

# MacKillop Catholic College

**Address:** P.O. Box 1211, Tuggeranong ACT 2901  
**Phone:** 02 6209 0100  
**Fax:** 02 6292 8632  
**Email:** [principal@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:principal@mackillop.act.edu.au)  
**Principal:** Mr Michael Lee



## Annual Report for 2008

---

### A Message from Key School Bodies

#### Message from the Principal

2008 has been a key year for MacKillop Catholic College and therefore for the provision of Catholic Secondary Education in the Tuggeranong Valley. The year saw the College celebrate its tenth year since its inauguration, the graduation of its largest Year 12 class, the welcome of its fourth Principal and some magnificent responses to educational and community challenges we faced as a school.

MacKillop continued to be a Catholic school for all. The College acknowledged a Catholic / other than Catholic student ratio of 51/49 and so continued to emphasise language, philosophy and policy that promoted inclusion, respect, tolerance and acceptance. Mindful of the preservation of our own Catholic identity and the need to continue to nurture the charism of Blessed Mary MacKillop, the College joined the fledgling Australian Association of Josephite Secondary School (AJASS) and participated in the annual conference, student leadership programs and hosted the August Principals' meeting of the South Eastern Australian Chapter of the Association.

Significant College masses and liturgies continued to be marked with quite dignity, spirit and emotion. The College welcomed the Cross and Icon to the Isabella Campus and received Archbishop Mark Coleridge on his first visit since his recent instalment. The occasion was also an opportunity to welcome principals, staff and student leaders from other Catholic primary schools and from our neighbours, Trinity Christian School.

The Cross and Icon heralded World Youth Day and the preceding related events of Days in the Diocese. MacKillop played a significant role in these events and found the hosting of pilgrims, and liturgical, sporting and cultural programs to be a catalogue of rich opportunities for members of our community. Well over 150 staff and students as well as many former students attended World Youth Day (WYD) in Sydney.

Central to the progress of the academic and pastoral life of the College was the implementation of a significant restructuring of the College leadership. Three Assistant Principal positions were abolished and replaced with increased responsibilities for the Isabella Campus Head, and the creation of a Deputy Principal (7–12) with responsibilities for Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting across the College; and the appointment of a Coordinator for Teaching and Learning on each Campus. These key positions were created to support the College's focus on curriculum from a whole school perspective.

Other positions created included ICT Coordinator to bring a curriculum perspective to the leadership of ICT, and Community Project Officer with a brief to further cement relationships with K-6 education through support in the areas of curricular and co curricular enrichment, student leadership, sport and games and, most particularly in the Parish and in primary schools.

The sporting life of MacKillop continued to emphasise variety and quality of opportunity as well as participation and achievement. College carnivals and sporting events were attended in record numbers and were marked by memorable spirit and fun. Provision was made for the introduction of fencing at the College in 2009. MacKillop celebrated Melissa Breen's achievements at the World Athletics Championships in Warsaw and Zane Jordan's selection to swim the 50m freestyle at the Beijing Olympics – notable achievements for these athletes, their coaching support and families. MacKillop takes pride in the sporting success of all our students.

Parent support continued to be felt through an active College Board, extensive and varied volunteering, participation in staff selection and in the open and constructive communication with the College leadership and staff. This is a perennial strength of MacKillop.

A sad event for MacKillop was the untimely death of Year 11 student Tegan Blunt. This was a challenging time for all of us but for her family in particular, as well as for our magnificent Year 11 students and teachers. Those close to Tegan were supported and comforted with sincerity and dignity and extraordinary generosity was observed with the establishment of a Memorial Fund named for Tegan to support students achieve their goals. All of us were grateful that the bonds of love and support formed in good times at MacKillop helped to sustain us in times of regret and grief.

2008 was a year that continued to mould us together was a vibrant place of learning, as a community of support, opportunity, inclusion and energy and as a place when the Kingdom of God continued to be built.

*Michael Lee*  
*College Principal*

### **The College Board**

The College Board membership consisted of:

Board Chair	Mr Tony Visentin
Principal	Mr Michael Lee
Chaplain	Fr John Armstrong
Campus Head	Mrs Michelle Marks ( <i>Wanniassa</i> ) Ms Sandra Darley ( <i>Isabella</i> )
College Bursar	Mr Frank Coman
Staff Representatives	Ms Marilyn Veech Mr Frank Doyle
Parent Representatives	Mr Ivan Slavich Mr Denis O'Connor Mr Ross Barnes Mrs Brideen Allen

Board Members represented Parish, Friends, parents, teachers, Executive and administration staff of the College. Our work was in the key areas of the Vision, Mission and the Faith Life of the College, strategic planning in the areas of building, maintenance and finance, matters pertaining to uniform, College promotion and celebration and in the areas of staff recruitment.

