

LIGHT OF FAITH

ALUMNAE INSIGHTS

Official Newsletter of the Mary MacKillop College Alumnae

Principal's Report



Dear Alumnae,

Welcome to our first 2026 edition of our Alumnae Magazine and it's our biggest yet, brimming with stories that reflect the remarkable achievements of our Old Girls! As a College community, we are immensely proud and continue to cheer them on as they make a difference in our world.

2026 - the Year of Integrity - A Reflection

In 2026, Mary MacKillop College has embraced *Integrity* as our guiding theme, inspired by the quiet strength and wisdom of the forest. Like the trees depicted in Kylie Farelly's artwork, integrity grows from deep roots - formed through connection, authenticity, and a commitment to the common good. A forest teaches us that true growth is steady and grounded, shaped by patience and nourished by the networks that bind us together. Each tree stands tall not in isolation, but because it is supported by the unseen strength of its neighbours. So too does our integrity flourish when we honour our relationships, act with consistency, and choose what is right even when it is difficult. The forest reminds us that life is shared, that resilience is found in unity, and that hope often lies just beneath the surface, waiting to emerge.



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Principal's Report

At MMC we are navigating our ever-changing and disruptive world, and are called to be people of hope to our young people. Pope Francis called us to 'restore-hope' and reminded us that 'hope is bold.' Through our service of education, we can be the face of hope to our girls, their families and each other. As people of integrity, we can show how things can improve and model how a hopeful attitude is crucial for overcoming all obstacles. 'Hope' for St Mary of the Cross MacKillop wasn't just about wishing for good outcomes, it was deeply tied to her faith in God's providence, as well as her commitment to serving others. She reminds us to trust in the future, remain grounded in faith and stay focused on the greater good, no matter the challenges faced along the way.

Just as the forest teaches us that true integrity and strength is found in authenticity and connection, Mary MacKillop stands before us as a woman whose life was rooted in unwavering integrity.



Her actions consistently reflected her deep faith and her belief in the dignity of every person, echoing her reminder to the Sisters: "Do all you can with the means at your disposal, and calmly leave the rest to God." Mary's integrity was not merely spoken - it was lived with courage, humility, and compassion, much like the steady resilience of a tree drawing life from its roots.

In the Gospels, Jesus embodies this same wholeness of life and purpose, acting with truth and mercy even when faced with misunderstanding, opposition, or suffering. Whether welcoming the outcast, challenging injustice, or remaining faithful to God's call, Jesus shows us that integrity is the harmony of belief and action. Together, Mary MacKillop and Jesus offer us a living example of integrity that mirrors the lessons of the forest: strength grounded in truth, compassion expressed in action, and a life shaped by connection and love.



Principal's Report

Our commissioned artwork, *Standing in Integrity*, by local artist Kylie Farrelly, invites us to step into this Year of Integrity with clarity of purpose and a renewed commitment to living our mission each day.

The artwork poses a powerful challenge for our community: “Integrity grows from deep roots: What roots am I tending today?” “Stand in integrity: Whose flourishing depends on my consistency?” “Integrity seen, integrity unseen: How will I align both?”

These questions call us to personal responsibility and collective integrity, reminding us that the values we teach must first be the values we embody. Just as Mary MacKillop lived with unwavering integrity - responding to every person with dignity, love, and a steadfast commitment to God’s mission - we are invited to reflect that same authenticity in our work and relationships.

May her example continue to shape us as people of the Gospel, grounded in truth, compassion, and a deep sense of communal responsibility.



Standing in Integrity by Kylie Farrelly

Principal's Report

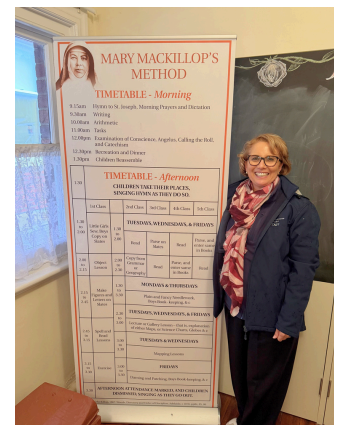
Travelling Tasmania in the footsteps of Julian Tenison Woods

I recently had the privilege of attending the Australian Josephite Principals Network conference and retreat, a deeply enriching experience that invited both professional learning and spiritual renewal. During our time together, the principals' group led by the Sisters, reflected on and prayed with the life and writings of Julian Tenison Woods - Mary MacKillop's great companion and unwavering supporter, who worked alongside her to establish the Josephite Order. Julian was an interesting man who worked as a parish priest across South Australia and much of Tasmania, as well as a newspaper editor, a scientist, and the Director of Education in South Australia.

The conference immersed us in the beauty of nature of the Australian countryside, and we engaged with his prayers and reflections, gaining insight into his remarkable integration of faith and science. This is particularly impactful, as our Year of Integrity also has a focus on nature and the glory of creation and our imperative to care for it.

One quote, in particular, has stayed with me since returning: "We are but instruments in the hand of God, never acting as if we were more." It speaks profoundly to the call to humility and reminds us that our work, both in education and in life, is about building God's kingdom - never our own.

Again, I express my gratitude to Carly and Bec who moved into the Principal and Deputy positions, as well as Katie Wood and Cathy Myers who stepped into assist CLT. I am most grateful for the opportunity to immerse myself in the land, nature and spiritual reflections that began the Josephite educational vision.



Principal's Report

Book Reviews

I'd like to share three books that are shaping my thinking and deepening my understanding of education in the digital age. These texts are also being read by staff and are enriching our professional dialogue and ongoing learning and are influencing our strategic planning.

