

# Crossing the finish line.

BY JORDY BRAYSHAW

The hurdles and obstacles of finishing the last leg of schooling.



## { YEAR 12 } the graduating class of 2012

YEAR 12: BY CLAIRE BECKMANN &amp; LUCY ALBISTON

Being in Year 12 2012 was like being in Gryffindor at Hogwarts. We were all like a family, with Mr Chandra acting as Professor McGonagall, making sure we didn't get in to too much trouble.

From the times we were at the junior campus, where sherbet straws, makeup and mobile phones were illicit material, to being in Year 12, we looked back fondly on a time where things were simpler. MacKillop gave us memories that will last a lifetime.

Everyone would agree that Year 7 Camp was one to remember, many of us making friends that we would have for a very long time. This year, on Year 12

retreat, we reaffirmed the bonds we had made back then and formed new ones with people we ordinarily wouldn't have, bringing us all closer than ever.

Not only has this year group developed friendships through laughter and good times but we have also been strengthened by the hard times our year group has been through. Sickness and hardship for a few affected the entire group and brought everyone together when we needed each other most.

Even though we're not sure how many of our fellow classmates we will see in the years to come, each one of us shares memories from our time at MacKillop.

We would not have been able to survive the last two years of school if it weren't for our fantastic coordinator Mr Chandra. "Chandog" has always been there as a friendly face, welcoming newcomers and helping everyone. For that, we say thank you.

MacKillop also gave us a sense of community through our continued work with the teachers who were always there to help and support us even if we were not a student in their class. From our experience, we had Mr Batten reading our religion drafts, Miss Box getting excited about formal and our dates, Mrs Goolagong sharing her daughter's

name before she was born, and Deacon Vince never failing to smile and wave at every student who leaves the car park. These were just a few of the teachers who shaped our MacKillop experience to make it one of the most positive school experiences it ever could have been.

As the Class of 2012 we are grateful for all that MacKillop has given us over these years and will be sorry to miss it, however we look forward to the future with eager anticipation as MacKillop has shaped us for the rest of our lives – now we just have to live them.

Lucy Albiston &  
Claire Beckmann

ON the first day of high school, we lined up with every other Year 7 student to start what were to be some of the hardest and most stressful years of our lives. It was not so much the start of a race against each other, but more an individual marathon. And like a marathon, the last leg of the race was the hardest. Did any of us really know how tough our final year was going to be?

Relationships, jobs, sporting commitments, getting your license and applying for university were thrown into the mix in this, our most crucial year of school. For some, it can all be a bit too much for a student to handle all at once, especially when you consider that you want to enjoy your final year and get involved in as many activities as possible.

### MOTIVATION AND PROCRASTINATION

"I sometimes feel unmotivated to do school work because it's so close to the end and I'm just tired of doing it," Year 12 student Taylor Peart said. And with that, she summarised it all for the cohort. Motivation to study, to complete assignments and to have our homework in on time can sometimes take a back seat to other distracting (and more enjoyable) commitments. These commitments can even become a type of procrastination for us.

Procrastination is a talent every student gets better at

with each year of schooling whether it's picking up an extra shift at work, going to see our friends or even just going for a drive, with our new found freedom in our licenses. We reach a low-point in our lives where even cleaning our bedrooms becomes more stimulating than school work! However akin to a sports team in training for their grand final, we have to keep our eyes on the prize, the trophy at the end. The certificate, the graduation, the results. That's what has kept us going and has motivated us on those lazy days and nights.

### "PRIOR PREPARATION PREVENTS POOR PERFORMANCE."

Prioritising: drilled into us by our coach, Mr Chandra, right from the word go. On our backs since day one, Mr Chandra was our biggest motivator, pushing us through the tough times and reining us in to keep us on track when we become reckless and distracted. Prioritising, it seems, is not something Year 12s tend to do well, or at all, according to the students of Year 12. A survey done with a number of Year 12 students suggested they have been less likely to put school first in their final year, ranking it less important than other commitments. Rather, distractions are distracting them.

According to the Year 12 students surveyed, the majority of outside school commitments are work and sport. Up to 40 hours

a week are spent at work and between three and 20 hours spent on sport. The most distracting aspect, as outlined by the survey results, is turning 18. This milestone impacts your social life greatly – there is now always somewhere to go and something to do each weekend. Add to this the hype and stress of applying for university, the mix can send some students in a bit of a downward spiral. Certainly when our parents were at this stage in their lives many careers considered further study after Year 12 an added bonus, not a requirement of the role. Another simple distraction is having your license, according to Year 12 student Lucy Albiston.

"You can go wherever, whenever, which is a very appealing way to escape the pressures and stress of Year 12," she said.

Last but not least is the big distraction of relationships. Whether in school or out of school, student Paul Barnes believes, "They are silly to have in Year 12."

### BALANCE

I had many expectations. Was this to be one of the best years of my life or would the countless hours of studying and preparation towards my required ATAR detract from this, my best year? Our time becomes so precious and if it's not balanced perfectly then some aspect of our commitments go wrong, for example too much school work could strain

a relationship or going out too much can effect schooling or maintaining your job. There is a perfect medium or balance that very few master. Fitting in study, sport, work and time for family and friends can see the candle burnt at both ends for many students. Pulling 'all-nighters' is what it takes to get some assignments on the table and in on time. Year 12 student Maddie Furlong works on average an astonishing 40 hours per week but still manages to stay on top of her school work and other commitments. "I manage my time," she said. "That is what it takes to avoid imbalance."

### THE FINISH LINE

A mixture of joy, excitement as well as sadness and nervousness awaits us all at the end of our final year.

"I am so completely excited of what lies ahead for me on completion of this year, but I am also so completely terrified at the same time," College Captain Tyler Friend said.

In the end getting over or dealing with these hurdles and obstacles while maintaining your school work can make college so incredibly difficult and stressful but it's also what makes it so rewarding at the end. Hopefully, you've managed to run a balanced race and everything has gone well. But regardless of how you've gone, remember: everyone's a winner when they finish Year 12.



# The Coordinator Jon Chandra

A dedication by  
Phoebe Sutherland,  
Year 12

Jon Chandra: A man as kind as George Nulley, as smart as Tad Kuzma, devoted to his family like no other; a man who gives so much yet expects little in return, and who knows better than any that poor performance is the result of a lack of prior preparation. So what inspires the man who inspires so many?

