
St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter 8.23

Friday 26 May 2023



Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers and Community Members

HONOURING THE IMAGE OF GOD IN PEOPLE AROUND US

Our adolescents live in a world of incessant noise where they are robbed of silence and staved of time for reflection. They have a critical need for sabbath space. They need the gifts of time, space and silence to think, to wonder and dream and to reflect on the meaning, purpose and direction of their lives. They need space to begin again.

Our Year 12's were blessed with Sabbath Space on their recent 3 day retreat held at the St Benedict XVI Retreat Centre located in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. It is a naturally beautiful, peaceful and serene setting which provided our students the ideal opportunity to retreat from 'noise', the busyness of their daily lives and the demands of their senior studies. They had time to think about, reflect on and evaluate their lives (its purpose, meaning and direction) and their relationships with others as images of God's love.

Our Year 12's responded magnificently to the opportunities provided by the retreat. They retreated from noise, in order to embrace silence and listen to the things of their heart; to learn from others; to share their stories; to pray; to reflect and to grow individually and collectively.

The quality of their participation honoured the retreat process, and their courteous and respectful conduct honoured themselves, their families, their teachers and our College community. It was a special blessing to be able to share in the retreat sessions with them.

One of the sessions: "Images of Goodness and/or Godness" provided the opportunity to students to reflect on their own experience in order to become more aware of their understanding of goodness and/or their relationship with God. My reflection on this session, emanating from listening to them during this session and observing their respectful, caring, cooperative and supportive interactions with each other and their teachers, the staff at the centre and guests engaging with and leading them during the retreat was yet another reminder to me of the goodness of our young people.

This was not a surprise to me because so many acts of goodness and kindness happen everyday in our College life. Actions which honour the image of God in people around us.

What are they?

The following is a brief 'snapshot':

- The spirit of welcome and hospitality extended to "new arrivals" (students, parents/carers and teachers) and visitors to the College;
- Students graciously and generously accepting the challenges and requests to be "stewards of creation" by volunteering to participate in Landcare activities, not littering and caring for the fabric of the College;
- The courtesy and respect extended to helpers at the Cafeteria by students through their expressions of "please" and "thank you"
- Students meeting their responsibilities owed to self and others and our community by honouring our mantra: "Be safe, be respectful, be a learner"
- Students and staff volunteering to run our Breakfast Club

- The compassionate outreach to those in need within our College community and beyond our immediate area of influence
- Provision of meals to families in need, and lunches to the children of these families
- Generous support for fundraising to assist charitable organisations and courses, eg. St Vincent de Paul, Catholic Mission, Caritas Australia
- Students and teachers working collaboratively and cooperatively to create classroom spaces conducive to effective learning, teaching and improved educational outcomes for all students
- The reverence and respect displayed by our students during times of prayer and when sharing in the liturgical life of the College

The acts of kindness and goodness engaged in by our Year 12's on Retreat and displayed by our students each day in school life honour the dignity and integrity of the human person and this should be a reminder to each of us, as their parent/carer and teacher educators, that ***who our students become as people is far more important than what they can do.***

Larry Keating
Principal

BOB SHERIDAN'S BIKE ODYSSEY

Many of you would be aware that a member of the College's temporary and casual staff, Mr Robert (Bob) Sheridan, is currently cycling from Townsville (Qld) to Newcastle via Broome and Perth (WA). Bob hopes to raise \$100,000 for the Black Dog Institute in support of mental health research and education.

Bob and 3 good mates: Brendon Smith, Paul Robertson and Kenny McIlwain, set out on the first stage of their journey from Townsville, a distance of approximately 4,000km, on 11 April. I was fortunate enough to phone Bob, last Monday afternoon, as he and his mates were camped beside the Gibb River Road after another strenuous day riding over what Bob described as "the roughest dirt road in Australia". They had travelled 350km along the road with 150km still to travel. Since their departure from Townsville, they had travelled across Queensland, Northern Territory and on Monday had completed 3,660km. They planned to reach Broome by late May at which point they will have pedalled 4,000km.

Once they reach Broome, Bob will continue the journey alone from Broome to Perth, a distance of 3,000kms, which he plans to complete by late June/early July. He will then continue alone from Perth to Newcastle planning to arrive in Newcastle on 31 August, at the end of his 11,000km Odyssey.

A copy of Bob's itinerary from Broome to Perth appears below, and a copy of the subsequent stages of his journey will be published in each edition of the Newsletter.

Bob is passionate about raising awareness of and funds for research and education about mental illness such as depression and anxiety and to reduce suicide rates. His goal is to raise \$100,000 for the work of the Black Dog Institute and is deserving of our support. Bob has prepared himself thoroughly for his Odyssey however, at 68 years of age, the demands on his body are incredible. His mental toughness, resilience, and courage of endurance are amazing and emphasise the depth of his desire to improve the lives of all people who experience Mental illness and to reduce suicide rates. **His is so thoroughly deserving of our support.**

Henry Burke (Roll 11.4) read about Bob's Odyssey and asked the College Leadership Team to hold a "Crazy Socks" Day in support of Bob's fundraising for the Black Dog Institute. We have agreed to do this on **Wednesday 14 June (Week 8, Term 2)**. Henry is commended on coming forward with this suggestion and we ask all students/families to support the fundraiser (more details to follow). Meanwhile, community members have the opportunity to donate via the Black Dog page:

