



Tartan TIES



Celebrating 40 years of excellence in education in 2024

From the Headmaster

Dr D P Nockles



As the Macarthur family celebrates the 40th anniversary of Macarthur Anglican School, it is fitting to reflect on the School's remarkable journey since the foundation meeting on 20 June 1977, held at St Luke's Church, The Oaks.

This pivotal decision by the Macarthur Area Deanery of the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney set in motion the creation of this wonderful school, initially known as The Macarthur Region Anglican Church School.

The School's name pays homage to the Macarthur region and indirectly to the famous colonial Macarthur family, whose tartan forms the basis of the school uniform, honouring their significant contributions to the area and Australia as a whole.

The generosity of Narellan Anglican Church, which gifted a five-acre block of Parish land adjacent to St Thomas' Anglican Church in Narellan, laid the groundwork for the School's physical establishment. The St Paul and St Thomas rooms at the current Cobbitty site serve as a testament to this generous beginning.

Macarthur began in earnest in Term 1, 1984, at St David's Presbyterian Church Parish Hall in Campbelltown, with ninety students. By mid-1984, the School relocated to the Narellan site, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the founding Headmaster, Mr David Lloyd, and his initial team of four staff members. Mr Lloyd's legacy is honoured with the Lloyd Building, a cornerstone of our school.

As Macarthur grew, demand for places led to the expansion from a two-stream to a three-stream school by 1986, with student numbers reaching over 500. Under Mr Lloyd's leadership, the first Higher School Certificate class graduated in 1988, marking a significant milestone.

Mr Riley Warren AM, the second Headmaster, took the helm in 1989 and served for 20 years. His vision expanded Macarthur's horizons, integrating international students, forming global links, and introducing cultural and musical tours. Under his guidance, the School established a Junior School in 1993 and relocated the secondary section to the current Cobbitty campus in 1997.

Mr Warren's tenure saw significant growth and the development of new facilities, including the Robinson Rooms, the Gymnasium, and the Patrick Rooms, named after key figures in the School's history. The School Farm also became a vital part of the educational offering during this time.

In July 2008, I had the honour of being appointed as Macarthur's third Headmaster. My tenure has focused on strengthening the House system, restructuring the timetable, and implementing innovative curriculum changes. Despite the economic challenges of the GFC, Macarthur continued to grow in academic strength and reputation, establishing itself as the premier school in the region.

Since 2015, enrolment has steadily increased, reflecting both the high regard for the School and the demographic changes in the Macarthur area.

Macarthur now boasts a diverse and multicultural student population. To accommodate this demand, the School added a fifth Year 7 stream and additional classes to the primary years, leading to the current enrolment of 1250 students, with plans to reach 1300 by 2026.

A significant recent highlight in the development of the School was the opening of the Warren Integrated Studies Hub in 2021, a state-of-the-art facility named after Mr Riley Warren AM. The HUB, along with new Mathematics and Visual Arts rooms, enhances the educational environment for the students. The expansion of the Junior School and Music facilities further supports the School's commitment to providing exceptional education.

As Macarthur looks to the future, plans are underway to construct new classroom facilities for Year 5 and Year 6 students. This development, expected to cost approximately \$15 million, will ensure Macarthur continues to meet the needs of the growing student body while maintaining a commitment to responsible ecological management.

As Headmaster, I am immensely proud of how far this school has come and excited about what the future holds. Our journey has been one of faith, dedication, and community spirit. As we celebrate this milestone, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have been part of Macarthur's story. Together, we have built a legacy of excellence in education and a strong, supportive community.

David Nockles

- 1977** ● The decision is made to commence an Anglican school in the region for students in Years 7 to Year 12.
- 1983** ● Mr David E Lloyd is appointed founding Headmaster of Macarthur Anglican School.
- 1984** ● Macarthur welcomes its first students, thirty in Year 8 and sixty in Year 7.
- 1989** ● Mr Riley N Warren AM is appointed the second Headmaster.
- 1993** ● Junior School (Kindergarten to Year 6) commences.
- 1994** ● The School has outgrown the Narellan site. 88 acres at Cobbitty are purchased.
- 1997** ● Classes for Years 7 to Year 12 begin on the new Cobbitty campus.
- 2005** ● Transition to Year 6 commence classes at the Cobbitty campus.
- 2008** ● Dr David P Nockles is appointed the third Headmaster.
- 2017** ● Long-day childcare facility opens onsite, Macarthur welcomes Exploring Tree.
- 2021** ● Opening of the Warren Integrated Studies Hub (The HUB).
- 2022** ● Six new Mathematics rooms (the Beavis Rooms) are completed and open.
- 2023** ● The expanded Junior School rooms open for Years 1 to Year 4.
- 2024** ● The expanded Music facilities are completed, and open in Winter Term.



The Evolution of Macarthur

Over the past four years, we have made a significant investment in our campus, dedicating more than \$25 million to enhancing the School for our students.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel to view our new buildings and to keep up-to-date with Macarthur happenings. Scan the QR code or visit www.youtube.com/user/MacarthurAnglican



The Warren HUB - 2021



The Outdoor Games Area - 2022





Beavis Rooms and Visual Arts Studio Project - 2022



The Evolution of Macarthur



Junior School Expansion - 2023



Music Expansion Project - 2024



From the Deputy Headmaster

This year marks my 27th year at the School. I came as a mere boy of 31. Today, I am Macarthur's longest serving staff member and I couldn't be prouder of what the School has become over my time.

I came to Macarthur in the Autumn of 1997. It was around Easter and for those first couple of weeks I was asked by students repeatedly and excitedly, 'Sir, Sir, are you going to the Show?' I was puzzled and thought to myself, I have never experienced such keen interest in the Royal Easter Show!

I was soon to discover that it was NOT the Royal Easter Show to which the students were referring. It was the Camden Show...Camden was then 'in the country' and this was 'still a country show.' In fact, I still vividly recall men on horseback cracking whips and driving a hundred head of cattle down Cobbitty Road past the School.

I was also struck by the fact that Macarthur was almost exclusively composed of students of Anglo Saxon or European descent. Having grown up in Auburn and worked in the Bankstown and Liverpool areas, I was unfamiliar with the monoculture of Macarthur as it was then. Even more striking, was the fact that some students in secondary school had never visited the city of Sydney.

