



# Mackay Christian College Newsletter

## 2024 Term 3-2

*'Christian Education on purpose'*



*News from the Principal,  
Dr Lesley Tunnah*

Greetings to all our families and staff of the MCC community. Communication is vital to keep you up to date with our 'doings' so don't forget to also check in with the Parent Lounge and College facebook page as extra sources of updated information and events to keep you and your children in the loop.

A reminder that **Open Day** has been postponed for 2024 and will now be scheduled for Semester 1 2025. We know that this is an event that many look forward to so watch for the new date on the 2025 calendar.

The College Executive Team has been very busy this year not only settling into their new roles but also reviewing a number of aspects of the College using the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board Compliance Review Criteria. Robust discussions have resulted in a Strategic Plan for 2024-2028 that will give more specific directions for future planning and action. There are still a few tweaks and then this document will be released to the College community. We have appreciated the many responses to the survey conducted in Term 1 and have used these perspectives to craft goals and strategies for moving forward. This has included modifying the College Vision and Mission statements and we will soon introduce a new tagline that better reflects the core aims of the College. Watch this space!

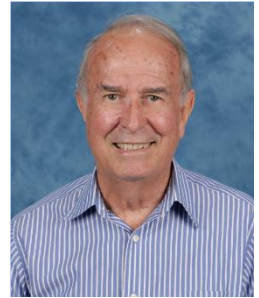
Mrs Tish Scholtz has taken up the reigns of Marketing and Events and continues to oversee items on the College facebook page. This is a great form of communicating what is happening at MCC.

We continue to enrol new students at the College and we thank parents for their confidence in our staff to care for your children. Please pray for teachers who are called by God and who are suitable to take on teaching positions. I am so thankful that even in a time when teachers are very hard to find, Father God continues to provide in this area. I currently teach primary education classes at CQU and I am very happy to report that graduating teachers coming through will make a positive difference in their schools.

I continue to be exceedingly grateful for the committed Executive Team including Deb Wright, Michelle Brownsey, Doug Graham, Brett Hobbs and Tania Buttle. They are the engine room of the College, directing a wide variety of important College arenas. And of course, we wouldn't have a school without our dedicated teaching team who are a blessing to our students.

If you would like to be more involved in assisting the College, please feel welcome to come along to the College Parent Association. The next meeting is in Faith Centre on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm.

My prayers and blessings are for you and your family.  
Dr Lesley Tunnah



*News from the Board Chair,*

*Ps Rob Booth-Jones*

How quickly the second half of the year has come with just three months to the end of the year. I am grateful for what is happening in our school under the guidance of our Principal and Executive leaders.

They are doing an outstanding job which is often behind the scenes but is building order in the school for its successful function and the optimum environment for education and wellbeing of our students. It is so good to see positive comments and testimonies of happenings in the school and is a reflection of the Board's desire for there to be a family feel amongst the school community.

The Board is motivated to see MCC be a truly Christian school, not just in name, but in reality. When our world seems to be coming unglued in many ways then we need a solid foundation to stand upon and feel safe.

This is God's intent and so I pray for you and your family God's protection and spiritual prosperity. Please pray for the school and all involved as student, parent or staff as we continue to the end of 2024.

All blessing.  
Ps Rob Booth-Jones



*News from the Head of Primary,*

*Mrs Michelle Brownsey*

Term 3 is well underway, with much to enjoy. Congratulations to those students who recently competed in the Interschool Chess Competition, hosted by Mackay Christian College. There was an impressive turn out, filling the Powerhouse Auditorium, and great to see quite a few MCC wins on the board.

Later this term, we will gather as a whole college to commemorate Founder's Day. It is such a blessing to have Dr Lesley Tunnah with us at this time, to provide valuable insights into our college history, as she has walked through various seasons of the 41 years personally.

We also have book week coming up in Week 6, with a dress up day on the Friday. Now is a great time to encourage children to consider who their favourite book character is and what they may like to come dressed as.

Our Opti-MINDS Science Engineering team are priming their problem solving skills during their lunch time club, as they prepare for their upcoming weekend challenge.

Grandparents' Day is also this term. Ask your Grandparents to save the date, Friday 6 September, with more details to come shortly. Students have the opportunity to submit a poem or illustration that honours grandparents with two competitions complementing this event.

We are currently exploring the possibility of changing or expanding on our primary girls' formal uniform options. Please click the following link if you would like to contribute your preferences for consideration.