<https://www.teamblackdog.org.au/fundraisers/robertsheridan/bob-sheridan--s-bike-odyssey>



[Bob Sheridan's Bike Odyssey](https://www.teamblackdog.org.au/fundraisers/robertsheridan/bob-sheridan--s-bike-odyssey)

I'm raising \$100001 for Black Dog Institute and I need your help! Bob Sheridan's Bike Odyssey is my moment for mental health – it's all about raising funds for mental health research and education. Nearly 1 in 2 Australians will experience a mental illness like depression or anxiety in their lifetime, and sometimes people don't reach out for help when they need it. This issue is really close to my heart. Please click and donate what you can.

www.teamblackdog.org.au



Photos kindly used by permission from Bob Sheridan's Facebook page c/o Kenny Mac Adventures Photography

Broome to Perth 2023

Day 1. Monday 29 May Broome to Barn Hill 144kms
 Day 2. Tuesday May 30 Barn Hill to Stanley Rest Area 95kms
 Day 3. Wednesday May 31 Stanley Rest Area to Sandfire Roadhouse 107ks
 Day 4. Thursday June 1 Sandfire Roadhouse to 80-mile Beach 47ks
 Day 5. Friday June 2 80-mile Beach to Pardoo 108ks
 Day 6. Saturday June 3 Pardoo Port Headland 142ks
Day 7. Sunday June 4 REST

Day 8. Monday June 5 Port Headland to Whim Creek 110ks
 Day 9. Tuesday June 6 Whim Creek to Karratha 122ks
 Day 10. Wednesday June 7 Karratha to Gnoorea 65ks
 Day 11. Thursday June 8 Gnoorea to Mardie 87ks
 Day 12. Friday June 9 Mardie to Peedamulla Campground 108ks
 Day 13. Saturday June 10 Peedamulla Campground to Onslow 80ks
Day 14. Sunday June 11 REST

Day 15. Monday June 12 Onslow to Talandji 41ks
 Day 16. Tuesday June 13 Talandji to ExGiralia 154ks
 Day 17. Wednesday June 14 Ex Giralia to Coral Bay 125ks
 Day 18. Thursday June 15 Coral Bay to MacLeod 142ks
 Day 19. Friday June 16 MacLeod to Carnarvon 91ks
 Day 20. Saturday June 17 Carnarvon to Wooramel 120ks
 Day 21. Sunday June 18 Wooramel to Hamelin Pool CP 83ks
 Day 22. Monday June 19 Hamelin Pool CP Denham 107ks
Day 23. Tuesday June 20 REST. Travel to Monkey Mia

Day 24. Wednesday June 21 Denham Seaside Caravan Park to Hamelin Pool CP 107ks
 Day 25. Thursday June 22 Hamelin Pool CP to Meadow 77ks
 Day 26. Friday June 23 Meadow to Eurardy 80ks
 Day 27. Saturday June 24 Eurardy to Kalbarry 122ks
 Day 28. Sunday June 25 Kalbarry to Northampton 105ks
Day 29. Monday June 26 Northampton to Geraldton 51ks
Day 30. Tuesday June 27 REST.

Day 31 Wednesday June 28 Geraldton to Arrowsmith 105ks
 Day 32. Thursday June 29 Arrowsmith to Cervantes 120ks
 Day 33. Friday June 30 Cervantes to Seabird CP 109ks
 Day 34. Saturday July 1 Seabird CP to Fremantle 112ks
Day 35, 36 and 37. Sunday Monday and Tuesday July 2, 3 & 4 - REST.



MINISTRY

Catholic Schools Week Mass

On Monday morning, myself and the 3 other college leaders were invited to attend the Catholic school's week mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. The theme for 2023 was **Encounter: Journeying Together**. It reminds us that we are people who are committed to building joy-filled communities, constantly seeking unity and belonging. During the mass, we reflected on how we, as students, can work together with each other and our greater community to build loving and positive connections, as well as recalling how lucky we are to be living the life we are. Overall, it was a rewarding experience!

Mia Egan (Year 12)

YEAR 12 RETREAT





Assistant Principal – Learning and Teaching

2023 HSC Examination Timetable Released

Year 12 students are now able to access personalised timetables for the HSC Examinations via their studentsonline account. The full timetable can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.hsccountdown.com.au/files/2023-HSC-timetable.pdf>

Shortly, Year 12 students will also receive their 2023 HSC Trial Exam **Timetable (B Trial Exams commence 31 July)** and I encourage all students to plan carefully around these exam dates, ensuring that work schedules and social engagements are reviewed so as to be supportive of success in these exams. A copy of the timetable will be issued to all students in the Week 8 Year Assembly.

