PAGE 176

TEACHING & LEARNING

PAGE 214

GRADUATING CLASS

PAGE 260



The Getaways **PAGE|56**



The Musical **PAGE|180**



Greece & Italy **PAGE|204**



Graduation **PAGE|306**

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

A lot has happened in 2023. The year of the Silver Jubilee, both sports carnivals, major building projects on both campuses, the escape of COVID (for some of us), retreats, camps, performance nights, academic highs, sporting success... really the whole lot! It's sure to say that this year A LOT happened and there are MANY reasons to celebrate!

This year the Yearbook Committee wanted to show their gratitude to the school, its history and our community for the impact MacKillop has had on their journey. Because of this, the committee wanted to bring even more life and fun to the Yearbook than ever before! We decided to revisit cataloguing the book by months and implementing a modern scrap book style (organised mess of sorts) throughout the book.

Thank you to the Design Team for the abundance of ideas and life you brought to this book! We wish you all and the rest of Year 12 the best in the future.

It's been a pleasure putting this Yearbook together. I hope you all enjoy :)

Sam Thomas



THE COVER

Seeing this year we have been celebrating MacKillop turning 25, the Design Team saw it fit to commemorate our school's history by incorporating previous yearbooks into the cover. The patterning seen in the students dress and the background of the back cover are segments of previous Yearbook covers, as well, the inclusion of a book and locker key pay homage to elements seen in the Padua and St Peter's crests.

THE BOOK IN NUMBERS

312 PAGES

This book surpasses the number of pages from the 2022 Annual Magazine, which had 284 pages and was previously our largest full-colour yearbook. As well, it exceeds the 2002 magazine which was a partial-colour 296 page book making 2023 our biggest magazine yet.

9

That's how many different font families were used in the book.

29

That's how many students we had in the Yearbook Committee, but there were definitely more who came throughout the year.

686,400

How many total pages were printed.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to Clare Fletcher, Branka Thomas and Aidan Brunskill for proofreading the book, and thanks to the team at CanPrint for delivering such a high-quality finished product.

THE 2023 DESIGN TEAM

MEET THE TEAM

TEGAN TAWTON JUSTINE RASHEED
JESS WOOD AMELIA ELLIOTT
GEORGIA PAYNE ZENO HAMER
ELISE DREDGE GABBY CALDERON
CARLA GRACE LAILA CLEARY
TARA LUCHTERHAND TIZANA HLEVNJAK
CLAIRE BOSCHERT CHELSEA TO
ALANA FREENE KATHLEEN QUINLAN
RYLEE GIBBONS SKYE D'AMBROSIO
TOBY BARBER ANNA NELSON
KATE SQUIRE GABBY TAYLOR
HANNAH DUNN JACKY PEARSON
KEIRA FEGAN KIRSTEN JANKE
CHLOE BARDEN ISABELLA PINZON
MOLIE LLOYD AIDAN BRUNSKILL
SAM THOMAS HARRY HATCH

THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



St Mary MacKillop College has its origins in Padua Catholic High school and St Peter's Catholic College. In 1997, a process of amalgamation commenced. In 1998, these two schools had come together, through what was a time of great change, and challenge, for the staff and the students, to form what was then MacKillop Catholic College. Following the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop, the school had a name change in 2010 to what we now know as St Mary MacKillop College.

In 2023, we have celebrated the 25th anniversary of MacKillop's foundation with our Silver Jubilee. The College is a vastly different school today, compared with the MacKillop of 25 years ago. The service, vision and contribution of both staff and students across a quarter of a century, have led to its continual improvement, growth and advancement. The quality of opportunities that are afforded to students today, are a consequence of the efforts of those who have gone before them.

A highlight of the Silver Jubilee celebrations was a whole College assembly to celebrate the school's Feast Day. This was significant as there had never previously been an assembly for the whole College community, Years 7 to 12. The Assembly included a liturgy, reflections on the first 25 years of MacKillop with insights from each of the past Principals (Sr Noelene Quinane, Moira Najdecki, Rita Daniels and current substantive Principal, Michael Lee), special presentations, student performances and the opportunity to recognise the growth that has taken place since MacKillop's formation.

The foundation Principal of MacKillop wrote the following message in a letter following the assembly:

"I NOW STAND IN AWE AT THE GROWTH AND EXCELLENCE OF THE COLLEGE, OF ALL THAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY EACH PERSON 'PLAYING THEIR PART'; I STAND IN AWE AT HOW THE LEGACY OF ST MARY MACKILLOP HAS BEEN NURTURED AND EXPANDED OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS. WELL DONE INDEED, TO EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ITS LIFE AND GROWTH".