“This role has allowed me to see students in a different light. I can get to know them as people, not just students.”

1,479

DAYS. THAT'S how long ago Year 12 first met Jonathon Chandra. While he always went above and beyond for us as a mathematics teacher back then, it has been over the past two years that this man has given himself to us completely. For this, the Class of 2012 will always be grateful.

Sitting in Mr Chandra's office on a sunny spring afternoon, I set my recorder down and looked around. It was bizarre to think I was about to interview him, when, in most situations, the student was the one being questioned. His office had a small table for conducting interviews such as these, a desk covered in stacks of paper, and his computer – typical of any teacher's desk. But then there were the various relics around the room, which stirred memories of my time with my year group.

There were pictures, Mr Chandra's Year 12 jumper hanging on the back of his chair, certificates of participation for various pupils sprawled over his desk, and the *Relay For Life Spirit Stick* signed by each and every student. All of these memories were significant to me, and, with the way they were displayed around the room, were clearly significant to him.

*Chandog*, as he is affectionately known, has worked incredibly hard in his life to be where he is now. While he pondered possible careers in his college years at St Edmund's, it was not until a few years later that he knew he was destined to become a teacher. His own maths teacher, Mr Maloney, was one of his inspirations, a quirky and unique individual. Mr Chandra said of him, "This guy was a bloody lunatic – he was mental, but passionate."

Having taught 7F1 and 7W1 Mathematics at the Wanniasa Campus, Mr Chandra's involvement with us as

a cohort was quite limited until our college years, when he became our senior coordinator. He was grateful but quite intimidated to be undertaking the role as Mr McNicol and Mrs Kain (our Year 10 coordinators) had done such a brilliant job, and he did not want to "run the ship into the ground". Clearly, we've all survived and many of us have thrived under his guiding eye.

"Being in this role has allowed me to see students in a different light and I can get to know them better as people, not just students," Mr Chandra said.

According to Mr Chandra, the Year 12 Retreat was another example of this.

"On day two it was great seeing everyone appreciate each other and really bond," he said.

"A lot of students previously had perceptions of others that weren't true so it gave them an opportunity to change that and form a friendship."

On the second night of Year 12 retreat Mr Chandra spoke to the Year 12 cohort and people saw a side that they had not seen before. We were taught of his own schooling times, his life experiences and the people he holds closest to his heart.

We learnt of his university days with a rockin' afro (which 90% of Year 12 think he should re-grow), and, more importantly, we learnt a lot about the person he was throughout different stages of his life. One thing that has never changed is that he is an endearing person that always has other people's best interests at heart.

Throughout his presentation, Mr Chandra made it clear that family means a lot to him, and with the latest addition of his *Chand-pup*, he now believes he has gained a 'parenting instinct', allowing him to develop a deeper connection with students.

Mr Chandra always seeks to be caring, compassionate and welcoming.

As students, we have seen him live by these qualities every day, and I'd like to think he has instilled them in us as well. At the very least, he has done a great deal to make our final years the best days they could possibly be.

Year 12 student Lucy Albiston, new to MacKillop last year, said Mr Chandra had made a positive impact on her College years.

"I was really concerned about not fitting in; coming from England was quite daunting," she said.

"Mr Chandra was one of the first faces I saw at MacKillop and he welcomed me, showed me around, and introduced me to a variety of people. He then made sure I was going okay a few weeks later. He had so much time to give to me and for that I can not thank him enough!"

For one student he made a difference, for a cohort he provided many opportunities. He was heavily involved in the Cross Campus Program and he showed his dedication to us by cheering us on through the Relay For Life, even in horribly wet conditions at 1am in the morning.

The first time Mr Chandra mentioned his two favourite quotes: "Prior preparation prevents poor performance" and "the harder you practice, the luckier you get" our cohort did believe them to be rather peculiar. However, over the two-year period, through their constant repetition, they have definitely provided the graduating class with the drive to be the best we can be.

So a great big thank you, on behalf of Year 12 2012, to the man who was constantly on the prowl to aid straying students in making sure their kerchiefs were always folded correctly, and shirts were always tucked in. And to my fellow classmates, I repeat the words the great man said himself: "Make sure you live a good life - be happy."



“I will miss your strong sense of community. Good bye and good luck, Year 12.”

YEAR 12 2012 HAS BEEN A VERY EXCITING YEAR! For me, this year has been very busy but also very rewarding. It has been a privilege to be the coordinator of such a lovely group of young men and women. There were many events that Year 12 participated in this year, the first of which was the Relay for Life. This was a great experience that really bonded the year group together and several students were able to show their dedication to their peers particularly in some very trying weather conditions.

Our Year 12 students have made significant contributions to the development of junior students through the introduction of the Cross Campus Interaction Program. For many years, Year 12 students have wanted to give back to the school they cherish so much and also build more relationships with the Wanniasa Campus. Through the commencement of the CCIP many Year 12 students have been able to repay the College through their mentorship of younger students. The Year 12s of 2012 have paved the way for their successors to follow in their footsteps and build closer ties between the two campuses and hopefully this tradition can continue in the years ahead.

The Year 12 Retreat was held in August at the Collaroy Centre in North Sydney and it was a very powerful experience for both the students and staff. Together the students spent three days sharing their memories of MacKillop and building upon friendships which will no doubt last a lifetime. I couldn't have been more proud of the way Year 12 participated in this year's retreat. I certainly got a lot out of it and perhaps may regrow the 'fro in time for your ten year reunion!

Such a wonderful year would not have been possible without the help of an awesome Year 12 PC team: Kath Piper, Rhonda Apsey, Nazim Khan, Prathiba Nagabhushan, George Nulley, Kelly Candy, Ruth Adams, Marlene Jorgensen, Tad Kuzma, Iain Robertson, Sarah Box, Garry Seary and Emily Brownrigg. Also a huge thank you to Kate Goolagong for the fantastic work she did as Year 12 pastoral associate.

I have really enjoyed being your Year Coordinator over the past two years. I have watched you grow from boys and girls into strong men and women who have a very bright future ahead. I have put a lot of effort into trying to make your senior years enjoyable and hopefully they have been. I will miss your strong sense of community next year and your friendly acknowledgements of *Chandog* in F Block. I wish you every success in the future. Always know that you are treasured by your school. Good bye and good luck, Year 12.