Assessment and Reporting at St Mary's

As we move into Term Two, I would like to take time to reflect on the nature of reporting and assessment here at St Mary's. Across 2021 and 2022, our teachers, Leaders of Learning and College Leadership Team have spent time reflecting on, and developing tighter consistency around, the nature of our assessment and reporting at the College. In reviewing our policy and practices a number of key pieces of advice have been taken into consideration. The Maitland Newcastle Catholic Schools Office's Reporting Policy acknowledges and promotes a standards-referenced approach to reporting student achievement in NSW. It sees the primary purpose of reporting as providing meaningful feedback in order to improve student learning; consequently, **the reporting process must be an integral part of the teaching and learning process.**

Reporting here at St Mary's

- uses plain English
- reflects **a belief that all students can improve, progress and achieve success in learning**
- is valid and reliable with evidence based on a variety of contexts allowing for on-balance judgement
- includes comments and information about a student's achievements in relevant Key Learning Areas and identifies areas where a student may need help, and how the student can improve.
- summarises a student's progress, areas for improvement and achievement of syllabus outcomes at a point in time, **based on a collection of evidence/data that is built up over time** – through **informal and formal** assessment. In addition, our teachers use evidence of learning collected through formal assessment (sometimes called 'summative assessment') to **rank (Stage 6) and/or grade** students.

In summary, reporting at St Mary's is a formal process that provides feedback to students and parents **about a student's progress, areas for improvement and achievements.**

Year 11 Mid-Course Reports will be provided to parents and students in Week 9 this term and will contain information related to Course Ranking, Percentage of Course Completed, Achievement of Course Outcomes, and comments relating to attendance, uniform and approaches to learning. Teacher Comments also provide feedback and feed-forward, providing direction for future learning.

Years 7-10 Reports will be released in Week 10 and further information will be provided in the coming newsletters in relation to changes we have made to these reports. Not only will you see, in these upcoming reports, ratings for the subject learning outcomes and approaches to learning but also the reporting of student achievement in the area of four capabilities – **Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Communication and Collaboration.**

The general capabilities play a significant role in the Australian Curriculum in equipping young Australians to live and work successfully in the twenty-first century. At St Mary's we have chosen to focus particularly on the above *four capabilities* as we develop our students' knowledge and skills in our particular subject areas. If you are interested in knowing more about these capabilities and how they sit in the Australian Curriculum please use the following links: https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/media/6517/the_australian_curriculum_an_overview_for_parents.pdf
<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/general-capabilities/>

continued

As educators, we have worked together across these past months to deepen our understanding of the capabilities of *creative and critical thinking, communication and collaboration*. Alongside our literacy and school improvement strategies, we continue to develop our curriculum and pedagogy so that we can develop in our students the skills and capabilities necessary for life beyond St Mary's. In our next newsletter, further information about the capabilities will be delivered.

Finally, I look forward to seeing our Year 10 parents and carers at our upcoming Year 10 (Year 11 2024) **Stage 6 Course Information Evening being held on Tuesday 6 June commencing at 6pm in The Josphite Centre**. I urge all parents to attend as we focus together on our students, your children, making appropriate and informed choices about their senior pattern of study. The 2024 Course Handbooks will be distributed to all Year 10 students in Week 6 Year Assembly. Please take the time to review the information in the handbook as we move towards selection of subjects for Year 11 2024.

The evening will have two sections – A gathering in the TJC at 6pm outlining details re Course Selection, ATAR and Vocational Pathways. There will also be presentations from the Leaders of Learning in English, Mathematics and Religion regarding advice about the various levels and content of these subjects. In the second section of the evening, students and family members will have the chance to meet with teachers in all subjects including information re EVET, VET and SBAT subjects. We encourage all to attend and look forward to joining with you all for this very significant evening. **Please bring your Handbooks with you on the evening!**

Cathy O’Gorman
Assistant Principal – Learning and Teaching



**St Mary's
Year 10
(Year 11 2024)**

**Stage 6 Course
Information
Evening**

6 June 6pm TJC

ENGLISH FACULTY

The Tragedy of Macbeth excursion

In preparation for our study of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* next term, Year 10 ventured far from home to see the play in Sydney. The theatre was packed with curious young adults from various schools. When the theatre fell into darkness, the crowd screamed and gasped, followed by a loud crashing sound. The lights flared and the action commenced. Four witches held the stage, dressed in simple, white clothing. They cast their spells, hanging a small doll from a tree, a doll that was a motif of trouble throughout.

Student highlights were the blood, guts and vigorous performance of the fight scenes. Duncan's ghostly return, splattered in blood, brains escaping from his skull was delightfully gruesome and the energy, charisma and presence of the actor playing McDuff was entertaining for all. While Shakespeare's language is challenging, the audience was boisterous and enthusiastic. We have begun the process of bringing *Macbeth* to life.



By 10ENGW



Girls NSWCC Championships

On Monday the 22nd and Tuesday the 23rd the Maitland Newcastle Open Girls Soccer Team competed in the Open Girls NSWCCC championship held at Valentine Sports Centre in Sydney. Miss Elizabeth Savovski (coach) and Mrs Loretta Brown (manager from Catherine McAuley Catholic College) selected the team at diocesan trials and guided the team to a back-to-back tournament win.

The first game saw us competing against a well drilled team from Parramatta. It was a tightly contested game with both teams displaying a high level of skill. By displaying fierce determination we managed to score and take the game 1 -0.

In our second game we came up against Lismore/Armidale. Our team started strongly and showed exception skill to come away with a 2 – 0 victory.

We started the Tuesday morning with the first game at 8:00am and it was a chilly 5 degrees. After a vigorous warm up the girls took to the field against Sydney School White Team. It was a very close game but once again we were able to come away with a 1 – 0 win.



