



MR LUCAS HURLEY  
PRINCIPAL

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## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

### *Dear MacKillop Catholic College Community,*

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, a sacred season in the Catholic Church that prepares us for the joy of Easter. On this day, Catholics around the world receive ashes on their foreheads

as a symbol of penance dates back to Biblical times. In the Old Testament, people would cover themselves in ashes as a sign of mourning and repentance. The early Church adopted this tradition, and by the 11th century, Ash Wednesday became an official part of the

receiving the ashes, the priest or minister proclaims either: **"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,"** reminding us of our mortality, or **"Repent, and believe in the Gospel,"** calling us to spiritual

as a sign of repentance and a reminder of our dependence on God. Our students, as is our tradition, will be participating in a Ash Wednesday Liturgy, where they too will receive the Ashes. The practice of using ashes

Liturgical Calendar, marking the start of Lent—a 40-day journey mirroring Jesus' time of fasting and prayer in the desert. The ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from the burned palm branches of the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations. When re-

renewal. Ash Wednesday invites us into a period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—three pillars of Lenten observance. It is a time to turn away from distractions and refocus on our relationship with God, preparing our hearts for

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the resurrection of Christ at Easter. As we approach Ash Wednesday, may we embrace this season of Lent with open hearts, seeking to grow in faith, hope and love.

*Lucas Hurley*

Principal



## SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS

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We're extremely grateful to represent the school in our final year at MacKillop Catholic College. The experiences and events we have went through at this College have shaped us to further improve our community and create a supportive environment for our peers. As we start the year, we would like to voice the importance of Project Compassion, as it's a time to give back and most importantly lend a helping hand to those in need.

Happy Term 1!

**Amber Netherwood and Louis Shepherd**



LOUIS  
SHEPHERD



AMBER  
NETHERWOOD

We are excited to bring new ideas into fruition this year! Please come and have a chat with us at any time if you have any ideas to better our College community.



# IMPORTANT DATES

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## TERM 1, WEEKS 6-10

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### WEEK 6

▣ NAPLAN Practice Week  
3rd - 7th of March

▣ Shrove Tuesday  
Tuesday, 4th of March

▣ Interschool Football (MS)  
Tuesday, 4th of March

▣ Ash Wednesday  
Wednesday, 5th of March

▣ School Photos (Day 1)  
Thursday, 6th of March

▣ School Photos (Day 2)  
Friday, 7th of March

### WEEK 7

▣ Interschool Netball (SS)  
Wednesday, 12th of March

▣ NAPLAN  
12th - 14th of March

### WEEK 8

▣ NAPLAN  
17th to 21st of March

▣ Apprenticeships NT Info  
Wednesday, 19th of March

▣ Interschool Volleyball (SS)  
Wednesday, 19th of March

▣ Harmony Day  
Friday, 21st of March

### WEEK 9

▣ NAPLAN  
Monday, 24th of March

▣ Interschool Basketball (MS)  
Tuesday, 25th of March

▣ Girls Eel's Cup  
Wednesday, 26th of March

▣ Interschool Basketball (MS)  
Wednesday, 26th of March

▣ Boys Eel's Cup  
Thursday, 27th of March

▣ Year 10 Street Smart High  
Thursday, 27th of March

### WEEK 10

▣ Family Conferences  
1st - 2nd of April

▣ Last Day of Term  
Friday, 4th of April

# AT MACKILLOP



## China Winter Camp

Before we started 2025, a group of students went on their way to China to participate in the “Chinese Bridge” Winter Camp! For two weeks, they delved into history such as the rich heritage of the ancient Shu civilisation, and enjoyed the cuisine, language and culture of China!

## Feast of Saint Valentine

The Year 12’s ran an awesome fundraiser for the Feast of Saint Valentine in Week 3! Each day, they sold a different combination of goodies, such as handmade cards and sweet treats. We hope everyone celebrated Valentine’s with love, kindness and compassion!



## Student Leader Outings

In Week 4, our student leaders visited the Government house and met with the Administrator of the Northern Territory, and attended the Bombing of Darwin Commemoration ceremony. They were thrilled to ask a major leader some of their own questions about leadership, and gave thanks to the Australian soldiers who battled for our freedom in WWII.



