



# MACKILLOP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6 2015, 1 MAY

## PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear Parents, students and families,

### ANZAC Day Observances 2015

The Centenary of the Gallipoli landing has been observed with great dignity and gratitude on both our campuses at MacKillop, here in Canberra at the AWM, at the Cenotaph in Sydney, the Shrine in Melbourne, on the Western Front, White Hall, and on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The huge crowds expressed thanksgiving and remembrance for a long ago incident, which was a small part of the Great War but which played no small part in defining the identity of Australians. A particular thanks to Air Vice Marshall Chris Deeble who gave the Occasional Address on the senior campus, Warrant Officer Sean Polmanteer (a MacKillop parent) who gave the Occasional Address at the junior campus, and Major Daniel Hiscock (also a MacKillop parent) who provided the Bugle at both ceremonies.

### Strike Action

Happily, the strike action which was part of the IEU's response to the Enterprise Agreement negotiations has now been avoided and Day 2 of Week 1 proceeded without interruption, as did parent/teacher night, with a few exceptions. It is to be hoped that the proposed Enterprise Agreement negotiations can proceed smoothly towards a swift and satisfactory conclusion. I'm very grateful to the staff who regularly discharge their responsibilities in a manner that reflects well on the profession, themselves, and the College.

### Year 7 and Year 11 2016 Information Nights

Many of you would have received my letter requesting your help in promoting our Information Nights to your friends, family, and co-workers. Whilst advertising is important, the authentic testimonial of people who are happy with MacKillop will always be the surest form of advertising. Thank you for your loyalty and enthusiasm about the College. Please remember that the Year 7 2016 Information Night takes place on Monday evening. The dates are:

<b>4 MAY</b>	<b>YEAR 7 2016 INFORMATION NIGHT</b> 6.30pm at the Wanniasa Campus
<b>7 MAY</b>	<b>TRY YEAR 7 AT MACKILLOP DAY</b> Register now at <a href="http://mackillop.act.edu.au">mackillop.act.edu.au</a>
<b>13 MAY</b>	<b>YEAR 11 2016 INFORMATION NIGHT</b> 6pm at Isabella (includes Careers Expo)

Yours in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE, PRINCIPAL

## PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

Lord, we give thanks for the sacrifice and devotion to duty of the men and women who have served in our uniform at Gallipoli and later in France and Belgium. Lest we forget. Amen

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>MAY</b> MONDAY <b>04</b>	• Year 7 2016 Information Night
<b>MAY</b> THURSDAY <b>07</b>	• Try MacKillop Day
<b>MAY</b> TUESDAY <b>12</b>	• NAPLAN begins
<b>MAY</b> WEDNESDAY <b>13</b>	• Year 11 2016 Information Night • Careers Expo
<b>MAY</b> TUESDAY <b>19</b>	• Athletics Carnival

# COLLEGE NEWS

## Changes to ACTION Bus Services

### MORNING BUS CHANGES FROM 18 MAY 2015

- 544: This service now commences 5 minutes later at 7.55am
- 650: This service now commences 3 minutes later at 8.01am
- 651: This service now commences 3 minutes later at 7.59am
- 660: This service now commences 4 minutes later at 8.01am
- 665: This service now commences 1 minute later at 8.03am
- 671: This service now commences 3 minutes later at 7.58am
- 851: This service now commences 4 minutes earlier at 7.50am
- 852: This service now commences 3 minutes later at 7.56am
- 855: This service now commences 2 minutes earlier at 7.45am
- 856: This service now commences 1 minute earlier at 8.11am
- 859: This service now commences 3 minutes later at 7.46am
- 874: This service now commences 2 minutes later at 8.09am

### AFTERNOON BUS CHANGES FROM 18 MAY 2015

- 541: Now servicing Jim Pike Ave and Callaway Cres (for MacKillop students only)
- 604: Now commencing at MacKillop Wanniasa at 3.22pm. No longer servicing MacKillop's Isabella Plains Campus. No longer servicing Wheeler Cres and Sternberg Cres to Erindale Dr
- 606: No longer servicing Jim Pike Ave and Callaway Cres Gordon. These students are to use S/R 541
- 670: No longer servicing MacKillop's Isabella Plains Campus (These students to use routes 67 and 71). No longer servicing Isabella Plains.
- 687: No longer servicing Wheeler Cres and Sternberg Cres to Erindale Dr
- 695: Now servicing Isabella Plains



## Students join ANZAC Day march

Year 11 students Clair Schofield, Angela Sullivan, Annika Rooney and Olivia Knott joined students from St Patricks Cooma for the annual ANZAC Day March. The St Patrick' students were delighted to see their 'old' schoolmates join their school contingent for the march. It has become practice for our Cooma-based students to participate in the ANZAC Day ceremony in their home town and is yet another way the link between the MacKillop and St Patrick's community is strengthened. St Patrick's Cooma Principal Mrs Frances Robertson commented "You have got to love a splash of teal in the midst of a sea of green".