- SR NOELENE QUINANE

At the end of Term 1 this year, Michael Lee announced that he had accepted a secondment for the remainder of the school year to St Mary's College, East St Kilda. It is no surprise that other schools would want the benefit of Michael's experience, wisdom and leadership. However, after over 15 years of being Principal

of this College, I know Michael gave great consideration to the temporary change, before agreeing to the secondment. This was a decision that was made knowing that St Mary MacKillop College was strongly positioned in so many respects. Having been honoured to lead MacKillop for Terms 2, 3 and 4 of this year, I have been grateful to benefit from the strong culture and the structures that exist within the College that have been established under Michael Lee's Leadership. We look forward to Michael's distinctive and powerful leadership of the College returning from the start of 2024.

Throughout 2023 the College has continued to experience growth in enrolment numbers. The year commenced with a record high retention of students into Year 11 – over 300 for the first time. At the August Census MacKillop officially had 1,989 students – another record high. The ongoing interest in MacKillop within a competitive environment of quality secondary schools reflects the academic success and sense of belonging that our students experience. As we look to 2024 our enrolment is likely to further increase with an intake into Year 7 of 384 students. Our mission remains to provide every one of our students with a Catholic education, the best possible learning experiences, opportunities for growth and development across many areas, and assisting them in achieving their best in their studies each year.

2023 also marks 10 years since the establishment of a relationship between MacKillop and St Patrick's Parish School in Cooma. MacKillop and St Pat's have partnered to provide continuity in Catholic Education, with a pathway from Kindergarten to Year 10 at St Patrick's and then continuing at MacKillop in Year 11 and 12. Over the past decade, we have averaged 40 students per year who have joined MacKillop in Year 11 and 12 from St Patrick's and other schools in the Cooma and Monaro Region. There remains a great deal of interest in the pathway, particularly from Cooma parents who have younger children. This is promising for the strong relationship between MacKillop and the Cooma/Monaro region to continue for many years.

In August this year, building programs commenced on both the Padua Campus and the St Peter's Campus. A Physical Education Facility at the Padua Campus (that will include two indoor basketball courts, one outdoor covered court, three classrooms, a fitness centre, change rooms and a PE staffroom) along with a Performing Arts at the St Peter's Campus (incorporating a 376 fixed seat theatre with possibility for an additional 100 temporary seats, specialist dance, drama and music rooms, change rooms, a make-up area and a staffroom for Performing Arts and Technology staff) will bring a much needed upgrade of facilities and resources to ensure the best possible delivery of the curriculum in Physical Education at the Padua Campus and in Performing Arts at the St Peter's Campus. The new buildings have been long planned for and are due for completion in the second half of 2024. Their completion will be advantageous for many generations of students attending MacKillop.

In 2023, St Mary MacKillop College launched our Reconciliation Action Plan. Whilst we already Acknowledge Country, recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and teachers and provide emphasis to significant dates and events within the College calendar, we also respect and encourage the call for truth telling, treaty and constitutional recognition. A working group comprising of staff, students, local elders and parents/carers developed the Reconciliation Action Plan for the College. This collaborative process ensured it represented the diverse perspectives of our school members. Current practices within the College were analysed and new initiatives have been planned with the goal of working authentically towards Reconciliation.

An aspect of the Silver Jubilee year was the focus of the Student Representative Council to devote their charity fundraising the support of MacKillop House, a residence for vulnerable women in Canberra and the surrounding region. Sr Noelene Quinane's work as a volunteer at MacKillop House provided insights for our students to learn about the challenges facing women and their children in our local community who are experiencing homelessness, including those who are escaping domestic violence. MacKillop House provides warmth, safety and comfort for the women and children who may need it. This year MacKillop has proudly raised over \$25,000 to assist in improving the facilities for the residents of MacKillop House.

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2023. That cohort of students missed many events during the previous three years due to COVID-restrictions. However, as a cohort they demonstrated strength in an ability to be community minded and to show the qualities of adaptability, positivity and gratitude. Their contributions to the Cancer Council through Relay for Life fundraising and the dignity and grace with which they concluded their time at the College will be remembered. They have been a remarkable group of young people who are now ready to make their way in the world beyond school. I hope they can reflect on their time at MacKillop with fond memories and I wish them every success and happiness.