Mr Jonathan Chandra, Year 12 Coordinator



# Year 12 Stats.



**BROOM BROOM**  
47% of Year 12 drive manual cars  
43% drive automatics  
10% don't drive at all



## GET MONEY

More Year 12 students are concerned about getting cash than finding love. Here's what worries Year 12 in terms of their futures:

- 50% of students are concerned about money
- 54% are concerned about finding an enjoyable career
- 31% are concerned about finding love

## REACH YOUR DREAMS

37% of Year 12 say their childhood dreams of being crazy things like dragons or fairies could still come true. At MacKillop, we're not the kind of school to shoot down people's dreams, but we're also guessing that 37% didn't take this question seriously.

## ROLE MODELS?

Nawwwz. 35% of Year 12 said their role models aren't celebrities or sportspeople - they're family members. Sah cute.

**12 PER CENT** of Year 12 are aiming for careers in Caring or Nursing. Cuties.

**86 PER CENT** of Year 12 are PROUD of their school. SMMC Represent!

**78 PER CENT** of Year 12 have heard Blake Whelan say that he loves Kate Bush.

**18 PER CENT** of Year 12 plan on marrying rich so they don't have to work. Lazies.

## YEAR 12 PRESSURES

While 30% of students said the biggest influence on their studies was ensuring they get good Year 12 results, 33% admitted that turning 18 had the biggest impact. Hopefully the increase in party going in 2012 didn't result in a decrease in performance.

## WHY IS HE CHARGER?

- He takes 'charge' of all situations, has no fear, and is the ultimate wingman
- He gets charged up!
- He can recharge batteries and mobile phones
- He charges at people
- He charges people money to listen to his lame jokes
- #ch@rg3R3lyf

## END OF THE WORLD

17% think the world will end on 21 December 2012. What do you want to achieve before then?

- Visit all 196 countries in the world
- Finish a giant gobstopper
- Tell her I love her

## THE YEAR 12 'FUN AWARDS'

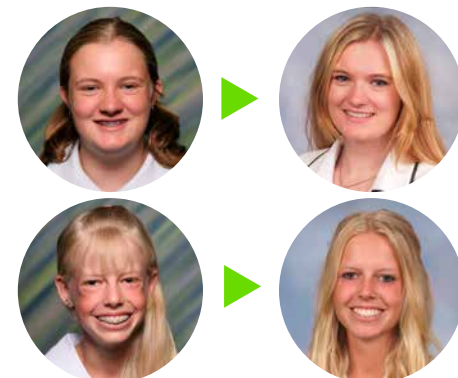
At the Year 12 Breakfast, the winners of the 'Fun Awards' (also known as the 'Fake Perpetual Awards') were presented:  
Cutest couple: Mr Robertson and Mr Kelly  
Most likely to be famous: Chelsea Wright  
Josh Creech award for contribution to assembly: Josh Creech  
Most likely to make it in sport: Andrew Robinson  
Never going to leave school award: Ashley Baldwin  
Artsy Fartsy Award: Adam Siataga  
Biggest brainiac: Parker Blakey  
Class clown: Robert Sheffield  
Biggest hippie: Blake Russell-Smith  
Musician: Nathan Ryan  
Life of the party: Jordy Brayshaw  
Best sweaties: Tyson Schilg  
Most selfies: Sam Zaja  
Teacher of the Year: Mrs Candy  
Worst driver award: Year 11

Clearly a Year 11 student is trying to park and that's what is holding us up.



## MOST CHANGED

Clare Fealy was voted by her peers to be the person who changed the most since Year 7. Georgia Hope came in a close second.



## the relay for life

ON Saturday 17 March over 5000 teams gathered at the Australian Institute of Sport to participate in the Cancer Council's 24 hour charity event Relay for Life. Among those teams was the MacKillop team, a group made up of 93 Year 12 students, coordinator Mr Chandra, and other MacKillop staff members.

Braving icy temperatures and pouring rain students took turns walking or running the track in order to raise much-needed funds for the Australian Cancer Council. In the end the group raised a combined total of \$4217, money that will contribute to the Cancer Council's work

in the research and prevention of Cancer in our community.

Huddled under a tent or curled up on the bleachers, the event brought the year group closer together in the more literal sense, showcasing the endurance and tenacity of each student and staff member that stuck it out for the entire 24 hours. With some Year 12s taking to the track for hours at a time, the experience allowed time to reflect on those family members and friends, and especially those in our own school community, whose lives have been affected by the disease.

Zumba and Belly Dancing provided entertainment for participants

with some of us getting up and involved. The Wall of Hope, Survivors lap and Candlelight Ceremony provided a chance to celebrate cancer survivors, remember those we have lost, and fight back against a disease that takes too much. The 24 hours together allowed us to see a different side to the people we see each and every day at school and proved a worthwhile experience in more ways than one.

A big thank you to Mr Chandra for all the hard work he put in to organising the team and to all the staff members that made an appearance over the 24-hour event.

**Holly Barron**



GRADUATING CLASS





## The Year 12 Retreat

Words: Chelsea Crivici  
Pics: Adam Siataga,  
Holly Barron

ON 1 AUGUST, OUR Year 12 class happily boarded the bus to the Collaroy Centre in Sydney.

When we arrived, we were each given an envelope which we were to decorate with our names. These envelopes would then be filled with handwritten letters from our peers throughout the course of the three days, to be read by us on the bus ride home.

When we weren't busy writing letters to each other, our Year 12 class had a fantastic time participating in activities, or just lying on the grass in the sunlight. It was an incredible opportunity to get away from the stress of school work and simply relax and bond with our year group.

One activity involved each PC group forming a circle and everyone got a chance to say what they thought about one another. It was amazing to discover that people you weren't really friends with actually thought very highly of you, and knew a lot about you. Though hesitant at first, everyone got really involved in this and each person left the activity with a smile on their face.

After hearing what our PC group had to say, it was even more amazing to get to read our peers' letters on the bus ride home together. The tears, laughter and hugs on the way home really showed how close our year group has gotten, and how much we mean to each other.

The retreat was an amazing experience we will never forget, just like we will never forget our time at Mackillop, or the image of Mr Chandra with an afro.