Our last game of the pool round saw us up against Sydney School Black. We started the game strongly and had a convincing 3 – 0 win. At the end of the pool games we were undefeated and had not conceded a goal and were top of our pool which meant we went straight to the final.

The final saw us up against a well drilled team in CGSSSA (Catholic Independent Schools). It was a close game which saw us score first just before half time. During the second half we stepped up and put the opposition under a lot of pressure and scored our second goal. When the final whistle blew the score was 2 – 0 which saw us crowned champions for the second year in a row.

To top off a successful tournament **8 players from Maitland/ Newcastle were named in the NSWCCC team that will compete at the All Schools NSW tournament.** Congratulations to the following girls:

Ruby Jones, Madeline Howard, Molly Salvador, Mercedes McNabb, Emma O'Hagan, Saffron Grass, Claire Adams, Alisha Ingrey (these girls are from other schools in the diocese)

I would like to congratulate the whole team on an outstanding performance and for all their sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Ms Elizabeth Savovski
Coach

Careers Corner

- Careers Expo

Thursday 18th May was for some an introduction to their future careers. For others, it was the opportunity to further explore a path that they recognised two years previously. It was fantastic to see the students actively engaging in serious discussions regarding potential career paths. Hopefully all left the event, not only with a goodies bag, but also a clearer vision of their futures. I would like to thank the staff that attended and the students for their impeccable behaviour and uniform.



- **The Place**

The Place Charlestown community centre is offering a FREE after school/ afternoon program for youth aged 12 – 24 funded by the NSW government.

The Made @ The Place program, is a program with the goal of providing local youth with the opportunity to learn, create, exhibit, and potentially sell their creations.

The participants will learn specific creative skills over 4 weeks, in a social setting intended to provide positive social engagement, encourage positive peer relationships, engender positive self-expression, and belonging. Art sales (if opted in by participants) will be hosted on The Place's Facebook Page and Website, with an exhibition for family and friends planned in December 2023.

The four-week workshop sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings from 4pm – 6pm. Attendance to the program is free. All the artistic supplies and refreshments will be provided.

There are 8 workshop sessions in total over a two-year period, each featuring a local artist and genre.

Our first workshop featuring local artist, Alana Lerch is almost over, and we are taking applications for our future classes this year!

The additional workshops for this year are below.

7 June – 28 June

- Recycled Materials Art with Natalie Anderson

26 July – 16 August

- Landscapes with Alana Lerch

18 October – 8 November

- Art & Chemistry with Aidan Gageler



Made
@
the place

A FREE Creative Arts Program for Youth

SESSION 2:
Upcycled Art with Natalie Anderson
at The Place Charlestown Community Centre

Wednesdays, 7th June - 28th June
4pm - 6pm
Refreshments provided

Bookings Essential
Call: 02 4032 5500
Email:
youthprograms@theplacecharlestown.org.au
Scan below



• **Hunter New England Health Sbats and OPAL aged Care Sbat**

Year 10 students and parents have recently received information regarding the following healthcare opportunities for 2024.



School Based Traineeship
 Certificate III in Health Services Assistance
 Join us on an unforgettable journey

• **Girls Fire and Resilience Camp**

Regional Industry Education Partnership Program will be offering **5 places per school**. Girls on Fire school programs are for all independent and private secondary schools looking to share fire and rescue concepts and learning experiences with students.

Day overview

Students visit a designated site to experience frontline emergency service education and training via a mix of presentations from facilitators, individual and class activities, and disaster and emergency simulations. These single day camps involve physical activity, teamwork and a focus on providing a snapshot of the day in the life of emergency services.

And in case you missed it, check out the TV ad we made during the last Newcastle program [NAB TV commercial](#)

[Girls Fire and Resilience Program](#)

• **Tomago apprenticeships 2024**

The apprenticeships Tomago have available for the 2024 program are Electrical Apprentices, Mechanical Apprentices and Plant Mechanic Apprentices. For more information you can visit their website at [Graduate & Apprenticeship Program: Tomago Aluminium](#) and to apply visit [Browse Vacancies: Tomago Aluminium](#), or alternatively on [www.seek.com](#).

Tomago look forward to our students' applications and are excited to offer them the opportunity to start their career with them!

For further contact details, please email Ms Dews.

Ms Finlay/ Ms Dews
Careers Advisers

GIRLS FIRE AND RESILIENCE CAMP

APPLY NOW
www.girlsonfire.com.au
info@girlsonfire.com.au

Lake Macquarie
 August 10th

- Teamwork activities
- Basic Firefighting Operations
- Community resilience
- Confidence & Courage

INTERACTIVE ONE DAY WORKSHOP

Jenney-Lee Pye
 Ph 0467 715 370

Supported by fire and emergency services
 Official partner of Girls on Fire **nab**



Teacher Education Scholarships

for year 12 students

Up to 5 scholarships available for current Year 12 students in our Catholic schools who intend to commence undergraduate courses in teacher training in 2024.

What's the offer for recipients?