Our College theme for 2023 has been: Thankful for 25 years of MacKillop education on Ngunnawal land. "See and be grateful" (Mary MacKillop, 1884). The year has had many successes, and I am grateful to all those who have contributed in so many ways. As the Acting Principal for three terms this year, I particularly express my gratitude to the staff and the College Board who have been so supportive.

I wish all in this great community of St Mary MacKillop College a happy and holy Christmas and a restful summer break.

Lachlan McNicol
College Principal (acting)



THE PRINCIPAL



LACHLAN MCNICOL

The 2023 MacKillop

ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year, St Mary MacKillop College celebrates and honours students who have excelled in academic achievement, in extra-curricular endeavours, and through service to the College and wider community. These students are presented with awards at a range of different ceremonies and assemblies. The College congratulates the recipients of these awards for 2023.



AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

YEAR 7 AWARDS



MAILY NGO

Penola Award for Academic Excellence (Joint-Winner)



MAGGIE KANE

Penola Award for Academic Excellence (Joint-Winner)



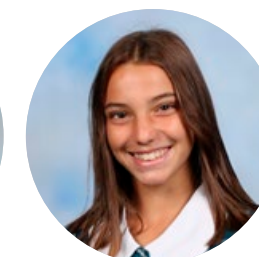
SARA CRUZ ANGULO

MacKillop Medal for Witness to the College Vision



SAMUEL WHYTE

MacKillop Sportsman of the Year



LILY CHRISTIAN

MacKillop Sportswoman of the Year

YEAR 8 AWARDS



ALEXANDER BROOKS

Penola Award for Academic Excellence



ELSIE D'AMBROSIO

MacKillop Medal for Witness to the College Vision



JAMES RICE

MacKillop Sportsman of the Year



EVA TINE

MacKillop Sportswoman of the Year

YEAR 9 AWARDS



NOA ZISMAN

Penola Award for Academic Excellence



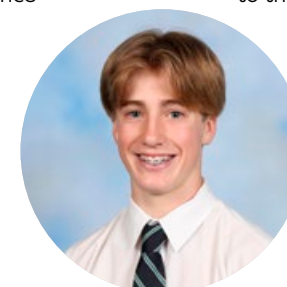
DARCY THRIPP

MacKillop Medal for Witness to the College Vision



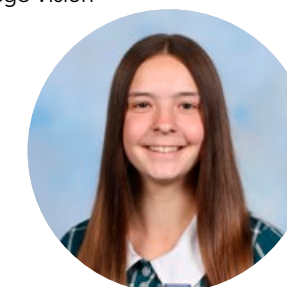
NOA ZISMAN

Paul Butz 'Omnia Optime' Award



JACK REILLY

MacKillop Sportsman of the Year



MIA KEEN

MacKillop Sportswoman of the Year

YEAR 10 AWARDS



ALEXANDER KWIATKOWSKI

Penola Award for Academic Excellence



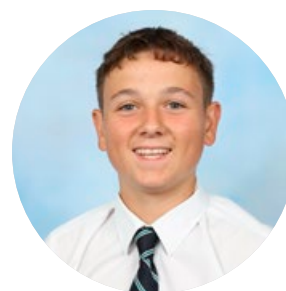
PHOEBE VASSALLO

Mackillop Medal for Witness to the College Vision



LEILA NIKOLIC

St Mary MacKillop College All-Rounder Award



COOPER LOVEKIN

St Mary MacKillop Award for Christian Leadership



TYLER HOLDWAY

Mackillop Sportsman of the Year



MEAGHANN SCOTT

Mackillop Sportswoman of the Year



PHOEBE VASSALLO

ACU Year 10 Canberra Prize (ACT Winner)