To his great credit, Mr Warren was very conscious of the students' parochialism. From his earliest days as Headmaster, he was keen to expand their horizons beyond the south-west of Sydney.

Mr Warren purposefully introduced compulsory Indonesian study for students from Transition to Year 8. He wanted to introduce them to Asia with an accessible language and culture; and a country they could have the opportunity to visit.

He also brought international students to the School to study. At that time, they mainly came from Hong Kong. Mr Warren also ensured students studied either world History or world Geography alongside their compulsory Australian studies, and he encouraged cultural, mission and music tours to Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Hungary and other countries. Slowly, but surely, the horizons of Macarthur's students broadened.

1997 was Macarthur's first year on the Cobbitty Campus. Only Years 7 to Year 12 students had moved to there, whilst Transition to Year 6 remained at Narellan. The staff and students were still adjusting to their new surroundings when I arrived. The stress of moving was still apparent and there remained boxes to be unpacked.

At that time, most staff and students were accommodated in demountable buildings. Only Science, Art and Technology students were housed in permanent structures.

Every year Mr Warren closely analysed HSC performances and held teachers and students accountable for their results. I was in my first leadership role as the Head of History and International Studies (Languages), and although I was very nervous in those meetings with Mr Warren, I am grateful that he made us better classroom

teachers and leaders, with a helpful mix of challenging scrutiny and encouragement. Consequently, it was not long before History and Indonesian joined the ranks of the Social Sciences in gaining success at the HSC. Now, for over 20 years, we have been the leading academic school in our area.

Excellence followed in the co-curricular areas as well. When I first arrived, Macarthur participated with great success at the Australian Rock Eisteddfod. Mr Shuter, then Head of PDHPE, oversaw the production and it became a whole community event.

This creative energy transitioned into our annual school musicals. From the very start, Macarthur's musicals were not just good 'school theatre', but great theatre. Musical set the tone for excellence across the entire Co-curricular Programme.

The Administration building, the Chapel and the IRC (then a smaller library) were the only other permanent buildings. There was very little playground seating for students - a constant complaint of parents, and less concrete paths than we have now. When it rained heavily (which it did often in those first couple of years), the playground became a muddy slosh that students walked into their classrooms.

Until the Gymnasium was built in 2002, all large gatherings either occurred outside or at the Camden Civic Centre. Students had to be bussed en masse to Camden and because the students were not used to formal assemblies, they sometimes behaved badly. Dr Nockles (then just a plain Mister Nockles) changed that when he arrived as Deputy Headmaster in 2002.

Under Mr Warren's leadership, he instituted the Headmaster's Assembly in the Gymnasium and the students became more practised in how to conduct themselves at formal gatherings.

In 1997, Macarthur's HSC results were not what they are today. Except for the Social Sciences under Mr Toovey, most subjects performed below state averages. Mr Warren would never accept that students from the south-west of Sydney could not achieve at the highest levels. If the Social Sciences could get good results, so could every other subject.

Back in 1997, Mr Warren would tell everyone how great the School was ... before it actually was. It was as though he spoke his vision into existence.

Today, Macarthur is a thriving academic, multi-cultural school whose aspirational students are prepared as global citizens, who are ready to serve the world.

This year, as we celebrate Macarthur's 40th birthday, it is good to remind ourselves of our humble beginnings and God's great provision over the years.

Mr Andrew Kopic



The Very First Students

In 1982, as I was about to finish primary school, my parents learnt about a new independent school being established in the Macarthur area. It wasn't long before they had put my name down as a future student at Macarthur Anglican School. I still remember arriving for the first day of school at the temporary site in Campbelltown. Our uniforms hadn't arrived yet, so we were a colourful, mismatched bunch of nervous new students. Before long, we had our new uniforms and it took some of us a while to get used to the strict rules around how we were to wear them.

It was a challenging first few months as we waited for the move to the permanent Narellan campus, but it was reassuring to have the pragmatic and firm direction of Mrs Petersen and Mrs Stewart. Both stand out in my memory as being strong, professional women with a no-nonsense and clear-eyed approach to things.

By June of that first year, everyone was keen to move to Narellan with its brand-new demountable classrooms and grassy playground. We had Sport with Mr Moroney, Science with Mrs Stewart, Art with the talented Mr Walden, and weekly Chapel in St Thomas', with Mrs Petersen playing the organ.

I have vivid memories of the five years I spent at Macarthur, including a trip to the Barrier Reef during school holidays. Under the care of Mr Moroney and Mr Toovey, we camped along the way in very basic tents, and battled to have our cassette played on the coach's stereo.

Dr Peter Hunt joined Macarthur in 1987, teaching English just as we started Year 11 and prepared to be the first year group to undertake the HSC. Dr Hunt's academic bearing and passion for literature left a lasting impression.

Our final year at Macarthur ended with a Year 12 breakfast, during which the students were served by the teachers. I believe this is just one of the ongoing traditions that was established 40 years ago.

Macarthur has grown and transformed into an established and well-regarded school. I was extremely fortunate to work there for some time and learn from some talented educators, particularly Mrs Pat Low and Shannon Laird – both are examples to me of what it looks like to live life with generosity of spirit, guided by faith and firmly held values.



I am grateful to have been part of a small group of students that started at Macarthur Anglican School in its first year and imagine the traditions established since then will continue for many years to come.

**Susie McGlinn
(nee Svaabeck)**

Until recently, I had no idea that Susie and I were the foundation students of Macarthur. I believe Susie was first enrolled and I was second. I remember we received a call to do the Bible readings at the first school service, which was rather nerve wracking as a 13-year-old.

There were 90 students in two Year 7 classes and one Year 8 class when the School began. We met at a church in Campbelltown while the Narellan site was being established. There were just demountable buildings in those early days.

My move to Macarthur had a positive impact on my life. I still have close friends from school who I keep in contact with. I loved school - there was always something interesting happening. It was a lot of work, but it was always fun.

A favourite memory took place in 1987. About thirty students from Year 10 and Year 11 went on a two-week camping trip to Cairns for the holidays. I recall Mr Toovey, Mr Moroney and Mr Gower came on that trip. I remember these teachers the most, as well as Mr Hinks who taught Economics.

