

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Published April 2023

Year in Review – 2023

This annual report for 2023 provides a comprehensive overview of MacKillop Catholic College for parents, students and wider community. Hard copies of this report are available upon request at the College Office.

Introduction

MacKillop Catholic College is located in Mornington, Tasmania. It is bounded by Currajong Street and Goondi Street. It is a Catholic co-educational college governed by Catholic Education Commission Tasmania catering for students from Year 7 to Year 11. Although discussions about the possibility of establishing a Catholic secondary college on the eastern shore of Hobart had taken place as early as 1962, it was not until the planned restructuring of Catholic secondary education in the Hobart region commenced in the early 1990s that the opportunity arose to establish MacKillop Catholic College. MacKillop Catholic College opened in the refurbished site on 9 February 1994. The College opened its doors to 59 students in 1994. By 1997 student numbers had risen to 340, in 1998 there were over 400 students. By 2006 there were 560 students.

Our College Advisory Board members are: Anne Foale – Chairperson; Father Mark Freeman - Parish Priest; Craig Green – Deputy Chairperson; Patty Johnson – Financial Advisor; Jason Szczerbanik - Parent Representative; David Conley - Parent Representative; Rebecca Burgess – Parent Representative; Jeff Tongs – Parent Representative; Stephen Hill – College Principal; Lorraine Wolffe – Deputy Principal (Guest); Andrew Pritchard – Deputy Principal; Craig French - College Business Manager (Guest); Tania Burgess - Executive Assistant to the Principal (Minute Secretary).

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE – ENROLMENT TOTALS – AS AT: 1/12/2023

2023 YEARS 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

	MALE	FEMALE	OTHER	TOTAL
Year 7	118	68	1	187
Year 8	99	69		168
Year 9	82	83	1	166
Year 10	61	80	1	142
Year 11	23	4		27
	383	304	3	690

Average attendance rate (%) School attendance rates disaggregated by year group are shown in the table below.

Attendance rates by year group	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
	88.17%	86.9%	85.08%	84.75%	90.46%



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2023 could accurately be described as unprecedented in the 29-year history of MacKillop Catholic College. The introduction of Year 11 classes, and the presence of Year 11 students in our classrooms and the College grounds, forever changed our learning community. Be it through their daily engagement with their Pastoral Care Group, their leadership and support of our major school events or their example as learners, we can already see the positive impact of having Year 11 students with us.

While the challenges to become an extension college have been significant, and the time effort and energy to bring this to fruition at MacKillop Catholic College substantial, the introduction of Years 11 and 12 is a notable addition to the story and community of MacKillop Catholic College and I look forward to working with these young people and their families as they transition to Year 12 this year.

Many conversations with students, staff, parents and the wider membership of Catholic education in Tasmania remind me of the positive impact we are making on the learning and wellbeing outcomes of our young people. Through the strength of community and collegiality, we continue to ensure that our students enjoy everything that comes from being part of a hope-filled and joyous school.

I would like to make special mention of the professionalism of the staff of MacKillop Catholic College, who continued to work tirelessly throughout 2023 to ensure that the learning and wellbeing of our young people remains our highest priority.

Our wonderful students also deserve recognition. I have been fortunate to witness many examples of our students going above and beyond, reaching out to help others and bringing happiness and light into the lives of their peers. They are our reason for being, and they continue to be our source of infinite hope. Two important themes seem to have emerged over the course of 2023 - presence and collegiality. Being conscious of the need to be present to each other and to grow and further our relationships collegially have contributed greatly to the success of

2023. As Mary MacKillop says so eloquently, "So great is the strength we possess in our unity."

Stephen Hill
Principal



LEARNING and TEACHING

2023 was a year of growth, learning, and, most importantly, a year marked by the special introduction of Year 11 to our Catholic College, a significant milestone in the history of the College. The foundation of any successful school lies in its collective commitment to learning, and I am thrilled to acknowledge the tremendous advancements we have made as a learning community.

From the eager faces of our youngest students to the excited faces of our new Year 11 students, each member of MacKillop Catholic College has contributed to the vibrant tapestry of learning that defines our College.