YEAR 11 AWARDS



MILLY MCCABE

Penola Award for Academic Excellence



JESSICA LUBINSKI

Mackillop Medal for Witness to the College Vision



CHARLIE VANDENBERG

St Mary MacKillop Award for Christian Leadership



ALEXANDER PARNELL

Mackillop Sportsman of the Year



SADIES-AVARI PETERSEN

Mackillop Sportswoman of the Year

PERPETUAL AWARDS FOR THE CLASS OF 2023



TOBY BARBER

The Principal's Award



ARI GILCHRIST

Sr Noelene Quinane Award for Academic Excellence



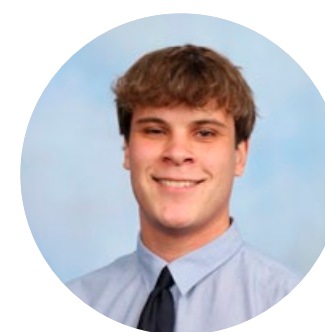
WILLIAM PERROTT

Tenison Woods Students' Choice Award



EMMA JOBLING

St Mary MacKillop Award for Christian Leadership



BEN SYMINGTON

Tegan Blunt Southern Cross Sport Award



TOBY BARBER

Jodie Higgins Ampol All-Rounder Award



JACKY PEARSON

Rohan Schultz 'Per Ardua Ad Astra' Award



KATIE BISSETT

St Mary MacKillop College Creative Arts Award



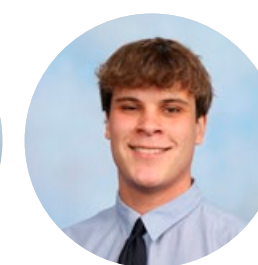
LEWIS BELL

The Elite Athlete Award



GRACE LYONS

The Elite Athlete Award



BEN SYMINGTON

The Elite Athlete Award



BRIANNA HOSIE

The Elite Athlete Award

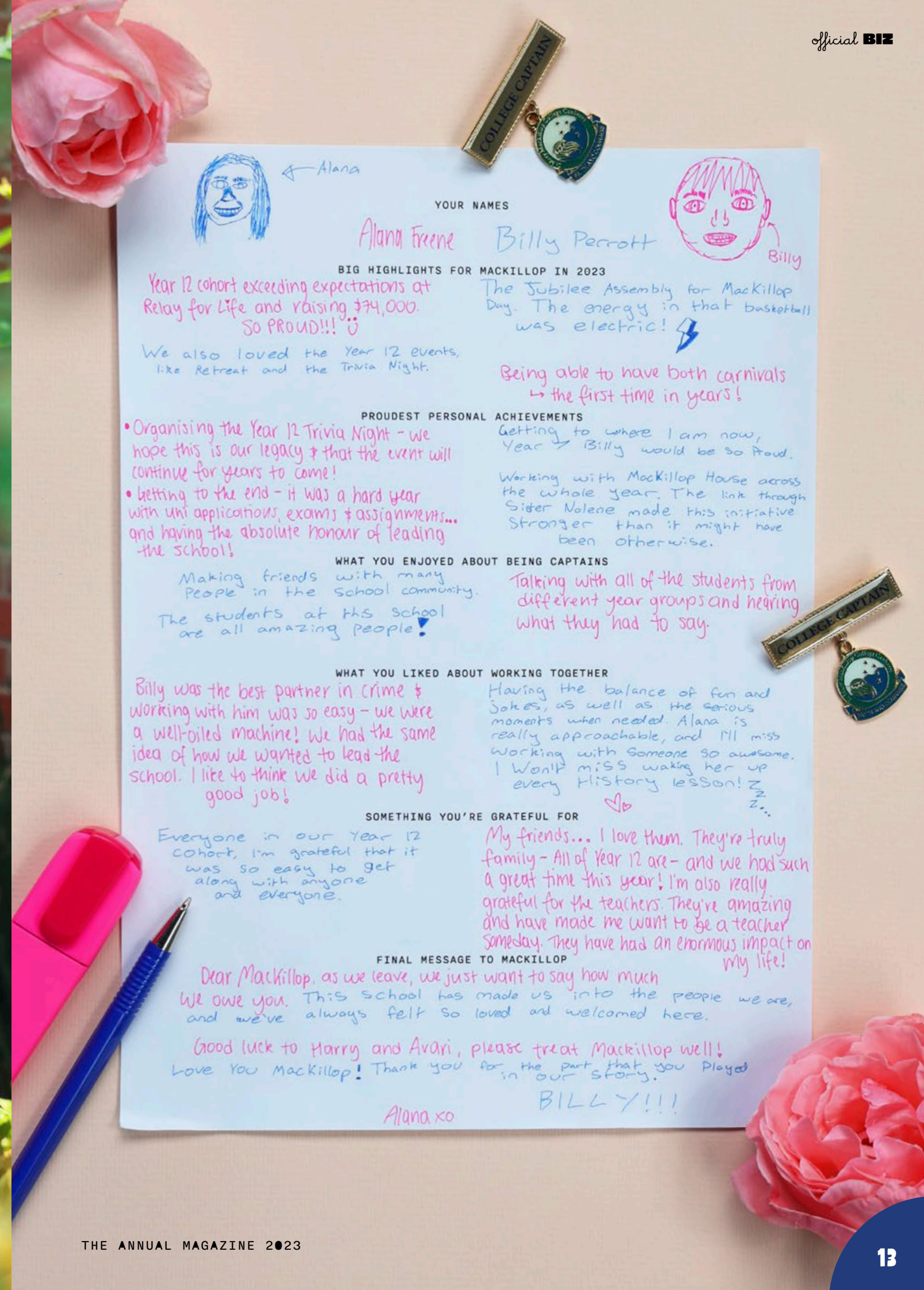


TY PETERSEN

The Elite Athlete Award

THE COLLEGE CAPTAINS' REPORT

ALANA FREENE & BILLY PERROTT



REPORTS FROM OUR 2023

PORTFOLIO CAPTAINS



FAITH & COMMUNITY
EMMA JOBLING

Big highlights for your area/portfolio in 2023: MacKillop's fundraising efforts. Watching the school rally on many occasions to help out our community was a blessing. The Year 12 cohort broke the record for highest amount raised for Relay for Life – along with the bonding experience, this is something I'll cherish for the rest of my life.

Personal highlights for you this year: Watching my best friends and peers celebrate becoming adults.

What you enjoyed about being a Portfolio Captain: Putting work and effort into something bigger than myself. This Captaincy expanded my opportunity to connect with the MacKillop community.

Something you're grateful for: That MacKillop has confidently prepared me for this next chapter. I feel reassured in myself and am grateful for every opportunity, for that I say thank you!

Final message to MacKillop: To everyone at MacKillop, cherish your years here, believe me, they go quick. I encourage you all to push through your anxieties and see the bigger picture. I am forever grateful for the opportunity you all gave me to be a captain. I look forward to reading this back in many years with my lifelong MacKillop friends. Remember to always push forward with faith & courage, I love you all, goodbye MacKillop.

Emma Jobling

Big highlights for your area/portfolio in 2023: Finally being able to enjoy a Swimming Carnival after many years, which was a huge success with plenty of participation, good spirit and high competitiveness. Additionally, Gurabang taking out the Championship Cup.

