



# Mackillop

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**CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

## **The House System**

**WE ARE A CHRIST-CENTRED LEARNING COMMUNITY FOSTERING  
EXCELLENCE, COMPASSION AND SERVICE**



## Enhancing excellence in Pastoral Care and Learning through charism, connections and community.

The journey of MacKillop Catholic College into a 7-12 school marks a new era of excellence for our celebrated pastoral care and learning systems.

As an integral component of college spirit and college engagement MacKillop Catholic College Vertical Pastoral Care and House System strengthen students' welfare, learning and community values.

Our **House System** builds relationships through charism, connections and communities of care so all are assisted in growing into the fullness of life.

Deeply rooted in our Catholic identity each House has been inspired by either the tradition of Mary of the Cross MacKillop or the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Each student is allocated to one of six Houses which is their MacKillop family for the entirety of their educational journey.

Within each house, students are supported by a Head of House, a House Tutor Teacher and senior students who have added responsibility of guiding younger students.

**Our six Houses are:**

**Fitzroy Penola Rice Sion Tenison Waterford**

# Fitzroy House ~ generosity and spirit

*Inspired by the Josephite tradition*

2021 YLC (8) and Head of House: **Mr. Cameron Briers**

History:

Fitzroy House is named in honour of the birthplace of Mary MacKillop. Born in the family home, 'Marino Cottage' in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne, on 15 January 1842 Mary spent her childhood and much of her young adult life in Victoria. She had a strong love of God and a desire to do what she could for people in need. Life was hard but it was in this house that Mary's mother, Flora, taught her to believe in the providence of God, in the strong love of family and in the generosity of community. These values, together with a love of music, singing and education gave Mary a heart for others and one dedicated to God.

Today, a plaque in the footpath marks this site which now houses the Melbourne Archdiocesan 'Mary of the Cross' Drug and Rehabilitation Centre. In keeping with Mary's conviction that one should "Never see a need without doing something about it" (Mary MacKillop, 1867), this agency provides support services and ancillary care for those affected by drug and alcohol use.

Spirit:

Fitzroy House members build community with devotion, outreach and solidarity. They are generous with their gifts, have forethought and work for the betterment of the wider community. Their encouraging spirit, sense of belonging, hospitality and trust in God lift others.

Value: **Generosity**

Motto: **Generosity and Spirit**

The Fitzroy House motto is *Generosity and Spirit*. At the heart of the house is a belief that God will provide and with bountiful gifts of the spirit we kindly welcome others. This belief motivates all members to be generous with their gifts and skills, empathetic and hope-filled.

Colour: **Ochre**

Fitzroy House colour is ochre. This colour is symbolic of the earth, of strength and endurance. It represents enthusiasm, determination and passion for others and grounded in our Australian identity.

Serving: Fitzroy House is in service to The Archdiocese of Hobart Samaritan Projects

Prayer: TBC 2021

## Fitzroy Prayer

God of creation,

You gifted our nation with the  
life and work of Mary MacKillop,  
born in Fitzroy, Melbourne in 1842.

As members of this House we  
pray that our trust in God's generosity  
will help us to grow in our  
ability to reach out to others,  
welcoming difference and  
diversity and building a  
community where everyone feels they  
belong.

In the spirit of God, we pray.

Amen.

# Penola House ~ *empathy and community*

*Inspired by the Josephite tradition*

2021 YLC (10) and Head of House: **Mr. Jamie Di-Ilenno**

History:

Penola House is named in honour of the small township of Penola in South Australia where Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop started her first school, named St Joseph's School. The little school opened on the Feast of Saint Joseph, 19 March 1866. Penola was also the place where Mary accepted Fr Woods' invitation to become the first Sister of St Joseph. In this welcoming community Mary found friendship and hospitality. She taught all children in the Penola region; however, it was Aboriginal children to whom she gave particular attention. The dream of an education that was available to all children was embraced by Mary's sisters Annie and Lexie, who taught classes in the Penola church and part of their rented cottage. Later their brother John transformed a disused stable into the schoolhouse, so that on the Feast of St Joseph, 19 March 1866 the school opened. It was at Penola that Mary MacKillop, Fr Tenison Woods and others nurtured a vision for Catholic education that was inclusive, where all were respected and everyone experienced hospitality.