# RETREAT







# Year 12

The Final Year



# Last days.

The last few days  
for Year 12 2012





The Principal's Award  
**TYLER FRIEND**

The Principal's Award recognises excellence and reflects the outstanding contribution this student has made to College life. As College Captain, Tyler has been an excellent role model. He has participated in a wide variety of College events and has shown outstanding commitment to whatever he undertakes. He has been an active ambassador for the College, promoting the school through his role on the Student Representative Council. Tyler has been very impressive in his work across the whole College, being an active participant at community celebrations such as MacKillop Day, Variety Night, the Musical, and has participated in sporting teams. He also participated in the Cross Campus Interaction Program and led the Chess Club. At the same time, Tyler showed diligence in application to his studies, and has achieved well both at school and in his personal life. Tyler is a very worthy recipient of the Principal's Award for 2012.



The Sr Noelene Quinane RSJ Award for Academic Excellence  
**MICHELLE HOITINK**

Sr Noelene Quinane was the foundation Principal of St Mary MacKillop College. Her vision for academic excellence is reflected in this award which recognises the student who has achieved excellence in the breadth of academic studies throughout Years 11 and 12. Michelle has completed majors in English, Specialist Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Human Movement and has attained outstanding grades across all of her subjects. She has always shown diligence in application to studies, has always been a pleasure to teach, and has been a tremendous asset to the College.



The Caltex All Rounder Award  
**ANDREW ROBINSON**

The Caltex All Rounder Award is awarded to a student who has contributed to the College across a variety of areas and has done so with distinction. This year, the College has decided to award Andrew Robinson with the Caltex All Rounder Award. Andrew applied himself academically while being an active participant in extra-curricular events like College Masses, interschool visits, and sporting carnivals. His role as House Captain for Mindygari meant that he was involved in a lot of College events and he did this with enthusiasm despite a heavy academic and sporting load. Andrew represented the school in a number of sports and participated in the College Musical. He is a hardworking and reliable individual who has developed into a confident, friendly, caring, and mature young man.

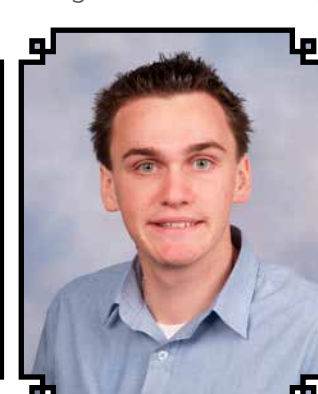


The Tenison Woods Students' Choice Award  
**CLARE FEALY**

This is an Award that gives students the opportunity to acknowledge one of their peers as an outstanding member of the Year 12 student body. It is named in honour of Father Tenison Woods, a co-founder of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. He was a firm believer in the true and great value of education, working tirelessly with Mary MacKillop to provide education to all who wanted it. Some of the characteristics of a Students' Choice nominee include: enthusiasm, friendliness, respect for others, active in the college community, promotion of College values, the demonstration of leadership qualities, an acceptance of others and a student who is genuine and authentic. Clare demonstrated these qualities in abundance throughout her time at MacKillop, but particularly during Year 12, and her peers recognised this when they voted for this award in Term 4 this year.



The St Mary MacKillop Award for Christian Leadership  
**SARAH MACKEY & NATHAN RYAN (Joint Winners)**



This award is named in honour of Saint Mary MacKillop, our patron. She believed strongly in making education accessible to all people and worked tirelessly to achieve this. Mary MacKillop was a woman of incredible compassion, insight and action. Her charisms are justice, tolerance, liberation and love, and like Mary we believe that these qualities are fundamental to our community. Through their time at MacKillop, Sarah and Nathan have always demonstrated a commitment to others, to their faith, and to the College Vision. Their participation and service to the College makes them very worthy award recipients.



The Rohan Schultz 'per ardua ad astra' Award  
**NICHOLAS SLADER**

The Rohan Schultz 'per ardua ad astra' Award was renamed in 2009 at the suggestion of members of our College community. The words 'per ardua ad astra' mean to achieve through adversity and we believe the renaming of this award both honours the original recipient and intent of this award and broadens its context to include students who achieve in their studies, who immerse themselves in College life and who overcome hardship or adversity to realise their optimum. Nicholas has shown tremendous drive and commitment to reach his personal goals. He is positive and affirming of others, and highly respected by staff and students. His contribution to the MacKillop community makes him a most worthy recipient of this award.



The St Mary MacKillop College Creative Arts Award  
**CHELSEA WRIGHT**

Chelsea is the winner of the inaugural Creative Arts Award, introduced to honour the talent and leadership of our Visual Arts and Performing Arts students. Chelsea is exceptionally talented in the imaginative use of artistry in textiles and fashion. She designed and made many of the costumes for the College musical and has been nominated for the 2012 CAT Awards for Best Costumes as a result. Chelsea participated in the Whitehouse School of Design over the last three years, helped with the College Magazine, and has been generous in sharing her talents with her peers and junior students.



The Catholic Education Office ACU Teaching Scholarship  
**MICHAELA BUTLER**

Each year the Catholic Education Office offers scholarships to students interested in studying Primary Education at the Signadou Campus of the Australian Catholic University. This scholarship, to the value of \$3000 is open to Catholic students from Archdiocesan System Colleges. This year's scholarship has been awarded to a student who has been conscientious in their approach to their studies. Michaela has achieved sound grades across all her subjects while contributing to many College events. She has always been passionate about helping people, as evident in her trip with the World Challenge Group to Cambodia and her job in before and after school care.



The Tegan Blunt Southern Cross Sport Award  
**MATTHEW SMITH**

This award is presented to a student who has represented MacKillop in a number of Sports during Year 12, and displayed outstanding leadership skills and team work and a positive approach to others. Matthew always exhibits sportsmanship, outstanding leadership skills and has a positive approach to his sporting commitments. He has represented the College in the following sports this year: Aussie Rules, Athletics, Basketball, Cricket, Cross Country. On top of this, Matthew was an active participant at the College Athletics and Swimming Carnivals, has helped with the running of other sports, and has been a positive role model to his peers and the wider MacKillop community. He was also the Senior Boys Athletics Age Champion and the Senior Boys Cross Country Champion.