- A total benefit of up to \$7000 per recipient, paid in five lump sum payments over the four years of study
- An internship in a targeted diocesan school that will offer a placement of excellence
- Opportunity to be employed as a school support officer or pastoral care worker while studying
- A permanent position on completion of course in one of our clusters of incentive-based schools
- Support and advice with regard to Accreditation to Work, Teach and Lead
- Program is coordinated and monitored by a dedicated education officer
- Opportunity to complete the Christian Formation Course and Faith Story Witness Course



'Teaching is a beautiful job as it allows you to see the growth day by day of people entrusted to your care.'

POPE FRANCIS

How to apply

1. Ask your Careers Adviser for an application form.
2. Return the completed form to the Catholic Schools Office by Friday 22 September 2023.
3. Submit your ATAR and HSC results to the CSO before Monday 18 December 2023.
4. Attend an interview in early 2024. HSC results will be taken into consideration.

For more information, please contact Narelle Cross (Education Officer) 02 4979 1233 or narelle.cross@mn.catholic.edu.au

SPORT

Oztag

On Thursday, the St Mary's Oztag juggernaut travelled inland to the rolling hills of Maitland to compete in the Hunter Regional Oztag Championships. After an early morning departure, a crisp morning greeted our arrival and the scene was set for a jam-packed day of "tag" action. This was our second year attending this tournament and it was an amazing effort to have four teams competing across the Years 7/8 and 9/10 Boys and Girls divisions.

Throughout the day, all four teams were extremely competitive with many exhilarating tries, dazzling defence and tightly contested games. At the conclusion of the day, all four teams had finished in the top 10 for their divisions, with two Quarter Finalists in the Boys divisions and a Grand Final Runner Up in the Years 7/8 Girls division.

The Year 8 Girls were the standout performers for the day under the watchful eye of Jacqui "Mastercoach" McInherny. After starting the day with a narrow loss, the girls rallied themselves to finish the pool phase with two exhilarating wins. The girls then had two dominating wins in their QF and SF with the girls displaying amazing attacking masterclasses. Unfortunately, they were unable to secure the final victory in the Grand Final in what could only be described as a high intensity game filled with jaw dropping plays and heart racing action.

Due to making the Grand Final, the Year 8 Girls have now qualified for the NSW Champions of Champions Tournament to be held in Term 3 where they will test themselves against the best of the best from across the state.

In the 9/10 Girls division, our team had a tough tournament after being drawn in a strongly competitive pool. Despite the challenges faced, the girls were tenacious throughout the day, eventually walking away with an exhilarating win and 3 tightly contested losses.

The boys' teams also experienced some success with both teams progressing to the quarter finals. In the 7/8 Boys division, the Year 8 boys were undefeated in their pool after securing 3 dominating wins and 1 draw. Unfortunately, they were unable to maintain their unbeaten streak, going down by 1 try in their action-packed quarter final.

In the 9/10 Boys division, the Year 10 boys commenced the day with two hard fought losses. However, as the temperature began to heat up, so too did our senior boys with the team rising from the ashes to conclude the day with two exciting wins and a gripping loss in their Quarter Final.

All players demonstrated exceptional skill and tenacity, with notable mentions go to **Luca B, Alice D and Alexis N (8 Girls), Chayce A, Angus R, Nate L (8 Boys), Abi P, Stevie B and Kaitlin R (9/10 Girls), Jye S, Fletcher O and Blake B (10 Boys).**

Finally, a huge thank you to Mrs Avery, Mrs McInherny and Mr Meagher for their support in coaching the teams. I am sure they will agree how amazing it was to see our students thrive outside of the classroom and display their many skills and talents.

Final placings and results are listed below:

- Jnr Girls – 2nd Overall
- Jnr Boys – 5th Overall
- Snr Boys – 6th overall
- Snr Girls – 10th Overall

Coach Kieren Knight



Year 8 Boys Oztag Team



Year 10 Boys Oztag Team



Year 8 Girls Oztag Team



Year 10 Girls Oztag Team



↑ Words of encouragement from Mrs Avery!!!

2023 Vinnies Winter Appeal Donations

Many people have been deeply challenged by the Cost-of-Living Crisis and are now struggling to provide meals, heating, and clothing for their families. Many are facing uncertain futures with mortgage increases, uncertainty of where to live and family stress.

At this time every year we offer the opportunity for community members to donate good quality winter clothing, blankets, bedding, and towels to the Vinnies Winter Appeal. This year we also welcome good quality second-hand bags eg. back packs, hand bags, man bags. As bills and prices increase, and winter weather takes a toll on the creature comfort of warmth, the St Vincent de Paul Society is calling on Australians to dig deep and donate generously to the Winter Appeal.

Donations now are vital to ensure we can continue to support our local Vinnies chapters to make an impact on the lives of the increasing number of vulnerable people in our communities. **Donations would be appreciated by Wednesday 7th June - please hand in during Roll Call or at Student Services.**

I thank everyone for their continuing support and on-going generosity.



