



# Mackay Christian College Newsletter

## 2025 Term 3-2

### 'Christian Education on Purpose'

#### News from the Principal

Dr Lesley Tunnah

I recently read Isaiah 54:2 that says,  
*'Enlarge your house; build an addition.  
Spread out your home, and spare no expense!  
For you will soon be bursting at the seams.'*



This chapter speaks about raising spiritual children. At MCC, we aim to glorify God and introduce our students to the person of Jesus, his love, his values and his teachings. For 2026, we are already planning a Biblical Studies course for all secondary year levels, as well as expanding the current biblical understandings taught in primary. The Bible not only provides knowledge about how to get to know God better but also a wealth of advice about how to live a personally successful life. In our current culture, personal challenges can be great so a biblical perspective can help us navigate the tough stuff and learn that God is faithful in all things. I am looking forward to our College bursting at the seams!

And now, we have arrived at the end of Term 3, having enjoyed many opportunities for learning, personal growth and ongoing revelations of God's love in each of our lives. Once again, I encourage you to follow the MCC FaceBook page that features many of our students and the MCC activities in which they are involved.

Special thanks and congratulations go to the cast of our musical production, *Mary Poppins Jr* which delightfully entertained audiences over three nights. Students experienced the exciting frenzy of make-up changes, costume changes, audience appreciation and learning that working with effort towards a shared goal gives a great sense of achievement when the last stage light goes down.

Special thanks go particularly to Mrs Amy Harrison (Director/Choreographer), Miss Breena Quinn (Musical Director) and Ms Tonia Beckmann (Producer). These ladies managed the many hours of rehearsal time as well as sustaining their regular classroom responsibilities. I greatly appreciate their investment in our students and in providing a stage production experience. Of course, there are many others who assisted behind the scenes with supervising rehearsals, dance practice, props, costumes, lighting, sound, hair and make-up, promotions, backstage crew and of course, all our supportive parents! My favourite moment was when the stage was completely overrun with chimney sweeps, dancing and stomping and obviously enjoying themselves.

**WELL DONE, EVERYONE!!**

I am enjoying watching the progress being made with Faith Centre on King's Park. She is slowly regaining her original 'glow'. If you would like to contribute to her 'faith lift', please read the flyer at the end of this Newsletter to see how you can give a taxable donation towards the building work.

My appreciation and prayers are for our staff, students and families. Please take time to rest and enjoy being with loved ones during the break. Blessings, Dr Tunnah.

## News from the Board Chair

### Mr Ben Patterson

Firstly, congratulations to everyone involved with our school's production of *Mary Poppins*. I attended Tuesday evening's performance and thoroughly enjoyed it.



Secondly, the Board and College Executive are about to embark upon a renewed master planning process. The master plan is an important document that guides future development and facility provision. The renewal of our master plan will be a consultative endeavour that will involve stakeholders from all areas of the school community. Our future is very bright. We look forward to presenting key components of the master plan upon its completion. Lastly, if you have friends or family who are considering Mackay Christian College for 2026, encourage them to submit their enrolments ASAP. Year levels are filling fast.

Best regards,  
Ben

## News from the Head of Secondary

### Ms Deb Wright

The hive of activity in the College this term has been momentous. Students, and the staff supporting them, have embraced opportunities to work as a team to reach common goals. Proverbs 6 refers to ants working tirelessly together to achieve their purpose. On their own, they can only do so much but together they are a force. I think it is no mistake that God uses these busy ants - found everywhere as a constant reminder - as an example of what working together can achieve and more.



This week, the fruits of teachers such as Mrs Amy Harrison, Miss Tonia Beckmann and Miss Brianna Quinn (and several more!) along with all the tireless efforts of the students, were well rewarded with an excellent school musical *Mary Poppins Jnr*. The buzz around is only of high-quality performances had! A BIG thank you to all of those involved. TTC students were on their third round of Work Experience this week too. Thank you to Mrs Nicole Dragovic and the TTC team for continuing to provide avenues of career exploration for our students, along with all people involved with Year 10 Work Experience at the end of last month.

Mr Nathan Richards and the Year 8 Camp Team, worked wonderfully to create a fun filled adventurous event. The students had expended so much energy that they were keen for sleep at the end of camp. Year 11 will soon be gearing up for their Leadership Camp at Kinchant Dam Outdoor Education Centre in Week 6 of next term to further develop their leadership skills. Please note the change of date from the College Calendar.