The Digital Delusion by neuroscientist Jared Cooney Horvath offers a compelling and research-based critique of the role of technology in education, challenging the assumption that more screens automatically lead to better learning.

Drawing on cognitive science, the book argues that excessive reliance on digital devices can undermine attention, memory, and deep thinking in young people, ultimately weakening learning outcomes. Rather than rejecting technology altogether, Horvath advocates for a more intentional and selective approach that puts relationships, explicit teaching, and meaningful cognitive engagement back at the centre of the classroom.

For girls' education, this is particularly significant as we seek to foster focus (self direction, self management, self control), confidence, critical thinking, and authentic connection in an increasingly distracted world.

At Mary MacKillop College, this research is informing our strategic planning for 2027–2030, as we explore digital minimisation practices that prioritise purposeful technology use and reduce low-value screen time. In doing so, we aim to create learning environments where our students can thrive - grounded in balance, well-being, and deep, enduring learning.

I am thoroughly enjoying *GIRLS* by Freya India. This book is a powerful and thought-provoking exploration of what it means to grow up as a girl in today's digital and consumer-driven world. India works for Jonathan Haidt (you may remember we read Jonathon's book, *The Anxious Generation* a few years ago – that book was a major influence in the change to social media laws in Australia).

India argues that the natural anxieties of adolescence are now amplified and exploited by social media and online culture, where girls are encouraged to present themselves as curated "brands" rather than authentic individuals.

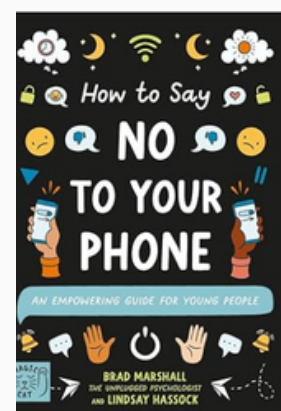
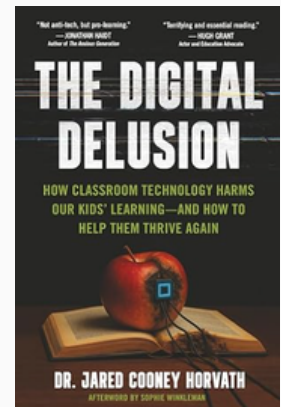
The book highlights how constant comparison, performance, and commodification can impact identity, well-being, and a sense of belonging for young women.

At its heart, it calls for a return to genuine connection, dignity, and authenticity in the lives of girls. For us at Mary MacKillop College, these insights are shaping our thinking as we develop our 2027–2030 Strategic Plan, particularly in fostering environments that support wellbeing, identity, and meaningful connection. In this way, *Girls* reinforces our commitment to educating young women who are not defined by the pressures of the modern world, but empowered to grow with confidence, purpose, and a deep sense of self.

How to Say No to Your Phone by Brad Marshall and Lindsay Hassock is an empowering and practical guide that helps young people rethink their relationship with technology. Drawing on their expertise as psychologists, the authors explain how phones impact the brain, emotions, and habits, while offering clear and accessible strategies to regain control.

What stands out is the book's use of ten simple, achievable steps, each supported by practical tools that make unplugging feel realistic rather than overwhelming. Importantly, it does not dismiss technology, but instead encourages young people to use it with intention and balance, creating space for sleep, connection, and wellbeing. The book is filled with engaging prompts and ideas that inspire readers to rediscover offline activities and meaningful ways to spend their time beyond screens. Overall, it is a highly accessible and hopeful resource that supports young people to step back from their devices and reconnect with what truly matters.

Blessings,
Erin



2026 College Captains

Year of Integrity

Integrity is biggest in the smallest moments; fundamentally, it is about doing what is right without needing any external motivation. Because of this, integrity is one of the most important skills to develop in young women as the next generation of leaders. Having an understanding of what is right and wrong and letting that guide our actions, without need for external motivation is what separates someone as truly remarkable, which is why integrity is such a big focus for us this year.

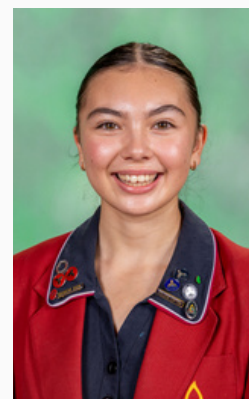
To us, integrity means showing consistency between our words and actions, even when no one is watching. It is about demonstrating kindness, respect, and courage in every interaction, while encouraging others to do the same. Integrity is not always found in grand gestures, but in the quiet decisions we make each day that reflect our character and values.

Throughout this year, we hope to foster a culture where each student feels empowered to act with honesty, responsibility and compassion. We encourage our girls to challenge themselves academically, socially, and personally while remaining grounded in what they believe is right. By embracing integrity, we can strengthen connections within our College community and inspire one another to become confident, principled, and independent young women.

Leading this vision at Mary MacKillop College we have many opportunities for our girls to celebrate leadership, service, and positively contribute to our community. We aim to encourage students to support one another, take pride in their actions, and recognize the importance of being role models both within and beyond the college gates.

We are passionate about inspiring the College to pursue excellence through academics, sports, arts and science, while embracing every opportunity the high school experience has to offer. We are incredibly proud to lead MMC in 2026 and look forward to a year of integrity, growth, and connection.

Isabella Fahey & Giselle Ibrahim



Legacy of Light

Words of Wisdom

The official MMC Podcast, Legacy of Light, features rich conversations with distinguished MMC Alumnae and community members.



