



Mackay Christian College Newsletter

2025 Term 3-1

'Christian Education on Purpose'

News from the Principal

Dr Lesley Tunnah

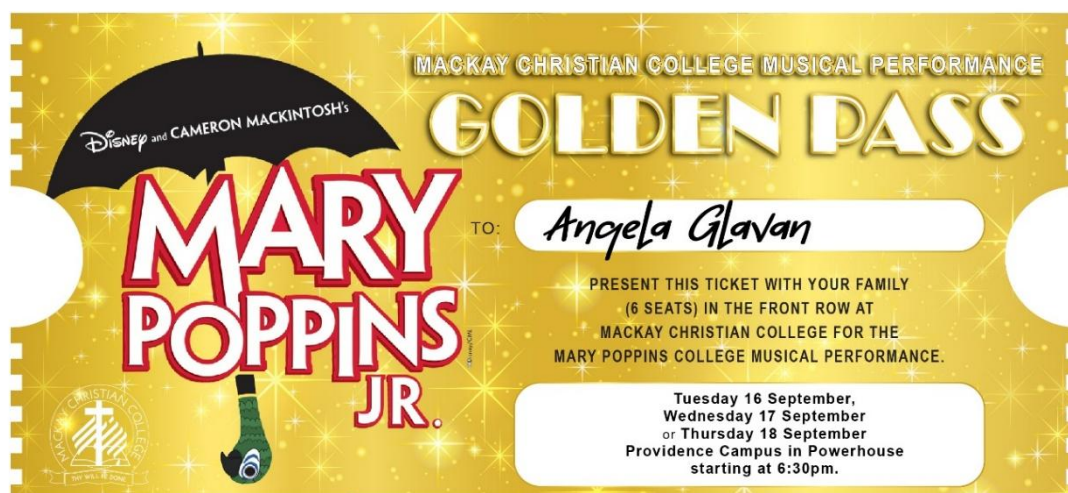
The College continues to be a busy, family-oriented community with each new week bringing educational activities and extra-curricular events where our students can shine using their God-given gifts and talents. I encourage you to be a regular watcher of our Mackay Christian College Facebook page where outcomes and photos of student participation in a wide range of activities are posted.



If you scroll back through FB for the past five weeks of Term 3, you will see items about Camden Brownsey's road cycling and mountain biking National and State gold medals, podium finishes for the MAD MTBC Interschool Gravity Flow Enduro at Finch Hatton, the RYDA program with our Year 10 students, first place at the Whitsunday STEM Challenge for the robotics On-Stage Performance and first place for both the cadet and development classes of the F1 races, Student Council and PA sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Nathan Ruge representing Qld U15 in soccer, the wonderful Primary Sports Carnivals with students dressing in bright House Family colours to compete in a range of fun activities, the Creative Academy at the Jazz Festival earning a Silver Award for overall performance and Most Outstanding Saxophone Section, the TTC students' cars display at the 'Big Boys Toys, the Senior Hospitality Staff Appreciation Luncheon, a variety of sporting teams competing against other schools in the region, placing 1st in the Whitsunday Regional Apex competition, the Creative Academy mid-year Concert, the Student vs Teacher Hopper Netball Cup, the Primary Missions Market Day, Book Week and the upcoming College musical, *Mary Poppins Jr.!!*

Whew! Are we exhausted yet? I am very appreciative of all the tireless teacher and staff input that allows these activities and events to happen. Please take the time to thank the staff!

The winner of the musical 'Golden Pass' is Angela Glaven – congratulations! And we hope you and your family have a very enjoyable evening attending *Mary Poppins Jr.*





Mrs Jo Dorle organised the Senior Hospitality students to prepare and serve a delicious Staff Appreciation luncheon. Thank you.

We are also excited to introduce our new College Nurse, Mrs Rachael Potgeiter. Nurse Rachael has a long history with MCC including being College Captain in 2006 and serving at the MCC sponsored Teacher Training College in Kotini Eden in Zambia. I visited Rachael in Zambia – she was researching local plants for medicinal use. She has quite a few life adventures to share. She will join our Pastoral Care Team for 3 days/week offering student support and education for health issues on both campuses.

