MacKillop
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

Newsletter.

Volume four

24 April 2026

MacKillop
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

We're enrolling now for 2027!

Visit our website to enrol or to register for our upcoming enrolment events: www.mackillop.act.edu.au

Year 7 2027 Open Night

Monday 11 May
Padua Campus

Book a session:
www.mackillop.act.edu.au

Try MacKillop Day

Friday 15 May
Padua Campus

For Year 6. Register at:
www.mackillop.act.edu.au

Year 11 2027 Open Night

Wednesday 20 May
St Peter's Campus

Stalls available: 4-7pm
Principal's Presentation: 6pm

Applications for Year 7 2027 close Friday 29 May
Enrolment enquiries: enrolments@mackillop.act.edu.au

A Catholic school for all.

Principal's Letter.

Principal's Prayer

Lord, on this anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, we pray for all those who have served in the Australian Armed Forces. We pray for an end to current conflicts around the world and for lasting peace. Amen.

Dear parents/carers, staff and students,

Easter

Term 1 concluded in Holy Week, a sacred time in the Christian year. On the last day of the term liturgies were held on both campuses, consisting of a dramatic presentation of the Stations of the Cross. I extend thanks to students in the Senior Youth Ministry team who led the presentations under the direction of the College Liturgy and Mission Coordinator, Crystal Wilkes. Easter invites us to reflect on the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection calls us to renewal. I hope the recent school holidays provided the opportunity for rest, time with those you love, and space for our students to experience some renewal before starting the new school term.

Principal's Pilgrimage

As Jacqui Heffernan advised during the break, as a part of her Principal professional development she is attending a Steps of St Paul pilgrimage in Greece and Türkiye during the first weeks of Term 2. Jacqui has sent her best wishes from abroad and is enjoying the time of faith formation with a group of other Catholic Education leaders exploring the influence of St Paul on the development of the Church. Jacqui will return to work on Wednesday 6 May.

Executive Director's Visit to MacKillop

The Executive Director of Catholic Education, David de Carvalho, spent several hours at MacKillop in the last week of Term 1. On his appointment in mid-2025, David undertook to visit all 56 Catholic systemic schools in the Archdiocese. Whilst at MacKillop he had the opportunity to meet with staff and students, tour both campuses, and observe several classes across Years 7 to 12. David was complimentary about the reputation of the College within our system and more broadly across the ACT and surrounding region. He spoke positively about the culture he observed at MacKillop, which was particularly evident to him during conversations with our students.

ANZAC Day – Lest we forget

An ANZAC Day commemoration was held on Wednesday this week at the St Peter's Campus and a similar event will take place next Wednesday at the Padua Campus. These commemorative services are opportunities to both educate our students and to remember the courage, sacrifice and service of those who have served Australia in war, other conflicts and in peacekeeping. Thank you to our HASS Coordinators, Sandhya Tulpule (Padua Campus) and Michael Batten (St Peter's Campus) for their leadership of these events on their respective Campuses.

This ANZAC Day, we express our deep gratitude for the courage, selflessness and enduring legacy of those who have served our nation. May we continue to honour their memory, not only in ceremony, but in the values we uphold each day.

Principal's Letter.

Year 12 Relay for Life

Congratulations to the students of Year 12 who in participated in the annual Relay for Life on 28 March. The students raised $81,143 in support of the ACT Cancer Council. This made them the highest Relay for Life fundraising group Australia and continues the generous support that previous MacKillop Year 12 cohorts have made to this cause. In doing so, our students are making a very real difference in our community and in support of those who are impacted by cancer. Thank you to other members of the MacKillop community who made donations to support this important charity.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Staff at MacKillop are regularly reminded that in educating our students, we do so in partnership with parents/carers. The Parent Teacher Interviews that have taken place this week and are continuing next Tuesday afternoon, are an important opportunity to provide feedback directly to parents/carers and students. While families are always welcome to contact staff throughout the year, Parent Teacher Interviews allow for focused conversations about the learning and achievement taking place in each class. I hope that each interview has provided both affirmation along with constructive feedback for future growth in students. If parents/carers have been unable to attend and would like feedback on the progress of your child, please make contact with their individual teachers.

