

# MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE



## ANNUAL REPORT 2024





## Year in Review – 2024

This annual report for 2024 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 12. 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. In 2024 there are 811 students.

Our College Advisory Board members are: Anne Foale – Chairperson; Father Mark Freeman – Parish Priest; Rebecca Burgess – Secretary; Jeff Tongs – Financial Advisor; Jason Szczerbanik – Parent Representative; David Conley – Parent Representative; Jamie Lawrence – Parent Representative; Desmond Ayentimi – Parent Representative; Daniel Verdouw – Parent Representative; Brett Whitelaw – Parent Representative; Brendan Gill – College Principal; Alanna Stretton – Deputy Principal (Guest); Andrew Pritchard – Deputy Principal (Guest); Craig French – College Business Manager (Guest); Tania Burgess – Executive Assistant to the Principal (Minute Secretary).

### MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE – ENROLMENT TOTALS – AS AT: 2/12/2024

#### 2024 YEARS 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12

	MALE	FEMALE	OTHER	TOTAL
Year 7	89	92		181
Year 8	125	75	1	201
Year 9	106	69		175
Year 10	85	86	1	172
Year 11	22	31	1	54
Year 12	23	5		28
	<b>450</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>811</b>

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	Year 12
	89.19%	87.22%	86.08%	82.88%	79.97%	77.32%

### Unauthorised Absences at MacKillop Catholic College

The Principal, Deputy Principal, Director of Pastoral Care and Heads of House along with permitted Administration staff are authorised to follow up unauthorised absences at MacKillop Catholic College. Where the school has not been notified of a student absence by 9:30am daily, parents/caregivers will be notified by SMS requesting they follow up with the school. Where an absence remains unexplained, the student will be marked as an unauthorised absence. The process for following up unauthorised absences with parents/caregivers/independent students is outlined in the [CET Attendance Policy](#).

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI)

- Year 7 8 students in total
- Year 8 10 students in total
- Year 9 4 students in total
- Year 10 10 students in total
- Year 11 3 students in total
- Year 12 1 student in total



## ACTING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It was both a surprise and a privilege to be appointed as Acting Principal of MacKillop Catholic College midway through Term 2 of 2024. The role certainly kept me busy but was incredibly rewarding to contribute positively to our vibrant College community.

The year held special significance as we celebrated 30 years of MacKillop Catholic College and honoured the graduation of our first Year 12 cohort. Heartfelt thanks to the Year 12 students of 2024 for placing their trust in us; we hope we lived up to your expectations over the past two years. A sincere thank you also goes to the families of our graduates. MacKillop has the highest retention rates among extension colleges, a testament to the strong support from our families. The success we celebrate today is the result of a collective effort from our dedicated staff, both current and past, who contributed to our journey.

MacKillop quickly reveals a wealth of learning opportunities. From flying planes and driving boats to engaging with particular disciplines, traveling both interstate and overseas, participating in team sports, or even conquering savage beasts in our Dungeons and Dragons Club, 2024 was filled with diverse experiences. I am grateful to everyone who played a role in making 2024 a success, with a special thanks to our Deputy Principals, Mrs Alanna Stretton and Mr Andrew Pritchard, for their leadership and adaptability during a challenging start to the year.

Leading MacKillop Catholic College at this pivotal moment in its remarkable growth as the school of choice for families on the Eastern Shore is truly an honour. Our current achievements are a testament to the hard work of many individuals who have shaped the school since Brother Tony Smith welcomed the first class in 1994. As we look to the future, I am confident it is bright. While no school is without its challenges, the past 30 years have shown that MacKillop Catholic College will continue to exceed expectations, guided by our core values of Excellence, Compassion, and Service.

