



Mackay Christian College Newsletter

2025 Term 2-2

'Christian Education on Purpose'

News from the Principal *Dr Lesley Tunnah*



Mackay Christian College is one large family of interconnections built upon relationships and shared direction of purpose.

As parents and carers, we aim to see our children have access to sound educational opportunities provided in a supportive and safe environment. Teachers encourage parents to raise concerns with them, since they have a limited view of your child's world. You can add missing puzzle pieces that allow teachers to more fully understand your child and so challenge and support your child in both their classroom activities and their lifelong dreams and goals.

Term 2 has brought with it a diversity of ups and downs as students have experienced the joys of working together and competing in their House Families together, alongside events of sadness. This is life – with its myriad of life experiences to be lived and learned from. Having parents, carers and staff who listen and provide comfort, support and hope enables our young ones to develop resilience. It is not helpful to separate a child from the challenges of this world or try to protect them from all unpleasantness. We are to employ wisdom as we walk with them through both good and hard, modelling ways to cope and not become fearful or anxious. Tomorrow is another day with opportunities to laugh and enjoy friendships together.

Research shows that children who are continually protected from tough experiences instead of being supported through them, begin to question their confidence in their own abilities and see themselves as victims. We aim to encourage our young ones to be confident in their abilities, gifts and talents and to know that Father God, loving parents, caring teachers and faithful friends all form a support structure for life's fun times and challenges.

We recently had a visit from 'Real Talk', an organisation that seeks to develop a positive awareness within our students of their uniqueness in God. For parent information, please visit the parent website at - www.realtalkparents.com

The holiday break provides opportunities to take time with your family. So – have a picnic, eat fish and chips at the beach, go camping, play silly backyard games, paint Dad's fingernails...you get the idea.

Some staff are leaving us for new adventures at the end of this term and new staff will join the MCC team next term. We say thank you to all those team members who have played a part in caring for your children. May your futures be blessed.

With faith, hope, love and joy,
May God's blessings be upon you all, Dr Lesley Tunnah

News from the Acting Board Chair

Mr Ben Patterson

Having attended a number of school events in term 2, I'm continually impressed by the dedication of our staff. From interschool sports, chapel services, carnival days, MCC Discovery and more, people are going above and beyond, working together and investing their best. Such commitment to excellence is a great example to our students.



Speaking of investing their best, I want to highlight the efforts of our maintenance team. Not only have the grounds and gardens never looked better, you may have noticed a number of facility upgrades in 2025, including painted soccer fields, new basketball hoops, upgraded fencing, etc. There's more to come in that space.

Enjoy the break.

News from the Head of Primary

Mrs Michelle Brownsey

Here we are at the middle of the year, enjoying God's blessing of cool mornings and clear sunny days.



'I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him...'

Romans 15: 13

Just a quick safety point from me as I hand over to Mrs Gail Mackie, our Primary Head of Academics for some Primary updates below.

If your child walks to and from school, please remind them to use the designated traffic crossings. A number of different groups of students and individual students have been seen crossing both Ambrose Way and Glenpark Street through busy traffic, putting themselves at risk unnecessarily as there are crossings to utilise.

I pray you all have a joyful winter break and very much look forward to all that Semester 2 brings.

Mrs Michelle Brownsey

Head of Primary

Primary Head of Academics

Mrs Gail Mackie



Term 2 has been another busy but rewarding period of teaching and learning by our Primary teachers and students. As we head to the end of the term, our teachers are finalising assessment and moderation for the Semester 1 reporting period. Once report cards have been finalised, families will receive notification via email of their availability on Parent Lounge.

Parent/Teacher meetings are scheduled for early in Term 3 on 28 and 29 July. This is a great opportunity for parents to connect with teachers and discuss any aspects of their child's schooling. Communication regarding the booking of these meetings will be sent to families closer to the time.

