

"We are in the country of the Awabakal peoples. We respectfully acknowledge their elders, celebrating their continuing culture and the living memory of their ancestors."

Last Tuesday was the Feast day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia first and only saint. Mackillop along with Fr Julian Tenison Woods started the Sisters of St Joseph's in the mid to late 1800's after they saw a need for the young people, especially those in the remote and regional areas of Australia, to be educated, including an understanding and appreciation of God.

Ever generous God,

You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop

To live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

and constant in bringing hope and encouragement

to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.

With confidence in your generous providence and through the

intercession of Saint Mary MacKillop

We ask that you grant our request for peace, forgiveness, compassion, and love across humanity.

We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit

so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with courage, trust and openness.

Ever generous God hear our prayer.

We ask this through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

St Paul **Pray for Us**

St Mary of the Cross Pray for Us

Prayer Source: https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/

Annual School Visit

On Friday, members from the Catholic School Office and Diocesan Agencies were at St Paul's for our Annual School Visit. These visits were introduced this year to build stronger connections between schools and diocesan leaders.

The visits provide an opportunity for St Paul's to showcase our community and share our hopes and dreams for the future of the College.

Creative and Performing Arts Showcase

On Thursday evening, it was great to be in the audience to witness the creative talents of our artists, musician, dance, and drama students as they performed and displayed their gifts at the Creative Arts Showcase. Primary students from St Joseph's, Kilaben Bay band also performed throughout the evening.

It was wonderful many parents and extended family members were in attendance to support the children. The Creative and Performing Arts teachers invest significant amounts of time with their students to prepare them for the evening. We offer our thanks to these teachers and to Ms Burt for her coordination of the evening.







Parent & Carer Webinar

As part of the Catholic Council of School Parent's NSW/ACT in collaboration with eSafety are presenting a free 30-minute webinar: Online relationships and consent: Sending nudes and sexting will be held on 15 August 2023.

The webinar is designed for parents and carers of young people in secondary school.

It will cover:

- the impact of sharing nude images without consent
- practical suggestions for starting the chat about respectful relationships, consent and pressure to send nudes
- where to get support for a young person who has experienced abuse.

Date and time: Tuesday 15 August 7.30pm – 8.00pm

Register: https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5491931265697591563

Parent and Carer Engagement Meeting

The Term 3 Parent and Carer Engagement Meeting will be held online on Tuesday 5 September, 2023 commencing at 6.00pm. Parents and Carers are asked to register at the link below (some people indicated they would prefer to attend the meeting in person, if this is the case then I ask that those people indicate this option via the link below).

The Agenda for the Meeting will be:

- Overview of and Feedback on Ministry, Wellbeing and Learning at St Paul's.
- Parents and Friends Federation Report
- General Business.

Link to register for the Parent and Carer Engagement Meeting:

https://forms.office.com/r/1cLn4C4q1d

On the Tuesday morning prior to the gathering a Zoom link will be forwarded to those parents and carers who have indicated that they will be join the meeting online.

Mr Nicholas Wickham
Principal



Assistant Principal - Teaching & Learning

Generative AI and Academic Integrity

Without question the rise of artificial intelligence has impacted on the way we work and learn. With platforms such as ChatGPT and Bard easily accessible, users need to be aware of the opportunities and risks associated with the use of such tools. Generative AI has the capacity to generate new content based on patterns and examples from existing data. Generative AI can be used to synthesise and edit, generate text, images and video, compose music, design games and code and so on. In fact, I recently heard of ChatGPT being used to generate a recipe for



chocolate cake which included a substitute for butter. While generative AI holds much positive potential, we also need to be aware of the pitfalls of generating information through these platforms. Teachers at the College have been discussing how we can teach students to use generative AI platforms responsibly while at the same time, complying with guidelines relating to academic integrity.

There have been several positive outcomes from these discussions, specifically around how we are preparing students to engage in a rapidly changing world, the authenticity of assessment and reviewing our assessment strategies and the potential for generative AI to be used to elicit higher order thinking skills. In the coming weeks a guide to using generative AI will be made available to students which will outline the College position on the use of generative AI and steps students can take to use such platforms ethically and responsibly. In particular, students must be aware that:

- · Any work submitted for assessment is the student's own original work. Students must adhere to the expectations set by their class teacher regarding use of AI tools in the development of any work to be submitted.
- · A student's assessment is their own responsibility, so they should critically consider everything they submit.
- · Acknowledgement, as always, is key. If students follow the above points and submit a pre-approved assessment using an AI tool, they should acknowledge this contribution clearly in their work. This is the same as any other citation or acknowledgement of source.
- · Misuse of AI tools may be considered a breach of the College Assessment Policy and further action will be taken as outlined in the College Assessment Policy.