A highlight of the year was the introduction of Year 11 to MacKillop Catholic College. Welcoming a new year level is a momentous occasion, and the year's transition to include Year 11 to the College was nothing short of remarkable. The enthusiasm, curiosity, and energy brought by our Year 11 students infused a renewed spirit into the entire school community.

Their presence has not only expanded the horizons of our College but also added new dimensions to the vibrant tapestry of our school culture, with the inclusion of

working with TASC – Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification.

We continued to consolidate our progress towards our 2022 – 2024 Strategic Directions. We were reflective of the key statement ‘we are committed to being a learning community that celebrates personal achievements, lifelong learning, leadership and service within a safe and inclusive learning environment’.

We focussed on the introduction of the Four Dimensions and also improved our use of data to inform teaching.

Year 7 and 8 Learning Communities

Moving to high school successfully can be dependent on a very good transition program. Led by Mrs Alison Stevens, Director of Junior School, our Year 7 students have had every opportunity to be successful. We had two hundred Year 7 students arrive and their teachers worked very hard to ensure they settled into routines that were going to help them to be successful.

For our Year 7s, it was straight into NAPLAN very early into the year. They approached the situation with diligence. For the first time, NAPLAN assessed students against four levels of proficiency based on previous years of schooling: ‘exceeding’, ‘strong’, ‘developing’ and ‘needs additional support’. We were pleased with the group’s results and for the College they provided a baseline to growth for our students.

Our Year 8 students settled into the routine of school and continued to be challenged and motivated by consolidating the opportunities presented in the middle years of learning. The Celebration of Excellence witnessed a significant improvement in achievement and awards for this cohort from the year before. This is a testimony to our Year 8 students meeting the high expectations that were set for them by their teachers.

Year 9 and 10 Learning Communities

Our Year 9s transitioned to a Pathways based learning journey. It was a year of exploration with the selection of electives to lay the foundation for the future. The Year 9s stepped into the Creating Futures program where career exploration was an important part of their learning journey. Year 9 can be a challenging time with an increase in learning expectations. Our Year 9 students rose to the expectations with determination.

Year 10 was the foundation to senior phase of learning. Our Year 10s set up their learning habits to ensure that they were successful as they moved towards Years 11 and 12. A highlight was the student commitment to their Creating Futures work experience program. Many students gained valuable insights into the world of work, some confirming their career pathway and some confirming that a new pathway is needed. We are very grateful to all our local industries who supported our students. Our Year 10s were introduced to many of the practices and habits required for Year 11 and 12.

Year 11 Learning Community

It was historical with the introduction of Year 11. The progress made in the development and implementation of TASC Courses to meet the needs of our students, who had faith in us to further their pathway to post Year 12, was significant. Many TASC Courses were introduced successfully. The outstanding work of our Year 11 teachers, led by Ms Jen Crowden, Director of Senior School and Mr Liam Cooke, TASC Liaison Officer ensured that our students have had many opportunities to be successful.

Staff Development

Collaboration and care for our students, is at the heart of the staff at our College. Our teachers continued to provide learning opportunities that reflected current research. Our dedicated staff embarked on innovative teaching methodologies, embraced new technologies and pedagogical approaches to enrich the learning experience for all. We continued to implement Marzano’s The Art and Science of Teaching in our college, and we commend our teaching staff for their unwavering dedication and their passion for cultivating a love of learning within each student.

We were immensely proud of our students' achievements last year and we recognise the essential role our teaching and support staff play in supporting students to reach their potential.