[CLICK HERE](#)

to follow MMC on Spotify & listen to our podcasts



Dr. Mary Murphy is a lifelong learner, educationist, researcher, writer, spiritualist and critical friend and life coach. Mary has been working with our leaders at MMC for the past 4 years providing spiritual direction and critical reflection on their leadership. In this episode, Erin and Mary discuss the Feast of Pentecost in light of today's complex, challenging, and ever changing world. This is a great snippet for those interested in navigating our complex times.



2022 MMC graduate and past Mission Captain, Chelsea James, is currently studying a Bachelor of Law/Science (Honours) majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Queensland and was recently awarded the Judge Michael Rackemann Prize in Planning and Development Law at the UQ Law School Awards, recognising the highest overall marks in the course. Erin and Chelsea discuss how MMC sets students up for success in life after school.



2023 College Captain Neeve Sutton recently spent six months studying on exchange in Ireland while continuing her third year of a Bachelor of Biomedical Science at the University of Queensland. In this podcast, Neeve reflects on the boundless opportunities to learn and grow across the globe, and shares thoughtful words of wisdom with our current Year 11 English students who were part of the conversation.

Celebrating the Class of 2025

Honour Board

We are proud to honour the remarkable academic results of our 2025 Graduates and their ongoing commitment to pursuing excellence.

COLLEGE DUX

ATAR 96.10
McKenzie Kirkham

BIOLOGY • JAPANESE
LITERATURE • MATHEMATICAL METHODS
STUDY OF RELIGION • PHILOSOPHY & REASON



PRINCIPAL'S HONOUR AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2025 Graduates who achieved an ATAR of 90.00 or above, placing them in the top 10% in the state for their senior academic results.



ATAR 93.55
Ruby Payne



ATAR 92.85
Yasmin Aziz



ATAR 92.65
Giselle Grace



ATAR 92.60
Vanshika Alajpur



ATAR 91.85
Isabella Millman



ATAR 91.10
Charlotte Hurley



ATAR 90.80
Ava Levy



ATAR 90.55
Anabella Wardle

Celebrating the Class of 2025

100% SUBJECT & EXTERNAL EXAM

Congratulations to the 2025 Graduates who recieved 100% in a subject over Year 11 & 12 plus in external exams. The following graduates were awarded both a QCE Subject Achievement Commendation Award and a BCE Subject Achievement Award.



FILM, TV & NEW MEDIA
Allie Drake



FILM, TV & NEW MEDIA
Olivia Gavin



FILM, TV & NEW MEDIA
Hannah Kernohan



LITERATURE
McKenzie Kirkham

BCE STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

Congratulations to the 2025 Graduates who were awarded BCE Students Excellence Award for achieving a result of 98 or greater in one or more general subjects.

FILM, TV & NEW MEDIA
Gretel Davis

FILM, TV & NEW MEDIA
Jocelyn O'Neill

VISUAL ART
Charlotte Pritchard



Staff Spotlight

Erin Wedge

MMC Principal, Erin Wedge, is a passionate advocate for all-girls education. She shares her inspiration and insights into her teaching career.

How long have you been teaching? I have been teaching for 32 years – I have taught in primary, secondary, P – 12, co-ed, all boys, all girls schools. This is my 6th year at MMC.

Where have you been prior to MMC? I have taught in a variety of schools including St Martin's Carina, Holy Spirit Bray Park, Holy Spirit New Farm. I have also been on leadership teams at St Augustine's College, St Eugene's College and Nudgee College as well as Mary MacKillop College. I have also worked as an Education Officer for Curriculum and Religious Education for Brisbane Catholic Education, as a Senior Education Officer for the Archdiocese of Brisbane as well as the Lecturer in Charge at ACU for undergraduate teachers.

I have spent a lot of my time studying – and when I was studying in the USA, I was able to do some volunteer work in classes in the poorer suburbs of Boston.

What brought you to teach at MMC? I have always wanted to be a part of the MMC community. I grew up locally in Brisbane, and my own personal faith charism is Mary MacKillop and the Josephites. I am so blessed to be able to lead a community in my own personal charism foundation.

What do you like about teaching all girls? I LOVE working, teaching and leading girls – they are so much fun!

As a principal, one of my greatest joys is teaching girls and watching their creativity and confidence shine through moments of play, imagination, and joyful opportunities. I feel deeply honoured to walk alongside them as they learn to navigate life, share wisdom, and discover who they are becoming.

Each day, I witness their growth - from curious little girls finding their voices to young women learning to stand tall in who they are. There is nothing more powerful than seeing our girls grow into empowered, compassionate women who know their worth.



What do you love about teaching and why did you become a teacher? I have always wanted to be a teacher, long before it became my profession, it was who I was. As a child, I was the girl on the street who built a schoolhouse in play and gathered everyone together, always taking on the role of the teacher or the principal.

I attended an all girls Catholic high school in Brisbane. I had great teachers who inspired me, whom I still remember fondly. I was that one girl that loved going to school each day, not just for the learning and stretching of the brain and feeling accomplished when success hit, but also because of the community of friends and cheerleaders!

Once I found my tribe, high school was a great experience!!

I love learning myself, and even more, I love sharing that learning and the excitement that comes with discovery and growth. I am deeply curious by nature and firmly believe that knowledge matters and that education has the power to liberate all of us.

As a Catholic educator, I see my work as building the capacity of future leaders to be people of empathy, purpose, and character, grounded in the values of the Josephite charism and Catholic tradition, particularly the importance of community, working together, cheering one another on, and putting others first.

Today, much of my work sits in the field of leadership, which I find incredibly meaningful. I love reading, learning, and reflecting on how to build great leaders and strong team, whether that is in service of the girls we teach or alongside the staff who teach them. Education, for me, is a lifelong journey of learning, leading, and growing together.