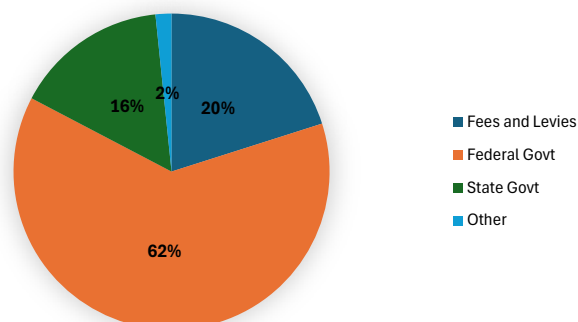
**Brendan Gill**

Acting Principal 2024 (Terms 2 – 4)

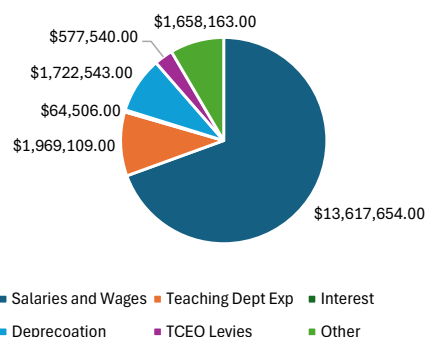


## FINANCE

**Income by Funding Source**



**College Expenditure**



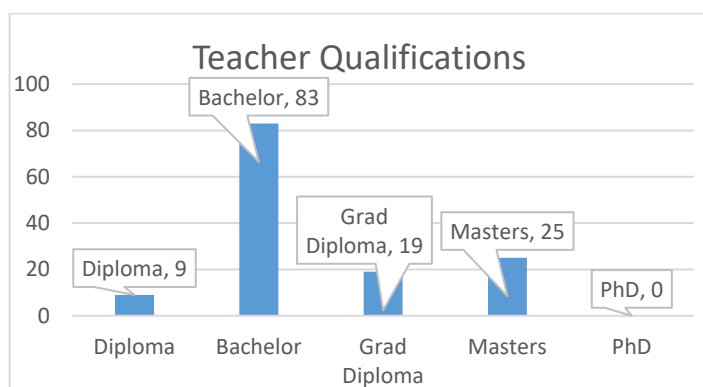
For further Financial Information for <MacKillop Catholic College> please refer to the school's data on [My School](https://www.mackillop.tas.edu.au/MySchool)

## STAFFING

All teachers at MacKillop are registered to teach in accordance with the requirements of the [Teachers Registration Board Tasmania](#).

We have 97 teachers working at MacKillop, including 15 relief and 2 on LWOP. In 2024, we had 62 holding full registration. Provisionally registered teachers are supported through CET's [Early Careers Program](#) and are given the opportunity and support to progress to full registration.

A breakdown of teachers and qualifications are tabled below:



MacKillop Staff 2024	
<b>Full time teaching staff</b>	59
<b>Part time teaching staff</b>	21
<b>Full-time equivalent teaching staff</b>	78.73
<b>Full time non-teaching staff</b>	23
<b>Part time non-teaching staff</b>	38
<b>Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff</b>	45.78
<b>Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff</b>	3

(This table does not include casual, relief teachers and trainees)

### Professional Learning

Professional learning is a key focus at MacKillop. All staff attended CET's System Insight Days on 2 February, 22 July and

14 October, 2024 - further information on our school specific [Insight into Learning](#) program is available by contacting our College Principal.

### 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 changing rooms

## LEARNING and TEACHING

At MacKillop Catholic College we are committed to quality teaching and professional practice that challenges each student to realise their full potential and achieve personal success in their learning. The curriculum is broad and includes vocational and academic learning pathways.

In addition to our formal classroom learning, there is a large range of co-curricular activities and competitions that students participate. All these opportunities enhance and extend the learning that occurs within our formal classes. This year we have had a number of students acknowledged for their outstanding effort and achievement, including;

- Elliott Stee was awarded the State Champion Medal in The Australian History Competition and won a place at the 2024 Geography's Big Week Out from his participation in the Australian Geography Competition.
- Isabella Patten received a High Distinction in the Australian Geography Competition.
- Stella England was awarded the State Champion Medal in the ICAS Writing Competition.
- Dexter Derrick, Harriet Verdouw, Samuel Braid, Stella England and Elliott Stee, all made it to the National Level judging for the National History Competition.
- 19 of our Year 12 Graduates received early offers from the University of Tasmania for 2025 via the School Recommendation Program.
- Our College Dux was Lachlan Macgill with a TCE score of 115.4 and an ATAR of 99.35. Lachlan's ATAR put him in the top 100 in Tasmania.
- 2 students achieved an ATAR of 90 or above. 5 students achieved an ATAR of 80 or above and 7 students achieved an ATAR of 70 or above.
- 2 VET students, Lachlan Denholm and William Gavin were awarded an Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC) Outstanding Achievement in Vocational Education and Training (VET) Award.