Mr Thomas Laflamme led our MCC Chess teams at the Mackay Whitsunday Interschool Competition. Emmanuel in Year 10, placed Third Individual out of 70 players from eight different schools in the Secondary A Division. Emmanuel, Johnson, Annika & Kodee placed First Team of the 20 teams competing from seven schools. Check Mate! Congratulations to all those involved.

In the first week back of next term, Mr Warren Tysoe and TTC team are adventuring off to Brisbane with the Year 12 Formula High School students to see their car building skills on the racetrack. Seeing the fruits of their practical skills is a driving force for motivation – both now and in the future. It was also wonderful to see the MCC Robotics Team, headed by Miss Karina Perkins, place first in a ‘Dance’ challenge earlier this term. The robotics students proved innovative in creating dance skills via technology. At the same time, the TTC Team were also placing in various segments of the F1 in Schools Competition. It’s a fine art considering physics, mathematics, technology, design, skill, marketing, networking and of course fun!

Just a reminder to parents - please ensure that our students and all pedestrians are cared for by ensuring that no one parks directly by the sidewalk at the front of the school in the “No Standing” zone. This is the directive of the Main Roads department. Otherwise, the Crossing Supervisor does not have full view of traffic in aiming to keep traffic flowing and to keep our students safe. In the carpark, please ensure you park in the provided spaces, rather than stop immediately before the pedestrian crossing to let your children out. Thank you to all parents who have ensured they are parking in the correct areas rather than in the cul-de-sac or direct sidewalk by the school.

Part of the transition to Year 7 next year will involve a few visits by Year 6 to the Secondary Campus next term. More information will follow next term. In 2026, Year 7 students will be using MCC leased laptops, providing more functionality in various programs whilst continuing to provide network safety for our students.

Term 4 sees preparations begin for the 2026 Cattle Show Team. It’s been wonderful to see the FSD team working with our Ag Supervisor Ms Leisa Stevenson, in making significant improvements to the Ag Centre such as the Feed Shed. A new custom-made Green House has arrived. There is more to come! Our ‘newish’ Ag Assistant Mrs Alice Brockhurst also brings her skills and experience to support the learning for our Ag students.

Week 4 next term sees Year 10 students transition into Year 11 Unit 1 studies and Year 11 into Year 12 Unit 3 studies. Thank you to the parents and students who attended the Yr 10 Choice Chats to ensure suitable pathways moving into the final senior years.

Much of our Support Staff continue to provide their assistance to students in classes and, in extra-curricular and service activities. We also thank all our other teachers not mentioned here who continually work tirelessly to provide an array of quality subject offerings for MCC students - on their way to discover the giftings and talents that God has given them. Each student, God has fearfully and wonderfully made. With so much happening this term (and every term) we are just so thankful for the input of staff in helping our students grow in their giftings.

We pray for a restful mid-semester break for families this week and we will see everyone back on Tuesday, 7 October. Term 4, is such a celebratory term as we look at the achievements and progress so many have made. We will be farewelling the Class of 2025 and look forward to “Celebrating with Joy” as we recognise their achievements in finishing off the year!

Ms Debbie Wright  
Head of Secondary

## News from the Head of Primary

Mrs Michelle Brownsey



Well, here we are at the end of Term 3, and what a joy filled term it was. Grandparent's Day was a key highlight, with our campus overflowing with wonderful family connections. It was a delight to see so many family members coming together, some local, some from out of state and others from across the globe. Whether near or far, the investment in being present was a blessing to our community.

The musical, *Mary Poppins Jr.* topped off the term. I have no doubt all who attended would agree that it was an amazing success. It was so exciting to see so many students stepping out of their comfort zones to put their many talents into action. I was blown away by their performances and am very grateful to the dedicated staff team and parents who pulled this all together. Such a great opportunity for our students.

As mentioned in my previous newsletter segment, 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](mailto:mbrownsey@mccmky.qld.edu.au), before the end of the mid-Semester 2 break. 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.

I pray you all have a refreshing break.

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



## News from the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Ms Ulla Hansson

### Shared Journeys

As Term 3 ends, it has been encouraging to pause and reflect on the journey many of our students have taken over the term. Growth is not always loud or dramatic, sometimes it is seen in the quiet determination of a student who has decided to take their learning more seriously, or in the thoughtful way they choose to build stronger friendships.

This term, we have seen students step forward with greater maturity. Some have found the courage to ask for help when they needed it; others have learned to manage new subjects with persistence and discipline. Many have discovered how to balance the demands of schoolwork with the equally important work of being a good friend, showing kindness and navigating the challenges of maturing.

New friendships have been formed, old friendships strengthened, and even conflicts have been opportunities for students to practise grace, forgiveness and respect. These are memories that shape

not only their school experience but also their character as young people who are preparing for the wider world.

