



# Mackay Christian College Newsletter

## 2025 Term 4-2

### 'Christian Education on Purpose'



#### News from the Principal

**Dr Lesley Tunnah**

I always become quite reflective when we reach the end of another College year. So many stories, so many things to think back upon that may have been challenging or celebratory or both and so many farewells as our graduating students move on to new adventures. What I do know is that we cannot extend the time predetermined for each of us by our heavenly Father.

I consider the time He has given me in 2026 – have I used it wisely; have I made the most of the opportunities He placed before me; have I sought His will to fulfil His plan and purpose for me; have I glorified Him and also loved those He has put in my path...



The year does not have a 'do over' clause – it's a done deal! So I will try to take each of its precious lessons and use them to learn and grow.

I am so appreciative of every staff member on our MCC team. They are here because they heard God call them to serve – our students and our families. And I am so thankful for their beautiful attitudes that allow our students to become all God is calling them to be. What a wonderful legacy for each year that passes – sowing into the lives of our young ones! Teaching and serving at MCC is a privilege for which I am very thankful.

This year, we have begun or built upon a number of projects and initiatives which will continue to spill over into 2026. These include the appointment of a Christian Education Coordinator, Mrs Catrien Oosthuizen, a Senior Coordinator (Yrs 10-12), Mrs Hanna Atherstone, a Middle School Coordinator (Years 7-9), Mrs Jeanette van Schalkwyk, the RTLCC Pastoral Care Hub which both supports and challenges students to make choices in line with College expectations (training them for a more successful personal future), Discovery Day that showcased aspects of our College, House Family activities that fiercely challenge friendly competition, the Creative Academy projects and College Musical that support musically-talented students, the sporting teams that compete in inter-school events, the renovation of the Ag Centre and re-introduction of the Cattle Show team, the ongoing upgrades to the College technology resources, the provision of new resources in the TTC...the list is a testament to the enthusiasm of the College Executive Team and the Board working together to achieve best outcomes for our students. Also, please read the Board Director's item below for more exciting news about planned building projects.

I am also thrilled to announce the development of a Special Assistance School pilot program in 2026 under the direction of Ms Ulla Hansson. Ms Hansson has spent the past 10 years as a principal of a variety SA Schools and is well placed to initiate this program. SA Schools provide a flexible pathway for students who find the organisation of a 'traditional' school day challenging. Initially, we will be making this available to Year 11/12 students only. The flexible pathways program provides students with a personalised and supported learning structure. Students can continue

working towards their QCE/Employment and Further Education pathways while having greater flexibility in how they engage with the curriculum. More information will be sent out closer to the start of the 2026 school year.

And finally, we are ready for a Christmas celebration with family and friends! I pray that you enjoy the Christmas break as you gather family around you. Sometimes the heat makes us a little cranky, but I suggest you hug your children a little tighter and appreciate your family with love and care. Remember – there is no opportunity for a ‘do-over’, especially with your children – so make the most of every moment granted to you to extend grace, forgiveness and love. This is the model set for us by Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

May God bless you richly and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2026!

Yours in Christ,  
Dr Lesley Tunnah



### *News from the Board Chair*

#### *Mr Ben Patterson*

The Board recently held its final meeting for the year, in which we approved the construction of two new buildings on Providence Campus, and a host of upgrades on King's Park including a refurbished Industrial Design/ Graphics room. Specifically, work will commence in 2026 on a brand-new Outside School Hours (OSH) Care facility and a multipurpose, undercover sports facility. Faith Centre continues with its renovations and the Eric Liddel Oval will be upgraded. These are the first in a list of projects we have set our hearts to that will move our school forward and provide valuable learning spaces for our staff and students. We are thankful for God's provision, and the hard work of our amazing staff to get us to this point.

As we finish the year, I want to pay tribute to all those who've made it a successful one. Mackay Christian College continues to advance, providing a safe learning environment for our children, and making a huge difference to our community. We look forward to welcoming a host of new families in 2026 and making our College community the absolute best it can be.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



### *News from the Early Learning Centre*

#### *Mrs Jalaa Manning*

Greetings!