Apart from the excellent teaching delivered by our dedicated teachers every day, they seek to provide other learning opportunities for their students from time to time. This term our Year 1 students enjoyed a visit from the local Fire Department who delivered a Fire Education session. This program engages students in interactive, collaborative learning experiences to assist them in developing an understanding of the dangers of fire and the appropriate response should they be in a situation where fire is involved. Year 5 students had the opportunity to handle a variety of reptiles during a Reptile Safety workshop run by Reptile Education Australia. Students explored different types of reptiles, their life cycles, habitats and what to do if ever faced with a venomous reptile. This learning experience complimented their science unit where students discovered the adaptations of plant and animal species. Our Maths extension students in Year 5 and 6 have continued enjoying developing their mathematical proficiencies during their weekly sessions with Miss Huston. Students have participated in several competitions already, including KSF, Maths Olympiad and the Mackay Primary Schools Mathematics Challenge. During these sessions and competitions, students continue developing as resilient problem solvers who are able to take on the Mind of Christ by persisting through problems from different points of view.

Not only are our students involved in daily learning at school, but our teachers too regularly engage in professional learning. Some of the professional development attended by our teachers this year includes, literacy and numeracy workshops, teaching children with literacy weakness, understanding neurodiversity and early childhood development and neuroscience. We are grateful for our teachers and their commitment to continuous improvement of their effectiveness to enhance student learning.

With school holidays approaching, it's important to remember that learning doesn't have to stop. Engaging in educational activities during this time can help your child retain and build upon the knowledge they've gained throughout the school term. Whether it's through reading, exploring nature, visiting places of interest, or playing educational games, these experiences can foster curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning.

Blessings,

Mrs Gail Mackie

Primary Head of Academics

News from the Head of Secondary

Ms Deb Wright

Semester One is now complete and we look forward to the learning experiences and events of Semester Two.



In Term 3, Year 8 can be Confident for Adventure as they camp out at Rowallan Park. Year 11 are given a great opportunity to further develop Confidence for Leadership out at Kinchant Dam Outdoor Education Centre. Year 10 camp held this term emphasised the Confidence for Service theme which is a life heart attitude. This was followed by the Yr 10 CLEAR Sleep-Out which consolidated this theme further by providing a life-like situation of what it must feel like to be homeless and how they can help others who find themselves in this predicament. We are thankful to the brave teachers who faced the colder elements that night to ensure students slept safely.

This term, we say goodbye to Mr John Stringer who will be adventuring south to follow a new opportunity. We thank Mr Stringer for his services to the College and the creative ideas that he brought to the classroom. With that, we welcome back Mrs Marianne Becker who has a love for Humanities and English and of course the students but, most importantly, she demonstrates a love for God. Mrs Tiffany Labuschagne and family are also moving south with commitments, and we are in the process of finalising the details of the teacher who will be taking her classes. We will send information home to individual families for whom these changes will occur. We thank God who answers prayer in bringing the right people to fill these roles.

The Palmer Shield always brings enthusiastic players along with previous students. This year was no exception with one of our biggest turnouts of previous students coming to compete against the current Year 12s. The male staff/previous students were chuffed that they won but this was not so with the female staff/previous students who gave it their all - without the reward of winning the game. They were rewarded with lots of fun though!

The last five weeks have certainly not been without its challenges, but we are thankful that God is right there with us. We continue to pray for students, families and friends who are adjusting to life changes. We thank God for the seen and unseen blessings of each day. Each day is a new day of the Lord's and He is our hope in whom we can trust.

Miss Claire Booker and Mrs Hannah Weir will begin next semester giving Years 7-9 an opportunity to participate in the Youth Alpha Course presented at lunch times. Some of the senior students were so impressed they want to remain a part of it to encourage the younger students. This is a valuable course in having students understand the fundamentals of what it means to be a follower of Jesus and provides new connections to other students.

We pray for a happy and safe mid-year break for each of our students and families and trust that each student is refreshed for Semester Two. For those Year 11 and 12 students taking up Work Experience in the Student Free Week, we pray that they grow and develop from the experience, to help steer them in the direction they should go as they finish Year 12.