If students have any questions regarding academic integrity and the use of generative AI, they can seek advice from their class teacher, Leader of Learning or myself.

Year 12 Trial Examinations

The Trial Examinations will conclude this week and students are commended on their conduct and positive approach to this assessment period. For many students it has been the first time they have prepared for several three hour examinations and this is an opportunity to learn how to manage stress and to reflect on what strategies worked for the preparation for examinations. Year 12 will have their final Elevate session towards the end of the term which focuses on preparing for the HSC examinations and managing the examination period.

Preparing for Year 13 Information Session – Save the Date!

As Year 12 students come to the end of their secondary schooling and look ahead to prepare for life after school, we will be holding a Preparing for Year 13 information session on Wednesday 23 August starting at 6pm in the Damascus Centre. Further details will be sent to Year 12 students and families closer to the date.

Year 11 and Year 10 Elevate Sessions

On Tuesday 15 August, Year 11 and Year 10 students will engage in Elevate sessions. Year 11 will be provided with information focusing on exam

excellence in Ace Your Exams and Year 10 will be focusing on study techniques through Study Sensei. The purpose of engaging external providers such as Elevate is to ensure our students have the best opportunity to success in learning both at school and beyond.









Assistant Principal - Wellbeing & Engagement

Year 12

Year 12's have just completed their Trial HSC examinations and will now begin the end of their HSC journey as they complete courses and begin to consider past school pathways and options. It is always a time of mixed emotions about what the future holds and whether dreams are going to be achieved. It's heartening to know however, that despite these mixed feeling our students achieve great things. This is often evident when watching our local NBN news and past students from St Paul's are featured in news items demonstrating that they have continued to chase and fulfil their dreams and aspirations. On one night recently five ex-students from St Paul's featured – from Sophie who was presenting the news to Layne(Rugby), Yasmin(League), Taylor(Rally Driving), Nathan(Sailing). It is also evident when visiting many businesses and locations in and around the Lake Macquarie and Newcastle and students are seen to be thriving in their workspaces or alternatively in their own family lives.

As a teacher it is wonderful to witness the growth of out Year 12 students throughout their high school days and the community wish you all the best as you complete this journey. Enjoy the final moments and cherish the memories made. Like past students we know you will continue to thrive in our community.

EVENTBRITE

Below are two events which students and parents maybe interested in registering for:

Savage Angels

Eventbrite is hosting an event for girls aged 11-17 and their parents which will focus on inspiring, informing and instructing girls and their parents about how to make smarter and more informed decisions. It will focus on determination, hopes, doubts, fears achieving, obstacles and outcomes to name a few. This will take place on Friday 15th September at Souths Merewether 46 Llewellyn Street Merewether starting at 7.00pm. There is a cost involved and registration can be made using the following link. https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/savage-angels-newcastle-tickets675795662017?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

Motov8ing Boys

A similar event to Savage Angels is also being held for boys aged between 11-17 on Thursday 14th September at Souths Merewether 46 Llewellyn St Merewether. If you wish to find out more about Motov8ing Boys there is a clip on the link below which gives an insight into the material covered in this event. https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/motov8ing-boys-newcastle-tickets-675790546717?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

SCHOOL TV

School TV has a range of articles from specialists to assist teachers and parents with understanding, managing and navigating the difficult adolescent years. These articles and videos can be found at: https://booragul.catholic.schooltv.me/category-latest-newsletter







Neurodiversity

This months special edition article is about neurodiversity. Neurodiversity emphasises the natural variation in how an individual's brain functions and how they perceive and interact with the world, leading to diverse ways of learning and communicating. While most young people are neurotypical, some exhibit variations in brain development, such as ADHD, autism or dyslexia, making them neurodivergent.

Embracing neurodiversity involves accepting, celebrating, and supporting neurodivergent children and adolescents without attempting to change or treat their differences. Using respectful language, challenging unhelpful attitudes, avoiding assumptions, and actively promoting inclusivity can help embrace neurodiversity effectively.

Acknowledging the unique ways neurodiverse young people do things and then adapting tasks and activities to ensure their full participation will encourage them to develop strategies that feel natural to them. It will help improve their mental health, wellbeing and sense of self. By recognising and nurturing their strengths, parents and caregivers can contribute to building an inclusive and compassionate society where all young people can thrive.

Learning more about neurodiversity, equips caregivers with insights into effective communication techniques, educational strategies, and parenting approaches tailored to the specific needs of their neurodivergent child. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this month's edition, and we always welcome your feedback.