# FROM FINANCE

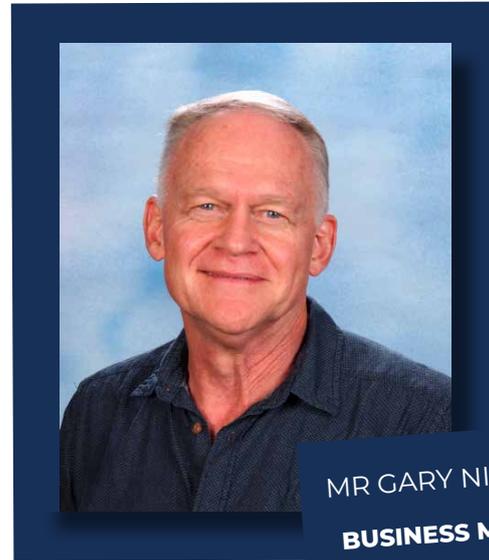
**Dear MCC Families,**

Our amazing finance officer Krissie will be starting her 12-month maternity leave on March 17th, 2025. During her absence, Olivia Lynch will be assisting in the finance office. If you have any questions regarding your family account, please email finance.mackillop@nt.catholic.edu.au, and she will be happy to help.

As a reminder, payments are due within 21 days of receiving your invoice unless alternative arrangements have been made.

**Kind regards,**

Gary Ninneman



MR GARY NINNEMAN  
BUSINESS MANAGER

# EXTRACURRICULAR

## ARTS

Mackillop Dance Company

Miss Abigail Hatton

abigail.hatton@nt.catholic.edu.au

Instrumental Music

Mrs Kathryn Ezzy

kathryn.ezzy@nt.catholic.edu.au

Art Club

Ms Margarette Kean Ramos

margarettekean.ramos@nt.catholic.edu.au

## NEW

Mackillop Drama Society

Mr David Lloyd

david.lloyd@nt.catholic.edu.au

## SPORT

Mackillop Saints Rugby

Mr Matthew Sharp

matthew.sharp@nt.catholic.edu.au

# FROM MIDDLE YEARS CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

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**MR MATT SHARP**  
**HEAD OF MIDDLE YEARS**

## YEAR 7 WELCOME DINNER

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The Year 7 Welcome Dinner was a fantastic evening filled with community spirit from families, students, teachers and a classic Darwin sunset.

It was a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet their children's teachers and fellow families with a plate of food in hand, fostering a strong sense of partnership for the year ahead.

Middle school students have hit the ground running in 2025, with none perhaps busier than our new Year 7's. They have settled in well and are embracing their first year of high school with enthusiasm. A heartfelt thank you to our Year 7 teachers, PC staff, and families for ensuring a smooth transition. A key focus this term is NAPLAN for our Year 7 and 9 students, who will sit four tests from Week 7 through to Week 9.

If your child requires educational adjustments to support their learning needs, please reach out to our Inclusion Support team as soon as possible to discuss available options. It is essential that all students put forth their best effort, as NAPLAN results play a vital role in shaping personalised learning plans tailored to their individual needs. they start selecting subjects independently.

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The highlight of the evening was seeing students confidently introduce their families to new friends - already forming the bonds that will stay with them for years to come.



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# SAINTS NEWS

The MacKillop Saints Rugby League teams, both Boys and Girls, have kicked off training for the 2025 school season. Interest in our Friday Academy for Year 7 and 8 students remains strong, with registrations capped at 60 for the first semester. Our junior players have been easing into training, which will soon intensify as we await confirmation from our friendly rivals, Taminmin College, regarding scheduled games in Term 2.



In the senior years, our Eels Cup training camps are in full swing. Our Girls team, the reigning 2024 champions, are determined to defend their title, while our Boys team is training harder than ever after a heartbreaking golden-point elimination in last year's tournament. The Eels Cup tournaments are set for Week 9, pending official confirmation from NRL NT.



**Kind regards,**

Mr Matt Sharp

# MACKILLOP OPENING MASS

The MacKillop Catholic College community came together in a spirit of faith and unity to celebrate the Opening Mass for the 2025 academic year. The Mass, held at the College and celebrated by Bishop Charles, Fr Shehan, Fr Mick and new to the area, Fr Bill. It was a deeply reverent and joyous occasion, bringing staff, students, and families together in prayer and reflection. It marked the beginning of another year dedicated to faith, learning, and service.



A significant highlight of the Mass was the College proudly presented the prestigious DUX 2024 Award, recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of the top-performing student from the previous year. This distinguished honour was awarded to Gemma O'Berne, whose dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence have set a remarkable example for their peers. We congratulate Gemma on this well-deserved achievement!



Following the DUX presentation was the commissioning of our 2025 Student Leaders. These students, who will guide and represent their peers, received a special badge, symbolizing their dedication to servant leadership, integrity, and the values of our Catholic community. Their role is not only one of privilege but also of great responsibility, as they strive to lead by example and contribute positively to the school's culture.

The Opening Mass served as a powerful reminder of the College's commitment to fostering academic excellence, spiritual growth, and community leadership. As we embark on this new school year, let us pray for guidance, wisdom, and a continued spirit of collaboration and respect.