For our Year 12's, this final short Term 4 will be both a challenge and a celebration as they conclude their schooling years. It is a time to focus, finish strong and hold onto the lessons learned along the way. For our younger students, Term 4 is a chance to consolidate learning, and continue maturing in their walk with Christ.

We would like to acknowledge Mrs Belinda Niemann who has faithfully served as the Administration Assistant in the RTLC. Belinda will be moving into a new roll within the College as VET and Learning Pathways Coordinator. We will miss her dedicated service in her current position. We thank her for her commitment and wish her every blessing as she steps into this next chapter of her service at MCC.

We welcome Mrs Rachael Potgieter to the RTLC team. Rachael joins us as our Youth Health Nurse with a focus on health education and student wellbeing. She will be working with our students to equip them with knowledge and confidence in making positive choices about their health. Rachael's role is not just about information but about empowering our students with lifelong skills that will strengthen both their learning and their everyday lives. We are excited to have Rachael join the team and look forward to the wisdom and care she will bring to our College community.

I want to thank our families for journeying alongside us.

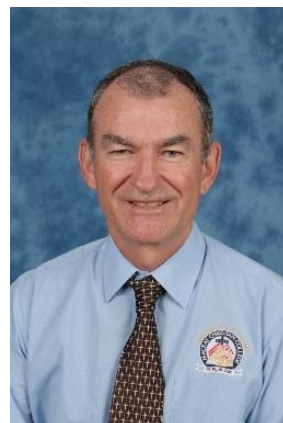
In His Service

Ulla Hansson

### *News from the Head of Academics*

#### *Mr Doug Graham*

2026 Class lists for elective subjects for Year 8 2026, Year 10 2026 and Year 11 2026 are being worked through based on the online web preferences. Most students will be able to study the elective subjects based on their top preferences. Year 8 STEM will not be offered in 2026 due to the low level of interest from students.



We will publish the Year 7-9 Mid Semester 2 Reports during the next week. The achievement rating that is reported reflects student progressive achievement in each subject over Terms 1-3. The exception to this is the Year 7 elective subjects as they only started in Semester 2.

For a school our size, we offer a wide range of elective subjects that provide a learning pathway for our students that will support them to achieve their career goals. Teaching staff enjoyed the opportunity to meet with Year 10 students and parents for Choice Chat meetings in week 7. As a cohort, our Year 10 students have high aspirations for their senior studies, and this is great to see.

At the end of Term 4, week 3, Year 10 students will finish the Year 10 Australian Curriculum for their subjects. At the beginning of week 4, they will be issued with a new timetable and will begin to study their Unit 1 subjects. Year 11 students will begin Unit 3 at this time. Subjects changes for Year 10 and 11 students should be finalised early next term.

QCAA has started to release the Confirmation decisions for the final internal assessment for the Year 12 General subjects. Teachers will communicate to students the results of these decisions as



they are released. The final reports for Yr 12 students will be published early next term. The progressive ratings will be reported on the normal A-E scale. Additionally for general subjects the reports will include a mark out of 50 or 75 which is the final Senior internal assessment rating.

For Years 11 and 12, students who are undertaking General subjects, this coming holiday will not be a normal holiday. To achieve a higher level of success, students should be engaged in a regular study and revision program over the holidays. Year 11 exams will begin in week 1 next term and will continue over the first three weeks. Year 12 students will continue to do mock exams over the first two weeks and then start External Exams in week 4. An exam schedule for Years 11 and 12 students has been sent this week to students and parents. Students are expected to be at school during the mock exam period and Year 11 exam period. Once the Year 12 external exams begin, all Year 12 classes will cease. and students only need to be at school for their scheduled external exams.

I wish all our students a well-deserved time of rest over the holidays and much success in their learning journey this semester. My prayer is that they will develop and flourish in all areas of their life and will grow a deeper understanding of God's love for them and His plans and purposes for their lives.

I'll finish with a quote from Max Lucado from his book, "Cure for the Common Life". It is an encouragement to us all.

*"Use your uniqueness to make a big deal out of God, everyday of your life".*

God bless  
Mr Doug Graham

### **News from the ICT Manager**

**Mr Brett Hobbs**

#### **Keeping You Connected**

A recent study has revealed that 66% of Australian teenagers encountered online risks in the past year. The study, which surveyed over 1,000 students across Australia, uncovered some troubling trends:

- Cyberbullying is on the rise: Many teens reported being harassed, excluded, or targeted on social media platforms.
- Privacy breaches are widespread: Incidents include hacking, doxxing (publishing private info), and the sharing of personal details without consent.
- Inappropriate content is a growing concern: Students are increasingly exposed to violent, sexual, or otherwise harmful material online—often without warning.