Enrolment Period

In the coming weeks MacKillop is hosting several events for families considering enrolling students into MacKillop. If you are aware of anyone contemplating secondary school options across Years 7 to 12, please share with them the information about the following events:

- Year 7 2027 Open Night, Monday 11 May
- Try MacKillop Day, Friday 15 May
- Year 11 2026 Information Night and Careers Expo, Wednesday 20 May

Further information about each of these can be found within this Newsletter.

Please note that enrolment applications for Year 7 2027 must be submitted by **5.00pm on Friday 29 May.**

Tegan Blunt Fund

In 2008 Tegan Blunt, a Year 11 student at MacKillop, tragically passed away. Tegan was a fine sportsperson and a keen contributor to the extra-curricular life of the College. In her honour a fund was established to support students in achieving their goals across a range of areas. These include academic, cultural, sporting, service, and enrichment opportunities. To support students and their families in meeting the associated costs, applications can be made by completing the **Tegan Blunt Fund** – Application Form for consideration by the College Principal.

Yours sincerely,

Lachlan McNicol • College Principal (Acting)

What's Been Happening

Year 12 Relay for Life

fundraising for the Cancer Council

On Saturday 28 March, Year 12 joined together to participate in the Relay for Life 'Relay Your Way,' which saw the cohort complete laps of the St Peter's Campus oval for 12 hours. We ended up raising over $80,000, which has placed our year group at the top of the fundraising charts for the whole of Australia.

It was a day of high energy and outstanding commitment from all students and staff. This included walking many kilometres, participating in novelty laps, running a bake sale, engaging with the raffle booth, showcasing student performances and keeping spirits high. In the relay itself, there were some massive achievements by some very keen students, with several completing the distance of a marathon and Grace Evans reaching 62km over the course of the day.

We would like to thank everyone who made this achievement possible, including those who helped raise awareness, donated, the staff at Cancer Council ACT, teachers who supervised, and of course, the Graduating Class of 2026.

Charlotte MacLeod & Benjamin Porter • College Captains

What's Been Happening

College Athletics Carnival 2026

The College Athletics Carnival took place at the AIS on Tuesday 24 March, with Meup Meup and Mindygari taking home the silverware. Meup Meup claimed their fourth straight Championship Trophy after a dominant display on the track and in the field events, while Mindygari's Spirit Cup was their first trophy since 2022.

House spirit was evident from all four houses from the very moment students entered the venue, with a huge variety of costumes on display in line with the carnival theme 'All out in colour'. The warm conditions at the AIS Athletics Track did not deter students from competing in races, participating in novelty events, and cheering on their teams from the stands.

The carnival was another enjoyable event for all, thanks mainly to the organisational skills of the College Sports Coordinator, Mr Will Anderson, Year 12 members of the Student Representative Council, and the large team of teachers and support staff who played an important part in the running of the day. MacKillop congratulates all students for once again demonstrating their athleticism and house spirit, which made the carnival another huge success.

What's Been Happening

The Biggest Morning Tea

On Tuesday 21 April, Year 12 students Charlotte MacLeod, Benjamin Porter and Annelise Schirripa attended Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at the Legislative Assembly. This event, which was run by the Cancer Council ACT, was a great opportunity for these students to meet the ACT Health Minister, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, various scientists, board members of the Cancer Council, and celebrate the success of their cohorts' fundraising efforts. They were invited on the back of Year 12's efforts in Relay for Life.

New Additions to the SRC

Year 7 students participated in the Student Representative Council elections. A record number of students nominated to stand as candidates for the four leadership positions.