I recall the reward and punishment system at school back in the early days. We would get credits and debits for being good or bad. If you received three debits you were put on Thursday detention for an hour after school. We tried to avoid this as much as possible. One of the reasons to be given a debit was for forgetting your Bible or Hymnal at the weekly church service.

The students who forgot these would ask other students for a section of their bible. We would tell the teachers they were falling apart and that's all we had left. For a while it worked, and we avoided getting a debit. During the service, we thought it was very funny when we were asked to go to a certain chapter and verse in the Bible. Depending on who had the relevant section, they would shout out, I got it!

After school I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. Given Information Technology was a new industry and I had an interest in computers, it seemed like a good fit. I didn't want to do another four or so years at university, so I completed a Diploma in Business Computing and landed a job as a trainee programmer.

My career has grown from there. I'm now an IT Manager at an American software company called Fiserv which is based in North Sydney.

It is amazing how far the School has come - I cannot believe it has been 40 years since it all began.

Nick Vogt



WOW : Macarthur is 40 years old!

I still remember when Mum received the letter (there were no emails back then) to say I had been accepted into this brand-new school. Macarthur wasn't even built at that time, and there were no school uniforms, but somehow we knew it would be a fantastic school. I can only imagine the look on my face as Mum read the letter to me saying we had to wear "frocks" to school that reached the knee.

As time went on, we moved from the church premises in Campbelltown to the new campus at Narellan. There was so much room, as the School only had ninety students. However, over the years the numbers increased.

I loved our little agriculture area down at the back of the School near the cemetery at Narellan. We grew some amazing crops and had chickens to care for.

Three teachers remain firmly in my mind. Firstly, Mrs Petersen, the Music Teacher, because she was rather terrifying. She always made sure our uniforms were long enough; that our hair was tied up and we had our hats and gloves on. Secondly, Mr Toovey for his love of Mathematics and sharing his knowledge; and lastly Mr Moroney, for being a fantastic and kind teacher.

I firmly believe that Macarthur Anglican School has always maintained its vision and strived to achieve well educated, caring and respectful students.

Move forward 40 years and my son is now attending Macarthur. I couldn't be any prouder. The vision the School board had all those years ago has certainly come to fruition.

When I went to Macarthur, we didn't have school swimming carnivals and Sport was simply on the oval. There was no interschool sport. These days the opportunities are endless. Thailand Outreach, Overseas Tours, Hungary Exchange Programme, Chess Club and the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, just to name a few.

The students of Macarthur Anglican School are truly blessed!

Mrs Rachelle Belak (nee Thomas)



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High school is operating at Narellan

The 94 pupils of Macarthur Anglican High School shifted last Tuesday to the school's site at Narellan.

The school had been operating from a hall at St David's Presbyterian Church, Campbelltown, since the beginning of the school year, waiting for work to be completed on the demountable school buildings in Richardson Road, Narellan.

The principal, Mr David Lloyd, said the shift took only three hours. Classes at Narellan began after lunch on Tuesday.

By Wednesday morning, all pupils, teachers and administration staff were comfortably installed in their new premises.

The first service was conducted on Friday morning by Bishop Clive Kerle, in nearby St. Thomas' Church.

The Anglican Bishop of Wollongong, Harry Goodhew, will perform the opening ceremony of the school on October 13.

In its first year, the school is taking classes in Years 7 and 8 and will add an extra form each year until it becomes a full secondary school.

However, places at the school are already booked out until 1990.

● Bishop Clive Kerle (left) led the Macarthur Anglican School's first church service at Narellan on Friday. With him before the service were pupil, Donna Taylor, principal, Mr David Lloyd (centre) and Rev Barry Marsh.

'Spivs' -road attack

NSW Land Commission behaved like a group of "spivs", Ald Bruce Ferguson told Camden Council recently.

"They behave like the very worst private developer. And that's being unfair to the private developers," Ald Ferguson said.

He was commenting on a report to council which claimed that roads built by Landcom in Elderslie two years ago are already falling apart, despite not having been used by traffic.

Transfer
The roads are on a 70 lot subdivision off Macarthur Road which was not released for

Student to Staff

Class of 2013 to English Teacher

My time since leaving Macarthur has been shorter than others, and still the changes have been many. When school friends ask me what it is like to be back at school every day, I often joke that there are a lot more concrete paths than there used to be, so getting from Geography to PDHPE in the rain is not the same mudslide that it sometimes was. When I then go on to show them photographs of the Warren Hub, Michie Room, and Beavis Room upgrades, the jealous exclamations highlight the improvements between the fond memories of our science demountables and the incredible facilities the students have now.

To see the School celebrate its 40th year feels like a mind trick - where did that time slip to? I was in Year 8 for the School's 25th year celebrations.

I remember, because we received special diaries to mark the occasion, and that year I made sure to take good care of it. I still have it, along with the others, (all free of any MN's, I am incredibly proud to say), in a box at my parent's house. Something about Macarthur begs you to keep the pieces, the memories, hold on to them for later, just in case. Something about having all these artefacts of my past at Macarthur, like puzzle pieces of who I am today makes that period of time feel both an impossibly short time ago but also part of a story book past, whose pages I get to turn each time I drive back in through the gates.

And now, every so often, I will push my way through a sea of green blazers, stand singing in an ocean of voices at Chapel, or watch fondly as a new set of Year 7 students set up their 'spot' under the tree where my friends and I sat every recess and lunch for six years straight, and I will remember - that to be at Macarthur in any capacity is to be a part of something special, to be a part of a family that has spanned 40 years, that continually grows, evolves and improves but, at its heart, remains a warm hearth to return to.

I pray that this remains the same for all current and future students, so that they might feel the same draw to venture out into the world, and possibly, one day, return to Macarthur again.

Ms Emily Mackie

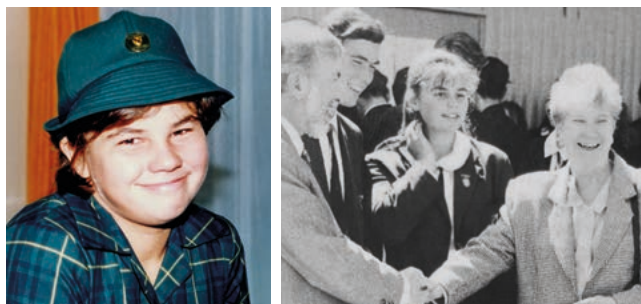


From the School Captain, 1991

I commenced at Macarthur in 1986 in Year 7, when the School was at Narellan. My highlight of Year 7 was being awarded the 12 Years Girls Athletics Age Champion!