We were pleased to be able to make a practical and expert contribution to the governance of the College and encouraged with the progress made in financial reporting, leadership restructure, and in the promotion of the College in the wider community.

*Tony Visentin*  
*College Board Chair*

### **The Student Representative Council**

The SRC membership for 2008 was:

<b>College Captains:</b>	Erica Wynn Cameron Varley
<b>College Vice Captains:</b>	Katrina Andric Matthew Tabur
<b>Wanniassa Campus Captains:</b>	Ellyn Bicknell Peter Thomas
<b>Gurabang</b>	
House Captain (I):	Lauren Rourke
House Captain (I):	Joshua Pitts
House Captain (W):	Mitchell Hughes
SRC Rep for Year 11:	Brianna Thomas
SRC Rep for Year 10:	Imogen Sutherland
SRC Rep for Year 8:	Phoebe Sutherland
SRC Rep for Year 7:	Bella Hunter

**Meup Meup**

House Captain (I):	Belinda Salem
House Captain (I):	Jason Symons
House Captain (W):	Narelle Johnston
SRC Rep for Year 11:	Nathan Wagner
SRC Rep for Year 10:	Andrea Comer
SRC Rep for Year 8:	Carlos Sheard
SRC Rep for Year 7:	Emma Bowyer

**Mindygari**

House Captain (I):	Kira Johnsen
House Captain (I):	Lachlan White
House Captain (W):	Tim Dillon
SRC Rep for Year 11:	Michael Rech
SRC Rep for Year 10:	Natasha Eskinja
SRC Rep for Year 8:	Tyson Cooper
SRC Rep for Year 7:	Morgan Rosin

**Ngadyung**

House Captain (I):	Sarah Wilson
House Captain (I):	Brett Ward
House Captain (W):	Kellie Brookes
SRC Rep for Year 11:	Dean Leeson
SRC Rep for Year 10:	Joshua Duke
SRC Rep for Year 8:	Emmie Gilmartin
SRC Rep for Year 7:	Jacob Howard

Student Leadership restructure led to the establishment of elected portfolio positions for Year 12 students. This was a step forward for MacKillop. Further initiatives commenced for the provision of student led workshops for leadership in our primary schools.

Our work was ably managed and supported by strong staff leadership, in particular Mr Ian Stace-Winkles and Ms Tracy Pearson. We undertook important work in the voicing of student needs, peer support, fundraising, anti bullying, cross campus events and in the promotion of the College. We were proud of the harmonious manner in which the SRC achieved its goals and believe the voice of the students played an integral role in a year of progress for the College.

*Cameron Varley and Erica Wynn*  
*College Captains*

## Student Performance

**Wanniassa Campus Years 7-9**

MacKillop Catholic College uses a variety of assessment instruments at key points in the year and for each year group. These include tests, student assessment tasks, teacher observation and student presentations. The College participates in NAPLAN testing at Year 7 and Year 9 for all students. The test results are reported to parents and are used to diagnose individual student needs and to review class and year group curricula and teaching and learning programs. The use of the NAPLAN Smart Data database has provided valuable information to assist the College in directing its resources for the betterment of the student cohort.

## 2008 NAPLAN

The following two tables show the percentage of students in Years 7 and 9 in each band of development for reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation, and numeracy.

**Percentage of Year 7 Students in Bands**

	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	NUMERACY
<b>BAND 9</b>	8	6	4	5	5
<b>BAND 8</b>	26	19	20	23	19
<b>BAND 7</b>	24	24	30	29	28
<b>BAND 6</b>	32	34	30	23	32
<b>BAND 5</b>	8	12	12	13	14
<b>BAND 4</b>	3	4	3	6	1

**Percentage of Year 9 Students in Bands**

	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	NUMERACY
<b>BAND 10</b>	5	9	2	5	4
<b>BAND 9</b>	12	10	18	7	10
<b>BAND 8</b>	34	27	25	26	25
<b>BAND 7</b>	32	25	33	35	35
<b>BAND 6</b>	14	21	15	18	24
<b>BAND 5</b>	2	8	7	9	2

The next two tables show the proportion of students in Years 7 and 9 achieving at or above the National Minimum Standard in reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation, and numeracy.