At Mackay Christian College, we're committed to partnering with parents to help students become confident, respectful, and safe digital citizens. That's why we use our CLEAR values to guide every student's online journey:

**Care for your computer**

Respect your device like you would any learning tool. Keep it clean, updated, and secure. A well-maintained computer helps you learn better and stay safe.

**Leave a lovely digital footprint**



Everything you post online leaves a trace. Be kind, respectful, and thoughtful. Your digital footprint should reflect the best version of you.

**Enjoy the e-adventure with excellence**

Explore the digital world with curiosity and creativity. Use technology to learn, create, and connect—always striving for excellence in everything you do.

**Always avoid danger**

Think before you click. Don't share personal information, and be cautious when chatting online. If something feels wrong, speak up.

**Reliable resources rule**

Not all websites—or tools—are created equal. Use trusted sources for research, learning, and fun. And remember: AI generated content can sometimes be inaccurate or misleading, so always verify with reliable sources.

These values help students make smart choices online—but they're most effective when supported by a strong partnership between school and home. I would encourage you to take the time to talk regularly with your child about their online experiences. Setting up Tech Free Zones (eg bedrooms) can help promote lifestyle balance and reduce distractions. Always encourage responsible digital behaviour and reporting of any online issues.

Let's keep lifting each other up and showing God's love in everything we do—online and offline.

May God bless you and your family these holidays,

Mr Brett Hobbs

REF

[New Study: Two-Thirds of Aussie Teens Faced Online Risks Last Year - EducationDaily](#)



## News from the MCC Parent Association

Mr Mathew Drysdale - President

Mrs Tara Drysdale Secretary



### 📅 Next Parent Association Meeting – 15th October, 6 PM

Held in the Blue Room under the Faith Centre. Everyone is welcome!

This will be our last official meeting for 2026, with our celebration break-up held off-campus on 12th November.

Hi Families,

*Praying this newsletter finds you well. We love serving our school community. Here is an update on what has been happening.*

## FATHER'S DAY

Once again, the Parent Association was honoured to facilitate the Father's Day Stall, and we are deeply grateful for your support. We pray that all the dads and father figures felt truly blessed and appreciated.

We were overwhelmed by the incredible generosity of our volunteer community, thank you! Your support makes events like this possible, and we simply couldn't do it without you.

A special shout-out to our five grandparent volunteers who stayed all day to help our students. It was a joy to witness the beautiful interactions between our students, grandparents, and parent volunteers. What a blessing to have such a caring and committed community.

### 🗣️ SHOUT OUT – FATHER'S DAY PRESENTS! by J McDonnell 🗣️

“Just wanted to put a post to THANK all the organisers, staff, teachers, donators and volunteers for the Father's Day stall & class crafts for our dads! For parents who work full time, have kids they refuse to take to the shop, not-so-crafty parents, and everything in between. Our morning was so special and filled with such awesome gifts, all thanks to MCC! The kids were so excited to give their dad something they bought from the stall, and I didn't have to run around last minute haha! Thank you again, guys, another successful year. Your hard work doesn't go unnoticed ♡ HAPPY FATHER'S DAY, PARENTS!”

### 🍪 Local Talent Spotlight: Cookie Kingdom

The Parent Association would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Katie, an MCC student and the talented baker behind *Cookie Kingdom*, for generously donating 100 cookies to our Father's Day Stall. They looked absolutely amazing and tasted even better!

We're so grateful for Katie's kindness and creativity. Her cookies brought joy to so many and added a special touch to the celebration. Be sure to check out Katie's Facebook page, *Cookie Kingdom*, to see more of her fabulous creations and place an order for your next event. Let's continue to support our local talent!

### 🐝 Community Support: Two Little Bee's Honey and From the Heart Creations & Co

As we continue to celebrate and support local talent, we'd love to shine a light on *Two Little Bee's Honey* and *From the Heart Creations & Co* two wonderful local businesses that generously supported our Father's Day Stall.





Their contribution helped make the day extra special, and we're so grateful for their involvement.

If you haven't already, be sure to check out *Two Little Bee's Honey* on Facebook to explore their delicious, locally-sourced products and support a business that gives back to our community. Please also check out From the Heart Creations & Co for your next embroidery and laser engraving needs. Debbie will be more than happy to help you with any creations you require.

Let's keep the buzz going and show our appreciation for those who help make our events a success!