The elected Year 7 student representatives were announced last week and inducted into the SRC. Congratulations to the elected student leaders in Year 7 for each House:

Gurabang - Lana Muongsene
Mindygari - Prabal Shrestha
Meup Meup - Xola Geier
Ngadyung - Hunter Blayden

What's Been Happening

Honouring Service and Sacrifice

ANZAC Commemorations across the College

On Wednesday 22 April, the St Peter's Campus gathered to commemorate the soldiers who served at Gallipoli in 1915 and all who have served Australia in times of war, conflict and peacekeeping. The service included heartfelt reflections from Defence students, wreath-laying, the sounding of the Last Post, a minute of silence and the national anthem, honouring the more than 1.5 million men and women who have served our nation. Next week, the Padua Campus will hold a similar service.

Continuing this spirit of remembrance, representatives from the College will proudly join the Queanbeyan ANZAC Day March on Saturday 25 April, marking the first time the school has participated in this important community event. This moment reflects our commitment to honouring service and sacrifice, while strengthening our connection with the wider community. The march will commence at 10.00am at Moore Park, Queanbeyan, and the public is welcome to attend.

Charlotte MacLeod & Laura Tarrant • Year 12

Year 10 Work Experience

In Week 9 of last term, 55 Year 10 Work Studies students went out into their chosen fields and engaged in a week of work experience. There was a wide range of careers explored; this included construction, physiotherapy, pharmaceuticals, beauty, primary education, mechanics, real estate, customer services and many more.

Stephanie Suteska & Candace Spencer
Work Studies Teachers

What's Been Happening

Social and Community Work

As part of the Year 11 Social and Community Work course, students are working towards the completion of Certificate II in Community Services and Certificate II in Active Volunteering. Here is a snippet of one activity the Year 11 Social and Community Work students have been engaged with in Term 1.

Over the last few weeks in Social and Community Work we have been focusing on how we could get involved in our local community. Before the holiday break, which coincided with Easter, we channelled our festive spirit and created Easter baskets for the Isabella Gardens Retirement Village. During class we baked some sugar cookies and carefully packaged the treats with some easter eggs and ribbon. The following day we walked door-to-door around Isabella Gardens, having lovely conversations about their upcoming Easter plans. Making these baskets and engaging with residents was both an insightful and delightful experience!

Ebony-Rose Cronin & Erica Wheatley • Year 11

Project Compassion

During the season of Lent, students at MacKillop were encouraged to support Project Compassion, Caritas Australia's annual fundraising and awareness campaign aimed at helping vulnerable communities both in Australia and around the world.

Driven by the leadership of the SRC on both campuses, the College raised an impressive total of $10,208.36. This remarkable effort reflects the students' generosity, sense of community, and commitment to making a difference.

Ngadyung House led the way with a combined total of $2,572.93 across both campuses. At the Padua Campus, Mrs Senti and Mrs Jewell's PC Class, 9A2, topped the leaderboard by collecting an impressive $309.

Congratulations to all students and staff involved.

Paul Durham • Assistant Principal, Pastoral Care

What's Been Happening

SheLeads Conference

On Friday 27 March, a group of 16 Year 11 and 12 students attended the SheLeads Conference which aims to equip women with the skills and knowledge needed to grow as leaders.

Attending SheLeads was an amazing experience for all of us. The day provided opportunities to express our views, question the world around us, and connect with other powerful women who are all exploring their own leadership journeys. We listened to speakers share their experiences and give insightful advice for the future, as well as participating in group activities that helped to empower us in our decision making. A highlight of the day was the panel discussion which featured four successful women, where we had the chance to ask our own questions about leadership and how we can express ourselves unapologetically.

Overall, it was inspiring, and we would highly recommend this experience to any women interested in finding their own way to be leaders in our community.