STAFFING

TEACHER QUALIFICATION / STAFF PROFILE	NO. OF TEACHERS
Teachers having formal qualifications from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent	76
Teachers having graduate qualifications but not a formal teaching qualification from a recognised higher education or equivalent	0
Teachers not having qualifications described in 1 or 2 above but having relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate relevant knowledge	1
Staff identifying as indigenous	0

	Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Headcount
Number of teaching staff	70.02	77
Number of support staff	40.196	49
TOTAL	110.396	126

Facility Overview

The College's facilities include:

- library
- 37 general learning areas
- 2 food technology Learning room2
- Training Bar/Barista room
- 2 Art Learning rooms
- kiln/pottery room
- language room

- 2 material design and technology Rooms
- drama room
- music room with practice facilities
- digital media/computing room
- 3 science laboratories and 2 preparation areas
- dance studio
- learning support area (Hub)
- counsellor's office and Pastoral Support Space
- gymnasium
- sports ground
- outdoor netball and basketball courts
- hot shots tennis courts; and
- cricket nets
- Long Jump run and pit
- chapel
- canteen
- reception area and administrative offices
- meeting rooms
- ICT office and workroom
- staff offices
- careers office
- staff room
- uniform shop
- toilets and change rooms

MINISTRY, FAITH and MISSION

One of the most important opportunities in 2023 was our reconnection with the people of Timor-Leste and particularly the Catholic community on the island of Atauro through the Timor-Leste Immersion Programme.

The College introduced new student leadership positions in Ministry and Catholic Identity. Father Mark Freeman, Parish Priest of the Catholic Parish of Bellerive/Lindisfarne, had the opportunity to meet most of our students through their attendance at our Charism Masses at Corpus Christi Church and various liturgies and assemblies here at the College. Houses celebrated the Ash Wednesday service and the Feast of Edmund Rice together. During the year, each Pastoral Care Group (PCG) had an opportunity to visit St Joseph's Chapel for a prayer service related to their House Charism.

Our major whole College liturgy events were the Holy Week Liturgy in April, where we commemorated the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Feast of St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) in August.

Student Retreat Programme

Our Student Retreat Programme for Years 7 to 10 gave students the opportunity to explore their faith and spirituality in a relaxed setting with their peers. The retreats involved time for prayer and reflection, team building and setting goals for the future. MacKillop embarked on its first Senior School overnight retreat which was held at Spring Bay Mill. The theme of the Retreat was Laudato Si' which is part of Pope Francis' call to stewardship for our environment. The Year 11 students engaged in a series of hands-on activities working with the Spring Bay Mill staff to rehabilitate the natural environment and helped to plant endangered native plant species. The students had several opportunities for prayer and for reflecting on their faith journey.

Outreach, Advocacy and Fundraising

MacKillop Catholic College supports the work of various Catholic charities that help people in our local community as well as the needs of those abroad. Our Vinnies Conference worked hard all year to raise awareness of those people in our community who need our support and promoted major fundraising drives. The key achievements for the Vinnies Group in 2023 were the Vinnies Breakfast, the Winter Appeal, the School Sleepout, and the Christmas Appeal.

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT

2023 was an exciting year full of change and opportunity for the Learning Enhancement Team. The year began in our brand new, purpose built classroom and office space, which has proven to be an engaging and accessible space for staff and students alike.

With our Year 7 and 8 students, we continued to deliver targeted literacy intervention through MacqLit, as well as specialised individual learning programs for a number of our students, targeting specialised curriculum areas. Our Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed working as part of our LifeSkills Program, which supports students to develop financial literacy and literacy for daily living. The program helped to build independence both within the school and the broader community. The common goal for our LifeSkills students is that we are upskilling them to be capable and responsible citizens. We are developing fine, community minded students and citizens.

Our Year 10 students seized the opportunity to dive into the Work Experience program. Students were fortunate enough to receive a guided tour of Bunnings and had the chance to ask some questions about the employment opportunities and expectations of employees. The team got to flex their public transport and financial literacy muscles when they planned their bus route, lunch and budget for the day.

2023 saw us enter uncharted waters, with our first ever Year 11 cohort. One of our students, was fortunate enough to receive awards for their endeavours in the Preliminary TASC subjects at our End of Year celebration.

ABORIGINAL and TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER (ATSI) EDUCATION

MacKillop Catholic College had much to celebrate and reflect upon, particularly when it came to the enrichment of First Nations heritage. The past year was marked by numerous significant events that showcased the school's commitment to fostering a deep appreciation of First Nations culture among its students.