“Run, run, as fast as you can... you can’t catch me I’m the Gingerbread Man!”

Last month, as an extension of baking interests in the sandpit and excitement of exploring the big school, we enjoyed a week immersed in the Gingerbread Man story.



The classes enjoyed retelling the events, roleplaying the story in the sensory tray and creating with gingerbread scented playdough. They were also enthusiastically involved in baking and decorating their own gingerbread. The children were very surprised when some sneaky gingerbread escaped



from Kindy! A big hunt entailed to track them down, including visiting the tuckshop, library and Providence Reception. Thankfully, the children's detective skills were sharp, and the cheeky characters were found. As Ms Harper was sending the recipe home for the children to make their own gingerbread men with their parents, the class decided that they needed to make something to ensure these gingerbread men didn't run away.

Each child carefully designed a trap that would catch any sneaky escaping biscuit. They had to consider what would lure the gingerbread man into the trap and how they would keep it there. We discussed the resources available and how they suited the different positions in the traps. We linked the resources with National Recycling Week and reused boxes, sticks and paper to create our traps. Once the traps were designed on the planning page, the children began the construction process. The children followed their designs displaying ingenuity, creativity and determination. To lure the Gingerbread Men, there were moving parts, mazes and lots of cleverly chosen bait (including Chicken Chippie's, as it was reported by our Tuckshop convenor that she suspected some were stolen during their grand escape).

A wonderful and unforgettable learning experience for the children.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs Manning.







## News from the Head of Secondary

### Ms Deb Wright

It's been a joy to see so many congratulated on their achievements this term. It is encouraging to see students grow as they look out for others and serve across a variety of activities. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."



The Year 12 students enjoyed their special night at Graduation and certainly enjoyed the more relaxed after graduation activities. A special thank you goes to all the many teachers and staff who gave their time in making the week's celebration activities happen. Thank you to all parents/carers in their support for their child over the years, as it is the support of the parent/carer that makes a significant impact in their child's learning journey. All the love poured in will never be lost. This last week closed with Activities Week in which the students did so well! They engaged beautifully and it was an opportunity for students to connect more on a social level while having some fun.

With the new year approaching, comes new opportunities for students to explore their gifts and talents and serve others. It is encouraging to see students develop their leadership skills by being available to assist others and sacrifice their own time. Next year, we will be focusing on greater

representation of all year levels in student council and on a more long-term student leadership approach from Year 7 through to Year 12.

Term 1 2026, Week 3, Wednesday Chapel, Session 1, involves the ceremony of the Captains' Declarations alongside the pledges from the Men of Honour and Woman of Worth programs. This is a special event that will be held at the Primary Powerhouse of which the responsibility of the roles will be recognised. The 2026 leaders will agree to uphold the CLEAR values as role models for their peers and the younger students.

Year 7 Orientation Activities will be completed over a two-week period. This will allow students to be steadily introduced to Secondary subjects while still stepping them through new routines etc. between classes. Our Years 7-9 Middle School Coordinator, Mrs Jeanette van Schalkwyk, will be leading the way in this space.

Year 12 2026 preparations begin from Term 1 and information for these will start to trickle through from Week 2 via our Years 10-12 Senior School Coordinator, Mrs Hanna Atherstone. New student drivers are already beginning to emerge, and, for accountability, regarding safe use of the College car park, students will need to sign an agreement of appropriate student use.

Don't forget that all students from Years 7-12 will require a hard copy of the Bible (NLT – New Living Translation – please see the Stationary List) which is available via our School Locker. Students will be using a text for the Biblical Studies program and messages during Chapel will enrich the learning further. Mrs Catrien Oosthuizen, as Christian Education Coordinator, will be overseeing the implementation of the new subject as part of her new role.