Personal highlights for you this year: That I was able to drastically improve my grades compared to last year whilst also maintaining a high level of sport and training in and out of school. This allowed me to gain experience and see that it really is possible to balance multiple aspects of my life. Especially since I also broke my foot this year as well, coming back from that injury allowed me to prove my worth, not only to myself but to those around me, and helped me gain confidence in conquering challenges.

What you enjoyed about being a Portfolio Captain: All the interactions with students from building connections with students in Year 7, 8 and 9 in the afterschool sports program, and being a part of special events that really brought the cohort together such as helping run the Year 12 Trivia Night and Relay for Life.

Something you're grateful for: Throughout the years it has been a wonderful experience bonding with as many people as I can, whether it be hanging out with different people at lunch, getting to know people through sports teams or just stopping by and having a chat with a teacher. It all adds to the serenity of the MacKillop community.

Luke Olivier



SPORTS
LUKE OLIVIER



PERFORMING ARTS
KATIE BISSETT

Big highlights for your area/portfolio in 2023: 2023 has been full to the absolute brim with Performing Arts. It was wonderful to build back up the musical scene with 'Frozen Jr.'

Personal highlights for you this year: Celebrating talent whilst raising over \$3,000 for MacKillop House at Variety Night. With an honourable mention to the Neil Patrick Harris style opening number to kick off the night.

What you enjoyed about being a Portfolio Captain: Watching every student grow in confidence, learn new techniques, improve their skills, show off and be proud of all the hard work they've put in.

Something you're grateful for: Hosting so many events to showcase how thriving the performing arts are at MacKillop. Groovin' the MacKillop also gave students the opportunity to play original tracks (don't forget to stream the MacKillop Originals playlist on Spotify. It has all the best hits from students past and present).

Final message to MacKillop: To all those who performed in the Musical, Variety Night, Gala Night, Groovin' the MacKillop, Interstate Eisteddfods, Silver Jubilee Assembly, Dance Fest, or whatever it may be.... I am incredibly proud of everyone and I'm so honoured to say that I was the Performing Arts Captain in 2023. Congratulations to everyone and make 2024 another wonderful year for Performing Arts!

Katie Bissett



SUSTAINABILITY
JUSTINE RASHEED

Big highlights for your area/portfolio in 2023: This year I was most excited for the implementation of the Bush-Tucker Garden. Although it is yet to be installed, there is a timeline which has been established for 2024.

Personal highlights for you this year: Having an awesome and supportive Sustainability Group.

What you enjoyed about being a Portfolio Captain: I really enjoyed representing the school and being involved in helping to make decisions regarding the school community and its members.