Staff Spotlight

Carly Richardson

MMC Deputy Principal, Carly Richardson, has dedicated 12 years of service to Mary MacKillop College. We asked her to share some insights into her teaching journey.

How long have you been teaching? 19 years, and I am currently in my 12th year at MMC, having joined the community in 2015 as Head of Penola House. During my time at MMC, I have also held the roles of Head of Health and Physical Education and Assistant Principal – Religious Education.

Where have you been prior to MMC? Before joining MMC, I spent time at Brigidine College in leadership roles, including Head of Sport and Head of House, teaching across Science, Physical Education, Religious Education, and Mathematics.

What do you like about teaching all girls? I love teaching in an all-girls environment because it empowers students to fully engage in their learning. Without social pressure, girls are more willing to challenge themselves, collaborate, and lead. It allows us to intentionally nurture confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of identity.

What do you love about your teaching area? At present, I teach Year 7 HPE, and I love allowing students to enjoy movement while learning about their bodies, relationships, and all aspects of what health truly means. When students understand their bodies, learn what nourishes them physically and emotionally, and develop awareness of their minds, they gain knowledge that shapes their confidence, choices, and wellbeing across their entire lives.

What do you love about teaching and why did you become a teacher? I love teaching - full stop. I believe deeply in the power of education to transform lives, create opportunity, and make the world a better place. I am incredibly grateful to have a role where I get to walk alongside young people, supporting them as they grow into confident MacKillop women and develop from 11–12-year-old girls into strong, capable 17–18-year-old young women. I am particularly passionate about Health and Physical Education. Research consistently shows that girls who value movement and sport grow into more confident individuals, stronger leaders, and develop greater body confidence and wellbeing. Through HPE, I love helping students build a positive relationship with their bodies, movement, and their own sense of self - skills that extend far beyond the classroom. I was fortunate in my own schooling to be inspired by wonderful female teachers who not only supported my learning but also encouraged me to participate in sport and believed in my abilities. Their influence played a significant role in my decision to become a teacher, and I strive to offer the same encouragement, belief, and opportunity to the students I work with every day.

What is one thing you hope every student gains from your class? I hope every student who learns with me develops a genuine love of learning and feels excited to come to class. I want students to know that our time together will explore meaningful topics, while also creating space to discuss ideas and experiences that shape them as individuals. Most importantly, I hope students gain confidence in themselves and their abilities. Through positive experiences in Health and Physical Education, I want them to develop a love of physical activity so that movement becomes a lifelong habit - one that supports their wellbeing, resilience, and sense of self long after they leave school.

What do you value most about being part of the MMC community? Mary MacKillop College has become a home away from home for me over the past decade. I deeply value the strong sense of community that exists at MMC - where people are known, relationships matter, and every student, staff member, and family feels seen and welcomed.



Staff Spotlight

Rebecca King

MMC Assistant Principal - Religious Education and Mission, Rebecca King, has dedicated 10 years of service to Mary MacKillop College. We asked her to share her wisdom about her career in education.

How long have you been teaching? I started teaching over 20 years ago in my home town of Mackay.

Where have you been prior to MMC? In my late 20s, I took a break from Secondary teaching in Queensland to spend some time in Japan, teaching English. My husband and I enjoyed two years immersing ourselves in Japanese culture. When we returned to Australia, I taught briefly at St Rita's before I had my three boys.

What brought you to teach at MMC? At the time, when I joined MMC it was really a decision to return to teaching, to get back into the workforce. But now, when I look back, it was really the Spirit calling me to a community who was inspired by the charism of Mary MacKillop and the Josephites. I didn't know at the time, but I was being given a great gift. I am where I am supposed to be.

What do you like about teaching all girls? I really appreciate the friendliness and supportive nature of girls. I love that girls can be collaboratively competitive with each other; that means I love how girls can strive to be their best and genuinely want to bring their girls along with them and help them to be their best. I grew up in a large family of girls; I have 7 sisters, so that special energy of the sisterhood is part of my DNA.

What do you love about your teaching area? I teach Religion and I think firstly that my parents would be really proud of me. I love that teaching Religion challenges us to be inquisitive and curious about how people - of all faiths and traditions - see the world, understand their place in the divinity of creation, and see others. To me, teaching religion is much more about understanding relationships - our relationship with the divine and our relationship with each other - rather than teaching about doctrine and dogma.

What do you love about teaching and why did you become a teacher? I have come to love that as a teacher I get to learn something new everyday. I have always loved learning and learning new things - how to do them and the substance of our world and the people in it. When I first started teaching I believed that I had to pour out all that I knew, but now I have come to know that teaching is opening your heart and mind to others and sharing in each other's learning.

What qualifications do you hold and in what areas? My first degree was a Bachelor of Built Environment with a Major in Urban and Regional Planning at QUT. I then went on to complete my Bachelor of Education at CQU. While I was taking a break from teaching, I completed a Post-Graduate Certificate in Writing and Publishing at UQ. I also hold a Post-Graduate Certificate in Religious Education from ACU. I am currently working towards my Masters in Theology and Leadership through the Sydney University of Divinity.

What is one thing you hope every student gains from your class? I hope every student who learns with me knows that they are enough just as they are; that they are a beloved child of the universe, that their future is bright, and that they will always have a home here at MMC. They are part of our story here and that MMC is blessed because they were part of the story here at MMC.

What do you value most about being part of the MMC community? Teaching at MMC is both rewarding and challenging (in a good way). I am blessed to be able to work with committed colleagues and together we guide young women to rise and shine in the way they were called to be. I really value and hold close to my heart the charism - the gift - of Mary MacKillop. She really is a woman, a role model and guide for our time.