VINNIES WINTER APPEAL DONATIONS

7:1	Packet of Soap	9:1	Packet of Toothpaste	11:1	Children's socks
7:2	Bottle of Shampoo	9:2	Packet of Toothbrushes	11:2	Ladies' socks
7:3	Bottle of Conditioner	9:3	Soap container	11:3	Men's socks
7:4	Bottle of Body Wash	9:4	Toothbrush container	11:4	Children's scarf
7:5	Bottle of Hand Wash	9:5	Packet of Face Wipes	11:5	Ladies' scarf
7:6	Bottle of Hand sanitiser	9:6	Bottle of Mouth Wash	11:6	Men's scarf
8:1	Box of Hand Sanitiser	10:1	Children's gloves	12:1	Children's underwear
8:2	Box of Tissues	10:2	Ladies' gloves	12:2	Ladies' Underwear
8:3	Packet of Hand Wipes	10:3	Men's gloves	12:3	Men's Underwear
8:4	Bottle of Roll-on Deodorant	10:4	Children's Beanies	12:4	Ladies Hygiene products
8:5	Can of Spray Deodorant	10:5	Ladies' Beanies	12:5	Ladies Hygiene products
8:6	Packet of Lip Balm	10:6	Men's Beanies	12:6	Ladies Hygiene products

Library Matters

Recently **ABC Education** ran a **nation-wide Haiku writing competition**, open for all School students across the country. A haiku is a Japanese poem of 17 syllables, written in 3 lines and this competition required students to use the theme Seasons. I had the great pleasure of reading some wonderful entries from students and I also had a staff member send me her beautiful work too, for me to read.

I would love to share with you the work of **Victoria Chong** and **Maggie Hardie** who both received acknowledgement from ABC Education for their entries. Here is a Haiku from Victoria and a wonderful poem by Maggie Hardie.

A Spring Morning

Fledglings announce dawn,
Honeybees nudge young blossoms,
Morning dew. Tranquil.

By Victoria Chong

The Grand Canyon of Australia

The sun rising in the east,
Lighting up the sky.
The moon and stars disappear,
The sun starts to rise.
A mighty crack in the ground,
Starts to gain light,
Revealing layers of earth
Oh, what a wonderful sight.

By Maggie Hardie

Dymock's Short Story competition is now open for all students, but hurry entries close on 31st May 2023. Here are the details:

The competition is free to enter and open theme! This means students can write on any topic and in any genre.

- All entries must be between 500-1500 words.
- Entries close May 31st and must be submitted by that date.
- All entrants will be in the running to win a share of our \$15,500 prize pool - with the overall winner getting \$5000!

Use this link to find out more: <https://beyondwords.dymockstutoring.edu.au/>

MAKING HEADLINES

Books are back and it is Young Adults leading the charge.

Did you know that book sales grew by 7% last year in Australia and many of the sales were in the YA range. Much of the credit goes to explosion of Young Adult book reviewers that can be found on #BookTok. Garry Linnell from *The Herald* explains #BookTok reviewers are young and passionate. They shy away from the cerebral preferring to discuss the emotional impact of a book. It is great to see these inspirational readers encouraging the benefits of reading, stating that you can find a timeless quality in what books offer that social media cannot. Books encourage you to think rather than consume and forget. Characters in novels spring to life but also appear and sound different to every reader. Is it ironic that we have social media to thank for many young adults discovering books again? Either way, I don't really mind, I just love that they are reading!

The **NSW Premier's Reading Challenge** is well underway, but it is not too late to register your participation. Just drop by the library and collect a permission note and a reading log. (Remember those in Year 7 need to also let me know if they participated in the challenge at their Primary school – that will enable me to match their Primary and Secondary records and ensure that each year of completion is counted towards your Premier's Medal.

Don't forget you can access the PRC books via SORA too!



<https://soraapp.com/library/cenetau>



NSW Department of Education

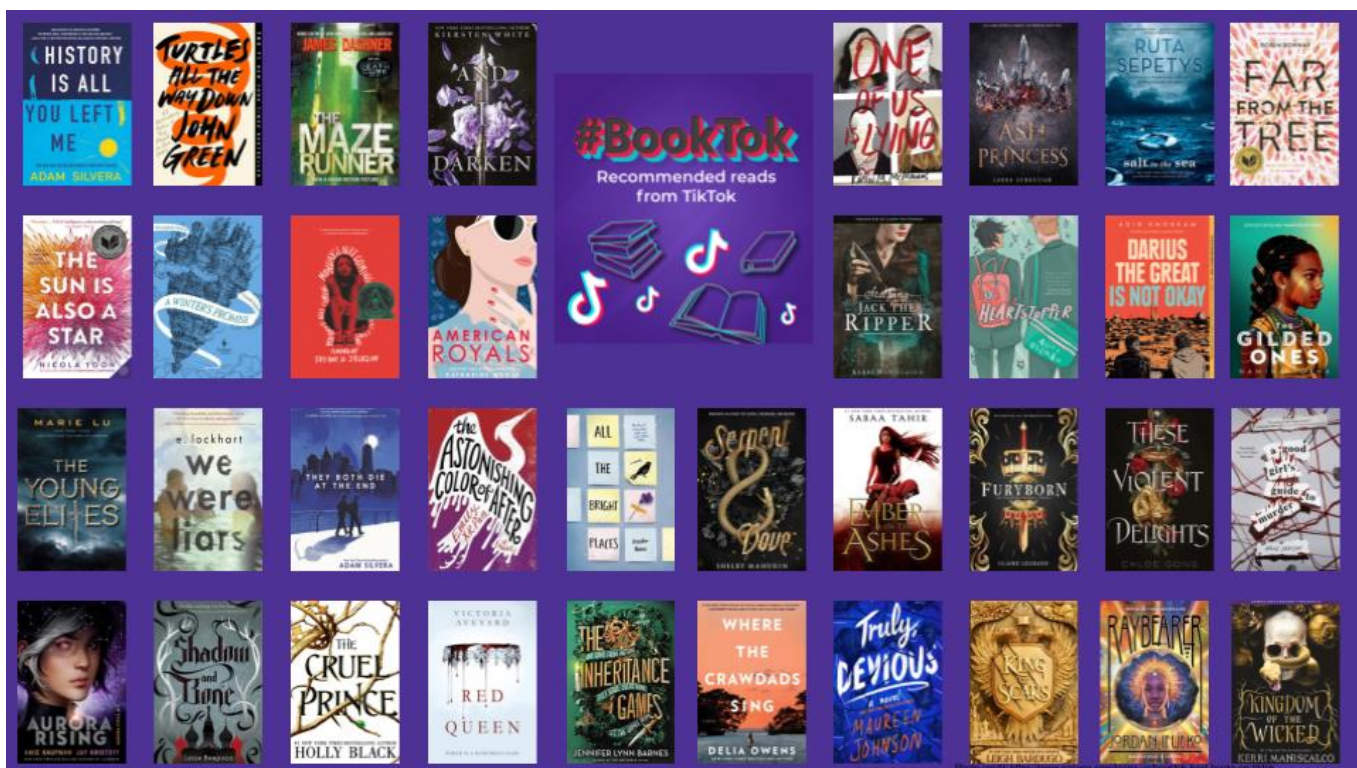
2023 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