<https://forms.office.com/r/XaMVJQjZF0>

Thank you for your ongoing support.  
Many blessings,  
Mrs Michelle Brownsey



*News from the Head of Early Learning Centre,*

*Mrs Jalaa Manning*

In Week 2, our kindy classes enjoyed a beautiful day outdoors participating in our annual Teddy Bear's Picnic. Some of the activities the children were involved with were: - creating Teddy Bear masks, making honey sandwiches, singing songs and reading stories about bears, and of course, going on a sensory bear hunt! Special prizes were awarded to each bear in attendance, based on their unique characteristics. It was a wonderful occasion, enjoyed by all, bears included!

This week, we celebrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day. The children came to kindy dressed in floral clothing (to acknowledge the Torres Strait) or in clothes depicting Aboriginal symbols and themes. Throughout the week, the children have participated in a variety of rich experiences such as: - learning about the flags, creating yarnning sticks, singing and dancing to traditional songs from the Torres Strait and Aboriginal culture with musical instruments, and learning and exploring traditional Aboriginal symbols used in storytelling.

Later this term we are looking forward to celebrating Book Week with a visit from local author, Jonelle Nielsen, who wrote 'There's a T-Rex in my Paddock!' We are also busy preparing for our big Father's Day event in September where Dads are invited to attend a 'Boot Camp' themed evening of fun, games and food with their kindy child/ren. Fun times of learning and play ahead!





Kind Regards,  
Mrs Jalaa Manning



### *News from the Head of Secondary*

#### *Ms Deb Wright*

Time flies when you are having fun! Unbelievably, we are almost halfway through Term 3! It was wonderful to hear from some of the new students to MCC this term, who have settled in and quickly found some good friends. The common thread expressed by these students is that they find MCC students friendly. This is a credit to our students who make the effort to welcome others and assist them as they find their feet.

Preparations for the 2025 timetable are well and truly in progress. With so many different aspects of various parameters being constructed over time, e.g., subjects, faculties, preferences, teachers, times, rooming, combinations and so much more, I often think of it as a massive diamond with various facets that prayerfully come together so wonderfully. I am thankful that God always reveals the solutions as we move the ‘Tetris’ timetable puzzle and all its interlinked parts.

Two weeks ago, the three teams who competed at the Rugby 7s in Emerald, may not have achieved a winning place but they all showed wonderful spirit considering they were on the younger end of the competing teams around the region. Mr McCarthy and Mr Meiring reported that they were super impressed by their courage, and it was clear that the students gained valuable skills and insights. We also thank God that none of our students had any serious injuries. Year 7 and 8 students had an opportunity just this last Thursday for an inspirational meet and greet along with drills with two ex-Wallabies players, Selena Worsley and Nick Frisby. Max Vernon also seized the opportunity to represent the school at Eimeo Beach for the Secondary School Surf Life Saving Competition this Friday.

Mr Chris Barclay and the Creative Academy showcased their acquired skills during the Mid-Year Concert as they displayed how working together creates music to one’s ears. We will have further opportunities to hear from them in upcoming events. With Mr Tysoe and Mr Barrow, TTC students had a chance to explore career options at the Queensland Mining Exhibition held in Week Two.

On Wednesday the annual Rusty Modlin Basketball Cup was held as an opportunity for the senior students to show just how spritely they are against the staff. The senior girls faced more than they bargained for with the female staff showing them 'how it's done'. The senior boys however gained winning place. This event was the second of three annual student vs staff games. The third game, the Hopper Netball Cup was held the very next day with seniors enjoying the second opportunity this week to let off some steam after a heavily packed assessment block leading up to the QCAA deadlines.

With that in mind, Year 12 will now be starting a more focused preparation period for their external exams and for their end of schooling celebrations. To help with the cost of their graduation and Mystery Tour, some of the Year 12's successfully organised a fun Mini-Olympics in Week 2 and are in full swing of organising the Trivia Night which will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. With wonderful support from the MCC Community, the students have some great prizes lined up. More information on this event will be sent shortly. In other news, last week saw an incredible response from the MCC community in fundraising for Jeans for Genes Day. Blue and denim were seen everywhere, and this prompted conversations to raise awareness of the challenges faced by those who live with genetic conditions.