Here is the link to this month's edition https://booragul.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/neurodiversity



Creative Art's Evening



Sporting News

Sport Results

U16 Boys Rugby League Hunter Premiership – Windale, 1st August

Round 1 v Belmont HS	Loss 0 – 8
Round 2 v Lake Macquarie HS	Draw 8 – 8
Round 3 v Warners Bay HS	Draw 8 – 8

Upcoming Sport Events

Thurs 10 August	Netball Schools Cup	Newcastle
Tues 15 August	NSWCCC Netball Championships Penrith	
Wed 16 August	Diocesan Athletics Carnival	Glendale
Thurs 24 August	Diocesan Basketball Gala Day Broadmeadow	
Mon 11 September	NSWCCC Athletics Championship	Sydney Olympic Park

For information on all individual and team pathway events, please go to https://csnsw.sport/

From the Career's Desk



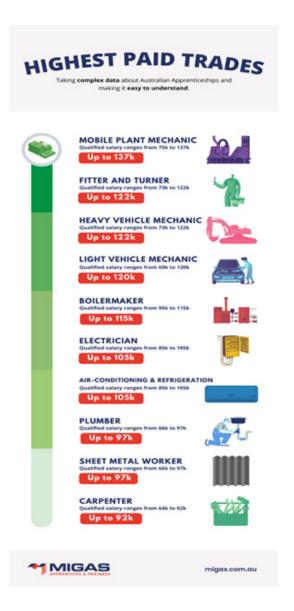


Career Thought of the Week:

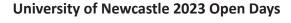
"There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it's going to be a butterfly".



R. Buckminster Fuller









Central Coast Open Day – Saturday 29 July - 10am – 2pm
Explore Ourimbah Campus and Central Coast Clinical School, Gosford. Check
out our Central Coast Clinical School, Gosford if you're interested in Nursing,
Midwifery or Medicine. Join degree presentations, tours, The Expo and find
out more about studying at the University of Newcastle in 2024.
Register now and go in the draw to win. T&Cs apply.
Newcastle.edu.au/opendays

Newcastle Open Day – Saturday 26 August – 9am – 3pm Explore the Callaghan and City Campuses. Join a degree presentation, tours – including accommodation, The Expo in the Great Hall, and find out more about studying at the University of Newcastle in 2024. Register now. Newcastle.edu.au/opendays

Sydney University

Webinars that might be of interest...

Veterinary Medicine Undergraduate Admissions | Online Information Session Join this webinar on Wednesday 20 September from 4–5 pm to learn about the Bachelor of Veterinary Biology and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (BVB/DVM) at the University of Sydney. We will cover undergraduate admission requirements for the BVB/DVM, including details for the submission of your commitment statement and completion of the Casper situational judgement test. You will be able to ask questions to the Sydney School of Veterinary Science and get advice on your undergraduate application into the degree. Find out more and register here.

UNSW Co-op Applications

Online Application Closes 30 September 2023

The first step is to Register Online to start your application. Make sure you review the application questions and start drafting your responses.



The Co-op Program is looking for what makes you stand out from the crowd. Include enough detail in your answers to showcase who you are, what experience you have and why we should choose you. A list of achievements is a good start, but an explanation about how these achievements have helped you grow as an individual is much better!

https://www.coop.unsw.edu.au/apply

Southern Cross University



https://www.scu.edu.au/early-offer/

UTS Engineering and IT Early Entry Program - Edge

Applications Close 4 September

Early Entry Program – Edge is based on broader criteria than the ATAR alone. Tell us about your passion for engineering or IT and we'll make it count.

Register today for our live webinar to gain an understanding into what the UTS Engineering and IT Early Entry Program is all about and how it can work for you.

https://www.uts.edu.au/about/faculty-engineering-and-information-technology/programs-and-scholarships/early-entry-program-edge

University of Newcastle - Joint Medical Program (JMP)

Applications Close 29 September

Applications will open in August. You will have the opportunity to review your application after it has been submitted. For details and instructions on how to apply, please download the online application instructions. Late applications will not be accepted under any circumstances.

https://www.newcastle.edu.au/joint-medical-program/how-to-apply

University of Canberra

Fast Forward Program Applications 2024 NOW OPEN!

Each year UC accepts 25 all-rounder Year 11 students into the program, giving them the opportunity to participate in a range of opportunities during senior school that will help prepare them for university life. If you're admitted into the program, you'll gain a range of benefits including.