## Curriculum

With an increasing number of students staying to study Year 11 and 12 at MacKillop Catholic College, the number of subjects offered in Year 11 and 12 grew. 2024 saw growth in our Vocational Educational and Training (VET) courses, with Certificate 1 in Maritime Operations and Certificate II in Sports Coaching. In addition to new TASC courses, such as

Economics, Physics and Chemistry. Our Year 7-10 curriculum continues to ensure our students establish the foundations for academic success into the future. Year 10 has a strong focus on preparing our students for Years 11 and 12, with all students participating in work experience and transition weeks, to enable all students to make informed decisions about their pathway for Year 11 and 12.

## Senior Secondary Educational Outcomes

Vocational Education: 50% of Year 12 students participated in a VET program.

Two VET students were awarded an Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC) Outstanding Achievement in Vocational Education and Training (VET) Award for 2024.

Tasmanian Certificate of Education: 96% of Year 12 students achieved their Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) or TCEA

ATAR: 54% of Year 12 students received an ATAR. The College Dux in 2024 achieved a TE Score of 115.4 and an ATAR of 99.35, placing them in the top 100 in Tasmania. 8% students achieved an ATAR of 90 or above, 19% students achieved an ATAR of 80 or above and 27% students achieved an ATAR of 70 or above.

\* TCE and ATAR calculations are based on 26 students and not 27, as one of the students that completed year 12 at MacKillop didn't do year 11 at MacKillop and in one year we couldn't help them complete the 120 credit points required for TCE. We calculated percentages on the 26 students that completed year 11 and 12 at MacKillop.

## Year 12 Student Destinations

Destination	Number of students
University	16
Employment	7
Defence	1
Gap Year	1
Unknown	2
Total	27



## NAPLAN

Our NAPLAN results indicated that the College is performing at a consistently high level when compared with Tasmanian schools. Our Year 7 students achieved a higher percentage than Tasmanian schools in all 5 areas, Numeracy, Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation. Also achieving higher than Australian schools in Reading, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation.

While our Year 9 students achieved higher percentages than Tasmanian and Australian schools in all 5 areas.

### Year 7 Summary 2024 Results

% <b>Strong+</b>	Numeracy	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar / Punctuation
MacKillop	<b>65.9</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>62.8</b>
Tasmania	56.7	62.7	57.3	63.2	53.6
Australia	67.2	67.3	65.3	72.3	61.5

### Year 9 Summary 2024 Results

% <b>Strong+</b>	Numeracy	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar / Punctuation
MacKillop	<b>66.5</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>58.8</b>
Tasmania	54.6	57.1	53.7	63.8	46.5
Australia	63.4	63.0	61.0	72.0	54.8

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY (PLC)

The focus of professional learning community meetings in 2024 was on improving our pedagogy as a means to improving student learning outcomes. High Impact Teaching Practices, based on Marzano's New Art and Science of Teaching and Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction, were the focus of meetings for teachings.

### Teacher Development

As a learning community MacKillop Catholic College aims to foster learning for everyone, including our teachers. *"The most valuable resource that all teachers have is each other. Without collaboration our growth is limited to our own perspectives."* Robert John Meehan.

The College participated in Catholic Education Tasmania's Insight professional learning days. Insight, based on the Science of Learning, focuses on High Impact Teaching Practices. This builds on the College's previous implementation of Robert Marzano's New Art and Science of Teaching pedagogical framework. Both focus our

teaching on highly efficient and effective strategies that improve student learning and student outcomes.

Alanna Stretton  
Deputy Principal: Teaching & Learning

## MINISTRY, FAITH and MISSION

MacKillop Catholic College would like to express its gratitude for the support and dedication of our community to the Catholic Identity of our College during 2024. The contributions to various fundraising and awareness initiatives were truly inspiring, especially the following:

- Caritas' Project Compassion
- Papua New Guinea Landslide
- St Vincent de Paul Winter and Christmas Appeals.

Our efforts during JJAMM Week to support Catholic Mission and Mary MacKillop Today were also met with a great level of support. A special thank you goes to the Vinnies and Mission student groups for their tireless work in organising and promoting these initiatives. We also extend our gratitude to the students who helped out with the Vinnies Breakfast throughout the year.