Staff Spotlight

Alex O'Connor

MMC Head of Mathematics, Alex O'Connor, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our learning community. Beyond the classroom, Alex contributes richly to the life of the College through debating and music, joining our students on music camp and supporting their broader development. Alongside his dedicated team, he is passionate about nurturing students' love of mathematics and building their confidence as learners.

Alex is proudly representing MMC as a guest speaker at the upcoming 2026 Queensland Association Of Mathematics Teachers State Conference. It is a fantastic opportunity for Alex to share his passion and expertise.

We caught up with Alex to delve into his teaching career.

How long have you been teaching? 9 years in July

How long have you been at MMC? Since September 2025

Where have you been prior to MMC? Senior Mathematics/Science Teacher, St Eugene College Burpengary; Senior Mathematics Teacher, St Josephs Nudgee College; Head of Senior Mathematics/Science teacher, Pacific Lutheran College; Head of Faculty Mathematics, Mt Maria College Mitchelton; Head of Faculty Mathematics, Sunshine Coast Grammar School.

What brought you to teach at MMC? A need in the community and a calling to help.

What do you like about teaching all girls? The more consistent approach to pedagogy and the love/care in the community.

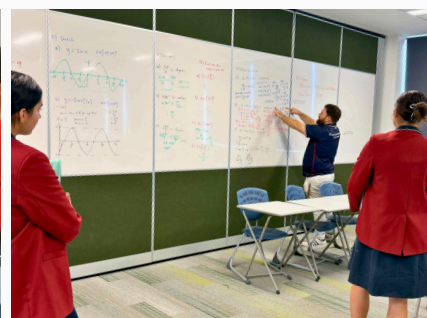
What do you love about your teaching area? Mathematics is the language of the universe and STEM the future of humanity.

What do you love about teaching and why did you become a teacher? I love the moment of Learning when a student finally understands something they've really struggled with. I love to teach mathematics but am also passionate about science, history, the arts, and of course public speaking.

What qualifications do you hold and in what areas? Certificate 2 in Mechanics, Bachelor in Secondary Education Physics and Mathematics, Masters in Educational Leadership.

What is one thing you hope every student gains from your class? A belief in themselves that they can do it, that success in Mathematics is for everyone.

What do you value most about being part of the MMC community? The supportive, loving environment that treats people as human beings.



Staff Spotlight

Alyssa Beasley

MMC Marketing Officer, Alyssa Beasley, plays a key role in capturing and sharing the stories that bring our College community to life. Alongside her work at MMC, Alyssa also serves as a Lieutenant in the Australian Army Reserve.

Commissioning in December 2024, Lieutenant Beasley is currently in her second year of service. She is posted to the University of Queensland Regiment, where she works as an Education Officer, reviewing Army training programs and supporting instructors. The Regiment delivers officer cadet training and promotional courses to Southeast Queensland reservists.

Lieutenant Beasley recently completed the five-week Specialist Service Officer First Appointment Course at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Canberra, focusing on weapons and drill, communications, military leadership, and tactical combat care, culminating in a field training exercise.

Alyssa shares how her experiences at MMC and in the Army complement one another.

How long have you been at MMC? Since 2020, working in Music and Marketing and occasionally Relief Teaching.

Where have you been prior to MMC? Prior to MMC I've worked as a Music, Dance, and English teacher in both Brisbane schools and overseas in Japan.

What brought you to MMC? I was looking for a new opportunity and our Co-Curricular Music Coordinator, Bree Gillies, mentioned that there was a job on offer at MMC and that it was a fantastic school to work at. What a wonderful recommendation!

What do you like about working at an all-girls school? The community feel we have at MMC. Everyone knows each other, respects each other, and works together to create a positive space to work and learn in.

What qualifications do you hold and in what areas? A Bachelor of Arts (Music & Drama) / Bachelor of Education (Secondary), Certificate III & IV Fitness, and Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

Why did you join the Army Reserves? I was searching for a way to give back to the community combined with an opportunity that challenged me mentally and physically but also utilised my education skills. Being an Education Officer has perfectly combined these, plus taught me new skills in communication, teamwork, and leadership.

What do you value most about being part of the MMC community? I value the genuine support and teamwork at MMC, where we work together towards shared goals for our students. There is something special about celebrating achievements and finding joy in the everyday moments of school life.



Staff Achievements

BCE Excellence Awards

Kathryn Flint

Congratulations to Kathryn Flint on being selected as a finalist in the Australian Catholic University (ACU) Award for Excellence in Strengthening Catholic Identity at the 2026 Brisbane Catholic Education Excellence Awards.

Kathryn Flint is a highly deserving nominee consistently living her vocation through a deeply authentic expression of faith. As Head of Faculty – Pathways, she demonstrates a profound understanding of Catholic anthropology, recognising and affirming the dignity of every individual she encounters. Kathryn has a remarkable ability to connect with students who feel uncertain about their future, offering compassionate guidance that is wise, non-judgemental, and grounded in Gospel values. Her leadership reflects the Josephite charism of humility, presence, and justice, as she places each young person at the centre of her work and supports them in finding pathways that honour their gifts.

She generously contributes to the life of the college through social justice initiatives such as Rosie's and Shared Meal, ensuring students experience faith in action. Beyond the College, she actively engages in her parish community, modelling integrity and unity between her personal faith and professional calling. Through every interaction, Kathryn embodies Catholic identity with quiet strength, leaving a lasting impact on the formation of both students and staff.

Holly Robinson

We also congratulate Holly Robinson, who was nominated for the Excellence in a School Based Non-Teaching Role Award sponsored by Archdiocesan Property and Building Services.