Artwork by Eliza Hurst

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

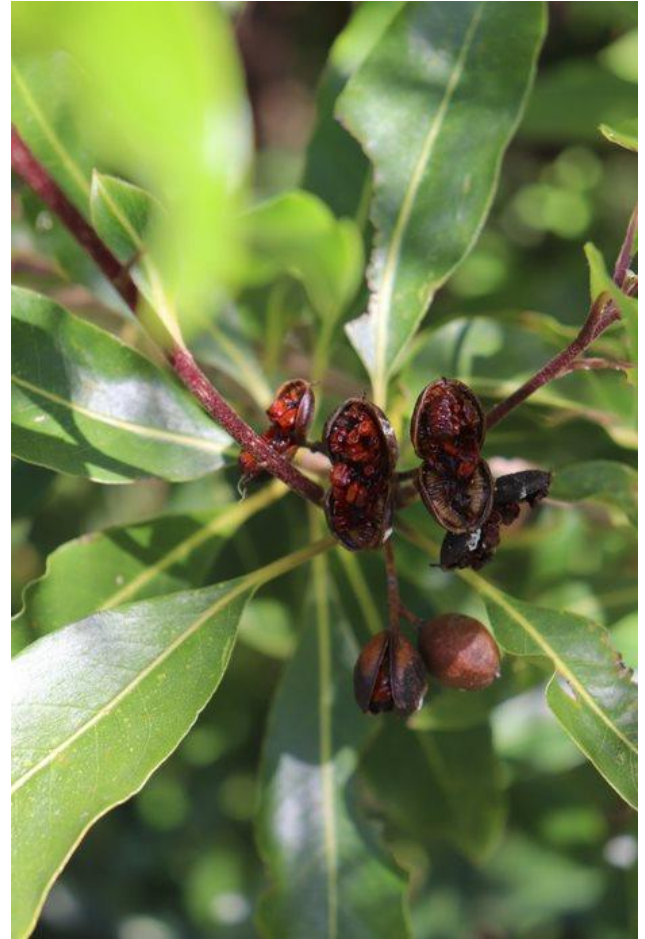
Key dates for students in K-10:
 Challenge opens Monday 27 February
 Challenge closes for student entries Friday 18 August



Mrs Rosalind Dunn
 Teacher-Librarian

LANDCARE

Glorious Autumn weather for our Landcare Day 18th May. Students and staff spent the day tackling Morning Glory (*Ipomoea tricolor*) and removing it from the Creek site. This work was done in preparation for our next Landcare day on the 30th May where we will be working alongside LMCC and the Green team to plant out areas of the Creek. Our rehabilitation site looks amazing and there is evidence of secondary regrowth of bracken fern and many other native species.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Henry Burke who has been selected in the **NSWCCC 18years RUGBY UNION side**, he was up against a number of private catholic schools, the team now competes at the All Schools Rugby Championships on the 6th June. A training camp is being held this weekend at Narrabeen. Well done Henry!



TICKETS ON SALE NOW

DIOSOUNDS 2023

walk together

THURSDAY 8TH JUNE | 6.30PM START

\$36 Adult | \$26 Concession | \$30 Group | \$92 Family ticket

Civic Theatre
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
www.civictheatrenewcastle.com.au



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023

27 MAY — 3 JUNE

BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS

#NRW2023

NRW.RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU





**FREE COMMUNITY
EVENT**

Equi Energy Youth

Enhancing Community Connections



Coach 2 Cope: Families and Carers

Are you concerned about your child's mental health and well-being? Would you like to improve the support you provide your child to develop their coping, resilience and positive ways of seeking help? This is your invitation to join many other parents and carers in our community to learn better ways to respond to your child when they are struggling.

