

# Newsletter

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## Dear Parents & Students

### Prayer

O Heavenly Father, God of mercy and compassion, help us on our journey to You.

Give us the strength to help those in need.

Give us the courage to seek justice for all.

Open our hearts so that we may love others as You love us;

open our hearts that we may forgive others as You forgive us;

open our hearts so that we may give to others as You gave Your Son for us.

Make us a beacon of light and hope.

Make us a river of mercy and compassion.

Make us Yours.

We pray this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen

### Reflection

Whilst this weekend sees the closing of the year of Mercy let it not be the end of our contemplation and emulation of the extraordinary mercy of God which has been the focus of our thoughts, prayers and actions over the last 12 months. "Let us leave [a] window open to the mercy that this year has allowed us to experience – not only so that we may experience the mercy of God, but so that we can show mercy to others." (*Vincenzo Ferraioli*,

<http://catholicleader.com.au/people/when-the-doors-close-what-will-you-do-when-the-year-of-mercy-finishes> )

## PRINCIPAL MATTERS



### Remembrance Day

Student Leadership Council members Jack Awad, Karie Mayman, Katherine Sleiman and Nicholas Mitchell represented McCarthy Catholic College as well as Cadet Braydon Thompson and Sargent Dave Broomham (209 Army Cadet Unit) who participated in the Catapult party at the Tamworth Remembrance Day Service. Lest We Forget.

### Graduation Dinner

The 2016 Year 12 Graduation Dinner was held last week and I cannot express in words the sense of pride we all felt as staff of the college at the wonderful way that the Year 12 students

presented themselves and celebrated their achievements over the past six years. The highlight of the night was the standing ovation from the students and parents for the retiring Mrs Woolaston who has dedicated so much time and effort in caring for and preparing these young adults for their next exciting phase in life. I offer deep thanks to Mrs Jane Burt and her support team of volunteer staff who planned for and set up a beautiful panorama that transformed the Town Hall into a ballroom. Well done and thank you to all involved.



### Staffing

It is my great pleasure to announce the appointment of Mrs Briony Martin as the Leader of Pedagogy for two years from 2017. This key role will support the learning intentions across the entire Armidale Diocese to improve comparative learning gain in literacy and numeracy as well as improve HSC results. To provide a context to this new role, the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) has been quite fortunate to have been able to engage world-renowned educator, Dr Lyn Sharratt from Ontario University Canada to work with our school leaders for the next two years. Lyn Sharratt's work focuses on instructional leadership by the principal and leadership team, data walls, case management of individual students and learning walks and talks. These key ideas are supported by fourteen parameters for improving literacy and numeracy with particular emphasis given to assessment as, of and for learning. At McCarthy we are excited at the prospect of working with Dr Sharratt as well as adding Mrs Martin's expertise to the College Executive to support teachers in and out of the classroom to grow their collective capacity to enhance the learning outcomes of our wonderful students. Mrs Sharon Stuart has tendered her resignation as Student Management Coordinator (SMC). While we are fortunate that she will continue on as one of our excellent HSC teachers, we lose Sharon's expertise as a behaviour management specialist in supporting the growth of our students to learn more effective and positive ways to interact with each other and their teachers. I publicly thank Sharon for her dedicated work over the past four years as SMC and for her willingness to take on numerous acting roles on the College Executive. Interviews are now underway for a number of teaching and middle leadership roles. I hope to be able to announce the new role holders in the next newsletter.

**School Board and Parent Association**

On behalf of all of the students, staff and families of McCarthy Catholic College I offer public thanks to the hard working members of the School Board and Parent Association. Their stewardship and generosity in supporting the educational work of the college is deeply appreciated and valued. I encourage any interested parents to join these groups as we head into 2017, as it is a great way to support your children and the work of the college in providing strategic direction as well as physical resources both within and outside of the classroom. Also it is a great way to meet fellow parents and share the learning journeys of their sons and daughters. Please give it some thought. Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The first set of meetings for 2017 will be held on Tuesday February 21.