The Elite Athlete Award  
**MAT HART (Motorsport), JALINE HOEK (Football), ANDREW ROBINSON (Rugby)**



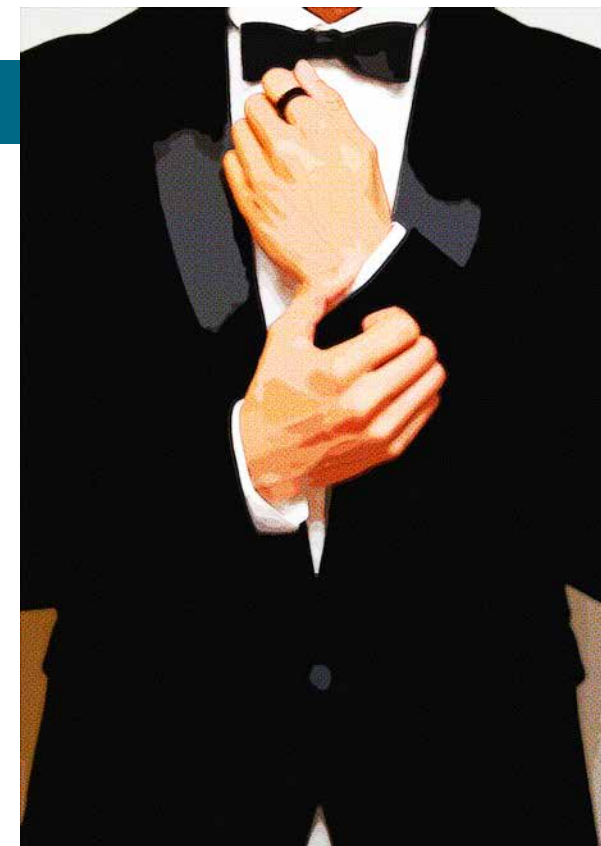
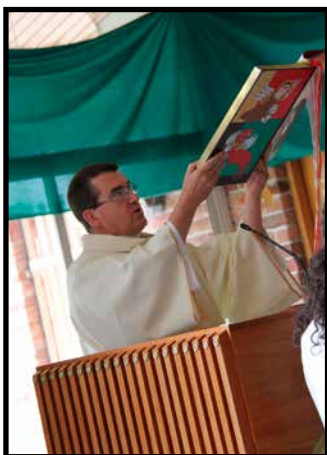
The Elite Athlete Award is awarded on an occasional basis to students in Year 12 who have competed or will go on to compete on the world stage. These students need only represent the school in one sport (if it is available for participation) but must compete in that sport at elite level. Andrew and Jaline both represented Australian schools teams in International tours in 2012, while Mathew has been selected to trial for the USF2000 in America.



## The Graduation Section

### The Graduation Mass

On Friday 7 December, Year 12 gathered at the Holy Family Church to share the Eucharist together for one last time. Our Perpetual Award winners were announced after Mass.



## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



Natascha Plessnitzer on the costs and expectations of Year 12's biggest night: the Graduation Formal.

EVERY LITTLE GIRL'S dream is to wear a beautiful dress and for one night feel like a princess. Years fly by and before you know it; these little girls are all grown up, and finally that one night comes! It's that one night where they can wear their 'princess' dress, that one night where they can be pampered and be made a fuss over, that one night they can be the centre of attention and shine for all to see. Before your wedding, that one night is Formal.

Formal marks the end of 13 years of schooling - a celebration for the students who have endured all the assignments, homework, exams and classes, not to mention casual work, music and sporting commitments. What better way for a girl to reward herself after all these years of effort and hard work? The answer: splurging on an exquisite Formal dress. According to a recent survey, the ladies of Year 12 2012, did just that, with a majority spending around \$500 on their dress alone.

Being a Year 12 student myself, I witnessed the preparation and planning that went into the hunt to find that perfect Formal

dress, and the stories were pretty impressive. Some girls went to extremes, looking internationally to find that dress. We all know that Canberra is quite small, and it could not cater to the needs and wants of everybody. Reinforcements had to be made. Some students trekked to bigger cities such as Sydney and Melbourne, while others roamed online. Let's just say these dresses came from far and wide.

Deciding on a dress is harder than it sounds, one needs to be aware of their body shape and skin tone to achieve the best personal results possible. The style and colour of the dress can have a major impact on how you look and feel on the big night.

To get an insight and prediction on the fashion and trends for this year, I approached three senior fashion students: Shelby O'Toole predicted that "bright colours such as pinks, reds and electric blues" will be seen this year. Jacquii Ripoll said, "blue seems to be a popular colour for dresses this year, and with jewellery, strong metallics in geometric shapes is to be expected." Chelsea Wright said, "For

the 2012 Formal season, I think we are going to see a lot of bright colours - from neons to pastels. Colour contrasting is also very popular this year - having shoes and accessories that contrast the colour of the dress. In terms of length and style, there will be a shift away from the shorter 'club' style dresses and a return to classic long-line gowns."

There is nothing inexpensive about attending the Formal, if you're sitting there thinking that the amount that these students are spending on their dresses is a lot, then prepare to be shocked.

Not only is there the dress that you need to pay for, but there are also the shoes, the make-up, the hair, and the transport to be considered as well, and none of that comes cheap.

It is customary to have hair and make-up appointments booked for the day of the Formal, which also includes the trials in advance of the actual event. This is where the students have the opportunity to gain a sense of what sort of look they want to achieve, so they aren't left with those last-minute decisions. These

appointments can cost anywhere from \$50 to \$80 per appointment.

At Formal, everyone wants to make an impression. The show starts with arrivals, when the cars start rolling through. The crowds gather in front of the venue and watch the students make their grand entrance one by one. To call them cars would be an insult, these are not just cars, these are glamorous vehicles, and hiring these vehicles can be quite costly.