This Christmas we remember Jesus' purpose in coming to Earth. Mark 10:44-45 says, "...whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Many gifts are exchanged over CHRISTmas but none compare to the greatest gift given to us – the choice of a relationship with Jesus for eternity.

Ms Debbie Wright

Head of Secondary

### *News from the Christian Education Coordinator*

*Mrs Catrien Oosthuizen*



Looking back over 2025, I thank God for His faithfulness and ongoing provision. He has blessed Learning Enrichment with an incredible team of teachers and aides who work collaboratively with students, parents, and staff. It has been a privilege to strengthen relationships and work together to bring about positive change and support.

This year, we trialled and implemented new initiatives while enhancing existing programs to improve productivity and outcomes. As we met various requirements, we were encouraged by the quality of our processes and programs. I would like to sincerely thank our learning enrichment teachers and aides for their tireless efforts in providing quality support for our students.

In 2026, we will welcome a new Learning Enrichment Coordinator as I transition out of the role by the end of Semester 1 to serve as College Christian Education Coordinator. This transition period will allow for a smooth handover and ensure the momentum of our achievements continues. I have been so blessed to work with a team who truly love the students and the work they do. This is their

calling and ministry, and even on challenging days, they find joy through the strength they have in Him (Philippians 4:13).

True inclusion begins with acknowledging that God has created each student and staff member fearfully and wonderfully (Psalm 139:14), with a plan and purpose for their lives (Jeremiah 29:11). Jesus modelled inclusion by loving each person where they were at, offering the right balance of support and challenge. He never stopped loving and welcomed children and people from all walks of life. At MCC, we celebrate the whole child and value growth and learning that is personal to each student.

We pray that all our families enjoy a blessed Christmas break, filled with quality time together and the joy of remembering the greatest gift—Jesus!

Catrien O



### News from the Head of Primary

*Mrs Michelle Brownsey*

Well, we have arrived at the end of another exciting year doing life as an MCC community. These final weeks have been a huge blessing, seeing all of our Providence students shining within their Celebration Nights. They are all Wonderfully made, unique and precious masterpieces in God's eyes and it is a joy to watch them learning and growing each year.



Psalm 16:11 says, *"You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever."* It is our desire and purpose within Mackay Christian College to introduce students to Jesus Christ. Through a personal decision to follow Him, students can discover the joy and pleasure of walking with Him, embracing His loving presence and life in abundance. As we walk closely with our God, we discover more of who we were created to be and the plans and purposes we are called to joyfully undertake.

I pray that the holiday season would be a time of joyfully living in God's presence, becoming aware of His great love for each of us and a blessed family time of connection under God's protection.

I look forward with anticipation to all that 2026 has to offer and to seeing all of our families back for another year of adventure together.

God's richest blessings,  
Mrs Michelle Brownsey

### News from the Primary Academics

*Mrs Gail Mackie*



As we conclude another year, I am delighted to share some academic highlights and developments that have shaped our journey in 2025.

Our students have shown outstanding growth across all key learning areas. NAPLAN results reflect continued progress in literacy and numeracy benchmarks, while targeted interventions through



Learning Enrichment have ensured every child receives the support needed to reach their full potential. We also celebrate the dedication of our teachers, who have embraced innovative strategies to foster critical thinking and creativity in the classroom.

A Christ-centred worldview continues to be woven throughout all subjects. Biblical principles have been integrated into daily learning, helping students connect faith with knowledge and character formation.

This year, Version 9.0 of the Australian Curriculum was successfully implemented and refined across English, Mathematics, Health and Physical Education, Cultural Arts, and STEM (Digital and Design Technologies). For Science and HASS, 2025 has been a year of familiarisation with Version 9.0 and implementation on track for 2026. These updated units emphasise inquiry-based learning, encouraging curiosity and collaboration while maintaining academic rigour.