**Percentage of Year 7 students achieving at or above the National Minimum Standards**

Band	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
9	8	6	4	5	5
8	26	19	20	23	19
7	24	24	30	29	28
6	32	34	30	23	32
5	8	12	12	13	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>98</b>

**Percentage of Year 9 students achieving at or above the National Minimum Standards**

Band	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
10	5	9	2	5	4
9	12	10	18	7	10
8	34	27	25	26	25
7	32	25	33	35	35
6	14	21	15	18	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>98</b>

MacKillop Catholic College is extremely proud of the number of students in Year 7 achieving at or above the National Minimum Standard in all areas of NAPLAN testing. Grammar and Punctuation will become

an area of focus for students in Year 8 in 2009 to improve student understanding in this area and to bring it in line with the extremely high results achieved in the other areas of NAPLAN.

MacKillop Catholic College is pleased with the results of the Yr 9 cohort to achieve above 90% in each of the areas of NAPLAN. Writing has been a targeted area for this group of students and we were pleased to see a number of students attain Band 10 in writing which correlated with the Territory average.

**Comparison of school Year 7 student performance  
in relation to national performance**

	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
National mean score	537	534	539	529	545
School mean score	548	534	535	536	539

**Comparison of school Year 9 student performance  
in relation to national performance**

	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
National mean score	578	569	577	569	582
School mean score	586	572	576	567	572

Students in Year 7 at MacKillop Catholic College achieved above the National Minimum School Standards in all areas of NAPLAN testing apart from spelling. The College is looking at programs to assist students in this area. Students in Year 9 at MacKillop Catholic College also achieved above the National Minimum Standards in the literary component of NAPLAN. The College has implemented a numeracy committee to address ways of improving the numeracy standards of this group of students.

### **Year 10 Certificate**

In the August census, 291 students were enrolled in Year 10 at MacKillop Catholic College. All students received their Year 10 Certificate

### **Year 12 Certificate**

<b>Year 12 Certificates</b>	<b>2008</b>
Year 12 Cohort	196
Percentage of students receiving Year 12 Certificate	95%
<b>Tertiary Entrance</b>	
Number of students receiving a UAI	108
UAIs over 90	8%
UAIs over 75	45%
UAIs over 65	67%
Top UAI	97.80
Median UAI	72.80

---

### **Vocational Qualifications**

Students with a vocational certificate	111
--	-----

---

Students with a vocational certificate (%)	57%
--	-----

Number of Certificate One	54
---------------------------	----

Number of Certificate Two	56
---------------------------	----

---

MacKillop Catholic College offers students a comprehensive education providing them with the opportunities to meet university entrance and to attain nationally recognised vocational certificates. The results of students completing a tertiary pathway have been pleasing with steady improvement in both the median score as well as the percentage of students achieving UAls making them eligible for entrance to the Australian National University, University of Canberra and the Australian Catholic University.

## **Professional Learning and Teacher Standards**

### **Teacher Standards**

All 99 of 99 teaching staff have teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition [AEI-NOOSR] guidelines.

### **Professional Learning and Teacher Standards**

MacKillop Catholic College is committed to the ongoing professional development of staff. During 2008 the College supported four major professional development initiatives:

- ACT Curriculum Frameworks K – 10: Every Chance to Learn
- Improving Numeracy Outcomes
- Quality Teaching Framework and
- Maintaining the Catholic identity of MacKillop Catholic College

### **Whole staff Professional Development**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Participation</b>
Friday 25/01/08	New staff Induction Program	Executive Team, Curriculum and Pastoral Coordinators, New staff
Wednesday 30/01/08	Anaphylaxis Training	All staff
Thursday 31/01/08	Numeracy across the Curriculum	All teaching staff
Friday 01/02/08	Catholic Schools at the Cross roads Conference - CEO	All staff
Friday 06/06/08	Maintaining the Catholic School Identity – Presenter Denis Higgins, Director CEO Sandhurst Diocese	All Staff
Tuesday 15/12/08	New Course Writing Yr 7 to 9 to align with ECTL	All teaching staff
Wednesday 15/12/08	New Course Writing Yr 7 to 9 to align with ECTL	All teaching staff
Thursday 17/12/08	CPR Training	All staff

Staff participated in Professional Development provided by the Catholic Education Office, ACT Department of Education and Training and the Board of Senior Secondary Studies as well as other external professional organizations.

Individual staff members were supported in a wide range of professional development activities. Six staff members undertook studies in the Masters of Education course at the Australian Catholic University while two are completing Doctoral studies at ANU and ACU. Five staff members also completed the requirements for Certificate IV Workplace Training and Assessment.