Isabella Morgan & Grace Myors • Year 11

Physical Theatre Workshops

On Wednesday 25, Thursday 26 and Monday 30 March, all Year 10, 11 and 12 Drama students engaged in Physical Theatre Workshops which explored the use of body, sound and presence as on stage performers.

Oedipus the King

On Tuesday 31 March, Year 9 and 12 Drama, Stage Performance, and Technical Theatre students went on an excursion to the Botanical Gardens to see and engage with the production of Oedipus the King.

What's Been Happening

ASC Swimming

On Wednesday 25 March, 43 students proudly represented MacKillop at the ASC Swimming Carnival held at the AIS. It was a highly successful day of competition, with MacKillop finishing 2nd overall in the girls' team standings, 4th in the boys', and 2nd overall for combined scores. Four of our six relay teams achieved impressive 3rd-place finishes. Many students recorded personal best times, with several qualifying to represent the school at the upcoming ACT Swimming Carnival.

Teresa Miller • Teacher

Senior Girls Touch & Futsal

On Wednesday 1 April, both the Year 11/12 girls' Touch Football and Futsal teams competed at the ASC and ACT Gala Days respectively. Both teams spent the day in high spirits, playing each match with enthusiasm and energy. Additionally, the Touch Football team finished the competition off in third place!

Bryce Svensson & Kate Greenacre • Teachers

Student Achievement

Isla Pfeiffer (Year 11) has been selected into the Australian U17s Netball Team.

Imogen Bond, Isla Pfeiffer and Willow Kildey (Year 11) represented the ACT U17s at the National Netball Championships in Melbourne during the school holidays. They finished the competition in 5th place.

Aadhya Karthik (Year 10) has been selected into the ACT 18&U Tennis Team.

Several students competed at the Swimming Age National Championships during the school holidays on Gold Coast.

- Darcy Davis (Year 11) came 3rd in the 50m backstroke.
- Karen O'Connor (Year 11) came 7th in the 50m backstroke and 11th in the 100m backstroke.
- Lily Young (Year 11) came 2nd in the NSW team relay.

Alana Fraser and Olivia Tapp (Year 12) played for the U18s GWS 'Talent League' AFLW Team in Sydney in April.

Information & Notices

Winter Uniform Update

Thank you to the many families who continue to support students in wearing the correct full winter uniform. This term, some students have met with Pastoral Care Coordinators regarding uniform matters such as missing ties or kerchiefs, untucked shirts, incorrect earrings, and skirt length. Please note that continued non-compliance may result in after school detentions, and parents/carers will be notified.

Staff will continue working closely with students and families to support uniform expectations, which play an important role in promoting pride, belonging, and consistency across the College.

If you have experienced difficulties obtaining uniform items or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at paul.durham@mackillop.act.edu.au. Thank you for your ongoing support in upholding the College Uniform Policy, as outlined in the Student Diary, College newsletters, and on our website.

Paul Durham • Assistant Principal, Pastoral Care

Bronze Status Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received Bronze Status at the Padua Assembly on Wednesday 1 April:

Charlotte Roempke (7F1), Fletcher Johns (7W4), Jake Ligu (7W4), Archer Lean (8W1) and Jayden Lekamarachchi (8E1).

Supporting Safe Behaviours and Wellbeing

This term, our Pastoral Program continues to focus on Safe Behaviours and Wellbeing, supporting students to build healthy, respectful relationships and develop resilience at each stage of their schooling. Learning is tailored by year group, ranging from Healthy Relationships in Year 7 through to Self-Awareness and Transition in Year 12.

To support families alongside this learning, we are sharing the **SchoolTV Special Report: Consent & Respectful Relationships**. This resource offers clear, practical guidance to help parents and carers understand consent, respectful behaviour and the influences young people face today.

We encourage you to explore this brief report and use it as a starting point for ongoing conversations at home, helping reinforce shared values between school and family.