**Manilla Road (Peel Street) Upgrade – Tribe to Jewry Streets**

The NSW Government is funding a \$2.5 million upgrade of Manilla Road (Peel Street) between Tribe and Jewry Streets, North Tamworth. The project, which is designed to improve safety and relieve traffic congestion, is the next stage of upgrading Manilla Road. Delays are expected due to changed traffic conditions. Traffic control will be in place and speed limits will be reduced to 40km/h in the work area. Work is expected to be completed by March 2017. More information is available on the Tamworth Regional Council website <http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/Council/Roads-and-Bridges/Manilla-Rd-Stage-3>

May your God go with you.

*Mr Geoff McManus – Principal*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The last fortnight has been a very busy one for the RE faculty and staff of McCarthy.

On Tuesday 1 November, fifty-five Year 11 students came to the first of a series of four volunteer Twilight Retreats. Twelve staff assisted with running various activities for the retreat which centred on the theme, 'You can't say 'no' until you have said 'yes'; a wisdom to help with sticking to one's priorities; once we have said 'yes' to a relationship with Jesus, (or to study or a particular ATAR), we can and will have to say 'no' to the things which distract us from this goal.

**Year 10 Just Leadership**

On Thursday of last week, Year 10 students attended a 'Just Leadership Day', guest speakers from Caritas Australia and Catholic Earthcare focused on Jesus as the model of service, Catholic Social teachings and the dignity of every human person; the students finished with some personal action planning. The 'Just Leadership Day' was the initial launch of the social justice project 'A Deed a Day for 250 Days' through which it is hoped that students will voluntarily engage in acts of service in order to bring alive the third element in our school motto, 'Receive Worship Serve.'

*Mrs Cate Allen – Mission and Spiritual Formation Coordinator*

**ENGLISH**

Recently, Year 10 student Eleanor George entered and was placed first in a national short story competition - The Hope Prize. Judges of the competition included Cate Blanchett, Kate Grenville and Quentin Bryce. Ellie's three and a half thousand word entry was titled 'Colours' and contained themes of resilience and hardship. Ellie travelled to Melbourne on the weekend for the launch of the anthology in which her composition was published. We congratulate her on becoming a published author.

*Mrs Katrina Sullivan – English Coordinator*

**CAREERS****Year 12 2016**

Some students have begun receiving Early Entry offers to university courses. I recommend students follow the instructions to make these into firm offers in the early round that UAC make or ones from UNE are to be dealt with directly to UNE. Students who receive more than one offer must choose their preferred choice to make their first preference by midnight on December 5 to convert this to an actual offer on December 9.

Details of the dates are to be found here: <http://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/offers/dates.shtml> It is vital that instructions from universities be followed by due dates and all copies of correspondence with UAC and individual universities be kept in a safe place. It is possible for some students to receive and accept more than one offer depending on their choices, courses, ATAR etc.

**RSA and RCG Courses**

Last week some students attended the RSA and RCG courses organised by the school. I was complimented on the wonderful students who attended and on their cooperation and manner by the presenter.

**Year 12 2017**

Incoming Year 12 students attended lunchtime talks held in the last week to help them find information and resources on careers and courses, as well as a presentation with a guest speaker (ex McCarthy student Patrick O'Connor) from the University of Wollongong.

**Year 10 Work Experience**

Several students have shown interest in doing Work Experience in coming weeks. Students are asked to first collect, complete and submit an *Application* form which can be obtained from the holder on the door of the Careers Advisers Office in the Library. Details of what is involved in work experience can be found on the McCarthy Careers page at: <http://mccarthy.nsw.edu.au/careers/work-experience/>

**Career PD**

In recent weeks I attended a range of very useful and interesting workshops at the annual Careers Advisers Association Conference. Several of these focussed on Mathematics for students at school and university and also the options available to students interested in IT.



Last week a meeting of the Tamworth and District Careers Advisers Network was held and there was an update on the newly formed special interest group for students currently in Years 10 and 11, who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine.