We are extremely proud of Holly's commitment to our MMC learning community, and the positive impact she continues to make through her passion, care, and professionalism in her role as Guidance Councillor.



Strategic Plan and Girls Education

Our strategic focus this year centres on strengthening positive relationships that foster a deep sense of belonging across our College community. We are also committed to enhancing numeracy outcomes, with renewed approaches in our Mathematics classrooms designed to build confidence and capability in our girls. Alongside this, we continue to prioritise engaging, real world learning experiences that inspire curiosity and relevance in every lesson.

Annual Improvement Plan 2026



MARY MACKILLOP
COLLEGE
NUNDAH

WE COMMIT TO

GOAL 1

Further embed and deepen Positive Relationships to build a stronger culture of belonging, inclusion and active engagement.



GOAL 2

Build staff capability to deliver high-impact numeracy instruction and improve student outcomes and confidence.

GOAL 3

Improve student engagement, spark curiosity, and foster deep learning by embedding Real Schools and Transforming Learning teaching strategies.



In 2026, Mary MacKillop College continues to work to be a community that places relationships at the centre, addressing challenges through restorative practices that strengthen connection and trust. With a clear focus on building capacity in numeracy and improving engagement in learning, we commit to nurturing curious, self-determined, creative, and resilient women whose habits reflect a deep investment in growth and lifelong learning, empowering them for their future.

MMC Learning

NO ONE KNOWS GIRLS LIKE MMC

Girl-Responsive Teaching & Learning



1

VOICE



Girls Learn Best when they have a level of power and control over their learning, and ample opportunities to hone their voices.

2

CHOICE



Girls Learn Best when they have opportunities to build creative capacity and cultivate a sense of agency.

3

CLARITY



Girls Learn Best when there is clarity, routine, and a level of predictability in their days, and they can engage in and navigate unknown novel experiences.

4

CONNECTION



Girls Learn Best when they connect with their peers and education in a variety of contexts.

5

BALANCE



Girls Learn Best when they can make decisions about how to prioritize their time and tasks based on their needs.

6

RELEVANCE



Girls Learn Best when they are connected to a sense of purpose, and when they understand how they can apply or use what they have learned in new settings.

Our Year 10 students had the privilege of hearing from Dr Meagan Carney, Senior Lecturer in Mathematics at University of Queensland, whose story illuminated the winding, unpredictable pathways that can lead to a fulfilling career in STEM.

Dr Carney's curiosity lead her on a journey around the world, with her research focussing on predicting and modelling extremes and rare events. She encouraged our MacKillop Women to embrace uncertainty and pursue change.



MMC Learning

Da Vinci Decathlon

Congratulations to our remarkable Years 8–11 teams who competed in the 2026 Da Vinci Decathlon - an inspiring academic challenge designed to stretch curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking across disciplines including Engineering, Mathematics, Code Breaking, Art & Poetry, and Creative Producers.

Our students represented MMC with pride, demonstrating outstanding teamwork, perseverance and a genuine love of learning. A special mention to our teams for their excellent results:

- Year 9 – 2nd in Art & Poetry
- Year 10 – 1st in Cartography; 2nd in Engineering; 3rd in Creative Producers and Art & Poetry
- Year 11 – 3rd in Art & Poetry

A special highlight was our Year 11 team, who achieved outstanding success on the day:

- ★ Best Northside Girls School
- ★ Best BCE School

Across all year levels, our MacKillop Women rose to the occasion with resilience and determination, performing with confidence in a highly competitive environment.

Thank you to our dedicated staff who coached and supported our teams throughout their preparation. We are incredibly proud of the curiosity, collaboration, and commitment shown by all involved.



Moments at MMC

Opening Mass

We commenced our Year of Integrity at St Stephen's Cathedral, celebrated by Rev. Fr Anthony Mellor. We were grateful to be joined by the Sisters of St Joseph, whose presence continues to inspire us through their lived example of courage, humility, and faith.

As a College community, we are called to live with integrity in all that we do - acting with honesty, standing by our values, and doing what is right, even when it is challenging. Integrity invites us to be authentic in our relationships, accountable in our choices, and compassionate in our actions.

May integrity be the foundation upon which we build a community that lifts one another up, celebrates our shared achievements, and faces challenges with honesty, courage, and grace.



Moments at MMC

Harmony Week

“In late March, students were encouraged to wear cultural dress or a splash of orange, and it was lovely to see so many students proudly getting involved and celebrating what makes each member of our College so special.

Alongside this, we held a Cultural Assembly featuring a wonderful variety of performances, including Tidda Girls, South Asian Bollywood, Pasifika, African Nations, Irish singing, Highland dancing, PNG and Filipino performances.

We are incredibly proud of all the girls who shared their culture throughout the week, these celebrations truly highlight the importance of community, faith and diversity within our school.”

Isabella Fahey & Giselle Ibrahim
College Captains



Moments at MMC

Mother's Day

In May we gathered to celebrate the remarkable women who guide us at our annual Mother's Day Breakfast. Thank you to the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and significant women who walk alongside our MacKillop Women doing countless unseen things. We appreciate you and thank you!

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible MMC community for making our Mother's Day Breakfast such a special success. It was a record breaking attendance which is a testament to how supportive our MMC families are our young women.

Minnie's Espresso, Say Cheese, our PACE Committee, and MMC staff - thank you for your generosity and time.



Moments at MMC

Open Night

What a night! It was an absolute pleasure to showcase our remarkable College and celebrate our vibrant learning community, connecting with future families and sharing what makes MMC unique.