I loved Music, French and History. This was in no small part to the teachers I had. My favourite teacher in my Junior years was Mrs Garbutt who was a fun and amusing Music teacher who went through the Sydney Conservatorium of Music performing on the recorder. Most of my friends and I joined the School recorder group she started and we competed at and won several Eisteddfods. The first Headmaster Mr Lloyd (who gave every student a Freddo Frog on their birthday) taught me French in Year 7 and Year 8 while Mrs Low, who was a teacher at Macarthur until 2010, taught me [Beginners] French for my HSC. My Ancient History teacher Mr Merz came to the School in 1990 and he inspired my interest in the ancient world. Herodotus, as my current Year 12 class knows, is still my favourite ancient author. I wanted to be a History and French teacher because of my teachers, though I now teach History and Geography.

My highlight as a student was being appointed School Captain in 1991. It's a great honour to be chosen as a school leader.



After graduation, I went on to study, teach at several schools, get married, have children, live overseas in the United States and never once thought about Macarthur. However in 2004, my husband Paul became the Head of Science here, so we based ourselves in Camden. A History teaching job came up at the start of 2005 and as they say the rest is history.

When I arrived, some of my teachers were still at the School and now I'm one of those 'old' teachers having taught here for twenty years at the end of 2024. I love seeing students graduate and move on with their lives and now several of my students have since returned as teachers! Our three children have graduated from Macarthur and I loved the care they received from their teachers and the opportunities they could get involved in like musicals.



Twenty years have flown by and Macarthur continues to be a great place to work because of the staff, students and culture of the School.

Mrs Erica Looyen (nee Stootman)

Year 8 Student to Junior School Teacher

Reflecting on my time at Macarthur as a student, and now as a Junior School teacher, I can see that although the School has changed, it still remains true to its sense of culture.

After starting Year 7 in a public sports high school, my parents moved me to Macarthur in Year 8. They chose Macarthur for its Christian values and academic promise, and so I could join my sister, who had started the year prior. I have thought deeply about this choice and the immeasurable impact that it has had on my life. I had come from a large selective public school in the heart of South-Western Sydney to what seemed like a rural farm-like school on the edge of the Sydney Region. The difference was vast.

I enjoyed my time as a student. I had seen what high schools could be like and was happy to be where I was. Upon graduating, I would tell you that what made my secondary school experience great was my Year 11 Thailand Outreach Trip and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition in New Zealand. Both were amazing, character-developing and enjoyable trips. However, in retrospect, these are not what made five years of schooling great.

Moving on from Macarthur, I studied a Bachelor of Arts, then a Masters in Teaching, at the University of Wollongong, only to return to Macarthur five years later as a Primary School Teacher. Macarthur had a year-long contract position available, so I applied and joined the staff in 2017.

Each school I had previously taught at had positive and challenging aspects, but I was surprised to discover the subtle but meaningful differences at Macarthur that I had not given attention to as a student. I did not realise the extent of the resources provided and created to support student learning. I had not experienced the genuine care colleagues have for one another. I was unaware of the way teachers thought about and cared for students and their families. I did not know that all of this was intentional. While I found myself in a new part of the School, in the Junior School, the same underlying feeling I had as a student was present. A sense of culture.

Since my time as a student, much has changed about Macarthur. It is no longer semi-rural, surrounded by farms and acreage, there are now many grand and innovative buildings on our grounds. These new facilities reflect our population growth and aim to equip a new group of students with greater cultural diversity and different interests. On the surface, this is a lot of change. However, the same thing that made Macarthur great for me, as a student, and now as a teacher, has not changed. The culture.

The Macarthur culture is, students being encouraged to be academic, but also creative, designing and performing, and the teachers joking with students and walking alongside them. It is the expectation of respect for yourself and others, and the intention to learn and then serve. It is the reflections of Jesus found in small ways, every day

around the campus. I was not an academic or driven student; however, the Macarthur culture supported me to do exactly what I wanted to do as a teacher, and more importantly, be fulfilled by serving others and God through it. I like to joke that I've 'drunk the Kool Aid' or that I 'bleed tartan'. These are dorky sayings, though I do have true pride to be a part of Macarthur's 40-year history and I am grateful to be able to celebrate it and its culture.

Mr Isaac Iturra



Alumni at Macarthur: Returning to Serve

Many former students never expected to return as staff members, yet these dedicated individuals have done so, taking on a range of crucial roles within the School.

Our Current Alumni Staff:

Asa Absalom, Music Administrator
Daniel Ash, Technical Support Officer
Rebecca Bennison, Head of Music and Performance
Blair Colella, Head of English
Elle Dickinson, Casual Teacher
Kylie Elling, Dean of Studies, K-12
Wendy Fredericks, T-6 Teacher
Tracy Gill, Uniform Shop Manager
Beth Grady, T-6 Teacher
Emma Hadfield, T-6 Teacher
Daniel Hordern, PDHPE Teacher
Emma Iturra, IRC Assistant
Isaac Iturra, T-6 Teacher
Olivia James, Casual T-6 Teacher, Dance Teacher
Angus Key, Music Tutor
James Key, Band Programmer
Erica Looyen, History Teacher
Emily Mackie, English Teacher
Chloe McMartin, Teacher's Aide
David Morgan, Mathematics Teacher
Kent Palmer, IT Systems and Special Projects Administrator
Kathryn Pesic, T-6 Teacher
Elizabeth Scott, Mathematics Teacher
Caitlyn Sendt, Casual K-6 Teacher
Jenna Sidman, Teacher's Aide
Sabrina Symington, T-6 Teacher
Lily Warren, Casual Teacher Creative Arts
Karen Williams, T-6 Teacher/Assistant Head of Middle School
Raymond Zheng, Casual K-6 Teacher

Staff News

While Andrew Kokic holds the title for the longest service at Macarthur, a few others are not far behind:

Katrina Ha, Year 6 Teacher and K-6 Academic Stretch Coordinator
Joly Hordern, Mathematics Teacher, Year 12 Adviser/Prefects Master
Ian Wales, Science Laboratory Assistant

These three individuals have each dedicated 26 years to the School since joining in 1998. Macarthur now boasts over 170 staff, with many serving for over two decades.