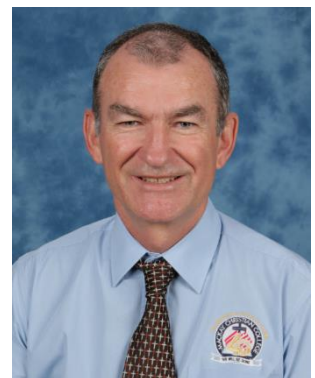
Next week, depending on cloudless skies, the Year 7 cohort have the opportunity to participate in a star-gazing night with support from a local star-gazing group; the students will have the opportunity to view planets and stars through their powerful telescopes. It will be an out of this world experience. The following day, with Mrs Stevenson and Mr Brown, a Year 10 Ag class are visiting a Goat Farm to learn about kids – no kidding!

Week 6 brings us to the Year 10 Work Experience week which provides insight for students into possible career paths. This experience can play a role in their decision-making process for life after school. Founder's Day is also held in this week which is a wonderful time to reflect and see God's hand on our school over these last 41 years. The very following weekend our Opti-Minds teams will be competing to show their problem-solving skills.

I pray that each of our students will seize the opportunities provided to help them grow and discover their uniqueness in their God-given gifts and talents.

Blessings,

Ms Deb Wright.



### *News from the Head of Academics*

#### *Mr Doug Graham*

Over the past week, we have been working through the subject selection web preferences that the current Year 6, Year 7, Year 9 and Year 10 students have made for Year 7, 8, 10 and 11 for 2025. Draft subject blocks have been created which maximise the number of students who receive their top preferences. Before the end of the year, we plan to communicate to parents and students the electives that have been allocated to students.

In Week 7, we will be having Year 10 Choice Chat meetings. At these meetings, parents and students will meet with teachers to review student's subject choices. More information about these

meetings will be communicated to parents and students during the next few weeks. Year 10 students will have work experience in week 6 this term.

The following documents can be found on the public college website <https://mcc.qld.edu.au/assessment-information/> :

- Year 7-12 Semester 2 Assessment Calendars
- Application for an Extension to the Due Date of Assessment
- Year 7-12 MCC Assessment Policy
- Year 11-12 MCC & QCAA Assessment Policy
- Year 11 and 12 AARA Medical Report

Our Year 12 students who are doing General subjects are in the final days of completing their IA3 assessments. This is a significant milestone in their learning journey. After this time, they will then be able to focus on preparing for the external exams for these subjects. Mock exams for Maths and Science subjects will be held in Weeks 8 and 9 this term. Full time TTC students will have Work experience in week 9 this term.

QTAC (Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre) applications are now available to Year 12 students. Important information for ATAR eligible students include:

- Instructions for ATAR registration <https://www.qtac.edu.au/atar/>
- QTAC applications : <https://www.qtac.edu.au/applications/> ; [QTAC Applications - A Helpful Guide](#)

I wish all our students much success in their learning journey this semester. My prayer is that they will develop and flourish in all areas of their life.

God bless,

Mr Doug Graham



*News from the ICT Manager*  
*Mr Brett Hobbs*  
*'Keeping our students connected'*

The Mackay Christian College ICT department has been busy during the past school holidays 'keeping our students connected' with a major backbone upgrade. We've installed new, faster fibre connections to support the computer lab in AD9, along with the music, drama, and upper AD classrooms.

This project also included the creation of a redundant link, which not only provides increased speed and capacity but also serves as a redundant path in case of a primary link failure to the AD Block. Additional fibre connections have been established for the FY1 lab, servicing this computer room and the lower FY block, thereby reducing the risk of system failure by keeping the upper FY6 separate.

We've also relocated equipment out of the flood zone in the Faith Centre and installed new fibre connections there. This will enable us to run future student events with higher network capacity.

The College has further benefited from an additional NBN link at Providence, ensuring adequate bandwidth for both campuses and providing redundancy should the Kings Park NBN link fail.

The connectivity needs of each of our classrooms can be likened to that of a small business office, with approximately twenty-six devices requiring connection simultaneously. This necessitates substantial infrastructure, especially when considering multiple classrooms. We have taken steps to improve this by replacing much of the outdated and failing copper network cables and connections within the classrooms. Some classrooms have even been upgraded with cables that offer redundant paths. We are also in the process of gradually replacing the access points in classrooms. This will allow for full utilization of these cables, enhancing speed and eliminating the risk of faults from a single cable. The new access points being installed are capable of delivering speeds that are double that of their predecessors.

These changes will ensure a learning ready environment for the future. We're excited about the future of ICT at the College and are grateful for your ongoing support!

Blessings,

Mr Brett Hobbs

*Please remember to check your MCC Calendar for  
upcoming events!*