VIEW THIS WEEK'S FEATURE

Paul Durham • Assistant Principal, Pastoral Care

Information & Notices

New PC Teachers

A small number of Pastoral Care Classes have a new PC Teacher from the start of Term 2 due to staffing changes. The new PC Teachers are:

- 10F4 - Ange Hancock (5 weeks)
- 11E1 - Neelima Gupta (2.5 weeks)
- 11E3 - Melissa Tonnet
- 12E1 - Helen Jacobs & Tim Stephens

Paul Durham • Assistant Principal, Pastoral Care

Personalised Learning Plan Consultation

Throughout the year, the College will formally write to parents and carers of students with Personalised Learning Plans to offer periods of consultation. This occurs during both Semester 1 and Semester 2.

On Tuesday 7 April, student learning plans were made available on the Compass Parent Portal under Academic Reports. Parents/carers and students are invited to review the adjustments currently in place and to provide feedback, should they wish to.

Consultation opportunities will be available during Weeks 12–15 of Term 2 for families who would like to discuss their child's plan in more detail. A notification will be shared on Compass next week to enable families to book a consultation session. However, if you have feedback or updated documentation, please contact the Inclusive Education Coordinator for your child's year level:

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION COORDINATORS

Years 7 and 8 - Ms Nicole Handford
nicole.handford@mackillop.act.edu.au

Years 9 and 10 - Mrs Kerry-Anne Kwong
kerry-anne.kwong@mackillop.act.edu.au

Years 11 and 12 - Mrs Jen Croker
jen.croker@mackillop.act.edu.au

Erin White • Assistant Principal • Teaching and Learning

Padua Campus Term 2 Homework Club

The Padua Campus Homework Club opened on Tuesday 21 April. The opening times are Monday to Thursday, 3.15pm to 4.30pm.

Homework Club will be **CLOSED** on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 28 April** (Parent-Teacher Interviews)
- **Monday 11 May** (Year 7 Open Night)
- **Tuesday 26 May** (Staff Meeting)
- **Tuesday 2 June** (Staff Meeting)

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me in the Learning Commons via email amanda.knott@mackillop.act.edu.au or on phone 02 6209 5206.

Amanda Knott • Learning Commons Coordinator (Padua Campus)

Information & Notices

Junior Choir

Come and join us!

Love singing? Junior Choir is a fantastic opportunity for you to develop your vocal skills, sing with an ensemble, and build performance confidence!

Rehearsals take place every Monday at recess in the Music room and are led by Ms Henderson.

All students are welcome! For more information, please email Ms Henderson or Ms Gearside. If not - see you at our next rehearsal!

Charlottle Gearside • Coordinator of Performance

Sustainability

Earth Day is celebrated every year on 22 April where we recognise and work towards environmental protection, sustainability, and climate action. The Earth Day theme for 2026 is "Our Power, Our Planet"! However, caring for our earth isn't limited to one day, it is a responsibility we share through our day-to-day lives.

SUSTAINABLE TIP

Hot water consumption accounts for about 25% of the average household energy bill. This can be reduced by washing clothes in cold water, keeping your showers short, and fixing leaks to prevent wasted water.

Ailys Dulguime • 2026 Sustainability Captain

Second-Hand Uniform Shop

Thank you to the generous MacKillop community for the plentiful donations to the SHUS, and to those who shop at the SHUS. The rehoming of uniform items provides financial savings for families, and positively impacts our environment through preventing usable items from going to landfill. Go MacKillop!

The SHUS is located at the senior campus and is generally open on a Tuesday by appointment. Please text 0427 089 370 or email uniforms@mackillop.act.edu.au to make an appointment or for any SHUS matters.

Please be very sure of the sizing when buying from the SHUS. It is recommended that you bring your child with you to try on the uniforms in the shop before purchasing (or trying on at Lowes beforehand). Due to the time-consuming nature of stock maintenance, the SHUS does not offer refunds or exchanges.