We are grateful to our staff and students for their active participation in various liturgies and Masses throughout the year. Celebrations such as the Feast of St Joseph, Feast of Edmund Rice, Feast of St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop), and our Holy Week and Easter Liturgies were profoundly meaningful.

The year marked a significant milestone with the Inaugural Year 12 Graduation Mass celebrated at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in November. We thank our Parish Priest, Fr Mark Freeman and Fr Kasun Dananjaya for their ongoing support of our College community.

Our student Spirituality Retreats were a cornerstone of spiritual growth last year. The first-ever Year 12 Retreat overnight at Spring Beach Youth Camp, facilitated by the Passionist Youth Ministry Team, was a memorable experience. The Year 11 Retreat at Spring Bay Mill, focusing on Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home, was equally impactful.



We said farewell to Charlotte Davies who had been our Youth Minister at MacKillop Catholic College since 2021. In the last three years, Charlotte made an enormous contribution to the Faith Life of our community. She was dedicated in working with our students to promote our charity work and supporting the liturgical celebrations at the College. Charlotte made a major contribution to our Student and Staff Spirituality Retreats both in planning and facilitating these events. Charlotte was a true witness to her Catholic Faith and to the example of Mary MacKillop to never see a need without taking action.

**Lachlan Marsh**  
Director of Identity and Ministry

## WELLBEING

2024 saw a significant growth and reflection for our College community. As we continued to shape a positive and supportive environment for all students, we introduced several key initiatives designed to enhance wellbeing, foster student engagement, and celebrate success across the school.

One of the most impactful changes was the introduction of the Positive Behaviour Framework. This framework aims to foster a culture of respect, responsibility, and resilience, encouraging students to take pride in their actions and contribute to a positive school climate. Through a combination of clear expectations, positive reinforcement, and support systems, we have seen a marked improvement in student behaviour, engagement, and overall wellbeing. It has been inspiring to witness students taking ownership of their actions and showing a renewed commitment to their personal growth and the success of their peers.

In response to valuable student feedback, we also undertook a revision of our Code of Personal Appearance. Students expressed a desire for greater clarity and a more inclusive approach to uniform standards, and we worked collaboratively to address these concerns. The updated code respects individual identity while maintaining a sense of unity and pride in our school community. This revision has been well received and has reinforced our commitment to creating a respectful, inclusive environment where all students feel valued.

A key initiative in creating a focused and distraction-free learning environment was the introduction of a Mobile Phone Protocol, which requires students to put their phones away during school hours. This decision was made to reduce distractions and support students in maintaining concentration and engagement in their studies.

While students have adapted to this new protocol, it has already made a noticeable difference in classroom dynamics, with fewer disruptions and more productive learning time.

Another exciting development was the introduction of regular weekly assemblies to celebrate student achievement and success. These assemblies became a central part of our school culture, offering a platform to recognise academic excellence, leadership, and personal growth. Additionally, we introduced more regular House Assemblies, which have helped build stronger connections between students across year groups. These House events have fostered a sense of community, pride, and healthy competition, contributing to a positive school spirit.

We were incredibly proud to mark the graduation of our very first Year 12 cohort. This milestone is a significant achievement for our College, and we were immensely proud of the resilience, determination, and hard work demonstrated by our inaugural Year 12 students. Their success is a testament to the values we hold dear and the support we have provided along the way. 2024 was one of transformation and celebration.

**Andrew Pritchard**  
Deputy Principal: Wellbeing

## LEARNING ENHANCEMENT

It was a year full of action in the Learning Enhancement Team at MacKillop Catholic College for 2024. We increased the number of staff as we looked to provide inclusive learning opportunities for all of our students, we welcomed new students and wished our first Year 12 students a safe passage as they departed us for the final time.

Our teacher aides all maintained our core principles, ensuring all students had equitable access to the great variety of extracurricular opportunities MacKillop had to

offer. Be it excursions, band, sporting pursuits or the arts, the teacher aides of MacKillop were never far away, and we are indebted to them for their tireless efforts in the pursuit of excellence, compassion and service.

MacKillop was also blessed to welcome three new students to the College as humanitarian entries. Whilst already catering to a broad cohort of language and cultural diversity, our environment has flourished with the inclusion of our new students. Their vibrant nature and eagerness to learn had endeared them to staff and students alike.

