



Mackay Christian College Newsletter

2025 Term 4-1

'Christian Education on Purpose'

News from the Principal

Dr Lesley Tunnah

I have recently been inspired by the words of Isaiah 54:2 that says:

*'Break into loud and joyful song...
For the woman without children now has more children
than the woman who lives with her husband.
Enlarge your house; build an addition.
Spread out your home and spare no expense!
For you will soon be bursting at the seams.'*



I believe this applies to our College where we partner with parents and carers to provide opportunities to birth and develop the spiritual, physical, intellectual, social and emotional gifts and talents of our students. We are currently entering a growth phase for enrolments and the College Board has already begun reviewing the building Masterplan and discussing the next building developments for Providence and King's Park – they are enlarging our house and building additions to cater for the children coming to the College! These are exciting times. Thank you to our parents and carers for trusting your children's formal education to us. Also making steady progress is the renovation of Faith Centre. If you would like to contribute to this ongoing work, please see page 10 of this newsletter. All donations to this fund are tax deductible.

The College was originally founded as an outreach arm of Mackay Christian Family Church. One aspect the College wants to continue developing is an understanding of the Bible, its stories and its wisdom. So, in 2026, we are introducing a Biblical Studies course for Years 7-12 and a weekly biblical session for Primary students. The aim is to present all our students with the life-enriching Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Congratulations to our graduating Year 12 students! Some joined the College family in Kindy so have spent 13-14 years with us! To keep up with College news, please go to the Mackay Christian College facebook page. At this time of the year especially, there are lots of events so have your College calendar handy. I recently attended the TTC Awards Night and the MCC Sports Awards Night – both highlighted the dedication of our staff and the wonderful achievements of our students.



With only 3 ½ weeks until the final day of school and 6 ½ weeks until Christmas, I pray you are enjoying preparing for the festive Christmas season. It's my favourite time of the year and I am looking forward to decorating the tree, baking Christmas goodies and spending time with my grandchildren. I try to avoid the stress of crowded shops and reflect instead upon the birth of the Christ-child, the Son of God, who brought with him a message of hope and peace for all people.

Bless you,
Dr Lesley Tunnah

News from the Board Chair

Mr Ben Patterson



The Board was delighted to approve a number of facility upgrades at our previous meeting. These include the installation of individual offices and meeting spaces for our King's Park specialist support staff, and the refreshment of playground facilities in the Early Learning Centre on Providence.

We've also approved the early purchase of 2026 IT items and are awaiting the delivery of new furniture for some of our classrooms. I want to pay tribute to our hardworking staff who have put the school in a position to move forward on these specific projects, and more. There are many others on the go, including the renovation and refurbishment of Faith Centre. God is continuing to bless us with excellent staff and increased 2026 enrolments.

Finally, congratulations to our graduating Year 12 class, particularly those who have secured early entry into university, and those beginning apprenticeships via their studies at our Trade Training Centre. The TTC Awards Night was outstanding. I'm proud to be part of an educational College that presents so many different opportunities for our children. More is to come.

News from the Early Learning Centre

Mrs Jalaa Manning



On the 4th of September we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon celebrating our amazing fathers at Kindy. The children and their dads participated in an army themed 'Boot Camp'. This included a variety of fun, playful activities such as Recruitment (face painting), Logistics (photo), Target Practice (tossing bean bags into targets), Airbase (making paper planes), Intelligence Gathering (dads listening to a video of their child answering questions about them), Hand-to-Hand Combat (Aus Tag between dad and child), Obstacle Course, Time Trial Training (number of burpees in a minute), and Drills (egg and spoon races, sack races and Tug-o-war). It was delightful to hear the laughter and witness the joy on the children's faces as they played with their dad. The evening ended at the Mess Hall with all participants enjoying a hard-earned Sausage Sizzle. Thank you to the fathers for joining us in what we hope was a memorable experience for both you and your child.

We are now enjoying our final term together.

God bless,

Mrs Manning.





News from the Head of Secondary

Ms Deb Wright

Term 4 brings the flurry of end of year events where we congratulate so many of our hard-working students. It is a joy to see students who make such a positive turnaround and of course students who continue to consistently display our CLEAR values. The TTC and Sports Awards Nights, held just recently, were a great opportunity to encourage the students who not only excel in these arenas but who also show great work ethic.