Short of time?
You can place an order via email. Send your order list to the SHUS via email. The items can be sent to your preferred front office for collection.

Lost a button?
Please send an email with your requirements. These can be sent home with your child.

Judy • SHUS Manager

Information & Notices

Enrolments

Year 7 2027 applications are now open. Don't forget to complete one if you have a child wishing to commence with us next year.

Enrolments from surrounding Catholic feeder schools also require an application prior to the 5pm deadline on Friday 29 May 2026.

Any questions regarding the enrolment process should be directed to our office via phone 6209 5217 or email enrolments@mackillop.act.edu.au.

Looking forward to meeting you at our Open Night on Monday 11 May.

Jo Lubinski & Rebecca McKenzie • Enrolments

School Fees

Term 2 fee statements will be sent electronically at the end of next week.

Thank you to the families who have paid Term 1 fees. Any outstanding fees should be paid immediately unless paying by Direct Debit or other approved arrangement.

It is most important that you notify the College regarding any changes to your email address as this is our primary form of communication.

If you require more information regarding Direct Debit arrangements or other approved payment methods or are experiencing difficulty paying the fees please contact the Fees Office via fees@mackillop.act.edu.au.

Michelle Predovan • Fees Manager

Community Notices

THE Y KAMBAH EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

The Y is scheduled to open a new Early Learning Centre on Jenke Circuit in Kambah. The Y holds an "Exceeding" Accreditation with Australian Childhood Foundation in Safeguarding Children and Young people.

For more information, visit **their website.**

AUTISM WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Positive Partnerships is running a 1-day workshop for parents, carers and grandparents about the diversity of autism, sensory processing and working together with your child's school. For more information, visit **their website.**

When: Wednesday 20 May, 9.15am-3.00pm
Where: Pavilion on Northbourne, Dickson

What's Coming Up

Padua ANZAC Ceremony **29 APR**

College Cross Country **1 MAY**

MON	**27** APR	• ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)
TUE	**28** APR	• 4.00pm: Parent-Teacher Interviews
WED	**29** APR	• Padua ANZAC Ceremony
FRI	**01** MAY	• College Cross Country
WED	**06** MAY	• Year 9 Outdoor Ed Camp
THU	**07** MAY	• Year 9 Outdoor Ed Camp • 5.30pm: ASbA Information Evening

What's Coming Up

Year 7 2027 Open Night **11 MAY**

Careers Expo & Year 11 2027 Open Night **20 MAY**

FRI	**08** MAY	• Year 9 Outdoor Ed Camp
MON	**11** MAY	• Year 7 2027 Open Night
FRI	**15** MAY	• Try MacKillop Day (for Year 6) • Year 8 Try St Peter's Day • Cowra Eisteddfod (Choirs)
MON	**18** MAY	• Gurabang House Charity Week
WED	**20** MAY	• Careers Expo & Year 11 2027 Open Night
FRI	**22** MAY	• Corroboree Group Reconciliation & Culture Day

MacKillop

St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

Contact details

02 6209 0100

info@mackillop.act.edu.au

www.mackillop.act.edu.au

PO Box 1211
Tuggeranong ACT 2901

Mackinnon Street, **Wanniassa** (Years 7-9)
Ellerston Avenue, **Isabella Plains** (Years 10-12)

Absentee SMS Line
0429 131 463

Socials

www.facebook.com/
mackillop.act

www.instagram.com/
mackillop_act

www.youtube.com/
stmarymackillop

www.linkedin.com/company/
st-mary-mackillop-college-canberra

https://bsky.app/profile/
mackillop-act.bsky.social

Do you need help with a particular issue?

IT Support, Compass and Canvas	helpdesk@mackillop.act.edu.au
Enrolments	enrolments@mackillop.act.edu.au
Fees and Finance	fees@mackillop.act.edu.au
School Reports	reports@mackillop.act.edu.au
Absences & Attendance	attendance@mackillop.act.edu.au