In a major milestone for the Learning Enhancement Team, we farewelled our first-ever Year 12 graduate. Hussain Haider, who left an indelible mark, not only on the learning enhancement area, but the broader school community, as evidenced by his reception as he walked through the Guard of Honour. His good humour, salacious gossip and infectious smile will be difficult to replace.

**Izaak Feery**  
**Director of Learning Enhancement**

## CAREERS and PATHWAYS

We started 2024 by working with our Year 10 students and introducing them to the Creating Futures Program which focused on transition into Years 11 and 12 as well as their work experience weeks. We had over 170 Year 10 students go out for work experience to a variety of industries, including Paramedicine, Radiology, Real Estate, Theatre Performance, Aquaculture and more!

Our Year 10 Transition Weeks were packed with activities and excursions that helped our Year 10s understand more about their subject choices, future pathways and options available. Students most notably enjoyed the day trip to the University of Tasmania (UTAS) Sandy Bay Campus, guest speakers and an introduction to their Year 11 and 12 courses.

We had the opportunity to go on many fantastic Career and Pathway excursions throughout the year, in particular the UTAS Medical Sciences and Health Sciences Taster Days, the Southern Catholic College's Careers Showcase, Hydro Tasmania's Girls in Power Program and many more. Excursions are such a wonderful way our students can be immersed in seeing how a future career may look and feel –

this was certainly the case at the UTAS Medical Science Taster Day when students acted as patients and applied plaster to each other, or on the Hydro Tasmania Girl's in Power Program when students toured the entire Meadowbank Power Station and felt the raw effects of the dam like workers do.

The College's relationship with UTAS has continued to grow with the recruitment team paying regular visits to our Year 11 and 12s to assist them with their university questions and queries. As we progressed through the year, we assisted our Year 12 students who were applying to university to put an application into the UTAS Schools Recommendation Program to allow them early entry based on their performance at MacKillop through their time in Year 11 and 12. We were beyond happy to receive the news in September that all applicants received an offer to one or more of their chosen courses, in areas such as Nursing, Education, Business, Social Work and more.

We also continued to strengthen our relationship with providers Maxima and Possibility to offer a range of students in our Learning Enhancement area the opportunity for more tailored career plans. Both these organisations have worked with MacKillop to offer pathways to employment plans that are assisted by support workers and tailored to the needs of the student. It is wonderful to be able to offer Careers and Pathways assistance to all students and families at the College.

Careers and Pathways continued to work closely with the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Department at MacKillop and it has been great to see even more students excelling in this space. We have had several students complete VET specific work experience and placements in areas such as Hospitality, Electrotechnology, Construction, Maritime and more. We have had a significant increase in interest for School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships after the success of many students participating in this model of learning. In 2024, we had students placed in areas such as Information Technology, Early Childhood Education, Automotive, Early Education and more.

Overall, it was a fantastic year with many opportunities for our students.

**Sarah Gurney**  
**Careers and Pathways Planning Advisor**

## LEARNING EXTENSION

In 2024 we continued our approach of identifying high academic ability at MacKillop Catholic College, using multiple tools and avenues to identify high ability in a range of areas. A diversified approach to identification allows us to identify students with high ability in particular areas, as well as those with high ability in multiple areas. One of our focusses in 2024 was to offer a range of extracurricular opportunities for high ability students to thrive, both individually and in teams.

Students identified as high ability in Science and English were a priority in 2024. Kaleidoscope Science was the Semester 1 program created for students with strong skills and an interest in a range of areas in the sciences. In Semester 2, a creative writing program was undertaken with our students who have demonstrated a high ability in English. Both of these programs culminated in enriching excursions, a tradition we look forward to continuing in 2025.

Learning Leaders also offered many opportunities for high ability students to shine in subject specific area competitions. These included ACER, ICAS, Australian Mathematics Competition, History and Geography competitions, and a new entry - BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge. Other academic extracurricular programs offered in 2024 included Chess, Da-Vinci Decathlon, Debating, Ethics Olympiad, Philosothon, and Rostrum.

The Learning Extension Team looks forward to supporting MacKillop Catholic College students to develop their diverse skills and continue to explore areas of interest into 2025 and beyond.

Cameron Quinn and Lily Bellgrove  
**Learning Extension Co-ordinators**