*Paul O'Callaghan, Isabella Campus Head*

## Future Stars

Some more news from the Engarde Fencing Club: Darcy Kinsella (Year 7) won a bronze medal in both Sabre and Foil and teams in the recent ACT Tri-state Fencing Championship. Ashy Kinsella (Year 9) was declared first in ACT Womens Under 17 foil, first in Under 20s Womens foil, second in Under 23s Womens Foil and first overall in the ACT for novice foil at the end of 2014.

## School Fees

Term 2 Fees have now been sent out. Fees are to be paid by 15 May 2015 unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved method. If you would like more information regarding Direct Debit payments or have any queries regarding your fees, please contact the Fees Office.

*Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager*



## The New Zealand trip

Kia ora! (NZ greetings! Maori meaning: be well!) On a bright autumn day, on Tuesday 14 April, 28 student and 6 staff greeted each other enthusiastically for the drive to Sydney airport to begin our study tour of the South Island of New Zealand.

Our 12-day adventure began with a late night flight to the south island, landing in Christchurch about midnight. We then travelled through the farmlands of the Canterbury Plains, through to stunning lake Tekapo and the Church of the Good Shepard, across New Zealand's greatest mountain range, the Southern Alps to Mt Cook, then across to the West Coast and back to Christchurch.

The students were treated to such experiences as:

- Visiting the Glowworm Grotto at Te Anau
- Mt Cook walk - we all love steps (all 2300 of them)
- Tour of the Cadbury Chocolate Factory at Dunedin
- Dissecting Squid at Otago University (my favourite!)
- Visiting the locations for filming The Lord of the Rings and The Chronicles of Narnia
- Eating Gelato
- Jet boating across the Shotover river in Queenstown
- Crossing New Zealand's greatest mountain range, the Southern Alps, and travel through lush beech forests and past serene lakes
- Seeing Fox Glacier- a solid tongue of ice 13 kilometres long and 5 storeys high
- Traveling by Gondola cableway up 450 metres over Queenstown
- Viewing the incredible sights of Milford Sound, Mitre Peak and Bowen Falls
- Experiencing a 6.2 earthquake during a lecture at Christchurch University on earthquakes

A special highlight for a number of students was the College's participation in the centenary of ANZAC Day Dawn service in Christchurch. A special thanks to College students Ben Jenkins and Taylah Wittwer who lay the wreath at the cenotaph as representatives of St Mary MacKillop College.

A very big thank you to Mr Brennan, Mrs Kain, and Dr Nagabushan without whose support the trip would not have been possible. Also thanks to Mr Henry and Ms Kusta who accompanied us on our travels.

*Michael Batten, SOSE Coordinator*

## Careers Expo

# WANNIASSA NEWS

## Year 7 SRC

Late in Term 1, Year 7 students engaged in a process to elect a member of the Student Representative Council for each House. Over 20 students nominated to stand as candidates for the 4 leadership positions.

The elected Year 7 student representatives were announced on the final day of Term 1 and will be inducted into the SRC and presented with their Leadership Badges at the 'Try MacKillop Day' assembly on Thursday 7 May.

Congratulations to the elected student leaders in Year 7 for each House:

Mindygari - Christopher Reay  
Gurabang - Hayden Alcock  
Meup Meup - Darcy Kinsella  
Ngadyung - Scarlett Kris

## Year 9 Pastoral Care Coordinators

Mr Gary Pickering has resigned from the position of Pastoral Care Coordinator. Mr Pickering has held this position for over 5 years. I thank Gary for his service to and leadership of Pastoral Care at MacKillop during this time, particularly for his nurturing and support of students under his care, along with their families. Gary's contribution as a coordinator will be missed as he enters the next stage of his career, full-time in the classroom.

Mr Nathan Wood will join Mrs Monica Bailey in Leading the Year 9 cohort for the remainder of the year. Mr Wood has experience in various leadership positions both at MacKillop and other secondary schools within the Archdiocese and is a welcome addition to the Pastoral Care team.



## Term 2 After School Sport Activity

During Term 2 Netball and Basketball will be run as an after school sports activity, available to all students in Year 7 to 9. This is again being organised by College Sports Captain Jamie Taylor with assistance from other Year 12 student volunteers.

The sessions will run from Week 2 until Week 6 from 3.30pm to 4.30pm on the Wanniasa Campus courts. Year 12 students will be coordinating the activities and a staff member will be present to supervise. All boys and girls are invited to participate including those who may play Netball and Basketball competitively as well as those who may have limited experience in these or other organised sports.

The afternoon sports activities provide a great opportunity for students to involve themselves in the school community, enjoy a social sporting environment and build friendships. Students who have attained Bronze or Silver Status can count the hours that they attend towards their application for the next level of Status, as Community Involvement time.

Consent forms for students interested are available from Pastoral Care Coordinators, the PE Staffroom or they can also be downloaded from StudyWiz.