I will finish with this one scripture which, when fully understood, will make an incredible difference in your life. Psalm 46:10 *"Be still, and know that I am God."* There is so much in a name.

Ms Debbie Wright
Head of Secondary

News from the Pastoral Care Coordinator

Ms Ulla Hansson



Reflecting on Semester 1, a journey of growth, faith and connection. As we wrap up Semester 1 at Mackay Christian College, I want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we have shared as a community, students, families and staff, anchored together by our commitment to Christ and to one another.

This semester has been filled with moments of joy, challenge, growth, and grace. Through every lesson learned and every obstacle overcome, we have witnessed the strength and beauty of our college community living out the CLEAR values that define who we are.

Christlikeness has been at the heart of all we do. It is seen in the compassion shown between students, the prayers shared during tough times, and the grace extended in moments of struggle. I have been deeply encouraged by the way our young people are growing in their faith and becoming more like Christ in their words and actions.

In the area of Learning, our students have shown great determination. Whether celebrating academic success, navigating areas of difficulty, or learning life lessons through friendship and perseverance, we see every experience as part of God's purpose in shaping their hearts and minds. We have also celebrated Excellence, not just in achievements, but in effort. So many students have demonstrated commitment and integrity in both their studies and personal growth. Staff have continually gone above and beyond, creating spaces where students feel supported, known, and challenged to be their best.

A positive Attitude has made all the difference. Despite setbacks or personal hurdles, our students are learning that resilience, kindness, and hope are choices we make daily. Thank you, parents and guardians, for encouraging these values at home. Your partnership is an invaluable blessing. And finally, Respect, what a beautiful expression of our community's heart. From the way we greet one another, to how we listen, serve, and support, we are building a culture where everyone feels seen and valued. That is something to celebrate.

To our staff: thank you for the love, wisdom, and consistency you pour into every day. Your quiet faithfulness matters.

To our students: thank you for showing up with courage, curiosity, and heart. We are proud of you.

To our families: thank you for trusting us to walk alongside your children. Your prayers and support mean more than you know.

As we look ahead to Semester 2, may we do so with renewed hope and continued unity, confident that God is at work in and through us. Let us keep building a community where every young person knows they are loved, known, and called to live with purpose.

In His Service,
Ulla Hansson

News from the Early Learning Centre

Mrs Jalaa Manning



Greetings Parents/Carers,

On Monday the 26th of May our Early Learning Centre recognised National Sorry Day. The children said the 'Acknowledgement of Country' rhyme with actions and re-visited it's meaning. The Koala class enjoyed a wonderful episode of Play School titled, 'Walking Together'. This episode, along with the books 'Say Yes!' by Jennifer Castles and 'Walking Together' by Coral Vass, provided an incredible foundation for the class to further explore Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week, and the importance of walking into the future knowing, valuing and forever acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their history and their culture. We had great discussions on Jesus making forgiveness, healing and hope possible for all of us.

Mrs Martin was inspired by the Play School episode to create our own footprint artwork! Miss Durant walked red footprints, which represented the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's ancestors who have walked on Australian country for a long time! Mrs Martin walked the blue footprints which represented other people who came to Australia and walked separately from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. All the Koala children then walked green and yellow footprints to represent Sorry Day and the reconciliation that has occurred as we now walk together into the future, valuing each other.

Throughout the week, children were provided with many further opportunities to extend their understanding through sensory, play based experiences, songs, movement and craft. Some of the activities included drawing in the sand using Aboriginal story stones with traditional symbols to reference, artworks depicting all three flags, and singing and dancing to traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait songs. All in all, a rich week of learning about history and culture.





News from the Head of Academics

Mr Doug Graham

Mrs Dani Beck is leaving us at the end of Term 2. She has served the College over the past twelve months as our Vocational and Learnings Pathways Coordinator. She has provided excellent support to our students and will be missed by our college community. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Tiffany Labuschagne and Mr John Stringer who have taught at our College for the past five months. We pray for God's blessing and favour for these staff in their future endeavours.