The year kicked off with the very first gatherings of the MacKillop Mob, a group where First Nations students come together to celebrate their unique heritage, traditions, and experiences. This mob lifted and supported each other throughout the year, pulling off a number of successful events.

NAIDOC Week was celebrated throughout the school with lessons centred around First Nations history, practice and culture, to an inspiring visit from knowledge sharer and printmaker, Allan Mansell. His visit left a lasting impact on both students and staff, as he shared his deep knowledge of Indigenous culture, art, and history. Another successful NAIDOC Week activity was the successful completion of a rainbow serpent hands task. This project brought together students from different year levels to create a visually striking and meaningful art installation piece. The completed serpent is not just a beautiful work of art, but a powerful symbol of unity and cultural understanding.

MacKillop Catholic College was lucky to receive a visit from NITA Education, providing students with invaluable insights into Indigenous culture, food, and country. These visits allowed students to connect with the land and traditions of Australia's First Nations people. The interactive nature of the sessions ensured that students not only learnt about Indigenous culture but also experienced it firsthand.

MacKillop's First Nations students had the opportunity to participate in the Deadly Choices Program, which focuses on

health and wellness in Indigenous communities. This program empowers students to make informed choices about their health and well-being. Furthermore, the touch football carnival provided an excellent opportunity for students to showcase their athletic talents and strengthen their sense of community and teamwork.

MacKillop Catholic College's commitment to promoting Indigenous heritage and fostering cultural understanding among its students has been exemplified through a year filled with enriching events.



LEARNING EXTENSION

The way we identify students with high academic ability at MacKillop Catholic College has evolved. We now use multiple tools to identify high ability. Some of our students have high ability in one area of learning, while other students may have potential to do well in multiple subject areas. One focus in 2023 was identifying underachievement and putting interventions in place to maximise potential in our high ability students.

Students identified as high ability in language and creative arts were also a priority in 2023. Kaleidoscope Lingua was the Semester 1 program created for students with strong vocabulary skills and an interest in learning foreign languages. In Semester 2, a program of excellence was tailor-made for students with strengths in creativity – Kaleidoscope Blueprint.

Learning Leaders also offered many opportunities for high ability students to shine in subject specific area competitions. Other academic extra-curricular programs offered in 2023 included Chess, Decathlon, Debating, Ethics Olympiad, Philosophon, Rostrum, and Spanish lessons.

PASTORAL CARE

We commenced our second year in a vertical pastoral care structure it was fantastic to hear and see staff, students and families strengthening connections which supported our young people on their education journey. With the creation of a sixth Pastoral Care Group for all Houses our College's pastoral focus for Term 1 was belonging and connection.

We welcomed students and their families to a meet and greet with their Pastoral Care Teacher. In the mornings, students focused on getting to know new members and College routines through activities led by the Pastoral Care Teacher. Our six new House Captains established themselves early visiting Pastoral Care Groups and preparing for our first major House events: Caritas' Project Compassion and the Athletics Carnival.

Throughout Term 2 our pastoral focus of 'Positive & Proactive' reinforced the many great things happening in our College. Our House Leaders focused on students' success implementing many initiatives which acknowledged and encouraged students to aim for excellence. We implemented the use of Canteen vouchers as part of raffles and random draws for students receiving positive feedback from teachers. With three major events JJAMM, Eco Week and Wellbeing Week held in Term 3 our House Captains were exceptionally busy running and supporting events and fundraisers. As Term 3 marked the middle of the year our focus of consistency and cooperation supported many of these events to be a great success.

In order to foster further growth in our students we introduced a new Personal Development Education program lutha (ludthah), which translates to gum tree in palawa kani the language of Tasmanian Aborigines, for Years 7-10. Embedded around the philosophy of Positive Psychology and including evidence-based programs such as The Resilience Project and Project Rockit, lutha focused on a particular theme for each year. Year 7: Germinating seed (Developing me) Year 8: Sprouting (Growing me) Year 9: Sapling (Changing me) Year 10 Branching (Emerging me).



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