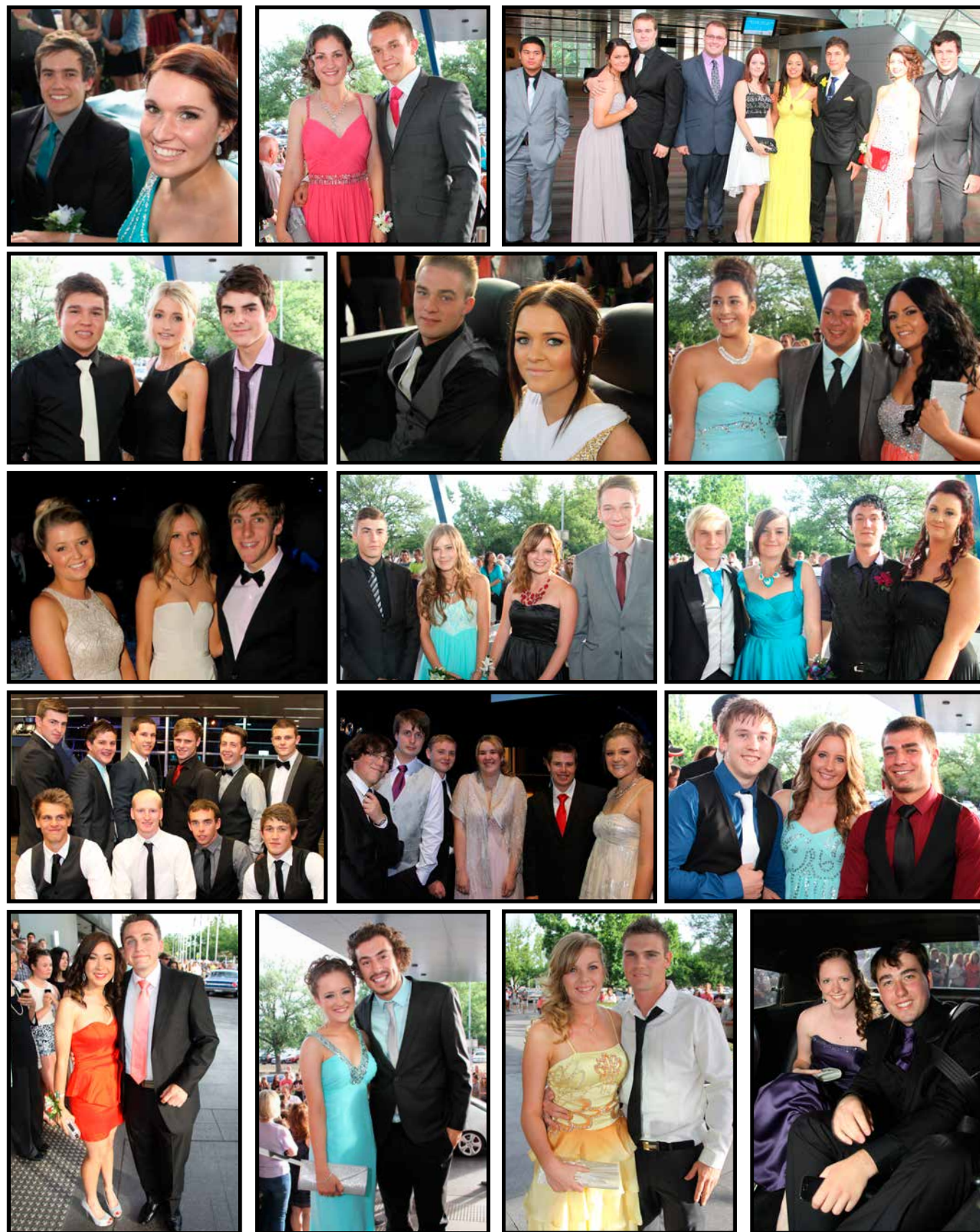
Talking to some students who have attended a Formal in previous years, some of the opinions were that the best parts of the entire experience was getting ready beforehand with their friends, as well as the Formal after party. The event itself is a very formal occasion, with a presentation of certificates and a dinner before the dancing begins.

Formal is an exciting event. Months and months of preparation go into this last social event organised by the school. It's the last step in the journey before we all say goodbye to our teachers and friends and continue on with the next chapter of our lives. **Natascha Plessnitzer**

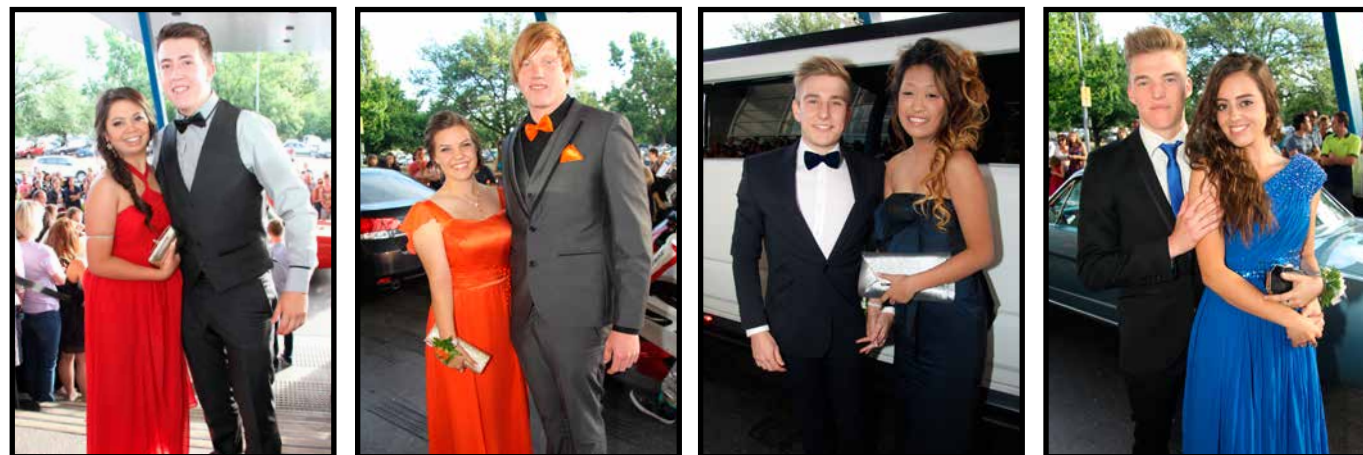
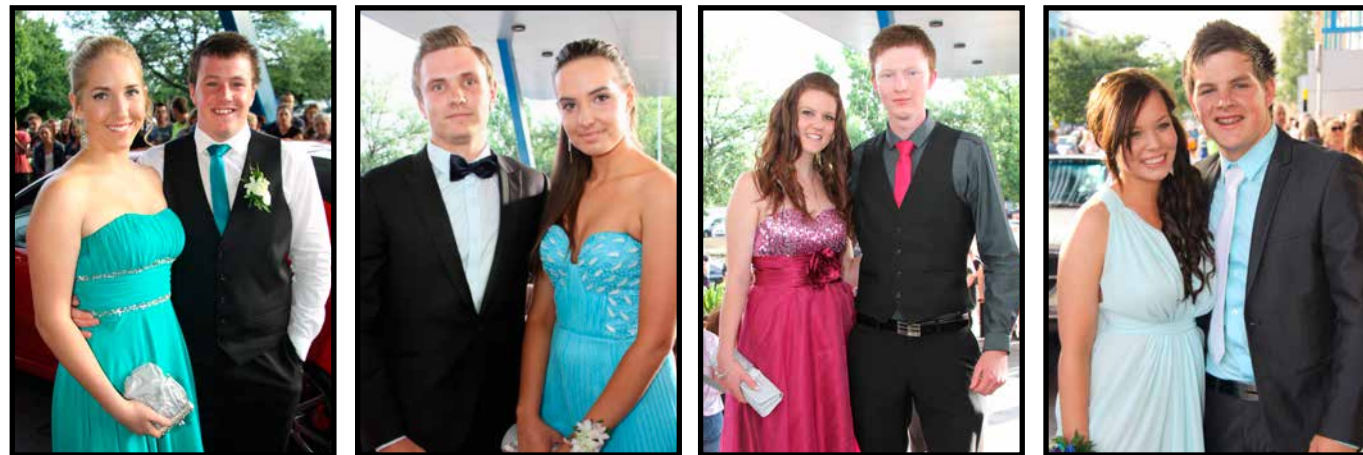
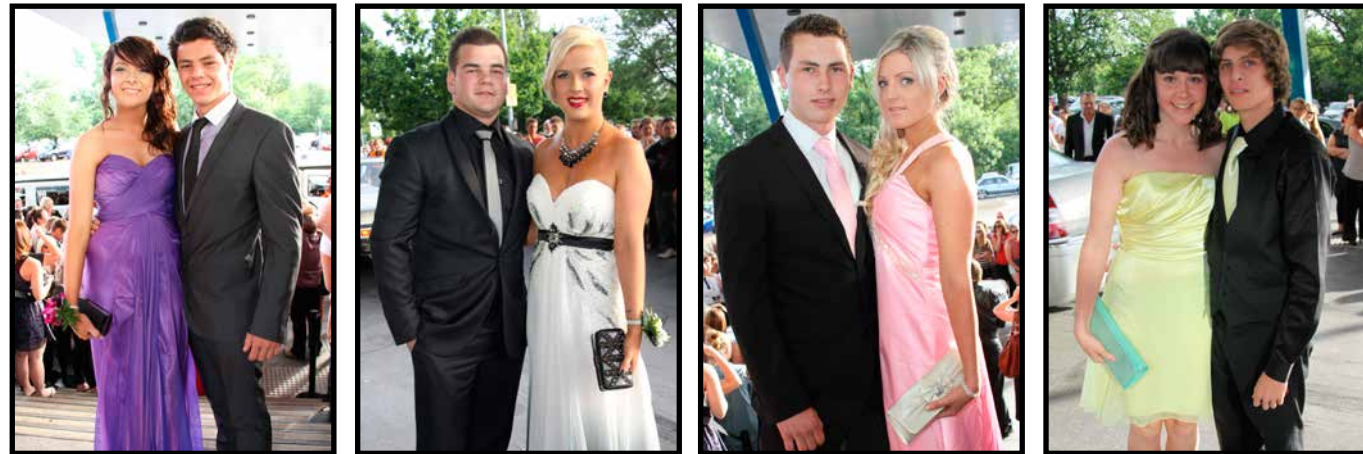