**Kind regards,**

Carlo Di Donato



# TALKS WITH TINA

## Welcome to Talks with Tina!

Hi everyone! I'm Tina, the College Youth Minister, and I'm excited to bring you my little corner of the newsletter. Each edition, I'll share updates on what Youth Ministry has been up to around the school, upcoming events, and maybe even something to brighten your day.

A little about me, I've been working at MacKillop since 2022, originally from Melbourne. On weekends, you'll probably find me playing guitar, writing music, hanging out with friends, or enjoying a good coffee. Back in high school, I had an encounter with God that changed my life, and since then, faith has been a big part of my journey. My hope is to share that goodness with others in a way that's real and meaningful.

It's been a great start to the year! We've kicked off our Sacramental Program, welcoming students into the Catholic Church at our Feast Day Mass. It's not about the numbers, but I can't help but see the way God is working in this school. In 2022, we had three students receive the sacraments, then five in 2023, and last year, it doubled. It keeps growing, and I know it's God. It's not too late to be part of this journey in 2025. So, if you're interested, let's chat!

**Blessings,**

Tina Dib



MISS TINA DIB  
YOUTH MINISTRY

@mcc\_youthministry

I'm passionate about working with young people and helping them grow in faith and community. Whether it's through Youth Ministry, school or Diocese events, or just a friendly chat, I'm always happy to connect.

**SACRAMENT**  
PREPERATIONS

**Wednesdays  
@ lunch time  
in b102**



**If you have any questions feel free to speak to Mr Hurley or Miss Tina**



# YEAR 12 RETREAT



The Year 12 Retreat at Litchfield Outback Resort was an unforgettable experience. Set in the stunning location of Batchelor, close to Rum Jungle, with top-notch facilities, the retreat provided the perfect opportunity for reflection, connection, and fun! With an inspiring NET team and an incredible group of students, it was more than just a getaway; it was a spirit-filled journey of faith, self-discovery, change and growth.

Over three days, students engaged in meaningful sessions exploring identity, values, relationships, and faith. They enjoyed time to relax, bond with their peers, and take part in powerful storytelling, prayer experiences, group activities, and games. In down time, students even got a visit from wild horses! Everyone left with lasting memories, stronger friendships, and a deeper sense of purpose. It was truly a retreat to remember!



I would like to thank all of the Staff that attended, Bishop Charles, Fr Shehan, Fr Mick, Fr Bill and Fr Suraj, and especially Tina and Mae for your amazing work on the Retreat. We hope this experience has enriched our young people with an exciting outlook on the rest of their year, and we pray that these times will stay with them for many years to come.



**Kind regards,**

Carlo Di Donato

# MACKILLOP SPORTS



We have many Interschool Sport events coming up in 2025! MacKillop uses the Try-Booking platform to collect funds and consent for all Interschool sport events, which allows us to keep the price as low as possible. These events are often quite popular and spots can fill quickly. We recommend students and families collect forms and book places as soon as possible once information is released.

## COMING UP...

- 4th Mar** - Middle School Football
- 12th Mar** - Senior School Netball
- 21st Mar** - Senior School Volleyball
- 25th Mar** - Yr 7 & 8 Basketball
- 26th Mar** - Yr 8 & 9 Basketball



## KEY DATES

- 26th/27th Mar.** - Eel's Cup
- 27th May** - Athletics Carnival
- 16th Jul.** - Cross Country
- 18th Sep.** - Swimming Carnival





# FROM INTAD

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## Students Busy in Metalwork

INTAD (Industrial Technology and Design) continues to grow in popularity with strong numbers of students choosing subjects in this area. In Metalwork, Year 8 students are learning the fundamentals of sheet metal work and are already nearly finished their toolbox.

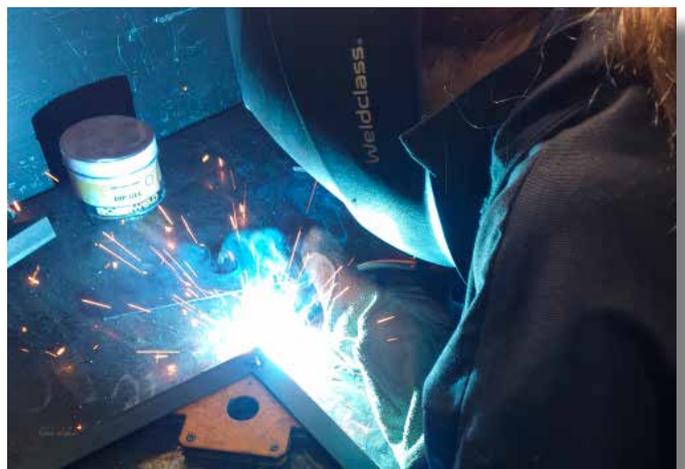


At the moment, students from Year 9 to Year 12 are learning and refining their welding skills in preparation for their major projects of the first semester. Well done everyone!

