



Enter to Learn, Go out to Serve

Chairman's Opening Address

Our wonderful school has been in full flight this year and it has been beautiful to see.

Early in the year we celebrated some truly remarkable HSC results with 84% of last year's cohort achieving an ATAR over 80 and 36% achieving an ATAR over 90! Isn't that phenomenal? Widespread success like that is only possible when everyone is working together. Teachers, students and parents.

This united and collaborative approach to learning is one of Macarthur's strengths. And I'm sure this year's graduating students will benefit greatly from it as well.

But a Macarthur education is about so much more than just academic success. To quote a line from our School Mission statement,

"We challenge and equip our students and staff to grow in understanding, ability and character. We encourage and inspire lifelong learning across spiritual, academic, creative, physical, social and emotional domains."

In other words, it is our explicit goal as a School Council for Macarthur to be a School that develops the whole person. And we want this not just for our students but for our staff as well and indeed for all of us who form part of the Macarthur community.

As such, the school year is full of opportunities for growth.

Seminars and camps,
Sporting competitions and carnivals,
Arts festivals and performances,
Worship services and mission trips,
Cultural exchanges and international food days,
Opportunities to design, and build,
Occasions to engage with nature and agriculture,
and all manner of creative expression.

These are chances to explore new areas of life and culture, to develop new skills, to broaden our perspectives and to gain fresh insight into ourselves.

All this co-curricular activity is so valuable, and yet it doesn't happen by itself. The Macarthur staff go above and beyond to achieve it.

They strive for excellence and give selflessly of their time. And they do it out of love for their students. And so, on behalf of the whole school community I would like to thank the staff of Macarthur for your amazing contribution to the life of our school.

This staff culture doesn't happen by accident; it is modelled and embodied by the Headmaster, and his executive team. Their strong supportive relationship sets the tone, and that positive culture flows out to the rest of the staff.

I'd like to give special acknowledgement this year to Mr Kokic who served as acting headmaster during Dr Nockles long service leave in Term 1.

Well done Mr Kokic, in fact thank you for the fantastic job you do year in and year out. You are a gifted and insightful leader. And our school is blessed to have you.

I would also like to thank my fellow members of the council for their dedication and commitment to the work of governance this year. It was a joy to welcome Mrs Emma Tippet onto the Council in June, she brings a wealth of experience and insight to the table, which is great because we've had quite a full year of stimulating strategic discussion and planning.

The school is growing rapidly which creates lots of challenges, but in God's mercy, we are improving as we grow. So thank you for the work you do, you are a big part of why the school is thriving.

I'd especially like to thank The Reverend Chris Moroney, who after 8 ½ years of faithful service on the council will be stepping down at the end of the year. Chris, you have contributed so much to the school over those years, you have helped us stay focused on the important and helped us avoid mission drift. You have left a wonderful legacy, and we thank you for your service.

Of course, the most strategic decision the School Council gets to make is the appointment of a new Headmaster...

And it gives me great pleasure to announce that there is nothing new to report on that front!

We are in a rapidly changing environment, which is why it is so crucial to have an experienced and stable leader at the helm. As you know, Dr Nockles is such a man, he

is a secure leader and a pillar of stability for the School. He is also an exceptionally adaptable leader, who is himself always growing and striving for improvement.

This is a great combination to have and we are blessed to have him leading the school.