Our staff have engaged in professional development on topics such as differentiated instruction and strategies for teaching literacy and numeracy. Insights from these sessions were shared at staff meetings to enhance classroom engagement and meet the diverse needs of learners across the Primary School. Additionally, our teachers participated in Professional Learning Community sessions with Dr. Tunnah, exploring fundamental topics such as the College's CLEAR Values, effective communication, inclusion, reflective practice, and the integration of technology in the classroom.

Looking ahead to 2026, we aim to deepen our commitment to Christian Education on Purpose by introducing Biblical Studies as an explicit learning area. This will nurture spiritual growth alongside academic achievement. Our goal remains steadfast: to equip every child with the skills, values, and faith foundation to thrive in life and learning.

Blessings,

Mrs Gail Mackie

*News from the Primary Pastoral Care*

*Mr Andy Butler*



As we come to the end of the school year, it's a great time to reflect on all that has happened within the Primary Pastoral Care space.

This year, we've worked closely with students across the school to help them understand their behaviour and the impact it can have on others. Behaviour Education has been a key focus, supporting students to learn from mistakes and improve their engagement in the classroom.

Our Chill Space has been well used, providing students with a quick break from the busyness of classrooms and the playground. This opportunity to reset has helped many return to class calmer and ready to learn.

We've also been blessed to see our Pastoral Care team grow, welcoming Miss Margot in Youth Support and Nurse Rachael as our College Nurse. Both have been invaluable, offering students someone to talk to outside of the classroom environment. Nurse Rachael has also provided Breakfast Club this term, which has been greatly appreciated by many.

Throughout the year, we've been involved in important events such as Bullying No Way Day and R U OK? Day, reinforcing our commitment to student wellbeing.

On a personal note, this has been a huge learning experience for me in my first year as Primary Head of Pastoral Care. I'm excited for the year ahead—the challenges it will bring and the opportunities to help students grow and succeed.

As we head into the holidays, I hope and pray everyone enjoys a fantastic break. For those moving on to new schools or transitioning to Year 7 at King's Park, I trust your time at MCC Primary has been meaningful and that you've learned more about yourselves and about God.

God bless you all,  
Andy Butler



### *News from the Secondary Pastoral Care Co-ordinator*

*Ms Ulla Hansson*

As we come to the close of the school year at Mackay Christian College, I want to thank our students, families and staff for your support, resilience, and partnership throughout 2025. This year has been a year of growth, challenge, and many moments where God's grace has carried us through.

In Pastoral Care, our priority has always been to walk alongside our young people, supporting them. None of this would be possible without the incredible team who serve so faithfully each day.

To our Counsellor, Pam Jackson: Thank you for your gentle guidance, professional wisdom, and commitment to student wellbeing. You have supported so many through difficult seasons, bringing calm, clarity and compassion.

To our Chappy, Ange Wilkins: Thank you for the encouragement, prayer, and pastoral care you bring into every interaction. You remind our students of God's love in practical and meaningful ways.

To our Nurse, Rachael Potgieter: Thank you for your care and dedication to supporting our students in health education and well-being.

To our Administration Assistant in Pastoral Care, Julie Hughes: Thank you for keeping us organised, supported and always welcoming with a smile.

To our Administration Assistant (Data), Amiee Santacaterina: Thank you for stepping seamlessly into your new role with such confidence and enthusiasm. Your support in RTLK has been invaluable.

To all the staff across the College who have partnered with us this year, thank you. Your willingness to communicate, collaborate, and support our students has strengthened our shared mission.

As we move into the Christmas season may you find rest, joy and renewal.

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given...” Isaiah 9:6

In His Service,

Ulla Hansson  
Pastoral Care Coordinator



## *News from the ICT Manager*

*Mr Brett Hobbs*



### *Keeping You Connected*

The end of the year is always a good time to reflect on what we've achieved and what lies ahead. As the College slows down for the holidays, the ICT Department will be ramping up to prepare for an exciting 2026.