A highlight of the evening was our Alumnae Panel, hosted by Principal Erin Wedge and MMC staff member and 2022 graduate Breanna Christie, featuring Olive James (2023), Grace Nixon (2023), Mia Silver-Thomas (2024), and Catherine Myers (1995). It provided a valuable opportunity to reconnect with our alumnae, hear about their journeys beyond MMC, and reflect on the ways in which their experiences at the College have supported their growth, aspirations, and future pathways.

Thank you to all involved in bringing our Open Night to life - your efforts made the evening truly special.



Moments at MMC

International Women's Day

MMC celebrated International Women's Day with a vibrant, community-focused program recognising the strength and leadership of women.

Students embraced the day in purple, while Principal Erin Wedge and our early career teachers attended an International Women's Day luncheon hosted by the International Coalition of Girls' Schools, highlighting the importance of visible female leadership.

We also proudly upheld our IWD Fun Run tradition, raising over \$6,900 in support of women affected by breast cancer - a meaningful reflection of our commitment to the common good.

Our community was inspired by a special assembly featuring Corinne Mulholland, Labor Senator for Queensland, and alumna Olive James (2023), who shared:

"I initially started university in 2024 studying Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours), Biomedical Science major though my passion for the technical side of matters prompted my change into Biomedical Engineering. I am now completing this degree, allowing me to work on vaccines, prosthetics and medical imaging equipment. From this learning experience, I hope our MacKillop Women can take away that it's okay for your goals to evolve... changing direction is not a failure, it's part of discovering what genuinely excites and motivates you."



Moments at MMC

PACE Trivia Night

Our MMC PACE Country & Western Trivia Night was a remarkable success - filled with laughter and friendly competition.

A heartfelt thank you to our PACE Committee, College Leadership Team, MMC staff, and our MMC parents. Nights like these are a true community effort, and we sincerely appreciate everyone who organised, supported, and attended.

We are also incredibly grateful to the following local businesses for their generous raffle prize donations:

- Rapid Tune Automotive
- Anika Wells MP
- Councillor Adam Allan
- Clayfield Jewellery
- Midas Northgate Tyre & Auto Service
- Rossco's Cafe, Bar and Grill
- Carina Leagues Club
- Nudgee Golf Club Incorporated
- Princess Cruises
- Bunnings Virginia

We are so fortunate to have such a supportive community that goes above and beyond to empower our MacKillop Women to grow, thrive, and be the best they can be.



Moments at MMC

Darkness to Daylight

Congratulations to our remarkable Year 12 seniors and dedicated MMC staff who took part in Darkness to Daylight in support of Challenge DV. Walking through the night in solidarity with victims and survivors of domestic violence, our team has now raised over \$13,000.

We are incredibly proud of their commitment, resilience, and determination to create meaningful change as we work towards a safer, more inclusive community.

On behalf of MMC, Principal Erin Wedge, Deputy Principal Carly Richardson and a few Year 12 Seniors, attended the celebratory event for Darkness to Daylight hosted by Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland, The Honourable Dr Jeannette Young at Government House.



Alumnae Achievements

Chelsea James

MMC Alumna and 2022 Mission Captain, Chelsea James, is currently thriving in her penultimate year of a Bachelor of Law/Science (Honours) majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Queensland. Chelsea was recently awarded the Judge Michael Rackemann Prize in Planning and Development Law at the UQ Law School Awards, recognising the highest overall marks in the course. Chelsea shares her insights into her studies and offers some valuable advice:

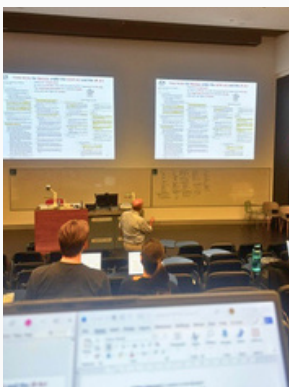


“Since graduating MMC in 2022, I am currently in my penultimate year of a Bachelor of Science/Laws (Honours) at UQ, with a major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. I am currently working as a Research Clerk in an Insurance and Corporate Risk team in a mid-tier law firm in the city, which has been a great experience to gain practical and professional skills, whilst making new friends and connections.

Law school has definitely been tricky and forced me to adapt in how I learn and study, but it has been so rewarding. I am lucky to be coming near the end of my five years now, allowing me to choose electives and discover areas I may want to practice in. I have made some awesome friends who struggle in the Law Library (or Lawbry) with me and graciously give me their exam notes.

A value I developed during my time at MMC was self confidence and integrity. Whilst at MMC, I felt comfortable in myself and also felt valued in the community. Looking back, I was fortunate to attend a school that was not only invested in me academically, but socially and personally. Being a 'fit and proper person' is crucial to being admitted to the legal profession, and MMC gave me a strong foundation to understanding myself.

My biggest tip for students is to try new things - don't limit yourself to one avenue. I would highly recommend having a part time job, being in a CaSSSA team, or joining a band. Some of my favourite memories come outside the classroom and I am fortunate to have those opportunities. Life is more than a number on a page, and from my limited exposure to the corporate world, employers value who you are as a person and your transferable skills rather than academic excellence.”



Alumnae Achievements

Emily England

MMC Alumna and 2022 Penola House Captain, Emily England, is currently completing her Bachelor of Nursing and Paramedicine, preparing for a future in the healthcare field. She shares her journey and aspirations:

“I’m Emily, an MMC graduate from 2022, and I am currently going into my fourth and final year of my Bachelor of Nursing and Paramedicine degree. This course has offered me a hands-on pathway into two different sides of healthcare, allowing me to build on my skills and apply them in clinical placements.