# Graduation: The Formal

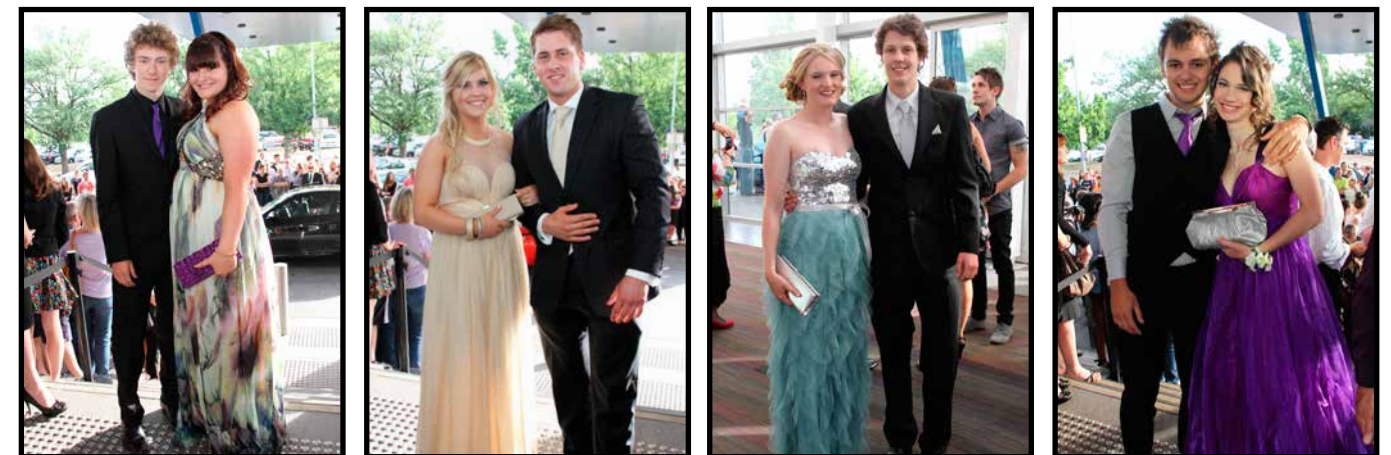
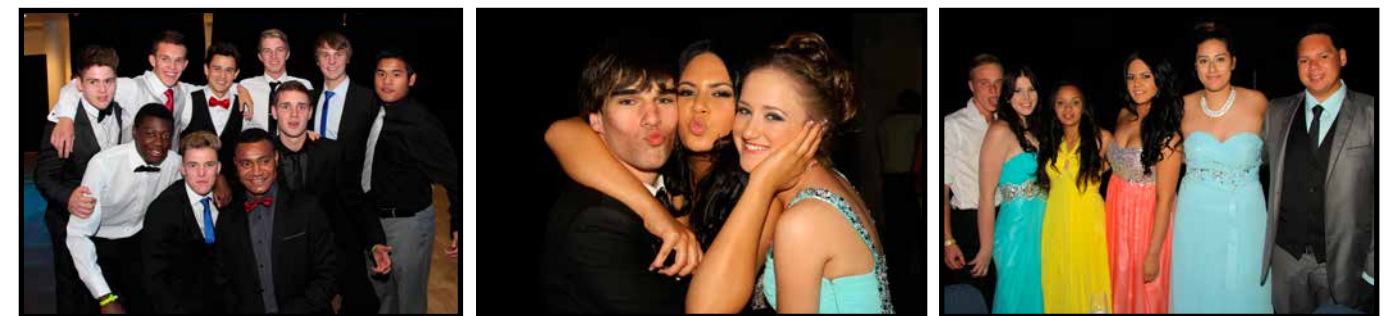
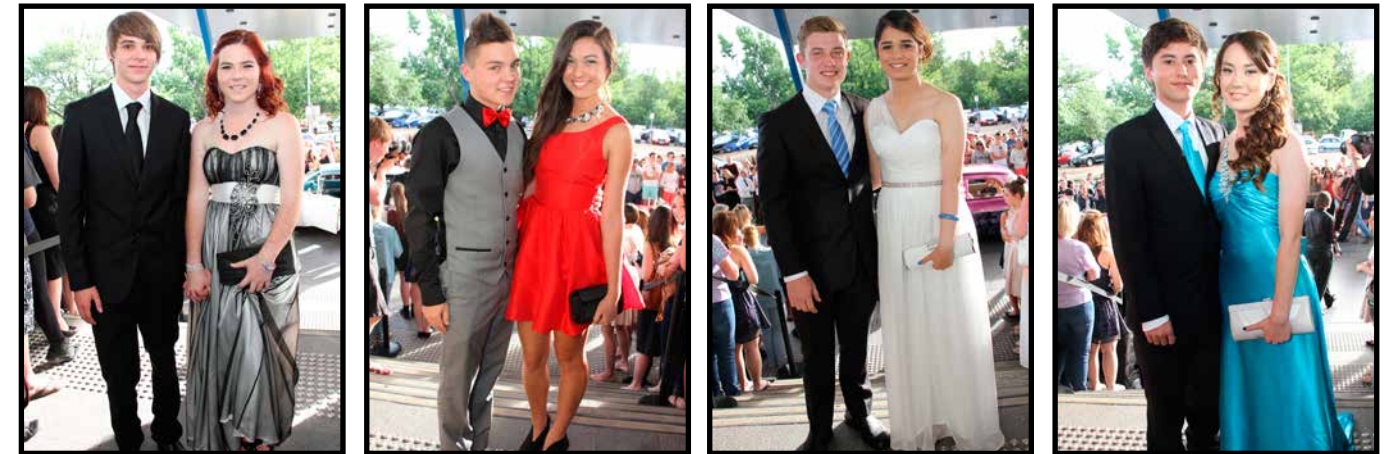
7 December, The National Convention Centre