Something you're grateful for: I'm grateful to have the opportunity to spread awareness about sustainable options in the school and home environment.

Justine Rasheed



COMMUNICATIONS & CONNECTIONS
TOBY BARBER

Big highlights for your area/portfolio in 2023: Being involved in every school event, whether a carnival, an assembly, or a fundraiser, I could get around what was happening and use my captaincy to promote and advertise each fundraising event, encouraging the breaking of several school records.

Personal highlights for you this year: The friends that I've made. Year 12 creates such an amazing bond. I will cherish the moments we've spent and the memories we've made throughout my whole life.

What you enjoyed about being a Portfolio Captain: The rest of the SRC team! I'm going to miss them all so much. Being involved allowed me to play a part in what MacKillop is.

Something you're grateful for: Our Queen Ms Brown! This year would not have been as successful, fun, and memorable as it had been. As well, everyone embracing the MacKillop spirit.

Final message to MacKillop: I cannot thank you enough for the past 6 years, and I am so grateful that I got the chance to be one of the portfolio captains this year! Going into the future, I will never forget the smiling faces, the amazing memories, my best friends, and the lessons I've learned here at MacKillop. Love you forever!!!

Toby Barber



LAURA DEL BIANCO & ALEXANDER MCLENNAN

THE CAMPUS CAPTAINS' REPORT

Your names

Laura Del Bianco and Alec McLennan

Big highlights for the Padua Campus in 2023

This year, we were able to access Eftpos machines at all of our House Charity events to increase the funds raised. We also reached new records for fundraising for MacKillop House, which honoured our Silver Jubilee celebrations this year. It was also good to get a bunch of new teachers and to see construction start on the new PE facility.

What you enjoyed about being Campus Captains

Being Campus Captains, we were able to see and experience an astonishing side of the College that we truly cherish. We were able to attend special events and do special jobs for the school. The community involvement was astounding and it was extremely rewarding to be able to work closely and build relationships with teachers and students of this campus.

What you liked about working together

Laura: Working with Alec has been awesome and I really appreciate the support I have received from him. It was an awesome opportunity to be able to share leadership skills, get to know each other, to build each other up and support one another.

Alec: Laura was a very fun and easy to work with and also having someone very who's always ready to do something is also good.

Individual highlights for the year

We have been honoured this year with many opportunities such as assisting in the development of girls' PE shorts, hosting House Charity auctions, and speaking in front of thousands of people at information nights and whole College masses and assemblies. We also had the chance to find what kind of people we are and to keep improving to be the best we can be.

Something you're grateful for

We are grateful for the support we have received from Mr Margosis (our SRC facilitator) and the respect we have gained from the Executive members of the Padua Campus. And Alec is also grateful for food.

Final message to the Campus

Wishing everyone the best in 2024, we cannot wait to see the big things you guys do! Don't be afraid to take the opportunities that come your way!

Laura Del Bianco & Alexander McLennan
Padua Campus Captains



PADUA CAMPUS SRC

Year 7: Samuel Reyes, Siena Couto, Leon Boyle, Preston Redmond

Year 8: Zack Fuller, Georgia Meffert, Elsie D'Ambrosio, Liam Corey

Year 9: Scarlett Wilde, Cooper Willson, Jasmine Dolbel, Henry Winslade, Indiana Kildey, Christopher Esguerra, Mia Keen, William Mundy, Laura Del Bianco & Alexander McLennan



ST PETER'S CAMPUS SRC

Year 10: Cooper Lovekin, Phoebe Vassallo, Christina Giannis, Leila Nikolic

Year 11: Mia Vecera, Daniel Perin, Avari Petersen, Quinn de Waard

Year 12: Isabella Pinzon, Danny Li, Kate Squire, Oscar Luck-Cameron, Sophie McInerney, Joel Stiles, Charlotte Woolf, Joel Williams, Emma Jobling, Luke Olivier, Katie Bissett, Justine Rasheed, Toby Barber, Alana Freene & Billy Perrott

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



WHAT WE DID TO MARK THIS SPECIAL MILESTONE



We introduced a special Silver Jubilee edition (Aboriginal design) of the tie and kerchief.



We held a whole-school Silver Jubilee Assembly instead of the MacKillop Day Mass.



We've started producing a magazine that looks at the first 25 years of MacKillop.



1998

The year it all began, after St Peter's and Padua amalgamated to form MacKillop Catholic College.



2 FEB

That's technically the birthday of the school. So even though last year was our 25th year, we turned 25 in February 2023.