Families are encouraged to come to the **Secondary Celebration Night on Tuesday, 18 November** to 'Celebrate with Joy'. We will celebrate academic achievements, but even more importantly, reward those who will receive the Timothy Integrity Award because they have been seen to consistently display our CLEAR values.

For the Class of 2025, these celebrations mark their very last week of schooling. Parents/carers of Senior students are invited to attend our **House Family Celebration morning on Wednesday, 19 November** and the next morning to the **Year 12 Farewell Chapel on Thursday, 20 November**. Both events will be held at the Powerhouse on the Primary Campus at 8:40am. After the Graduation event, the Year 12s will spend the next 24 hours together with our teachers for fun and safe activities. This is an MCC initiative that has come out of research so that a safe environment is

provided for our students. It has been well documented that the first 24 hours after graduation are the most vulnerable hours for Year 12s as this is likely to be the window of time when potentially foolish decisions may be made. We certainly pray for God's blessings and protection over every one of them as they embark on the next stage of their lives.

This week, we have our Year 11 Leadership Camp at Kinchant Dam Outdoor Education Centre. This camp provides a wonderful platform for students to lead the way in activities that are purposely geared to build leadership skills by the big challenges set.

Year 6 have been enjoying some transitional visits to King's Park Campus to help alleviate any concerns they may have about secondary schooling. They have been exploring various areas around the campus and getting a feel for what a Year 7 day looks like using a secondary timetable and map. They have enjoyed the autonomy of it all! Next year, we aim to space out the Year 7 Orientation over 2 weeks so they can still receive all the information they need but also get right into their regular classes in the first week. For the first time, laptops are being provided to Year 7 students in 2026 in the first week of school.

Next year, in further support of our students, we will be introducing two new leadership roles, being a Middle School Coordinator (Yrs 7-9) and a Senior School Coordinator (Yrs 10-12). All year-related activities will be overseen by these coordinators, and the successful applicants will be announced in due course. In preparation for next year, don't forget to refer to the updated Years 7-9 Stationery List and the Years 10-12 Stationery List previously emailed home. These are also available on the College website and contain important updates regarding e-devices for 2026.

As an outreach arm of Mackay Christian Family, the fundamental underpinnings of service to the Mackay community are not just education but to point our students to our Lord and Saviour. We desire that each one of our students will come to the realisation that the King of Kings loves them far beyond comprehension and wants a personal relationship with them. As one gets to know Jesus (not just know of), one's outlook on life, considering eternity, looks very different. God's Word helps us to discover His heart for us as we ask the Holy Spirit to bring His Word to life as we read, meditate and study. Jesus calls it our daily bread – our spiritual daily sustenance. So, in 2026, we are thrilled to be starting a new subject called 'Biblical Studies'. This will occur once a week across the year levels. It will give students a broad understanding of the structure of the Bible which will help them to begin to understand how it all fits together. The subject will enhance our approach as a school teaching from a Christian World View and give students a platform to enrich their study of the Bible.

With that, we will require every student to purchase a hard copy of the Bible (NLT – New Living Translation – please see the Stationery List). The required version is available from our School Locker. Each student will be engaging in its use throughout next year and the years to come. We pray that, as we start to prepare for Christmas, each family will remember God's great love for them. After all, Christmas is named after Jesus – **CHRIST**mas.

Ms Debbie Wright
Head of Secondary



News from the Head of Primary

Mrs Michelle Brownsey



As 2025 is on its home stretch, so many exciting adventures begin for 2026. Highlights for Term 4 so far include seeing all the new families and faces joining our MCC Primary community during our 'Welcome to Prep' mornings and hearing a long list of exceptional speeches from our prospective 2026 Primary Captains. Our Year 6 students have continued to build their familiarity with a secondary environment by spending a cluster of Wednesdays on King's Park, meeting key staff, building connections, navigating timetables and maps and experiencing a little taste of subjects to come, to create enthusiasm. Primary brings with it rapid growth and development as our little people become big people; such a rewarding profession to be a part of and an exciting time to be a parent.