The College Staff attended the following conferences: Classrooms at Work - Teachers make a Difference, Leading a Digital School and Numeracy. Workshops undertaken by staff included Leadership in the context of a Catholic School, Real Assessment and the Quality Teaching Framework. Staff participated in ACTATE workshops, Science Teachers Association workshops, Language teachers conferences and Mathematics Teachers Association workshops.

Throughout the year all staff up-date their First Aid, CPR and Bronze Medallion qualifications where necessary.

The average expenditure per teacher on professional learning at the school was \$427.00.

## **Teacher Attendance and Retention**

From 2007 – 2008 the retention rate for staff at MacKillop Catholic College was 79.2%.

The average attendance of teachers for 2008 was 197.34 days (98.67% attendance rate).

## **Student Attendance**

The overall average attendance rate for students at MacKillop Catholic College was as 95.3%.

## **Retention Rates**

From 2007 – 2008 the retention rate for students completing studies in the senior school was 84%.

## **Post School Destinations**

The destinations of students who were beyond the compulsory years of education and who left school in 2008 were:

	<b>Year 12 2008</b>
University placements	40%
Interstate/overseas	2%
Workforce	28%
Apprenticeships / CIT	17%

## **Enrolment Policy and Profile**

MacKillop Catholic College adheres to the Policy for Enrolment for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. Amendments to this policy, made by the Catholic Education Office were implemented at MacKillop in 2008. MacKillop Catholic College is a co-educational college that is inclusive of all members of the community.

## **School Policies**

MacKillop Catholic College possesses a high range of policies that guide and inform the progress of the College. A significant number of these are due for review in 2009.

The key policy for student welfare and discipline at MacKillop is the Quality Conduct Policy. This policy specifically mentions that corporal punishment is prohibited and covers aspects of welfare such as student affirmation, anti bullying, restorative justice, inclusive behaviour and penalty.

The establishment of the anti bullying committee gave stronger focus to further reducing bullying at MacKillop. Whilst students report little bullying and most feel very safe at school, the work of this

committee will further raise awareness of issues surrounding bullying and lead to more skills for students to identify, recognise and manage these issues.

Initiatives in this area in 2008 included:

- the establishment of the Anti Bullying Student Committee
- training of the Student Representative Council and staff in Restorative practice
- development of clear links with the Department of Defence to better support children of Defence personnel who are at MacKillop
- revision of mandatory reporting procedures for staff
- extensive training of Pastoral Care Coordinators
- extensive restructure of Pastoral Care leadership
- establishment of detention committee

The College is happy to provide copies of any policies when requested.

## **School Determined Improvement Targets**

MacKillop Catholic College implemented the following key improvements during 2008.

- creation of ICT Coordinator
- improved ICT structure and facilities
- anti bullying initiatives
- student leadership structure
- community liaison
- Curriculum leadership restructure
  - Implemented Deputy Curriculum Years 7 – 12
  - Created role of Teaching and Learning Coordinator on each Campus

The focus of curriculum leadership across campus was a significant step forward. This initiative will be evaluated early in 2010 to gauge its success and to determine ways to build more effectiveness into the role of Deputy Principal Curriculum.

## **School Determined Curriculum Improvement Strategies for 2009**

The College has taken a multi-faceted approach in the desire move all students forward in their numeracy and literacy at Wanniasa. These strategies have and are making a contribution to skill building. In particular the College has established both a Numeracy Committee and a Literacy Committee. Both committees consist of the relevant stakeholders as well as interested staff. Both committees are lead by the Deputy Principal with input from the Teaching and Learning coordinators. A number of other strategies will include:

- professional development of staff
- in-service all staff on the Smart Data site to ensure staff have relevant information on student performance and use of teacher strategies to improve student learning
- download Smart Data onto all Staff computers
- where appropriate, writing specific literacy and numeracy focus in all units of work timely with the new ACT Curriculum Framework. New units of work will be assessed to identify what skills are being taught – and then to explicitly assess them
- workshop staff with question types from NAPLAN
- identify specific literacy and numeracy skills that need to be taught across the curriculum
- undertake an audit to identify skills tested in NAPLAN to identify and address areas of weakness for students



- 'whole College' approach for numeracy and to teach literacy and numeracy skills across all subjects especially the areas found most wanting
- continue to reward good student work to promote a positive work ethic
- use the 'Quality Teaching Framework' as a vehicle to promote innovative and varied pedagogy
- introduction of both semester and Year exam in Mathematics to assist students to retain knowledge and skills learnt

## **Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility**

During 2008 the College provided the following opportunities for the promotion of respect and responsibility:

- visit of the Cross and Icon
- World Youth Day
- ceremonies for the observance of ANZAC and Remembrance Day. A clear focus was on effective visiting speakers to the College and extensive student participation
- staff professional development through workshops in the practices of Restorative Justice. This was done in partnership with Marist Youth Mission and has resulted in a culture where students accept responsibility for their actions
- Year 12 mentoring of Year 7, 8 and 9 on our junior Campus. This was a highly successful feature of our Catholic Schools Week program
- End Poverty Day market on our junior campus at the end of the year. This was an initiative of students and raised over \$5,000 for poverty relief agencies
- MacKillop Day Mass and student activities
- student mentoring in Catholic primary schools to improve transition to Secondary school

## **Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction**

### **Students**

Students completed a survey of student satisfaction at MacKillop. They were positive about:

- being safe at MacKillop
- the preparedness of teachers
- the high expectations teachers have of pupils
- a strong sense of being cared for by the school

### **Staff**

Staff completed a survey. Positive responses included:

- professional development
- collegial recognition
- the professionalism of the College
- the clear goals and expectations of the College

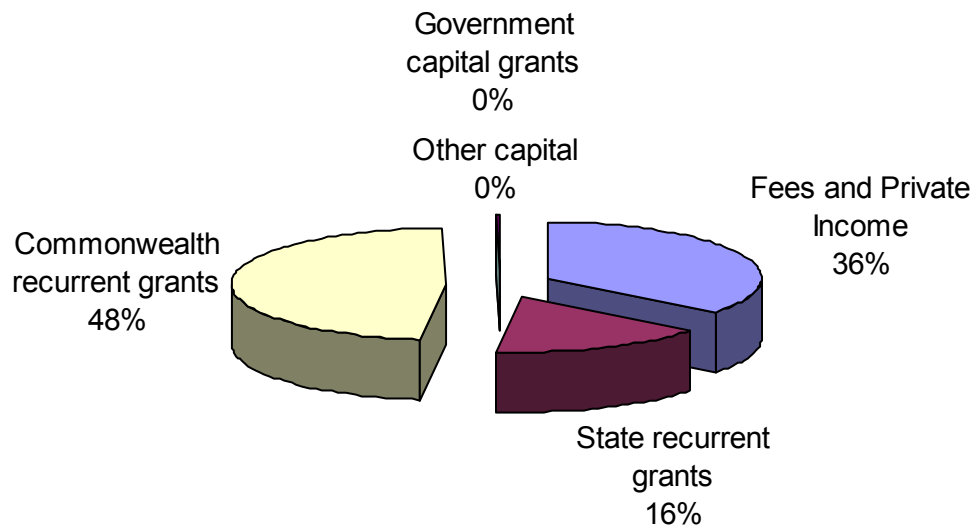
### **Parents**

- Parents were also surveyed and the majority expressed their satisfaction with the College.

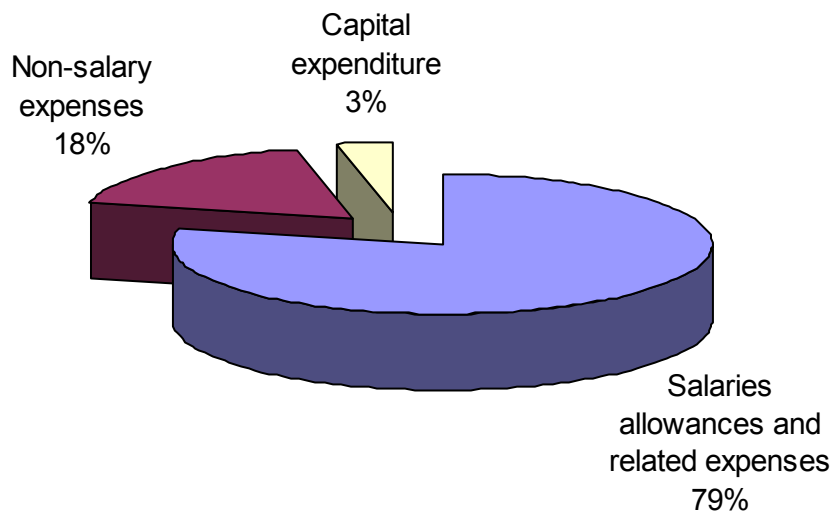
## **Summary Financial Information**

A summary of the school's financial information is shown in the graphs below.

### Mackillop College - Income



### Mackillop College - Expenditure



This report was prepared by: Michael Lee College Principal