Having already completed over 800 hours of clinical placement, I have been able to apply important skills in authentic settings, work alongside future colleagues and experienced clinicians, and develop confidence in fast-paced, patient-centred environments.

Most recently, my paramedic placements have been a highlight of my university journey, opening my eyes to the realities and opportunities this career offers. I have been part of significant high-acuity work, and the reward of helping and treating patients is unmatched.

Through these experiences, I have discovered how rewarding it is to support people in vulnerable moments and how much I thrive in environments that require compassion, quick thinking, and resilience. Alongside these clinical experiences and my current role in an emergency hospital setting, I look forward to aspiring towards becoming a flight nurse and travelling paramedic, providing critical care wherever it’s needed most.”



Alumnae Achievements

McKenzie Kirkham

MMC Alumna and 2026 College Dux, McKenzie Kirkham is currently studying a Bachelor of Politics Philosophy and Economics (Honours) at University of Queensland. McKenzie shares her university journey so far, and how MMC set her up for success.

What has been your favourite subject in this semester? I've really enjoyed my degree specific subject which is essentially a short history of politics, philosophy, and economics. It discussed how the three disciplines are fundamentally tied together, following their progression throughout history and modern thought. Very interesting!

What do you like about university? I really love the flexibility and independence that university offers in a number of ways! I love that I get to choose what I study and being surrounded like-minded people. I also really enjoy the flexibility of my timetable; there's infinitely more free time to choose when to study, how to study, and of course when to be social - it really is a choose your own adventure.

Looking back, how do you think MMC prepared you for university? Particularly being a student who did multiple online subjects really prepared me for the self driven learning that's necessary to keep up in university (it certainly helped with the habit of watching lesson recordings). The independence offered can be a twin edged sword depending on how you choose to stay up to date, so these skills have made a big difference. Not only this, but MMC's community culture prepared me to reach out to others in my degree which has been so beneficial. I think it can be a lot harder to make friends in university when there are just so many people, but having the skills to reach out helps you see that others are in the same boat and want to make friends.

What is a favourite memory of school? I wish I could say my favorite memory was one really awesome lesson where I learned something incredible, or I finally got an answer right, but I think the best memories are the things inbetween that you don't notice in the moment, but rather only in reflection. I think the laughter with friends (regardless of whether it was at the right time or not), the social aspect of a classroom, chatting with teachers as people and not just teachers - as weird as it sounds - and all the small moments add up to make school a fond memory in general.

What do you miss about school? What I miss the most about school is the consistent social aspect of seeing your friends everyday for most of the day, and the much stronger interpersonal relationships you grow with teachers. Going from a small tight-knit community to the vast world of university is a significant change. Just for comparison, the entire student population of MMC is equal to approximately 1% of the student population of the University of Queensland.

After 6 years of 1 hour each way to school, I am very fortunate to be living in one of UQ's residential colleges. Nothing can prepare you for college life but I think that this has significantly enhanced my university experience; the friendships formed, the late night side quests, the funny accidents, the shared experiences, the support of fellow students - especially over exam periods, and everything inbetween. To anyone considering moving away for university: do it!



Reunion

50 Years

It was a special occasion as our 1974–1976 cohort returned to Mary MacKillop College to celebrate their 50th Anniversary, reconnecting with one another and reflecting on their time at the College.

During a tour of the campus, the group shared stories filled with laughter, memories and a few tears, painting a vivid picture of life at MMC decades ago. They recalled how the land where the Tappiener Centre now stands was once home to tennis courts, and how the Penola Building featured large incinerators in the bathrooms that burned throughout the day. They also reflected on how the College grounds have expanded over time, with houses once occupying the corner of Bage Street and Buckland Road.

It was inspiring to hear of the paths these women have taken, with many going on to careers in healthcare and religious life, including doctors, nurses and Sisters of St Joseph. A meaningful and nostalgic celebration!



McCormack Building

Architecture Awards

Our new McCormack Building is a beacon of innovation and excellence at MMC and we are delighted that it has been commended at the Australian Institute of Architects Great Brisbane Regional Awards and recognised as a finalist in the state Educational category.

A sincere thank you to Deicke Richards for their support and dedication on this project. This cutting-edge learning precinct enhances the educational experience for every student and staff member at MMC.

You can read more about the McCormack Building and the inspiration behind its design via the [Deicke Richards website](#).



Enrolment Information

Ready to start an application for Enrolment?

Visit our MMC website for full enrolment details:

www.mmc.qld.edu.au



The advertisement is split into two main sections. The left section has a dark blue background with white text. It features the Mary MacKillop College logo (a white knot) at the top, followed by the college's name. Below this is the slogan 'Forming Truly Remarkable Women.' and the text 'Now taking enrolments for 2030'. At the bottom is a red button with the text 'ENROL NOW'. The right section is a photograph of a smiling female student in a red blazer, holding an open book titled 'RAD WOMEN WORLDWIDE'. In the top right corner of the photo, the text 'TRULY Remarkable WOMEN' is written in a mix of script and sans-serif fonts.

MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE

Forming Truly Remarkable Women.

Now taking enrolments for 2030

ENROL NOW

TRULY Remarkable WOMEN

RAD WOMEN WORLDWIDE



Reconnect with MMC

Keep your contact details up to date
to ensure you stay connected to Alumnae news & events.

Update your details

Email: mmc@mmc.qld.edu.au

Phone: 07 3266 2100

Join the Mt St Joseph's, Corpus Christi and Mary MacKillop College
Alumnae Facebook Group here:



Alumnae News

Have an achievement, news or event you'd like to share
with the MMC Alumnae Community?

Email full details to mmc@mmc.qld.edu.au