Throughout Term 4, our 2026 Student Leaders will be appointed and announced. This can be a time of much celebration—opportunity for developing grace and humility—and also a time of dealing with disappointment—opportunity for developing resilience and maturity. Our Year 5 students have all had the experience of working through a leadership workshop called P.A.C.E, providing them with valuable life skills. The key first step in leadership, is leading yourself. Can you calm yourself when triggered? Can you take captive unhelpful thoughts and replace them with true and helpful thoughts? Can you remain curious while listening, respectful while talking, sincere while apologising, empathetic while forgiving, considerate and generous when making agreements, etc.

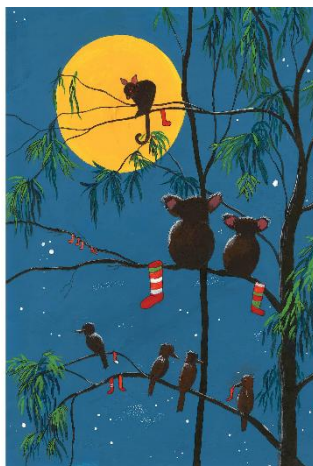
Philippians 4:8 has a helpful reminder when the time comes to deal with both success and disappointment. 'Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.'

We can replace the 'if only' with the joy of contentment in 'what is' as we seek God's good and perfect will for our lives.

Speaking of 'joy', our Celebration Night theme this year is 'Celebrating with Joy'. I look forward to acknowledging a broad range of achievements across these nights, celebrating the outstanding progress and accomplishments of our students. All students will be blessed with a completion certificate and personalised encouragement from their teachers, while families will be blessed by the students' artistic performances throughout the events. We will endeavour to keep these nights purposeful and concise, but please remain until the end to honour all classes who have worked hard on their items.

Thank you all for another incredible year. I look forward with eager anticipation for all that is to come for our MCC community.

Kind Regards and Blessings,
Mrs Michelle Brownsey
Head of Primary



News from the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Ms Ulla Hansson

Dear Mackay Christian College Families,

We find ourselves at the halfway point of term 4, with the school year drawing steadily to a close. These final weeks are filled with exams, assessments, preparations for celebrations, and moments of reflection. It is a season of both hard work and joyful anticipation.



Philippians 1:6 reminds us, as we look toward the end of the year, we can have confidence that God continues to work in each of our students, deepening their learning, and guiding their steps.

Over the past two Wednesdays, we have had the pleasure of welcoming our Year 6 students from Providence as part of their transition to secondary school. They have been exploring our spaces, including the RTLTC and learning about how routines and expectations look a little different in the secondary environment. Their curiosity, confidence, and enthusiasm have been wonderful to see. We pray that each of these students will feel welcomed and known as they prepare for Year 7 in 2026.

For our Senior students, particularly our Year 12's, this is a significant moment. Over the upcoming weeks, they will be finalising exams, assessments and preparing for celebration events and graduation. This is a time of mixed emotions, excitement, pride, and anticipation. As a College community, we are incredibly proud of all our Year 12 students.

For our Years 7 to 11 students, the focus remains on finishing well. Students are encouraged to stay organised with assessments and revision and to seek support early if they feel overwhelmed and to continue living out our CLEAR values daily.

Galatians 6:9 says, 'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'

Let us continue to finish this year well, together.

In His Service,
Ulla Hansson
Pastoral Care Coordinator



News from the Head of Academics

Mr Doug Graham

At the start of week 4 this term, Year 10 students began Unit 1 of their Year 11 subjects and Year 11 students began Unit 3. The transition has occurred seamlessly with students embracing the opportunity to gain more knowledge and learn more skills. End of Semester 2 Reports for Year 10 students and End of Unit 2 Reports for Year 11 students will be published by the start of week 7. Year 11 students should review their



current subjects and evaluate whether any changes need to be made for Units 3 and 4. Subject changes for Year 10 and 11 students should be finalised as soon as possible.

The Year 12 external exams will be finished at the end of week 6. This is the culmination of much hard work over a very long time and each day there are more students who are sitting their final exams. We are excited for them and are looking forward to the final week of celebration next week that includes the Secondary Celebration night, House Family Celebration morning, Senior Chapel, Graduation night and the Mystery Tour. I always love this week as I believe we farewell our Year 12 students as well, if not better, than any other school.