This week, we launched the Kings Park Campus Virtual Expo. Using the link, <https://mcc.qld.edu.au/subject-selection-and-choices/> students and parents are able to view photo galleries, videos and subject selection books as part of the process of choosing elective subjects for Year 8 2026, Year 10 2026 and Year 11 2026. Teachers have conducted subject information sessions with Year 7, 9 and 10 students during one of their lessons over the past few weeks. Parents and students were sent an email during the past week with information of how to navigate the Kings Park Virtual Expo and how to submit subject selection choices through web preferences. The final date for submitting subject choices is Friday July 26.

The scheduled date for publishing upcoming reports is as follows:

- Year 7-9 Semester 1 reports – Friday June 27
- Year 10 Semester 1 and Year 12 Unit 3 reports – Friday July 18

Year 7 students will commence their new electives at the start of semester 2. Their new electives will appear in the timetable in Student Café at the start of term 3.

Students in Year 7-9 generally have no need to change elective subjects. However, there are some situations where a change of elective subject is appropriate based on a change in student interests or learning pathway. If students are considering a change of subject, they should book a meeting with Mrs Tara Congoo. Mrs Congoo is our newly appointed Vocational and Learning Pathways Coordinator. All subject changes should be finalised by the end of week 2 of Term 3.

Parent - Teacher meetings will be in week 3 of term 3. Information about the process of booking parent-teacher meetings will be communicated to parents early next term.

I thank all students for their hard work in their studies in term 2. I pray that all our students and families have a safe and restful holiday break.

God bless

Mr Doug Graham

Head of Academics



News from the ICT Manager

Mr Brett Hobbs

Keeping You Connected

Stewardship in the Digital Age

In today's world, technology is everywhere—from smartphones and tablets to smartboards and online learning platforms. As a Christian school, we encourage students to be good stewards of all that God has given us. Whether this be our time, talents, or even our tech.

So, what is good digital stewardship? Good digital stewardship is using technology in ways that honour God and help us grow in faith, learning, and relationships. It's about making wise choices with our screen time, protecting our minds and hearts online, and using digital tools to reflect Christ's love through learning, creativity and encouragement.

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” — 1 Corinthians 10:31

The internet is full of information, but not all of it is good. As a good digital steward, we must continually make choices to avoid content that promotes harmful values. We need to be respectful and kind in online conversations. Think before you post or share.

How can we manage screen time wisely? Technology can be a blessing, but too much of it can distract us from what matters most. Here are a few tips for healthy tech habits:

- Set time limits for games and (if you're old enough) social media.
- Take tech breaks to enjoy the outside world, family and friends.
- Use apps that encourage growth, learning and uplift

As parents and caregivers, you play a vital role in guiding your child's digital habits. I encourage you to have open conversations at home about being a good digital steward and set healthy boundaries. Let's work together to help our students become faithful stewards of their time, technology, and talents.

God bless, Brett Hobbs

News from the MCC Parent Association

Mr Mathew Drysdale - President
Mrs Tara Drysdale Secretary



Dear Families,

Parent Association Update – June 11 AGM

On 11 June, the Parent Association held its Annual General Meeting. We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Executive members: **President** – Mathew Drysdale, **Vice President** – J'aime Hunt, **Treasurer** – Kristy Mansfield, **Secretary** – Tara Drysdale, **Events Coordinator** – Natalie Cockings.

Your dedication and generous support over the past year have made a lasting impact on our College community—thank you for your outstanding service.

We're also excited to welcome the newly appointed Executive team: **President** – Mathew Drysdale, **Vice President** – J'aime Hunt, **Treasurer** – Christa Buckler, **Secretary** – Tara Drysdale, **Events Coordinator** – Samantha Johansson, **Parent Representative** – Ali Beresford

We look forward to another exciting and productive year with our new team.