## Parentingideas

This week's parenting article pays tribute to mothers and the role that they play in the development of their children. Happy Mother's Day for next Sunday!

*Lachlan McNicol  
Assistant Principal Pastoral Care, Wanniasa*

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Bowling the blues away

Megan's Walk of Courage is holding a Bowling Night to raise funds for Lifeline on 21 June from 5pm at AMF Belconnen. Donations of toys and books (new only) will also be taken for the Smith Family Toy and Book Christmas Appeal. Find information on facebook, on the 'meganswalkofcourage' page.

## Gifted Teen Hang Out

The Australian Gifted Support Centre is holding a Friday night 'Gifted Teen Hang Out' - an opportunity for gifted students who are in Years 7-12 to hang out and be with others of like mind. There will be board games available, see who can conquer the 'Challenge of the Night', or just hang out and meet others. Feel free to bring along your own supper.

COST: Family donation of \$20 per student - please pay at the door  
DATES: Friday 15 May and Friday 12 June, 7.30-9.30pm  
LOCATION: North Kambah Arts Centre, Kett St, Kambah.

Book at the following links:

<https://act-teen-hang-out-south-15th.eventbrite.com>  
<https://act-teen-hang-out-south-12th-june.eventbrite.com>

# IT TIP OF THE WEEK

## ACCESSING THE H DRIVE FROM HOME

All school work, whether you're working on it at school or at home, should always be backed up to your H Drive. A common question in IT is, "How do I access my H Drive at home?" Well, you have two options:

- [filr.mackillop.act.edu.au](http://filr.mackillop.act.edu.au) OR
- [www.mackillop.act.edu.au](http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au) Click on the "log in" button in the top right corner, then click on File Access: FILR.

When prompted, enter your username and password.

You can then access your H Drive and see the files and folders that you would normally have.

To add something to a folder click on the "Add Files" button in the top left hand corner just above all of your folders.

The College advises that students use their H Drive for all school work as it is backed up by the College daily.


# Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

*Building parent-school partnerships*

WORDS Michael Grose

## Mother of all jobs

As an ex-house dad, I take my hat off to mothers.



When I was busy at work I would often think about what my wife must be doing. I used to conjure up an image of her playing happily with my three-year-old son in the sandpit at the local playgroup while the other two children slept peacefully nearby. With these images at the front of my mind I thought motherhood sure beat working for a living.

Many years ago I discovered how far from the truth my notion of motherhood really was when my wife and I swapped roles. I must confess that two of the children were at school so I had it easier than my partner but it was as close as I could get.

The first thing I learned was that while I may be the primary carer I could never be a substitute mother to my children. Take sickness or illness for example. When one of the kids was off-colour, had a cut or bruise or just needed some tender loving care they headed straight for their mother. Dad may do in the meantime, but I was a pale imitation of the real thing, their mum, when it comes to dispensing comfort. I could give them just as good a hug as any female. It is just that their mum was well ... their mum. It is as simple as that.

I also learned there are some things that

fathers can't do as well as mothers. In my case it was fixing my daughters' hair. The first time I put my youngest daughter's hair in a plait she cried. Not from pain, just the embarrassment of being seen in public with a hair-do that looked like a piece of knotty, old rope. It became accepted in my house that 'dads don't do hair'.

I soon appreciated the unique skills that mothers develop if they are to survive the rigours of parenting on a daily basis. In particular, mothers seem to have the uncanny knack of doing three jobs at once while dealing with noisy or whingeing children.

### Multi-task masters

Anyone who can cut a round of sandwiches, prepare breakfast for a family, find a missing pair of socks for tiny feet while making sure everyone is on track, has my vote. I have trouble getting myself dressed in the morning, let alone worrying about anyone else.

There is no place in a mother's repertoire for tunnel-vision or focusing on one task at a time. These are luxuries reserved for the workplace, not the family home. The fact that kids are noisy, demanding and often unpredictable means anyone who spends


a fair time in their vicinity must be flexible, patient and able to keep cool under extraordinary pressure. Qualities I still don't possess.

Take cooking for example. The job of preparing a decent meal wasn't too hard. I could – and still can – usually produce something quite edible with a minimum of fuss. However, rarely did I have the chance to cook in isolation. There was always a child interrupting, asking for help or just wanting to chat. Not to mention fitting cooking around bathing, hearing kids read or picking them up from sports practice.

An increasing number of mothers do full-time paid work then come home for their second shift of parenting. Any mention to these mothers of my trials with the juggling act, simply evokes a shoulder shrug and a 'welcome to the real world' look.

If anyone says that motherhood is not like real work, send them my way. After many years of being the primary parent to my children – usually the preserve of women – I can really set them straight. It's hard yakka that largely goes unrewarded.

Happy Mother's Day!

*Michael Grose* 



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parentingideas Club** today at [parentingideasclub.com.au](http://parentingideasclub.com.au). You'll be so glad you did.



[parentingideas.com.au](http://parentingideas.com.au)