Year 7-9 students will be completing their assessment over the next few weeks. End of Semester 2 reports will be published at the end of the school year.

College staff have successfully implemented the subject CLEAR across all year levels from Years 7-10 for the first time this year. The program is a school-based program which has been developed by our teachers using external resources including primarily Program Achieve and also the Prosper program. Program Achieve focuses on five social-emotional skills (SELS) which are Confidence, Organisation, Persistence, Getting Along and Resilience. Research indicates that these five SELs are essential keys for success and personal well-being. Our CLEAR Co-ordinator, Mrs Graham and her team of CLEAR teachers have been working hard, purposely designing engaging lessons that are based on the activities in Program Achieve and written from a Christian worldview. Each lesson has an embedded relevant Bible verse. A few highlights this year have included the 'homeless' sleepout, a personal interest project in Year 10 and the 'Wear a Sling for a Day' activity in Year 9 to help students empathise with others.

Our vision for Christian Education on Purpose is for our students to become everything that God wants them to be, flourishing in all aspects of their lives. We want them to be confident, organised, determined learners who have a clear vision for their future and are resilient through challenges. I continue to wish all our students much success in their learning journey this term.

God bless
Mr Doug Graham
Head of Academics



News from the ICT Manager

Mr Brett Hobbs

Keeping You Connected

We are pleased to share that, following the success of the Year 5 laptop program, Year 5 & 6 students will continue using classroom based laptops in 2026. This positive experience has also informed the decision to transition Year 7 students from iPads to laptops as the preferred learning device. From 2026, all Year 7 students will be issued a College-owned laptop to support their learning through to Year 9.



These laptops will be preconfigured with the College's management system, security settings, and all required educational software. Each device comes with a protective case, charger, and a 3-year warranty that includes accidental damage protection (please note: excess fees apply and claims are limited annually). Students are expected to use the laptop solely for educational purposes and must carry it in the provided case when not in use. If a laptop is damaged or not functioning properly, it should be taken to the College ICT Department in the TLE Block for assessment and repair.

Newly enrolled students in Years 8 & 9 will also receive a College laptop, while existing students in those year levels will continue using their iPads. To ensure a smooth and consistent learning experience for all students, cloud-based technologies such as Microsoft 365 and Adobe will continue to be supported across both iPads and laptops. This means students will have access to the same tools and resources, regardless of their device, helping everyone stay connected and engaged in their learning

The ICT team wishes to thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

God bless,
Mr Brett Hobbs



News from the MCC Parent Association

Mr Mathew Drysdale - President

Mrs Tara Drysdale Secretary

Parent Association Update

As mentioned in Dr Tunnah's recent email to the College community, both Tara and I will be stepping down from our roles as President and Secretary due to family reasons. We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone for their support over the past eight years.



We've been part of the Parent Association since its inception and have truly enjoyed volunteering our time to serve and help build a supportive College community. It has been a privilege to work alongside so many dedicated families and staff. We are praying for the new Executive team and wish them every success in the future.

If you would like to nominate for a position on the new executive committee, please email Dr Tunnah directly with the role you're interested in. A **special AGM** will be held on **Wednesday 12th November at 6:00pm** in the **Blue Room under the Faith Centre** to elect the new committee. All are welcome to attend.

Once again, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve.

Thank You to Our Volunteers and Supporters

The Parent Association would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who helped at the recent Primary Dance. Your support makes fun events like these possible and successful.

We are also incredibly grateful to the following businesses for their generous donations. Please consider supporting them in return:

- Bottlestops and Brushes
- Bredl's Wildlife
- Greek Gyros Mackay
- Caneland Central
- Mt Jukes Family Farm
- Adrenaline Games QLD
- Discovery Parks Mackay

Year 6 Completion Ceremony

Once again, the Parent Association is honoured to support the Year 6 Celebration Ceremony by helping with table decorations and food service and clean up.

House Family Points

This year is the first year we are having a House Family volunteers winner. Once all events have been finalised, we will announce the winner.

God Bless

Mathew Drysdale (President) and Tara Drysdale (Secretary)



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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