Today the Woods MacKillop Schoolhouse in Penola is on the Heritage and State Register as a schoolroom museum. It is a very special place where Mary MacKillop's youthful presence can still be felt. The schoolhouse is evidence of her commitment to God through a life devoted to others, her vulnerability and self-doubt, her competence as a teacher, her vitality, her sense of humour and her serenity.

Spirit:

Penola House members are friends to everyone. They serve God in the poor and value education. Everyone in Penola House is committed to their own educational journey while advocating for educational equality for children in rural Australia. Penola House does all the good it can, and when members see a need they do something about it.

Value: **Empathy**

Motto: **Empathy and Community**

Penola House motto is *Empathy and Community*. At the heart of the house is empathy where resilience and compassion are nurtured. Principally, Penola House is responsive to the educational needs of children in rural areas of Australia and communities who are in need.

Colour: **Golden Yellow**

Penola House colour is golden yellow. This colour has stood for wisdom and intellect throughout the ages. It reflects the warmth of the sun, the embrace of friends, happiness and self-confidence.

Serving: Penola House is of service to children and rural communities in Australia.

House Prayer: TBC 2021

### **Penola Prayer**

God of new beginnings,  
at Penola you set fire in the hearts of  
Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods,  
a vision and dream to meet the urgent needs of their day.  
They founded a community of Catholic Sisters, the Josephites,  
who would bring freedom and justice to many thousands of Australians.  
We pray today that we may know deep within us what you desire for each of us.  
We pray for the whole Josephite family, of whom we are a part,  
that we will live the Josephite values of compassion, tolerance and love  
with empathy.  
Amen

# Rice House ~ *courage and witness*

*Inspired by the charisma of Edmund Rice*

Director of Pastoral Care and 2021 Head of House: **Mr. Aaron Davey**

History:

Rice House is named in honour of Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice. Born on 1 June 1762, Rice devoted his life to educating the poor and was the Founder of the Congregation of Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers. As an Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) associate school, it is fitting that a house carrying his name is guided by the core principles that motivated him to educate young people living on the streets of Waterford, Ireland.

Spirit:

Rice House members are committed to the spirit of Edmund Rice. They are strong witnesses to our Catholic faith traditions, to the educational journey and to the pursuit of excellence in learning and teaching. Rice House members advocate for equal access to quality education globally. They are faithful to the call of God in their own lives, dedicated to their own educational journey, support their peers and work for the betterment of the community.

Value: **Witness**

Motto: **Courage and Witness**

Rice House motto is *Courage and Witness*. The members of Rice House are courageous agents who generously respond to community needs with actions that embrace and challenge injustice.

Colour: **Green**

Rice House colour is green. It signifies Rice's Irish heritage and reflects Edmund Rice's renewal of heart when confronted by the inequity of his time. The freshness of green restores our commitment to take swift and unified global action for the poor and our common home Mother Earth.

Serving: Rice House is of service to organizations that provide services and support for those on the margins including people who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness, the Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania, Multicultural Youth (MYT), Tasmania Asylum Seeker Support and The Unknown Project. Rice House in particular supports Harmony Day and Refugee Week in the academic calendar.

House Prayer: TBC 2021

## **Rice Prayer**

God of the poor,  
you gave Edmund Rice a heart for others.

Renew in us your spirit of love and grace  
so that we can be courageous witnesses  
to living the Gospel in our world.

Restore our commitment to actions  
that embrace and fight injustice.

Empower us to work for the poor  
and renew our common home Mother Earth.

We ask this through your loving Son, Jesus Christ who came to embrace all.

Amen

# Sion House ~ *equality and solidarity*

*Inspired by the charisma of Edmund Rice*

2021 Student Coordinator and Head of House: **Ms. Jennifer Rider**

History:

Sion House is named in honour of the first school Edmund Rice opened in Waterford, 'Mount Sion'. The Catholic tradition holds that Mount Sion was the site for the upper room where the Last Supper was celebrated and the friends (followers) of Jesus remained there as a "family" after Jesus' crucifixion. It was here where love, companionship, nourishment and hospitality were experienced. By using the name Mount Sion for his first school, Edmund Rice envisioned a Catholic education that was inclusive where all the children, irrespective of their religion or background, were respected.