# The Last Page.

## Last-minute news

### CONGRATULATIONS TO VICTORIA PFITZ

This year the College entered the ICAS English Competition and received a number of distinction and credit awards. Victoria Pfitz of Year 10, however, achieved 99% on the English paper which places her in the top 1% of students in Year 10 in the ACT and NSW. Victoria received her High Distinction certificate at a Ceremony held at the University of NSW on Friday 23 November.



### SEUSSICAL NOMITED FOR CAT (IN A HAT) AWARDS

Congratulations to Tony Lazzarato, Performing Arts Captain Clare Fealy, the cast and crew and all associated with the College Musical, Seussical Jr, for being nominated for the following Canberra Area Theatre (CAT) Awards: Best High School Musical, Best Director (Tony and Clare), and Best Costume Design (Chelsea Wright of Year 12).

The CAT awards are the Oscars of School Drama performances and winners will be announced in early 2013.



### CANBERRA UNITED VISIT

MacKillop had a visit from the 2011-12 W-League champions, Canberra United, late in Term 4. A group of players ran drills with our PE classes, played a game, and then stuck around for some photos and signatures.

### DRUMBEAT PERFORMANCE

Members of MacKillop's Drumbeat group, led by Mr Rodriguez put on a performance in the last week of school to show off their skills.



### MACKILLOP RECOGNISED BY MINDMATTERS

Thirteen schools from around the country were officially recognised by MindMatters for their work in promoting mental health in the classroom and schoolyard, and MacKillop was one of them.

2013 Leaders Morgan Rosin, Nathan Backer and Daniel Dwyer and member of MacKillop's MindMatters Core Team, Romina Mamone, received the Recognition Award at a ceremony held at Rydges Lakeside in Term 4.

### OPENING OF SCIENCE, LIBRARY, AND STAFF FACILITIES AND FAREWELL OF MRS MARKS

On 3 December, MacKillop opened and blessed its Michelle Marks Centre for Scientific Enquiry, the Maria Philpot Staff Centre, and the Robert and Joanna Barr-Smith Library.

The facilities were opened by Member for Canberra Gai Brodtmann and blessed by Monsignor John Woods.

After the opening, the College had a farewell morning tea for Deputy Principal Curriculum Michelle Marks, who leaves MacKillop after 24 years of service. Ex-student and Canberra Liberals leader Zed Seselja and foundation Principal Sr Noelene Quinane paid tribute to Michelle's great contribution to the school.



### WE BID FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING STAFF:

Chris Webster, Emily Brownrigg, Aaron Rodriguez, Andrew Reay, Bronwyn Griffin, Helen Maybin, Kay Lyddieth, Michelle Marks, Luke Potter, Margaret Pass, Marija Dojchinov, Marlene Jorgensen, Nicola McLennan, Noreen Dick, Paul Sunderland, Stan Ashley, Tim MacArthur, and Elizabeth Woods. Some other staff members, including Michael Daly and Lee Rose, are taking leave - some will be back, and some won't. We wish them all the very best!

## Famous Last Words

### MICHELLE MARKS, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CURRICULUM, WHO LEAVES MACKILLOP AFTER 24 YEARS

"In 24 years I have never wanted to be anywhere else. I think because I love the kids, they have a lot to offer, the people who work here look out for each other, have a passion for education, and work to achieve the best possible outcomes for our students. I have always felt encouraged, challenged, and supported in both my professional career and in my personal life. I'd like to say that MacKillop will always be a part of me."

## The Last Laugh

### TERRIBLE DAD JOKES WITH OUTGOING STAFF MEMBER, ANDREW REAY

We've got a new book in the library about anti-gravity. I can't put it down!

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher? She lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils.

Good news! The student who fell into the upholstery machine at school today is fully recovered!

Another little incident at school yesterday - one of the kids swallowed some coins. I checked on him today - no change!

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.