May your family be greatly blessed,
Dr Lesley Tunnah

News from the Acting Board Chair

Mr Ben Patterson

The MCC board recently held its Annual General Meeting. I'm delighted to announce that all six of our board members have been retained for another year of service, with myself as Chairman. There is a great blend of experience among us, particularly in the fields of education, business and finance.



As the governing body responsible for the school's long-term success, we also met during the student free week to pray and consider our strategic direction. Enrolments for 2026 are again very strong. The appetite for Christ-centred education and caring teachers continues to grow. There are a number of opportunities ahead. We are heads down, working hard to equip our staff and students with everything they need, now, and into the future.

Finally, I was extremely impressed by the excellence on display at our school's mid-year Creative Academy concert. The staff and students were amazing. Special thanks to Mr Chris Barclay for his Creative Academy oversight and leadership.

News from the Head of Primary

Mrs Michelle Brownsey



Greetings to all our Primary families. I trust you are enjoying being part of all that Term 3 has to offer. From NAIDOC Week, athletics events, English, Science and Mathematics competitions, House Family STEM and academic challenges, Year 1 Water Safety lessons, our Creative Academy concert, Eisteddfod performances, an interschool enduro race and Mission Markets, to the anticipated joy coming up with Book Week, Year 6 camp, an interschool chess competition, Founder's Day, Father's Day Stall, Grandparent's Day and our College Musical. Such a broad range of learning opportunities and life experiences to be had.

Please take the time to **read the follow points carefully** as there are some key communications here.

Chinese: For a variety of well-considered reasons, the governing bodies who oversee the Australian Curriculum no longer require a second language to be taught within the Primary years. As a result, Mackay Christian College will be discontinuing Chinese lessons for Year 5 and 6 students as of 2026.

2026 Class Lists: The lengthy and highly complex process of forming optimal class groupings for 2026 has begun. If you would like to provide any information for consideration in relation to the placement of your child in 2026, please email me directly at mbrownsey@mccmky.qld.edu.au, before the end of the September holidays. No guarantees are made in relation to parent/carer requests as the College holds a broad view of each class and dynamic within it, however your insights are welcomed. Please note, information provided in previous years is not stored.

Academic Excellence Awards: We are introducing 2 new awards this year, acknowledging academic excellence. During the Year 3 to 6 Celebration Night an award will be presented to the student with the highest academic achievement within the Year 5 cohort and also within the Year 6 cohort. The awarded students will have demonstrated outstanding academic application, the highest academic achievement within their year level cohort and consistency in upholding commendable effort and behaviour. We will continue to acknowledge and celebrate students exemplifying each of our CLEAR values across all classes and specialist subjects also.

Term Overviews for Parents: Each term, families are emailed an overview of learning and assessment to be undertaken within their child's year level. We would very much appreciate your feedback on the value you place on these documents. Please click this link to provide your feedback <https://forms.office.com/r/9kBWBHkW9>.

Primary Uniforms: Production is well underway and on track for our Primary girls to have a formal blouse and skort option effective as of 2026. As soon as these are made available through School Locker this uniform option will be acceptable. The Primary blouse will have the same Primary pin striping as the Primary boys formal shirt, while the skorts will be the same as those used across into Secondary.

God's blessings to you all,
Mrs Michelle Brownsey (Head of Primary)

News from the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Ms Ulla Hansson

Pressing On In Term 3



Dear Mackay Christian College Families,

Term 3 is often known as the “engine room” of the school year. It is where the initial excitement of the year has settled, the challenges of learning are in full swing, and the finish line of the year is still just beyond the horizon. It is in this season that we are called to dig deep, stay focused, and lean on God’s strength.

Philippians 3:13-14 encourages and reminds us, that no matter how Term 1 and 2 unfolded, whether they were filled with victories, challenges or a mix of both, we are invited to keep moving forward. God calls us to press on, keeping our eyes fixed on Him and the purpose He has placed in our hearts.