- An early guaranteed offer into your preferred UC degree (excluding ranked degrees)
- Careers workshops
- Activities with industry partners
- \$2,000 study grant (paid in your first year after the Census date. 12-month membership to UC Gym. Students wishing to learn more or apply can do so below, with applications closing on September 3, 2023. Apply: https://www.canberra.edu.au/future-students/get-into-uc/admissions-programs/fast-forward-program

Tocal Farming and Agriculture Open Days

7 & 14 July, 29 September and 6 October - College Open Days is opportunity to visit Tocal and experience firsthand all that it can offer students who are eager for a rewarding career in agriculture, agribusiness or horse breeding and training. https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/students/future-students/open-days

Positions in Australian Defence Force – Gap Year

Spend an exciting 12-months in the Navy, Army, or Air Force, where you'll get paid for meaningful work while travelling around Australia, gaining skills for life, and making lifelong friends. On an ADF Gap Year you'll grow and develop in a dynamic, supportive, and people-focussed environment.



https://www.defencejobs.gov.au/students-and-education/gap-year/?page=1&perPage=21&query=

Camp America Winter Work Webinar

30 August

Free online Webinar will walk you through our two options -

Winter Work Canada and Winter Work Japan.

The Webinar will include:

Types of jobs/pay/working hours /Accommodation / Eligibility / How to apply /

Both destinations are in demand and offer wonderful work opportunities, as well as great options for snow-boarding on your time off.



Key dates		
18 Sep 2023	11.59pm	Schools Recommendation Scheme applications close
29 Sep 2023	11.59pm	Early bird processing charge deadline
10 Nov 2023	7.30am	First round of Schools Recommendation Scheme offers released
14 Dec 2023	6am	HSC results released by NESA
14 Dec 2023	9am	ATARs released by UAC
15 Dec 2023	11.59pm	December Round 2 change of preference deadline
21 Dec 2023	7.30am	December Round 2 offers released
11 Jan 2024	7.30am	January Round 1 offers released
2 Feb 2024	11.59pm	Applications close for semester 1, 2024

Casual Positions/Employment Links:



These links are available on the SPCCB Careers Website and emailed to students in Years 10/11/12 through their school email accounts each Monday. Examples are:





BRAINSTORM PRODUCTIONS Award-Winning In-School Theatre Performances



Cyberia

On **Tuesday 15 August**, Brainstorm Productions will be presenting their student wellbeing program 'Cyberia' for **Years 7 and 8**, **during periods 4 and 5**.

Powerful, compelling, Cyberia is an unflinching live theatre experience about cyber bullying and its devastating repercussions. Cyberia depicts two teen characters that are increasingly using texting, tweeting, online gaming, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, MSN and (embarrassing) selfies to express themselves. In time this takes a nasty twist leading to cyber bullying and the spreading of hurtful rumours online. The characters suddenly realise they can't just press the "undo" button to save their relationships, reputation or their dignity. Cyberia will encourage students to think carefully before they 'post', 'tweet' or 'snap' and to stop, think and reboot.

Cyberia is part of our student wellbeing curriculum and the program has been developed in consultation with teachers, psychologists, as well as real-life student experiences. The methodology of the program is safe, supportive and nonjudgmental and designed to provide students with positive and useful tools that they can use in their everyday lives.

More than 350,000 Australian students have already benefited from Brainstorm Productions multi award-winning educational theatre programs over the past twelve months. Their programs cater to the specific wellbeing needs of students, helping to create a healthy and harmonious school environment. If you would like to know more about Brainstorm Productions, visit their website at www.brainstormproductions.edu.au

Brainstorm Productions

The Flipside

On **29 August**, **2023** Brainstorm Productions will be presenting their student wellbeing program 'The Flipside' for **Years 9 and 10 during Periods 4 and 5.**

Powerful, current, and thoroughly contemporary, The Flipside is



an unflinching live theatre experience about our online behaviour and its potentially infinite ramifications. The Flipside depicts two teen characters that are embedded in the online community including gaming, social networking and content creation. The sheer magnitude of online interactions, selfies, videos, memes and mash-ups uploaded every minute means that posts quickly disappear into the ether, but not always. As these characters find out, online posts last forever and some can come back to haunt you, even years later. The characters suddenly realise they can't just press the "undo" button to save their relationships, reputation or their dignity. The Flipside will encourage students to think carefully before they 'post', 'snap' or sign up.

The Flipside is part of our student wellbeing curriculum and the program has been developed in consultation with teachers, psychologists, as well as real-life student experiences. The methodology of the program is safe, supportive and nonjudgmental and designed to provide students with positive and useful tools that they can use in their everyday lives.