Our recent meeting also included a tour of facilities at Tamworth TAFE. We were shown the impressive teaching areas for courses in engineering, plumbing, animal care and more.

Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Adviser  
[careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au](mailto:careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au)



**LIBRARY**



**Remembrance Day**

This week the library had an impressive display honouring Remembrance Day.

**ATSI NEWS**

Congratulations to Josh Turner who has been selected to have one of his photos feature in the New England Electorate Calendar for the month of March. Mr Barnaby Joyce commented that he was extremely impressed with the quality and colours portrayed in Josh's image of the old rail track and felt that it perfectly depicted the diversity of our rural region.



**AviSkills**

On Monday, 31 October, Aboriginal Education Assistants, Mrs Jolene Faint and Ms Kisani Upward took an eager group of students out to the AviSkills facility at the Tamworth Regional Airport. While there, the students toured the outstanding Training Centre and were able to climb aboard one of the demo planes and sit inside the cockpit. Aviskills offer TAFE Certified Aviation courses and valuable on the job training and experience. If you know of any students who may be interested in Avionics or Mechanics as a future career path, please do not hesitate to contact either Jolene or Kisani for further information on (02) 67610800.

**Indigenous Traineeship Opportunity - Gomeroi Gaaynggal Centre**

There is an Indigenous Traineeship opportunity available as a Primary Health Carer at the Gomeroi Gaaynggal Centre in Hinkler Street Tamworth. The trainee will be employed in a role that supports all of the staff and projects undertaken at the Gomeroi Gaaynggal Centre.

Please contact Jolene Faint on 02 67610800 for further information.

*Mrs Jolene Faint – Aboriginal Educational Worker*

**PARENT INFORMATION**

**Mango Orders**

Thank you to those parents and friends who supported our Mango drive. Mangoes were delivered this week.

**SPORT**

**Cricket – Downie Shield**

McCarthy travelled to Aberdeen on 3 November for Round 1 of the Downie Shield against St Joseph's, Aberdeen. St Joseph's batted first and scored a total of 200. Jack Hannaford and James Austin were the best of the McCarthy bowlers. McCarthy were unable to reach the designated target, being bowled out in the 40th over, with Jye Paterson providing stability in the middle. The team should

be commended on their effort and look forward to competing in the Ron George Cricket Competition. Thanks to Mr Damian Kenniff, Mr Marcus Chittick and Mr Geoff Denton for giving up their time to take the team on the day.

Team: Jye Paterson, Patrick Ferguson, Ryan Baker, Connor Robinson, Jack Hannaford, Tristan Hunter, Jack Murrie, Toby Whale, Alex Cook, James Austin, Angus Lang and Cameron Witherdin.

**Sports’ Awards Assembly**

McCarthy Catholic College’s annual Sports’ Awards Assembly will be held in the school Hall from 9.00am – 10.00am on Wednesday 20 November. The Sports’ Awards Assembly gives us an opportunity to recognise the sporting achievements of students in front of their peers as a whole school.

Awards that will be presented include Blues and Half Blues, as well as College Awards.

Invitations will be issued to students receiving awards, and also to parents and coaches who have assisted McCarthy Catholic College sporting teams.



The Northern Inland Academy of Sport (NIAS) has great pleasure in inviting you to the 2017 inaugural National Football Camp (NFC). The NFC is an inclusive football camp catering for athletes (boys & girls) of all standards for Primary and Secondary School students aged U12, U13, U14, U15 and U16s in 2017. The NFC will be held over the week 22 – 25 January and will be hosted in the beautiful city of Armidale. The NFC has the support of Sydney’s Newington College Head of Football Brian McCarthy and is fully endorsed by Northern NSW Football who will be providing high profile coaches. Please contact the NIAS team on 6766 2526 for further details or email [james.cooper@nias.org.au](mailto:james.cooper@nias.org.au). This is a fantastic opportunity to develop and expand your football skills.



**No matter where the road leads,  
we’re with you.**

Join us and make a difference

**ADIG**

[www.adig.com.au](http://www.adig.com.au)

Ph: 1800 040 903 or 1800 803 194