New Faces and Roles

The Chaplaincy Team at Macarthur has recently expanded. Reverend Michael Hyam, who joined as Chaplain in 2020 after Reverend David Hayman's retirement, leads the team. The School's growth and focus on Christian ministry have brought two Assistant Chaplains on board: Sophia Ormiston in 2021 and Kelly Alexander in 2023.

Reverend Michael Hyam, Chaplain
Sophia Ormiston, Assistant Chaplain
Kelly Alexander, Assistant Chaplain

Admissions Team

Trish Cartwright, who joined Macarthur in 2013, now heads the Admissions Team. Debbie Rogers, who has been at the School since 2015, moved from being a Junior School Teacher's Aide to Admissions Assistant for Transition to Year 6. Stephanie Webster, who came on board at the start of this year, assists with Admissions for Years 7 to Year 12. Former Head of Social Science and Musical Producer and Director Nadine James became International Student Registrar at the start of this year. Nadine has been at Macarthur since 2005.

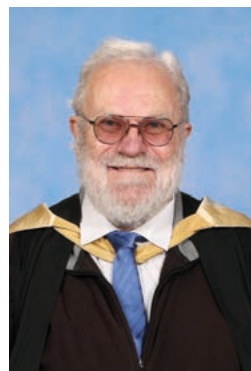
Trish Cartwright, Head of Admissions
Debbie Rogers, Admissions Assistant - Transition to Year 6
Stephanie Webster, Admissions Assistant - Years 7 to Year 12
Nadine James, International Student Registrar



Katrina Ha



Joly Hordern



Ian Wales



Rev Michael Hyam



Sophia Ormiston



Kelly Alexander



Trish Cartwright



Nadine James



Debbie Rogers



Stephanie Webster

Where Are They Now?

Connie Picos – Class of 2003

I enjoyed the Christian education that I received at Macarthur Anglican School including the blessings and gifts of Christian values, inclusive of respectful co-educational relations between girls and boys and modest school uniforms. The country setting of the campus at Cobbitty, together with the latest IT facilities; and a comprehensive education together with a variety of sport and community service.

I graduated in 2003 without spot or blemish and every opportunity in life - through Christ alone!

Praise and thanks be to God, I went on to complete a business degree with distinction and I received a medal for academic excellence. Later on, I graduated with a Juris Doctor (Law) from The University of Sydney. In 2019, I passed the NSW Bar Exam to become a barrister. In 2023, I completed further graduate studies at St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College, which is part of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia under the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople (the namesake of my baptismal name Constantina from ~330AD).

I saw many peers recently at the 20-year reunion. I do not reside locally; however, it is always lovely to visit. I look forward to the 30-year reunion.



Connie Picos

Sophie Richardson - Class of 2013

Many parts of who I am today can be traced back to Macarthur. Three aspects of the School have had a lasting impact: Music and Performance, service, and the joy of co-curricular activities.

After graduating from Macarthur, I moved to Canberra in 2014 to study at the Australian National University and I graduated with a Bachelor of Law (Honours) and a Bachelor of International Security Studies in 2020.

At university, I found community in the music industry and started DJ-ing. As Waxlily, I have performed at festivals like Field Day, Spilt Milk, and Lost Paradise, and in clubs across Australia and Sweden (where I was on exchange at Stockholm University). DJ-ing has been a side hustle, a hobby, a labour of love, and one of my proudest projects.

The School motto 'Enter to Learn, Go out to Serve' sings true to my career. I currently work as a lawyer, specialising in complex class actions litigation. I value the challenges and triumphs of advocacy.

One of the most meaningful things I've done was working as a Senior Legal Case Manager (Native Title) of the Federal Court of Australia, case managing native title claims concerning the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to land and waters, according to their traditional laws and customs. The role involved regular (and rewarding) on-country court work, listening to revered Aboriginal Elders and brilliant judicial minds.

Additionally, I gained insights as an Associate to a Judicial Registrar of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia and contributed to reform efforts within the ACT Government to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Last year, I had the pleasure of attending my 10-year reunion at Macarthur. It was a wonderful occasion to reconnect with my peers and admire the beauty of the Cobbitty campus.

The sense of community at Macarthur is one of my fondest memories. This feels especially real to me now reflecting on two of my 'forever friends' who graduated the year before and the year after me: Micah DiBella (2012) and Maire Playford (2014).

I am still inspired by some of the teachers, librarians, and staff who shaped my time at Macarthur; they are my unsung heroes and are never far from my thoughts.



Sophie Richardson

Amy Bartlett - Class of 2013

I graduated from Macarthur in 2013 and went straight to TAFE where I became qualified in Animal Studies, Captive Animals (Zookeeping) and Veterinary Nursing.

I have been fortunate enough to work as a Zoo and Wildlife Veterinary Nurse since 2016, first at Taronga Zoo (Sydney), then Australia Zoo (Queensland), and now at Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo.

Where Are They Now?

Alongside this, I also run a small business whose profits contribute to wildlife conservation and I am studying again to hopefully teach TAFE students in the future.

Macarthur gave me the opportunity to pursue co-curricular activities (primarily in Music) and undertake leadership opportunities, which ultimately gave me the drive and initiative to follow the career path that I wanted and teach those who are new to the field. I am grateful for the supportive teachers who encouraged my career choices, and close friendships that are still going strong to this day. I would encourage any student to follow their passion, even if it seems impossible!



Amy Bartlett

Patchanon (Peem) Tungkiatsilp - Class of 2016

Every time I look back on my time at Macarthur, I recall happy memories of the fun times I had with my friends at lunch and recess as well as an excellent learning atmosphere inside classrooms. I started at Macarthur in Year 9.

I was previously attending a Thai school in Bangkok called Assumption College. My parents made the decision to send me to study at Macarthur. They wanted me to study abroad in an English speaking country that wasn't too far away from Thailand. They knew it would help me gain a strong command of the English language which would in turn open up job opportunities for me in the future. It didn't take long to feel very attached to the School, and all my friends and Macarthur staff.

Everyone played a part in making Macarthur a great place to study, by offering the support needed and encouraging one another to bring out the best in us. Not only in academics did we push each other, but in sports too. Everyone tried hard to train and compete for prizes at the Athletics Carnival, Cross Country Carnival and Swimming Carnival.