**Kind regards,**

Craig Gorddard

Images: A busy bench of Year 8 toolboxes being marked out / Leah Wagman learning MIG welding / Ben Quigley practising fusion welding with the Oxy Acetylene welder.





# FROM CAREERS

MacKillop Careers Office is open! All students are welcome to visit during recess in the Flexible Learning Centre to discuss the following areas:

Resumes

Courses

Career opportunities

Term 1 is about Year 12 pathway planning. Year 12 students are gathering the tools they need to explore their future in the subjects they have chosen.

## Careers Notes:

Early Admissions

Australian National University

Timeline: [Key Dates](#)

Direct Applications - <https://www.anu.edu.au/study/apply/domestic-applications-anu-under-graduate>

Assessing students eligibility by using their Year 11 results. An offer will be made to students in September based on this ranking. If students received their Year 12 certificate and an ATAR, they will honour that offer (of course, with prerequisites if required).

**ANU Direct Applications** open Monday 3 March and will close Monday 15 May. Students can start their application at any time and log back in as needed to complete the process.

**Apprenticeships Northern Territory** are visiting during Wednesday 19 March during Period 2. All students Year 10 and above are invited to attend.



MRS JANE MARSHALL  
CAREERS ADVISOR

**Attention recent Year 12 graduates!!!** Applications open for the Tertiary Access Payment, up to **\$5,000** is available for Year 12 graduates from regional or remote areas leaving home to study at university. Visit Services Australia to see if you qualify. More upcoming opportunities in term 1 will be shared via SEQTA Notices, MacKillop Catholic College Courses and Careers Facebook and **@mcc\_careers\_and\_courses** Instagram pages. Feel free to explore the career information at <https://www.mackillopcareers.com.au/> Please email [jane.marshall@nt.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jane.marshall@nt.catholic.edu.au) or phone 89305725 to find more opportunities.

Latest Careers Newsletter found here:

[Career Newsletter](#)

**Kind regards,**

Jane Marshall

# COMMUNITY NOTICES



**April 2025  
School Holiday  
Program**

- On your marks, get set, school! 3-6 years
- Aqua Skills 3-9 years
- LEGO® Club 7-12 years
- Dungeons and Dragons 8-12 years & 13-17 years
- Fidget Masterclass 9-12 years

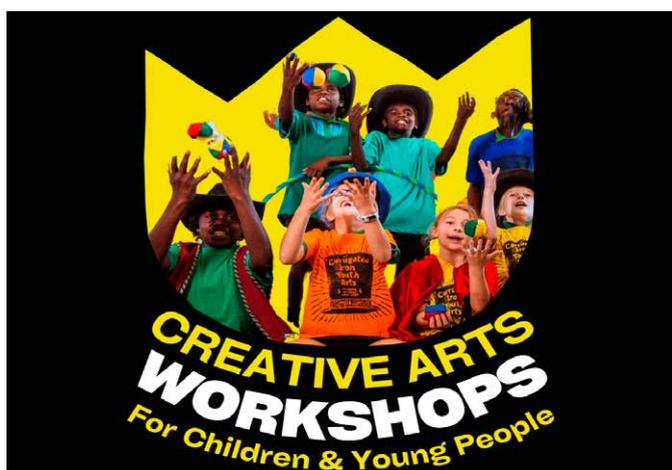
Autism SA is running a variety of fun, creative, therapeutic programs for kids aged 3 - 17. See below:

- On your marks, get set, school! (3-6 years)
- Aqua Skills (3-9 years)
- Lego Club (7-12 years)
- Dungeons and Dragons (8-12 years and 13-17 years)
- Fidget Masterclass (9-12 years)

Visit [www.autismsa.org.au](http://www.autismsa.org.au) for more information.

## Key Sports/Leisure Voucher Details:

- Semester 2 (2024) vouchers are available now. Semester 1 (2025) opened on 1st January 2025
- Applications close on 24th May 2025
- Vouchers expire on 31st May 2025
- Each eligible child gets two \$100 vouchers per year
- Open to children Transition to Year 12, including home-schooled students



Enrolments for Corrugated Iron's creative arts workshop program are open for Term 1! The workshops take place weekly in both Nightcliff and Palmerston and are available to all ages! For further information on specific workshops, visit <https://www.corrugatediron.org.au/>.

## WANT TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER?

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VISIT OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

[HTTPS://WWW.MACKILLOPNT.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU/NEWSLETTERS/](https://www.mackillopnt.catholic.edu.au/newsletters/)

TO STAY UP TO DATE AND BE A PART OF OUR  
COLLEGE COMMUNITY

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