What's Coming Up

🍔 *Bunnings Sausage Sizzle* – **26 July** Come down and grab a snag in support of our Year 12 Student Council! On **26 July**, the PA will be helping in be firing up the BBQ at **Bunnings** North Mackay to raise funds for upcoming student-led initiatives and events of the Year 12 Student Council. Every sausage counts—so bring your appetite and show your support!

🍩 *Krispy Kreme Drive* – The PA is proud to support our Year 12 students in their upcoming Krispy Kreme fundraiser. Stay tuned for more details!

👤 *Father's Day Stalls* – Preparations are underway for our Father's Day gift stalls. If you're available to lend a hand, we'd love your support:

- **Kings Park Stall** – 3 September
- **Providence Stall** – 4 September

Please contact us if you can help or if you have any items you would like us to consider selling — your involvement ensures every student has a chance to shop for their loved ones.

📅 *Next Meeting* – Join us on **13 August at 6pm** at the **Faith Centre, Kings Park**. Everyone is welcome!

🎉 *House Family Points* – Don't forget, volunteering and attending meetings this year earns you valuable points for your House Family.

Please reach out to our email if you can help in any way or for more information about what we do. parentassociation@mccmky.qld.edu.au Praying for health and safety over all of our families as we go into the holidays. God Bless.

This newsletter we are going to highlight two members of the PA team.

Samantha Johansson



Hello MCC Families,

I'm Samantha Johansson – a Mum of three, with my youngest currently in Grade 4 at MCC. This is my first year as part of the Parent Association, and I'm excited to be stepping into the role as Events Coordinator.

I'm enthusiastic about giving back to our school community and creating events that bring us together. I'd love to see more parents get involved – this could be by attending and or helping out at an event, coming along to our meetings, or simply sharing ideas through conversations. Everyone's input, big or small, helps make a difference.

“He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honour to his name”

Psalms 23:3 (NLT).

I am looking forward to meeting and collaborating with you.

Christa Buckler



Hi, I'm Christa Buckler, Mum of two. My eldest started at MCC in 2008, and I now have a son in Year 8. This is my first year on the Parent Association, and I'm serving as Treasurer in 2025.

I'm passionate about giving back to the school community. Please reach out, come along to a meeting, and help out where you can because every bit makes a difference.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others”
1 Peter 4:10 (NIV).

Looking forward to a great year.

Kind Regards,

Christa.



Mackay Christian College
'Faith Lift for Faith Centre'
Faith Centre Fund Appeal 2025



Faith Centre was constructed in 1991 as both a worship centre for Mackay Christian Family and an Assembly Hall/Performance Space for Mackay Christian College.

Now, 34 years later, she is due for a *Faith Lift* – some restoration, renovation and refurbishment is needed. Though no longer used by MCF, Faith Centre is certainly a great facility for showcasing current school activities.

If you would like to contribute to the **Faith Centre Fund**, you may donate via the following direct deposit details:

Bank: ANZ
BSB: 014 023
ACCT: 838 333 773
Name: MCC Building Fund
Reference: FCF your name

Donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible.
Thank you for blessing the College with your gift.



MACKAY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

C

Christlikeness means I choose to

- be confident in Father God's love for me
- follow the example of Jesus, serving others with care and kindness
- speak the truth at all times

L

Learning means I choose to

- have a positive, persistent attitude to my studies
- complete learning activities to the best of my ability
- explore and discover God's created world with wonder and joy

E

Excellence means I choose to

- be well organised and prepared to achieve my personal best
- honour God with my words and actions
- represent the College with high standards of behaviour and dress

A

Attitude means I choose to

- develop greater resilience, allowing mistakes to teach me wisdom
- act safely, apologise if I hurt others, and forgive others
- honour those in authority by obeying their instructions

R

Respect means I choose to

- get along with others, accepting them as unique and of great value
- carefully consider my words before speaking out loud
- care for resources and equipment, both mine and others'



Christian Education on Purpose