Spirit:

Sion House fosters a culture of unity where sisters and brothers are one. Sion House celebrates and connects especially with those on the margins within our own college community. It is through a shared journey of compassion, welcome and connection that everyone can participate in the fullness of life.

Value: **Respect**

Motto: **Equality and Solidarity**

Sion House motto is *Equality and Solidarity*. At the heart of the house is welcome where the innate dignity of each individual is celebrated. Distinctly, Sion House works in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples locally and nationally to build a just and inclusive Australia.

Colour: **Purple**

Sion House colour is purple. It is an ancient royal colour and is significant in Church history. Jesus is humble royalty. Even though he is mocked and clothed in purple robes, he endures. He rises to eternal life and in this way gives life to others.

Serving: Sion House is of service to Aboriginal communities and organisations, such as the Indigenous Literacy Foundation whose mission it is to support First Nations people.

House Prayer: TBC 2021

# Tenison House ~ *kinship and dedication*

*Inspired by the Josephite tradition*

2021 YLC (9) and Head of House: **Mr. Andrew Pritchard**

History:

Tenison House is named in honour of Fr Julian Tenison Woods, Catholic priest, educationalist and scientist. Born in Southwark, England, on 15 November 1832 Woods felt a strong call to serve God. He loved nature, saw beauty in all of creation and was a passionate environmentalist. He valued learning and knowledge believing that education was vital to the human condition. At 18 years old he joined the Passionists but suspended his training before arriving in Tasmania in 1855 at the age of 23 years. Here he worked as a chaplain to the convicts and also as a teacher. Moving to Adelaide three months later he resumed his studies for the priesthood and was ordained by Bishop Francis Murphy on 4 January 1857. His first parish, Penola in South Australia was vast. Here he met Mary MacKillop and together they worked to establish schools for children of catholic families. Founding a new religious order of teaching sisters in the year 1866, Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop began the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

Spirit:

Tenison House members are dedicated to learning, science, the arts, beauty and the care of creation. They have a tenacious spirit, are good at connecting people and never giving up even when the going gets tough. Everyone in Tenison House stands tall for self and others. Tenison House members believe that all people, regardless of situation or background deserve the fullness of life that God intends for them.

Value: **Dedication**

Motto: **Kinship and Dedication**

Tenison House motto is *Kinship and Dedication*. Taking us to great heights is the encounter of God's presence in others and in all of creation. Tenison House members care for the environment, especially in our college. They love and protect nature, see beauty and goodness all around them and acknowledge the interconnectedness of all of creation.

Colour: **Blue**

Tenison House colour is blue. This colour reflects our blue planet, our island state of Tasmania and Tension Woods' love of nature.

Serving: Tenison House is of service to our fragile planet Earth. All members advocate environmental concerns.

House Prayer: TBC 2021

## Tenison Prayer

Glorious good God,

# Waterford House ~ *unity and strength*

*Inspired by the charisma of Edmund Rice*

2021 YLC (7) and Head of House: **Mr. Izaac Feery**

History:

Waterford House is named in honour of the city of Waterford, Ireland where Edmund Rice was a prominent businessman. This busy port city witnesses the beginning of Edmund's ministry to the poor. We connect the shipping port of Waterford to our own Port of Hobart. In Waterford, Edmund, the successful businessman, saw inequity and recognised that education was the key to improving the lives of those people on the margins of society. It was his strong Catholic faith, belief in education and strength of character that motivated him to serve. He set about using his considerable wealth and personal skills to create an educational legacy that still exists today.

Spirit:

Waterford House embodies the spirit of Edmund Rice. Members motivate every person in our community to 'write their own story' and to work collaboratively for the betterment of all. The spirit of Waterford House empowers members to find success by being part of a unified team that can achieve far more than the individual members.

Value: **Unity**

Motto: **Unity and Strength**

Waterford house motto is *Unity and Strength*. Members gain strength from developing positive relationships that respect the dignity of each person.

Colour: **Red**

Waterford House colour is red. It symbolises the power and strength one gets from working in unity for the advancement of others.

Serving: Waterford House is of service to organisations such as St Vincent de Paul Society, that cross boundaries, create community and have a profound sense of respect for the people they serve.

House Prayer: TBC 2021