5124

That's the number of students who have graduated through MacKillop (including the Class of 2023).



59%

Michael Lee has been Principal of MacKillop for more than half of the College's lifetime (even if you exclude his time in Melbourne).

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUR FIRST 25 YEARS



FOUR

That's how many Principals we had in our first 25 years - Sr Noelene Quinane, Mrs Moira Najdecki, Ms Rita Daniels, and Mr Michael Lee.



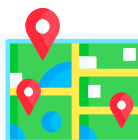
SEVEN

foundation staff members from 1998 were still working here this year: Colleen Kain, Michael Batten, Tony Lazzarato, Prathiba Nagabhushan, Maria O'Donnell, Tracy Pearson, and Garry Seary. There were also seven staff members who were students here during MacKillop's first year.



36

The longest-serving current staff member is Mrs Colleen Kain, who has just completed her 36th year at MacKillop and Padua.



2.13km

That's the distance between the front offices of our two campuses (in a straight line).



105

That's how many students were in the first Graduating Class back in 1998.



278

The Class of 2015 was our largest Year 12 cohort, with 278 students (a record that could be broken next year).



46

If you were to include the years of Padua, MacKillop would currently be in its 46th year of operation.

Greetings from Melbourne! As my three terms leading St Mary's College, St Kilda East, comes to a close, the contrasts between our school celebrating 25 years this year, and St Mary's being over 140 years old, are stark.

Beginning as a boys' school in 1878, conducted by the Christian Brothers, its long story reflects the great events of the development of white Australia; the post-gold rush boom, the organisation of labour, Federation, world wars and the Depression. In the progress of Catholic life, the Groupers and the Movement and a Church transformation from an Irish transplant to our own flavour, along with the lifting of Catholic Melbourne from working class into the middle class, completes the narrative.

This story is found in its buildings, the progress of its alumni, in publications and its changing culture and perspectives. Its history is evidenced everywhere.

MacKillop was born of an unwelcome and disruptive amalgamation that was probably more about economic efficiencies than anything to do with education. Our buildings are meant to last decades, not centuries. Our purpose is to offer opportunities for students to know and love Jesus and that those opportunities be offered with the integrity of a contemporary setting amidst a quality secular curriculum. MacKillop reflects and responds to the times as all successful agents of good do.

Several years ago, the future looked certain and secure. Issues of world peace, global warming, the needs of our community, free and fair trading, need not have directly impacted on us. There was complacency for too many of us.

Suddenly and terrifyingly, all that changed with the immediacy of images and reports from Wuhan and Milan, the scarcity of vaccines and pending lockdowns concentrated our attention. Medical science, government leadership, technology and our own survival instincts got us to the other side - mostly! Who would be so foolish to believe certainty would now be part of our futures and that complacency would be anything other than what it has always been - derelict and dangerous!

And yet, there is a firm belief that education based on the values of the Gospel, on the person of the Crucified Christ and the act of Love that is His resurrection, has a place in our today and tomorrow. Values form principle and guide behaviour, therefore informing culture. The opportunity in both schools to influence young people to have choice and to make choices that are good for others as well as themselves, should not be overlooked. It is central to growing into an adult's purpose, substance and character as well as integrity, self-efficacy and capacity.

Whether this occurs in schools that are old and famous or that are new and emerging, Catholic schools have always and will always be places where this can happen. While ever they continue to be such places, human dignity will flourish and they will be consequential agents for the Common Good. That's for certain!

Congratulations on 25 years and see you next year!

michael lee

From his secondment in Melbourne

A WORD
FROM
MR LEE





Genesis Owusu
Class of 2015
Award-winning musician

"I think being in a space where it didn't feel unsafe or challenging to be myself – especially in those years of a person's life – that was very important because that's when you are still finding out who you are. I hold a lot of love for this school for providing a space that allowed me to figure it all out!"



Michelle Marks
Past Deputy Principal

"Congratulations on 25 years! You are the jewel in the crown of the Canberra Archdiocese. Be proud of what you have achieved: the reputation; commitment to teaching and learning and inclusivity; the buildings and surrounds; the engagement of students both in their learning and within the community. MacKillop truly is a school for all!"



Michaela Leonard
Class of 2012
Wallaroos Captain

"I'd like to give a massive shout out to the MacKillop community for 25 years, it's an awesome achievement and I'm really proud to have been part of it. When I look back on my time at MacKillop, what I remember most is the friendships I made along the way, not only with my student peers but also with the staff there. I also remember the support MacKillop offered me to help me chase my goals and dreams, which allowed me to balance my studying with my sporting pursuits. It has obviously impacted me massively in what I do now!"