My experience at Macarthur shaped me to become the person I am today. I credit Macarthur for instilling confidence in me that I can accomplish all my goals, with hard work and discipline.

Since I graduated from Macarthur in 2016, I have been living in the United Kingdom. I have completed an undergraduate degree in Business Management at Newcastle University in 2019. Then, I finished my first master's degree in Management (Finance) at Durham University in 2020 and my second master's degree in Business Analytics at University of Warwick in 2021.

I am currently working as a data analyst at a construction company, Skanska in London. I am still in touch with my friends from Macarthur including Patrick Dickinson, Elle Dickinson, Tate Lindsay, Mingqian (Aiden) Chen and Sidi (Jacky) Chen.

For the foreseeable future, I want to remain in the UK. However, I plan to move back to Bangkok in five or six years, once I have enough work experience to secure a mid-management position back home.



Peem Tungkiatsilp

Mingqian (Aiden) Chen - Class of 2016

As an international student from Beijing, China, my schooling at Macarthur was very significant.

I first came to the School as an exchange student in Year 10 and really enjoyed it. This made me decide to transfer to Macarthur to complete Year 11 and Year 12.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my time at Macarthur was getting to know new friends from a completely different culture. I feel lucky to have made friends with Peem, Tate, James and Patrick.

Mr Morgan's 4 Unit Maths class was also enjoyable and memorable. As someone into Maths and Science, Mr Morgan managed to strengthen my interest in these subjects and encouraged me to pursue a Science degree after Secondary School.

I attended Sydney University after I graduated from Macarthur and completed an honours degree in Science. Following this I worked as a researcher for two years at Sydney Nanoscience Institute. I am currently doing a PhD project in Biomedical Engineering, which works with doctors from Royal Prince Alfred Hospital to save the lives of new-born babies. I am specifically working on the development

of novel optical biosensors to help diagnose and monitor neonatal jaundice. I live in an apartment close to the university and return home to visit my family once a year, around Christmas. Unfortunately, being a PhD student, I don't get a lot of holiday time.

I plan to do a post doctorate and expand my research area after I complete my PhD. I want to study and design more kinds of biosensors that help doctors diagnose and tackle various diseases.



Aiden Chen

Stephanie Hennings - Class of 2017

I attended Macarthur Anglican School from Year 5 through to Year 12. I cherished my time at Macarthur from the friends I made, to the opportunities I had and the teacher's support. Macarthur significantly shaped me and my values and laid the foundations for my love of learning.

Macarthur provided endless opportunities, with some key highlights being the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Thailand Outreach Programme. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award enabled me to hike through many of Australia's and New Zealand's picturesque locations with my cohort. Singing songs along the trails, playing cards after the day's hike and looking over New Zealand's mountains are core memories from my experience. The whole programme broadened our horizons and pushed us out of our comfort zone, developing life skills of critical thinking, leadership and problem-solving.

Similarly, the Thailand Outreach Programme was an uplifting adventure and allowed me to experience different cultures and gain an appreciation for my community, support network and how fortunate we are. Travelling internationally with my friends and volunteering at the local school, nearby villages and orphanages instilled my love for travel and inspired me to want to create impact. From this I aspired to travel post-school and be in a career where I could be involved in a growing industry and to be helping other people.

I loved my time as a Year 11 Peer Support Leader

and Year 12 Prefect. These roles developed my leadership skills and allowed me to be a role model and support younger students in the School. I loved the team environment and positive influence we had on other students' experiences, particularly through our involvement in events such as Happy Day and the Years 3 to Year 6 Dance. It was very rewarding seeing students enjoy these events.

Other memorable experiences throughout school were participating in the Snowsports Programme in Thredbo, school equestrian days (where we rode our horses in a gymkhana day on school grounds), GateWAY 8 competitions, and the School debating team. Finishing Year 12 with our graduation day was a highlight, leaving our mark with sheep races through the middle of the School's 'inner area' and our musical item. Following, our graduation night surrounded by friends and family who we matured and grew with was very special.

All my teachers were influential and significantly supported me in my studies. They encouraged us to pursue our passions and goals and assisted in any way possible. My two favourite subjects were Agriculture and Geography. These classes had a major impact on my career following school, along with my agricultural classes, my family's Angus cattle stud and exhibiting cattle at local and royal shows leading me to study a double degree Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Business at the University of New England. I resided at St Alberts College for three years and was involved in the college netball team, was the student representative on the Agricultural School of Education and involved in the peer assisted mentoring programme. In my final year, I was the senior academic advisor responsible for the College's academic team and assisting students in their studies. I participated in an international exchange study programme at Purdue University, Indiana USA. Whilst there I was able to visit the World Dairy Expo, Denver Stock Show, ski in Colorado, complete the New York and Chicago Marathons and travel throughout America.

I graduated from University with a Vice Chancellor Scholar Award in 2022 and started a full-time position as a Farm Services Officer for a dairy company. I visit and support our farms with a focus on environmental sustainability and farmer wellbeing programmes. My passion for creating impact within my community stemmed from my schooling days and from this I entered the Camden Show Young Women programme, where I was selected as the 2024 Camden Show Young Woman. I participated in the Australia Day March, assisted organising the beef cattle section and youth expo, and delivered speeches at the sponsors and volunteers night. I was then fortunate to be selected as a state finalist for our zone at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and met many like-minded young people in the agricultural industry.

Post-schooling, I started running and set a goal of completing all six world major marathons. I completed these in 2024, becoming the youngest Australian to do so. The marathons allowed me to travel internationally and expand my horizon and

Where Are They Now?

cultural understanding.

I have many special life-long friends from school who I still regularly catch up with. I've loved seeing my friends thrive in their personal lives and being part of many of their special moments including graduations, career milestones and weddings.

I appreciated Macarthur's values of integrity, learning and respect, and I have continued to lead by these attributes each day. I truly believe Macarthur Anglican School helped me grow and develop as a person, in addition to my family, who I cannot thank enough for their support.

Reflecting upon my time at school, I am grateful for all the experiences I had, lessons I learnt, and the family I created from my time there.



Stephanie Hennings

Thomas Wood - Class of 2018

December 2023 marked five years of post-high school life for myself and my peers within my cohort. The opportunity to spend my most formative years at Macarthur Anglican School is one I have become increasingly more grateful for, the older I have become.