Some of the key projects on the horizon include:

- Completing the in-class wireless upgrade for faster, more reliable connectivity.
- Introducing laptops for Year 6 and Year 7 students, supporting modern learning.
- Implementing further security enhancements to keep our systems and data safe.
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There are a few other exciting initiatives in the pipeline—stay tuned for updates in our 2026 newsletters!

Technology is woven into almost every part of our lives, but the holidays are a great time to step back and enjoy the world beyond the screen. Encourage your children to look up, explore, and make the most of the sunny days (even if they're rare in Mackay!). There will always be another "screen day," but these moments offline are where memories are made.

The ICT Department would like to thank you for partnering with us to support your student learners. We wish you a Merry Christmas, centred in Christ, and a joyful New Year!

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV) — "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

God bless,  
Mr Brett Hobbs



## News from the MCC Parent Association

Mrs Alison Beresford - President



A heartfelt thank-you to our outgoing President and Secretary, **Mathew & Tara Drysdale** and **J'aime Hunt** for their years of dedication and service—we appreciate all you have accomplished for our College community.

We're excited to introduce the new 2026 MCC PA Executive Team!

**President:** Alison Beresford

**Secretary:** Sam Johansson

**Treasurer:** Christa Buckler

**Vice President:** *Vacant*

**Events Coordinator:** *Vacant*

We'd love to welcome more enthusiastic parents to join the team! If you enjoy event organising, supporting school life, or sharing ideas for fundraising and grants, we'd be thrilled to have you! All you need is a willing heart and a collaborative spirit.

### Term 4 Initiatives

Term 4 was a wonderful finish to the year with the Primary Dance and Year 6 Completion Ceremony. Thank you to everyone who decorated, served, and supported—especially our amazing tuckshop team! It was fantastic to see so many happy faces at Wet & Messy Day and the Colour run on Providence campus. These activities were chosen by Year 6 and supported through PA fundraising earlier in the year, a great example of student-led fun made possible by our community working together.

### Containers for Change

The Drysdals have been the driving force behind Containers for Change—especially at Providence. As they step back in 2026, we're exploring what the program could look like next for Providence campus. If recycling is your passion, then we'd love to chat!

Over the holidays you can support the school containers for change program by donating bottles and cans using our **Containers for Change ID C10052020** - every contribution goes to the students.

### Looking Ahead

We're already planning for 2026 and would love your ideas.

### Come say hello!

Join us at Book Pick-Up Day on **Friday 23 January** at Providence Campus—grab a Zooper Dooper and meet the team!

Our first PA meeting for 2026 is **Wednesday 11 February**. We'd love to see you there!

Finally, a big thank-you to our Teachers, Admin and Support staff, Tuckshop team, Executive school leadership—and most especially our Parent Helpers. We're excited to partner with you again for 2026!

Best wishes,  
The MCC PA Exec Team

## **NOTICE FROM KINETIC BUS SERVICES**

This notice serves as a reminder of the legal requirements for passengers travelling on any Kinetic school or charter service fitted with seatbelts.

Under Queensland legislation – Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009, all passengers must wear a seatbelt if one is fitted. This requirement applies to all Kinetic-operated school and charter services where seatbelts are provided.

Additionally, please note that it is against the law for children aged between 1 and 7 years to sit in the front row of a bus that has two or more rows of seats. This regulation is in place to improve passenger safety and reduce the risk of injury in the event of a sudden stop or collision.

We ask that you remind passengers of the following safety requirements:

- Seatbelts must be worn at all times while the bus is moving.
- Seatbelts must be properly fastened and not shared.
- Children aged 1–7 years are not permitted to sit in the front row where the bus has two or more rows of seats.
- Passengers must remain seated until the bus has come to a complete stop.
- Drivers are authorised to remind passengers to comply with these legal safety requirements.

Your support in reinforcing these important safety obligations with students and staff is greatly appreciated. By working together, we can ensure all passengers travel safely and in compliance with Queensland law.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact me directly at [reece.humphreys@wearekinetic.com](mailto:reece.humphreys@wearekinetic.com) or on 0436816218.







*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