### Upcoming Events


 **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle – 11th October** Come grab a delicious sausage from one of our friendly volunteers and support the Parent Association!

 **Primary Dance – 24th October** Our final Primary Dance for Kindy–Year 6 students is coming up! Keep an eye on your emails for more details. We highly recommend pre-purchasing tickets and food to avoid queues on the night. Pre-paid sales get early entry to the dance.

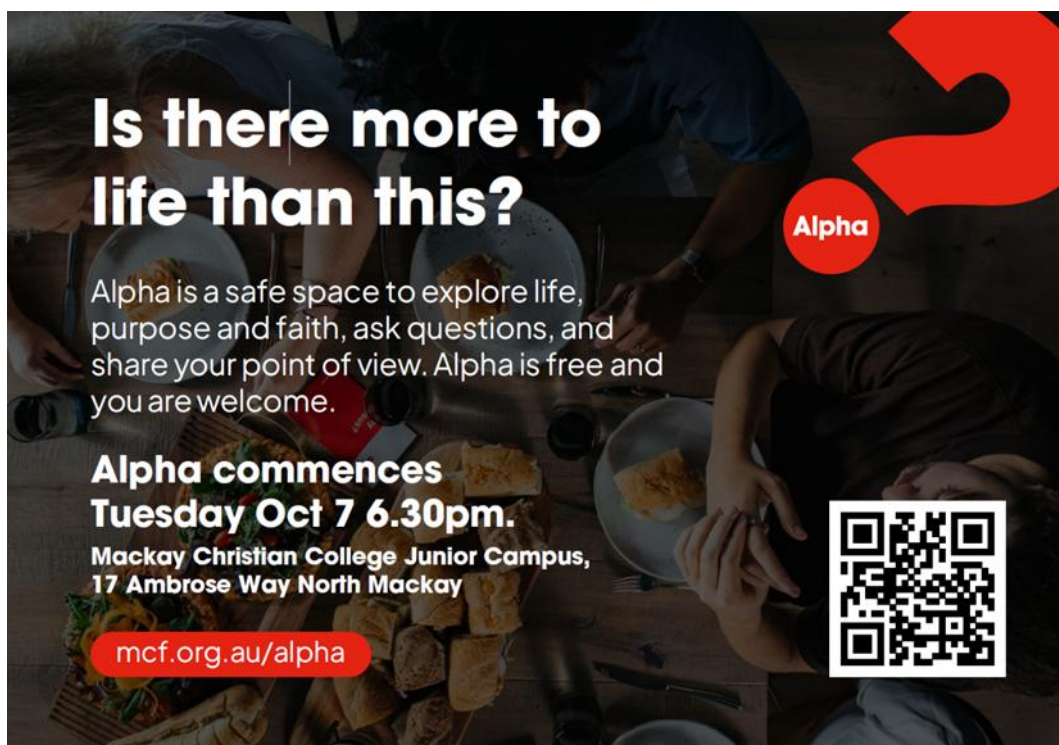
Volunteers are needed for this event please use the link to sign up.

<https://signup.com/go/wiirWVK> Don't forget, all volunteers earn points for their House Family. We're excited to announce our first Volunteer House Family winner in November!

 **Supporting College Events** We're proud to support the Trade Training Centre's Awards Night and at the Year 6 Celebration Evening in the coming weeks.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions on how we can support the college community, please email us at:  [parentassociation@mccmky.qld.edu.au](mailto:parentassociation@mccmky.qld.edu.au)

**Be blessed,** Kind Regards, *Mathew Drysdale (President) and the PA Team*

A poster for the Alpha event. The background is a dark, high-contrast photo of people sitting around a table, eating and talking. The text is white and red. A large red 'Alpha' logo is in the top right corner. A QR code is in the bottom right corner. The text reads: 'Is there more to life than this?' followed by 'Alpha is a safe space to explore life, purpose and faith, ask questions, and share your point of view. Alpha is free and you are welcome.' Then 'Alpha commences Tuesday Oct 7 6.30pm.' and 'Mackay Christian College Junior Campus, 17 Ambrose Way North Mackay'. At the bottom, a red button contains the text 'mcf.org.au/alpha'.

**Is there more to life than this?**

Alpha is a safe space to explore life, purpose and faith, ask questions, and share your point of view. Alpha is free and you are welcome.

**Alpha commences Tuesday Oct 7 6.30pm.**

Mackay Christian College Junior Campus,  
17 Ambrose Way North Mackay

[mcf.org.au/alpha](https://mcf.org.au/alpha)



*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