As I look back, I can see what a significant, positive impact, my time at Macarthur has had on the man that I am today, and the people and communities that I am now equipped to serve.

As I reflect on some of my fondest memories from my time at Macarthur, a trend very quickly emerged. The most prominent aspect was the incredible people I met and the experiences we shared.

Macarthur's abundance of co-curricular activities such as camps, debating, enrichment programmes, Agricultural team, music ensembles, sports teams and Christian outreach experiences allowed me to form and foster strong friendships, many of whom are still close friends today. This included the privilege of currently playing in a band made up of Alumni, that has entertained students and their families at recent Year 11 formals.

Extraordinary opportunities such as being selected as School Prefect, Marsh House Captain and Drum Major aided in forming leadership attributes. This enabled me to serve and contribute to the wider life of Macarthur Anglican School.

I regularly use the skills, abilities and connections that I developed there in my personal and professional life.

Since graduating, I have been employed full time at Camden Hire and am now in a Senior Management Role providing services within the construction industry. I am also nearing the completion of my Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. I serve as an Executive Committee Member for the Hire and Rental Industry Association.

After winning the HRIA's national 'Young Professional Of The Year Award' in 2023, I have spent time studying and working overseas within the American Rental market. I have also had many opportunities to volunteer and work within the local community of Camden and use the skills that Macarthur originally instilled in me to serve others.

Another observation I have made since graduating is that when you leave a school community such as Macarthur, you realise what a blessing it is to be in an environment where you are regularly encouraged to nurture and experience your own faith journey. I will be forever grateful for the foundations of my faith that were modelled by authentic, Christian teachers and the Chaplaincy team, that contrasted simply practicing 'religion'.

Holding to these Christ centred values has encouraged me through the highs and some of the more difficult, challenging times in my life. I am most grateful to the teachers and staff of Macarthur Anglican School for the way I was encouraged and educated through areas of study and aspects of young adult life, where I didn't recognise I needed support.

From spending hours and nights away from their family on Duke of Edinburgh's Award Hikes and attending many Agricultural Shows, to staying back after class to help with study, convening study workshops during the holidays or conducting a school band after hours, Macarthur's teachers continually put me and my peers school experience before their own needs.



Congratulations to Macarthur Anglican School, the Headmaster, the teachers, staff and students, all both past and present, on delivering forty years of exceptional education. I am and will be forever grateful for the chance I had to enter to learn, and even more so for the opportunity to go out to serve as an alumni of the Macarthur Anglican School community.

Thomas Wood

Qianqian (Lindsay) Wu - Class of 2018

Reflecting on my time at Macarthur, I fondly remember the close-knit community and supportive environment that defined the School.

I felt welcomed and encouraged by my peers and teachers; the teachers' dedication and the emphasis on holistic education not only nurtured my academic development but also empowered me to seek and participate in opportunities for personal development such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The diverse selection of subjects was another aspect that I valued and appreciated, which allowed me to explore various interests and discover my passions. Macarthur's emphasis on critical thinking and creativity has profoundly impacted my career path. The skills and values I developed at Macarthur have been a foundation for my pursuits, guiding me through both academic and professional endeavours.

After I completed my HSC, I have successfully enrolled and completed a double degree in Social Work (Honours Class 1) and Criminology and Criminal Justice (Distinction) at UNSW. Since graduation in December 2023, I have ventured into the field of mental health, where I continue to apply the principles learned at Macarthur to give back to the community.

I am grateful for the connections that I have made at Macarthur and continue to keep in touch with a few close friends, teachers and staff from school, and we often reminisce about our shared experiences.

The sense of belonging and the lifelong friendships established at Macarthur remain a cherished part of my life.



Lindsay Wu



2024 Reunions

We're looking for our Alumni!

30 Year Reunion

Class of 1994

Saturday 19 October

20 Year Reunion

Class of 2004

Saturday 26 October

10 Year Reunion

Class of 2014

Saturday 2 November

E: alumni@macarthur.nsw.edu.au

FB: facebook.com/macarthuranglicanalumni

Global Citizens

A Reflection from a Homestay Parent

In 2019, I approached the International Registrar about the possibility of our family hosting a homestay student. Our older two boys had finished school and one of them had left home, so we thought it might be nice for our third son who was still at school to have another teenager in the house. We had hosted short term students in the past and our experience is that the first few weeks are the challenging ones.

Adding anyone new to the family dynamic is hard. Adding in someone you don't know at all - with cultural differences, a language barrier and family differences - takes time, effort and grace by all parties. Before accepting Andy as our homestay, we prepared.

We discussed what our dealbreakers were and we communicated our expectations clearly. We didn't expect anything of Andy that we didn't expect of our own children, but we were understanding that he might take time to meet those expectations (just like our own children had). We all learned to be more tolerant and understanding.

We shared our varied experiences of cultural differences - the challenging and the funny, sometimes both!

We invited and included Andy in family events, but also allowed him the freedom to have some alone time. It was important to understand that Andy needed downtime where he didn't have to think in another language and be polite. Most often he joined in with all our events and our extended family was the better for knowing him.

We had deliberate conversations around our rituals and traditions and asked Andy about his. We tried to incorporate foods that Andy enjoyed - I soon discovered my attempts at Chinese cooking were not great, but that hamburgers and pizza are universal teenage foods!

We were burdened and privileged with navigating Covid-19 and lockdowns with Andy. We all lost a lot in the lockdowns. As an international student Andy

lost the most. He lost the opportunity to go home for visits. He lost the chance to reconnect with his family in his home. He lost the chance to relax in his familiar places, to think and talk with ease in his first language. We embraced it all together.

The boys rode bikes at home, played tennis and basketball for exercise. We set up a study/work zone for everyone with candles. I compensated by cooking too many comfort foods, which the boys were happy to indulge in. We even had our own Royal Easter Show, where Andy took out the art prize, and the vegetable decorating.

Andy has a heart for storytelling through creative means. He had a burning desire to reconnect with his family on his return home and have the chance to document the history of his grandparents, particularly his great grandmother. A few weeks before his first chance to go home came, Andy's great grandmother passed away. He found out sitting at the dinner table in a message from his mum. My heart grieved for him as he dealt with this loss. It was the only time he openly expressed sadness and heartache in the whole time he was with us. We sat together on multiple nights and Andy poured out his sorrow.