Eugene Lehmensich
Class of 1999
Teacher

"Congratulations on 25 years, MacKillop! It's been terrific watching the school evolve and mature and grow and change, so congratulations to everyone involved. Looking back on my time as a student and also as a teacher at MacKillop, I think the one thing that's really stuck with me is the relationships that I've made with people both as a student and also as a staff member. I still play sport with people I went through to Year 12 with and we still go on fishing trips, so those relationships have proven to be lifelong!"



Sr Noelene Quinane
Foundation Principal

"I absolutely loved my years at MacKillop, but they were probably some of the hardest years I experienced in educational leadership. I am indebted to so many staff, students, and parents, who helped bring to life the merging of two wonderful schools into a totally new one. I stand in awe of the College, what you have become, and what you've grown to be. That has happened because of all of the people who have come before you. Congratulations on this special occasion. I ask God's blessing on you all. Don't rest on your 25th – continue to strive for something more!"



Michael Caruana
Class of 2016
Radio Host

"Thank you for allowing me to be part of six years of MacKillop's story. I think I was allowed to be who I was at MacKillop. I didn't feel like I was being shaped or moulded into being a certain type of person. It was just, 'What do you like? What are your passions? Let's motivate you to do that.' I think having that freedom and flexibility has really allowed me to blossom not only into the person I am today, but also the person I hope to be many years down the track. Congratulations on a wonderful 25 years – here's to another 25 and beyond!"



Dr Tara Darmody
Class of 2009
Genetics Counsellor

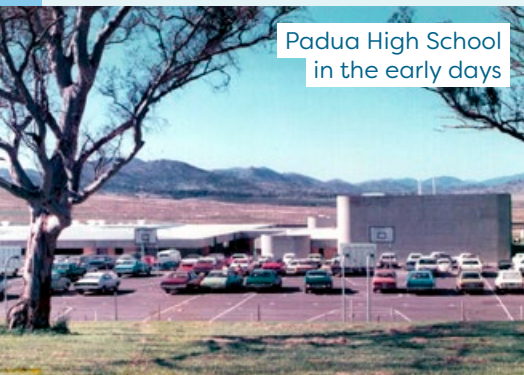
"I'd like to congratulate all past and present students, teachers, and support staff of MacKillop on reaching this huge milestone. I think I had some really passionate teachers, and particularly, towards the end of my time there, I had some great Biology and Chemistry teachers and they really fostered my love for science and genetics. They were very enthusiastic and very keen to answer any questions we had. I think that those relationships, and the way that they cared for us, have sort of stayed with me. So thank you and good luck for the future."



Steve Lowe
Teacher

"In this, our Silver Jubilee year, I would like to give thanks for the school MacKillop has become. I'd also like to pay my respect to those who have worked hard to bring the College's Vision to life. Our culture and our reputation have been hard earned and the leadership of our Principals – Sr Noelene, Mrs Najdecki, Ms Daniels and now Mr Lee – has been inspirational as we have journeyed together. I recognise the importance of today's community members continuing to strive for excellence. After all, a school like MacKillop will forever be a work in progress."

MEMORIES + MESSAGES



Padua High School in the early days



Sr Noelene at an Assembly in 1998



Five-Year Mass, 2002



Michael Lee with a MacKillop Olympian, 2008



The new Science Labs in 2018



The end of the 25th year, 2022

KEY EVENTS FROM

1978

Padua High School opens in Wanniasa.

1996

The decision is made to amalgamate St Peter's and Padua.

1998

The College opens as MacKillop Catholic College.

2001

Water Block opens on the Wanniasa Campus.

2004

Moira Najdecki takes over as College Principal.

2010

We become St Mary MacKillop College after our patron's canonisation.

2014

The partnership with St Patrick's in Cooma begins.

2018

The College renames each campus to honour the two previous schools.

2020

The STEM Labs are built at the Padua Campus.

1989

St Peter's Catholic College opens in Isabella Plains.

1997

Sr Noelene begins working as the foundation Principal.

2000

The Junior and Senior campus structure settles into place.

2002

Five-year celebrations take place at the Convention Centre.

2008

Michael Lee starts after a year of Rita Daniels as caretaker.

2012

PM Julia Gillard opens the Trades Training Centre.

2017

Construction begins on the JTW Science Labs and Providence Building.

2019

The Academic Centre and Cafeteria open at St Peter's.

2022

In December 2022, the College wraps up its 25th year.