If you would like to know more about Brainstorm Productions, visit their website at www.brainstormproductions.edu.au



Wednesday 2 August 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

McDonald Jones Stadium, Turton Road, Broadmeadow Wednesday 30 August 9.00am - 1.00pm

Mingara Recreation Club, Mingara Drive, Tumbi Umbi

Everything students, families-carers and schools need to know about moving to life after study with disability.... university, VET, apprenticeships/traineeships, employment, community connections, advocacy, disability services, support services, technology and more!

You may not think of yourself as having a "disability" but the definition is broad and includes learning disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, medical conditions, mental illness, physical conditions, sensory impairments, intellectual disability, and much more.

Do you have to put in extra effort during study because of your disability or condition? If so, then this Expo is for you

FREE ENTRY | LOTS OF PARKING | YOUR ANNUAL ONE STOP SHOP

Questions for BOTH EXPOS, contact: Ashlee Kelly





(C) futurechoices@careerlinks.nsw.edu.au









Arrendell secondary education centres

Give your school results a boost in 2023

Face to face and online lessons available

- · After school tutoring
- · Holiday Schools Spring (Sep), Summer (Jan)
- · Individual and small group lessons
- · Extension work for high achievers
- · Remedial literacy and numeracy
- · HSC and scholarship exam preparation

Skilled, experienced and fully qualified teachers who can engage your child and make extra learning effective and fun.

Phone 0408 692 045 for your free, personalised educational consultation.

45 years experience helping Hunter students achieve their goals

0408 692 045 | arrendell@ozemail.com.au www.arrendellsecondaryeducation.com.au

6 week Emotionally Intelligent
Parenting Program

TUNING IN TO TEENS

Where: 28 Fraser Pde Charlestown (Ignite Hall)

When: 6PM-8PM, 6 sessions.

Mondays 4/9, 11/9, 18/9 & 9/10, 16/10, 23/10

Contact: Michael Burke 0408 474 602 Or Luke Tomlins 0436 932 839

Cost: FREE

What: Tuning in to Teens supports parents to enhance teens emotional Intelligence. It's a program that aids in developing tools to overcome conflict. It encourages talking and understanding your teen and building upon stronger and positive relationships.



Samaritans

ALLAMBI CARE

From the Finance Office

For all Finance enquiries please use the following email address: finance@booragul.catholic.edu.au

To calculate your Weekly, Fortnightly or Monthly payment amount, please go to our Website and use the calculator. http://www.booragul.catholic.edu.au/about-us/finance/ fee-calculator/ (Please take the figure to the next five cents)

If you have not already done so, please ensure I have copies of relevant updated Health Care / Pension Cards and the Application Form.

School Fee

- 1. BPay through your own home banking via the Internet
- 2. **Eftpos** *Minimum* payment \$10
- 3. Cheque
- 4. Cash

Excursion Payments

1. Qkr

Excursions Coming Up

Please pay for all excursions by the due date written on the excursion notes which are sent home with your child. This date is important as excursion costing is calculated on the number of students who should be attending that particular event. Venues and buses have to be paid when the booking is first made. Your understanding of this would be very much appreciated.

Opening Hours for Payments to the Finance Office

Parents: Payments can be made at Reception between 8.30am and 2.30pm

Students: Mornings from 8.30am until tutor group bell, all of recess and all lunch times

QKR is the way to pay fees, excursions and Friday Sport



For your convenience, when paying for excursions the new Qkr! App is now live for families of our students. Qkr! By Mastercard can be downloaded for free from Apple's app store for iPhones, iPad users can download the iPhone app or from Google Play fo Android phones. Simply:

Step 1 Download Qkr!

On your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app

Step 2 Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

Step 3 Find our school

Our school will appear in 'Nearby Locations' if you're within 10km's of the school, or search for our school by name.

Step 4 Register your children

When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make orders and payments for them.

For more information about QKR visit our website

www.booragul.catholic.edu.au













Contact Us



St Paul's Catholic College

Address: Primrose Street, Booragul

Postal: PO Box 194, Boolaroo NSW 2284

Telephone: 4958 6711

Email: admin@booragul.catholic.edu.au

Web Site: http://www.booragul.catholic.edu.au/

Switch/Reception

Hours: 8.15am until 3.30pm

Finance Office

Hours: 8.30am to 2.30pm

Email: finance@booragul.catholic.edu.au

Canteen

Telephone: 4946 3115

Clothing Pool 8.45 - 10.30am Thursday



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

15th Aug: Yr7 & Yr 8 Brainstorm

17th Aug: Yr 10 Reflection Day