At Mackay Christian College, our C.L.E.A.R. Values (Christlikeness, Learning, Excellence, Attitude, Respect) guide how we live and work together. Living out these values also means showing excellence in the small things, such as wearing the correct uniform on the right days, arriving prepared for learning and approaching each class with a respectful attitude. These actions are part of our witness as a Christ-centred school and show pride in who we are.

As we enter the heart of the term, I encourage every student to stay committed to completing assessments with their best effort, maintaining positive behaviour in class so that all students can learn and be supportive of their peers in a spirit of encouragement.

If you are feeling tired or stretched, remember that God sees your faithfulness. Every assessment finished with integrity, every kind word, every day you choose to do the right thing, you are planting seeds for a strong finish to the year.

Let us press on together, living out our C.L.E.A.R. Values in every area of our life, so that we can honour God and bless those around us.

In His Service,

Ulla Hansson

News from the Creative Academy

Mr Chris Barclay

All of the Creative Academy ensembles have been preparing all year for the 2025 Mackay Eisteddfod. This year for the first time in many, we had two junior choirs enter, and they both performed last Thursday. Both the P-1 and 2-6 Choirs performed well under pressure, projected well and both received a Bronze Award. You couldn't wipe the smiles off their faces, a fantastic effort.

Monday was very long day for some of our students who play in several ensembles. Our Beginner String ensemble performed first up in the morning and received a Highly Commended award. The adjudicator enjoyed their performance, provided some very encouraging feedback and commented on their excellent stage presentation.

The Beginner Band performed mid-morning. They were off to a nervous start with their first piece but managed to get through it and played their second piece quite well. Some good feedback from the adjudicator regarding balance of sound, but overall they achieved third place plus the Most Enjoyable Performance by a Primary School Band award.

After lunch, the Bel Canto Band performed and played very well. They took out first place for their section and had a glowing report from the adjudicator. Other conductors who were backstage were very impressed with their sound. This band does work hard and is playing repertoire at the higher end of difficulty for this age group. Well done Bel Canto.

The Wind Ensemble Performed Monday night. We were entered in the Advanced High School section and were up against a lot of larger groups with much older/experienced players. Still, they performed to the best of their abilities and came away with a Very Highly Commended award. This was a good effort, as the music being performed at this level is quite difficult.

The Jazz Ensemble performed in the final section of Monday night. We were down two of our members due to illness but still put on a good performance. The adjudicator commented on the quality of our soloists and thoroughly enjoyed our entertaining performance, and the band received a Very highly Commended award.

On Tuesday Morning, the Junior String Ensemble performed and presented the Five Renaissance Pieces that they have been working on this year. There was some very supportive feedback from the adjudicator around timing and balance within the ensemble. It was an enjoyable performance but unfortunately, we did not achieve a placing.

Our final Ensemble was the Senior Strings, who performed Tuesday evening. The performance was well prepared and quite enjoyable with some great work being done by individual players. The performance level was high and there were 12 competitors in their section, but unfortunately, we did not achieve a placing.



News from the Early Learning Centre

Mrs Jalaa Manning



This term the children have been learning about the parts of a plant and what plants require to grow and thrive. We have been modelling good stewardship by caring for our garden beds, nurturing the soil, planting seeds and watering them.

The children were concerned that the crows may take an interest in our seedlings, so it was decided that we needed to make a scarecrow. The children problem-solved and worked collaboratively with their teacher to create our lovely and truly not-very-scary, scarecrow.

One class have been collecting seeds from the fruit in their lunchboxes. This activity has paved the way for many numerical concepts to be explored such as comparing the size, colour, shape of seeds, and counting the number of seeds. The children planted their seeds in one of our garden beds, calling it 'The Surprise Garden'. The children enjoyed reading the story 'The Surprise Garden' with the teacher, and, as in the book, are looking forward to seeing what grows.