We had the delight of sharing in the excitement of Andy winning International Scholar. The School organised Andy's mother and I to connect over Zoom and I had the chance to hear her heartfelt joy for Andy. I am so grateful that Andy's family entrusted him to us. He is an incredible young man and taught our family so much. We honour Andy for his courage, his tenacity and the hard work he faced everyday navigating challenging teenage years and Senior School, with the added stresses of working on a second language in an unfamiliar environment.

Andy has chosen to stay in Sydney, studying Fine Arts and Media at university, so we are still able to see him, which is lovely.

Mrs Kathy Key



To watch Andy's Story, scan the code



Tours Resume

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the life of the School, particularly by halting domestic and international travel. These trips are a significant part of our Co-curricular Programme, offering students unique and enriching experiences that enhance their learning and personal development.

The inability to travel during the pandemic was a considerable loss, as it deprived our students of opportunities to explore new cultures, challenge themselves, and connect with the broader world.

Since the lifting of travel restrictions, we have eagerly resumed these valuable experiences. Our students have already participated in trips such as the North Queensland Connect, the Duke of Edinburgh Award's Hike in New Zealand, and the Thailand Outreach Programme. Looking ahead, we are excited to offer upcoming international tours, including the Japan Cultural Tour, History Europe Tour and Thailand Outreach in 2025, as well as a STEM Tour planned for 2026. These trips promise to provide students with unforgettable experiences, fostering growth and broadening their perspectives.

In addition to resuming travel, we have also been able to welcome international students to our school once again. This has been a wonderful development, as it enriches the School community and helps our students broaden their view of the world. The presence of international students promotes cultural exchange and understanding, encouraging all our students to become more global citizens.



Nihon students arrival, August 2024



Have you ever thought about hosting?



Macarthur continues to grow a database of homestay families and has an increasing need for more families to register in 2024. Hosting an international student can be very rewarding and interesting for your family.

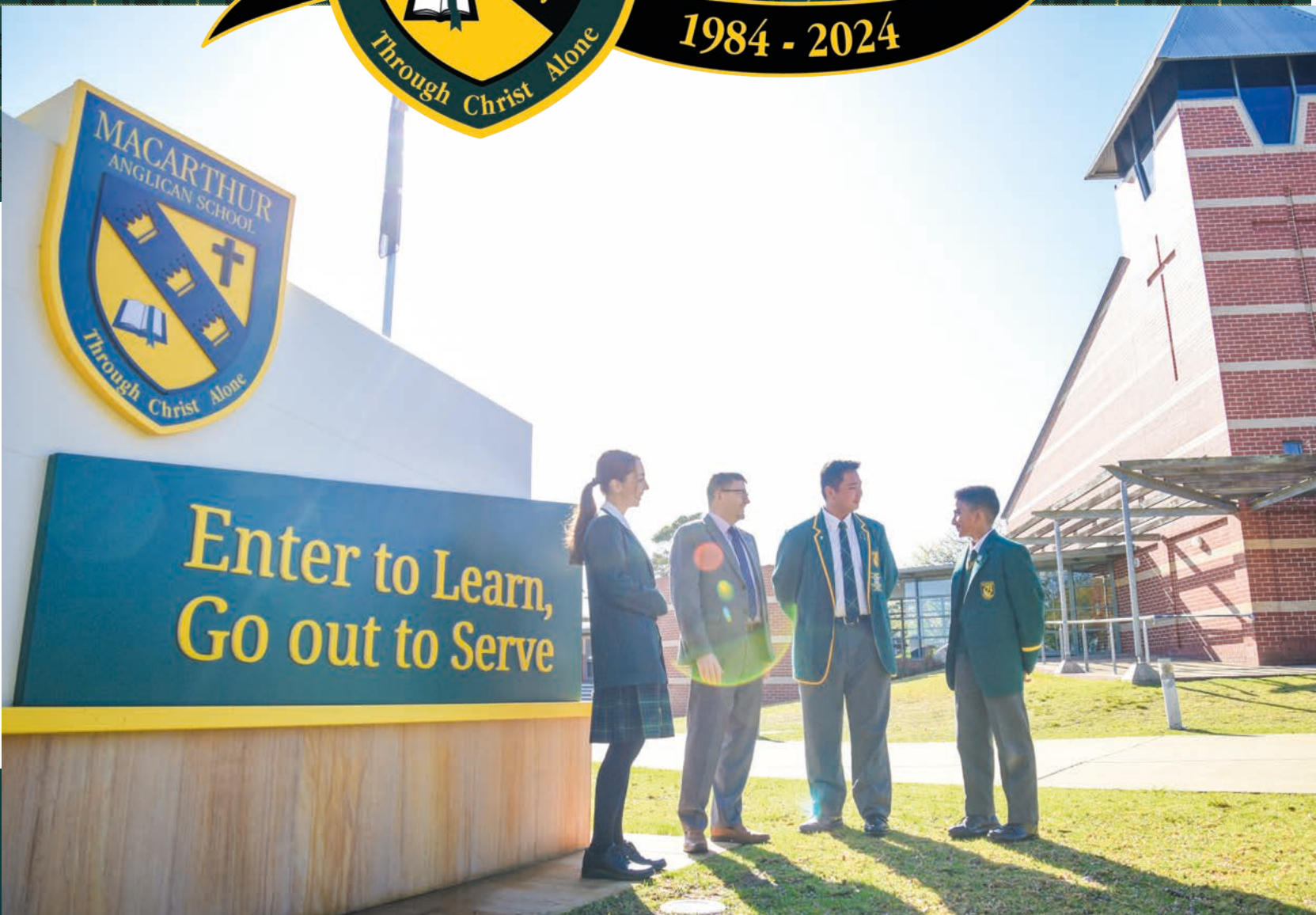
Homestay families are required to provide a furnished room for the student, all meals (7 days a week), wi-fi internet and laundry. The School provides guardianship, bus transport to school and 24 hour support. Homestay accommodation is ideally located within 30 minutes of the School on major bus routes. All household members over 18 years of age are subject to Working with Children Checks.

If you are interested in hosting a student at any time (short term or long term) please contact

Mrs Nadine James, International Student Registrar

international@macarthur.nsw.edu.au

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