Guest speakers include;

- **Dr Stephen Spencer (PhD)** (Mental health nurse and Co-founder of Equi Energy Youth)
- **Dr Caroline de Vries** (Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist and Founder of The Base Health)
- **Bradley Dunn** (CEO of Lake Macquarie & Newcastle Suicide Prevention Network)
- **Byron Williams** (headspace Community Development)

**13th of June 5.30pm
to 8pm
At NEX Newcastle**

**[CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER OR SCAN THE
QR CODE](#)**



www.eeyouth.org.au





Council are inviting young people (12-24 years) from across Lake Macquarie to take part in a fun and interactive workshop to explore active recreation opportunities in our parks, reserves, beaches and Council swim centres.

This session is a part of the work we are undertaking to create a new Active Recreation Strategy for the city. Initial findings from current surveys have identified ideas and challenges specific to younger people's experiences of being active in the city that we would like to explore further.

The 1.5 hour session will be hosted by Council staff and facilitated by Otium Planning. Light refreshments will be provided.

To register for this event, please follow the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/active-recreation-strategy-focus-group-focus-on-young-people-tickets-638984047487>

Email: kharris@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

T: 02 4921 0303

Lake Macquarie City Council is inviting young people (12-24 years) from across Lake Macquarie to take part in a fun and interactive workshop on Wednesday 31 May to explore active recreation opportunities in our parks, reserves, beaches and Council swim centres.

This session is a part of the work we are undertaking to create a new Active Recreation Strategy for the city. Initial findings from current surveys have identified ideas and challenges specific to younger people's experiences of being active in the city that we would like to explore.

The 90-minute session will be hosted by Council staff and facilitated by Otium Planning. Pizza will be provided.

For more information or to register for this event, visit [eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au).

If you have any questions, please contact Amelia Parrott, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Leader on 4921 0291

Email: aparrott@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

WINTER UNIFORM

A reminder that the Winter Uniform comes into effect from Thursday 1 June. Please note the following:

- Boys must have tie, belt and shirt tucked in
- Girls continue to wear tie
- Skirts and girls PE shorts not to be rolled to make shorter

Term 2 - Week 5 (A Week)	
Sun 28 May	Pentecost Sunday
Week 6 – Term 2 (B Week)	
Tues 30 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year Assemblies PLM (extended) Students depart College at 2.40pm, bus supervision as usual Landcare
Wed 31 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 8 Religious Literacy Testing Year 7 Reptile Shows
Thurs 1 June	Virtual Academy Digital Tools Online Workshop
Fri 2 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcome of Applications for Year 7 (2024) Enrolment notified to parents Senior Geography Fieldwork excursion
Sat 3 June	MABO Day
Week 7 – Term 2 (A Week)	
Mon 5 June	World Environment Day
Tues 6 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Assembly Year 10 (Year 11 2024) Stage 6 Course Preference & Selection Evening – 6pm
Wed 7 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inquisitive Minds – Year 8 All Schools Touch Footie Competition Diosounds matinee
Thurs 8 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Schools Touch Footie Competition Diosounds matinee and Evening Performance 6.30pm Civic Theatre
Fri 9 June	Newsletter 9.23
Week 8 – Term 2 (B Week)	
Mon 12 June	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Tue 13 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year Assemblies Year 11 Biological Diversity Day PLM (Extended) – Students depart College at 2.40pm. Bus supervision as usual.
Wed 14 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grandparents Liturgy and Morning Tea – 9.00am Open Day – Tours of the College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour 1 – 10.17am to 11.34am Tour 2 – 4.00pm to 5.00pm Tour 3 – 5.00pm to 6.00pm
Thurs 15 June	Katrina Fanning 14yrs Girls Rugby League - TBC
Fri 16 June	Final Day for Acceptance of Offer of Placement for Year 7 (2024)
Week 9 – Term 2 (A Week)	
Tues 20 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Refugee Day Dress for Success Career Day - TBC College Assembly
Wed 21 June	Year 11 Mid-Course reports published
Fri 23 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter 10.23 Society and Culture HSC Study Day Next Stage Correspondence to Year 7 (2024) families
Week 10 – Term 2 (B Week)	
Mon 26 June	Year 9 Formation Day – TBC
Tues 27 June	Feast Day of Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Patron Saint of our Diocese
Wed 28 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the Road with English Studies Years 7 to 10 Semester 1 Reports published Years 7 to 10 Student Parent Teacher Conference Bookings Open Years 7 – 9 Junior Music Showcase – more details to follow
Fri 30 June	Last Day of Term 2
Sat 2 July	NAIDOC Week – “For our Elders”
Term 3 - Week 1 (A Week)	
Mon 17 July	Staff Professional Development – Pupil Free Day Years 7 to 10 Conference Bookings Close
Tues 18 July	Classes recommence for Term 3
Wed 19 July	HSC Drama Evening – TBC
Thurs 20 July	Years 7 to 11 Student Parent Teacher Conferences 3.30pm to 7.00pm
Fri 20 July	Years 7 to 11 Student Parent Teacher Conferences – Years 7-11 Pupil Free day (Year 12 normal classes)