Other classes have been planting seeds into pots and exploring the same concepts. The teachers have incorporated gardening from a Christian World View through teaching the children about the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Each morning during outdoor play, the children take personal responsibility for watering the plants and excitedly measure their Sunflowers' growth. We are hoping the Sunflowers will flower in time for Grandparents Day.

A special mention goes to North Mackay Bunnings for their generous donation of potting mix, seeds and plants!





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 7, Year 9 and Year 10 students have made for Year 8, 10 and 11 for 2026. Draft subject blocks have been created which maximise the number of students who receive their top preferences.

The next academic reports that will be issued to parents and students are:

- Year 7-9 Mid Semester 2 Reports (issued at the end of Term 3)
- Year 10 End of Semester 2 reports (issued Term 4 Week 6)
- Year 11 End of Unit 2 Reports (issued Term 4 Week 6)
- Year 12 Mid Unit 4 Reports (issued Term 4 Week 2)

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 over the next few days. 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 have now completed their final school-based assessment. This is a significant milestone in their learning journey. For the General subjects, students will 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 7 and 8 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. As part of Year 12 CLEAR, students were guided through the process of completing QTAC applications. Important information for ATAR eligible students includes:

- 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 You Connected

We're excited to share that our MCC team, *Apex Racing*, took first place in the Whitsunday STEM Challenge regional competition! Their outstanding performance has earned them a spot in the state finals, where they'll represent MCC with skill and determination.



Adding to the celebration, MCC students also achieved first place in the On Stage Performance category at the Mackay RoboCup Junior competition — a dynamic event that blends Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) into a creative robotics showcase.

These achievements underscore the real-world value of STEM education. Our students are developing future-ready skills in problem-solving, collaboration, and technology—skills that open doors to careers in automation, AI, engineering, and the creative industries.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated teachers and staff, whose guidance and support make these opportunities possible. Their commitment empowers students to explore, innovate, and succeed. Congratulations to all our talented teams! Your dedication, ingenuity, and teamwork are a shining example of how an MCC STEM education prepares students to become the innovators of tomorrow.

In His service,
Brett Hobbs

News from the MCC Parent Association


Mr Mathew Drysdale - President


Mrs Tara Drysdale Secretary




Dear Families,

Wow! can you believe it's August already? The Parent Association has been busy over the past month or two, and we're excited to share some highlights and upcoming events with you.

 **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle** We were honoured to support the Student Council in hosting a successful Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. We have feedback from a number of people saying they were the best sausages ever. Thank you to everyone who came out and helped make it a great day!

 **Krispy Kreme Fundraiser** A big thank you to all the families and friends who purchased Krispy Kreme donuts to support our Year 12 students. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.


 **Year 6 Blessing & Red Hat Presentation** On Monday, 18th August, President Mathew Drysdale prayed over our Year 6 students and teachers as they prepare for their Magnetic Island camp. He also presented each student and teacher with their iconic red hat provided by the PA – a symbol of God's covering and protection. It was an exciting moment for all involved.


 **Father's Day Stall – Volunteers Needed!** Our Father's Day stalls are just around the corner:

- **Kings Park:** Wednesday, 3rd September
- **Providence:** Thursday, 4th September

Items will range from \$1 to \$15. We're looking for parent and grandparent volunteers to help run the stalls. If you are available, please follow the link <https://signup.com/go/XBRkSXu> or email us at parentassociation@mccmkv.qld.edu.au Without your support events like these would not be a success so thank you in advance.

Don't forget all volunteers earn **House Family points**, and we're excited to celebrate the reigning volunteer House Family at the end of the year!

 **Next PA Meeting** Join us for our next meeting on **Tuesday, 10th September at 6:00 PM** at Kings Park. Everyone is welcome—we'd love to see you there.

 **Providence School Dance – Save the Date!** Providence families, mark your calendars! The final school dance of the year is coming up next term on **Friday, 24th October**. We're gathering feedback on food options for the night—please email us with your suggestions!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. Our community thrives because of you.

Kind regards,

The Parent Association Team



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