



# MAGDALENE NEWS

Vol 19 Term: 2 Week 3  
12 May 2017

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of the Magdalene Community,

## **RECENT BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I read with interest several years ago a reflection on the Federal Budget:

*“...the budget papers are full of real information about the real priorities of the Government. It shows that we spend far more on defence than on education. It shows that we spend far more on subsidising fossil fuel use than we do on tackling climate change ... But what the budget doesn't show, and never will, is why ... we have convinced ourselves that we cannot afford to reduce indigenous disadvantage, invest in aged care or invest as much in public transport as we do on roads ... The reason that the budget will never provide the answers to such questions is that they have nothing to do with economics and everything to do with who we are as a society.”*

I do **not** intend to raise any issues of party politics in Australia. The above for example was actually written about a Labor budget and my commentary in this newsletter will regard the current government's proposed changes to Education funding. That stated, I do encourage all Magdalene and community members to take an interest in decisions which will impact on their children (and society in general).

Quite often there is confusion and misinformation about how education funding works. For all the media's various barbs against Catholic and Independent Education, the fact is that if Catholic Schools did not exist the expense to government to run their own schools across the nation would be insurmountable. Catholic Schools provide a quality product and fill a very important niche in Australian Education. In all, 1 in 5 students across Australia are educated in a Catholic school.

Secondly, Catholic Schools are often confused with Independent Schools. Yes, there are some Catholic Independent Schools (some in the newspaper have been named to be receiving excessive government funding), however, the majority of Catholic Schools are systemic schools – part of larger organisations – just as Magdalene Catholic High School is part of the Wollongong Diocese.

Recent budget announcements therefore indicating state schools will receive over 5% increases, Independent schools over 4% and Catholic Schools over 3% are problematic. In short, considering that future indexation after 2020 is unlikely to match rising school costs, this highlights inequity.

Furthermore, the Catholic Education sector has three additional concerns about the Federal Government's proposed school funding model:

- a lack of prior consultation
- funding uncertainty beyond 2020, and
- an undermining of the Catholic sector's autonomy.

*“Because I have seen the Lord”*



In essence, the Federal Government is slowly undermining the Catholic sector's ability to direct funding according to need and to keep low-fee Catholic schools accessible and affordable.

With this in mind, we would encourage you to consider these facts, speak about them in your friend and business circles, and, where appropriate, bring it to the attention of your local federal member of Parliament.

**MOTHERS' DAY**

We wish all mothers a wonderful Mother's Day on Sunday!

Of course we must be careful not to alienate those families where loss or separation complicates matters and/or untraditional caregiver arrangements exist. Therefore we wish all who act in a 'motherly' role – mothers, step-mothers, grandmothers, aunts or other close friends the very best on the day.

Indeed the importance of appreciation and thanks on a day like this cannot be overestimated – so we hope that all students are appropriate in their praise and recognition of your significant and ongoing work.

And so for your compassion, your counsel, your willingness to drop everything often at a moment's notice, for the time, the energy (and sometimes the exhaustion), for the kind words for the hugs and for your love **thank you!**

**PRAYER:**

From [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)

*Mary, on this day when we honour all mothers, we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace. Dear Mother, thank you for your "Yes" to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth and changed human history. You opened yourself to God's word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

*Dear mother, intercede for all of our mothers. Ask your Divine Son to give them the grace of surrendered love so that they could join with you in giving their own decision to strengthen the lives of others. May they find daily strength to say yes to the call to the sacrificial love- the very heart of the vocation of motherhood. May their love and witness be a source of great inspiration for all of us called to follow your Son. On this Mothers' day, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us who have recourse to you...*

*In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

AMEN



God Bless

Mr Matthew McMahon  
**Principal**

## CADET

Narellan Vale may not be a flight capital but a 17-year-old resident has winged his way to the title of Australia's best air league cadet.

Lachlan Abernethy has been a cadet since he was nine years old.

His father Simon said Lachlan had always had a keen interest in aviation.

"We saw the cadets marching at an Anzac Day march and he said he wanted to give it a try," he said.

"We (his parents) encouraged him because we wanted him to join a sport or activity."

Last year Dick Smith presented Lachlan with the inaugural Laurie McIver trophy for excellence as an Australian Air League cadet.



The Magdalene Catholic High School student then went on to take out the NSW Cadet of the Year and topped that off with a national award this year.

"We were stoked for him," Mr Abernethy said.

"We are very proud of Lachlan's great achievement and his perseverance."

Cadets were required to make a 15 minute presentation, fly in the Air League aircraft under the direction of pilot instructors, pass uniform inspections, knowledge assessments and individual panel interviews.

Lachlan will now be asked to present at a number of meetings with senior officers and lead a number of upcoming Australian Air League events.

While most air league cadets go on to join the air force or become pilots, Lachlan has a different path in mind.

"After joining the cadets, he found that he really enjoyed teaching the juniors," Mr Abernethy said.

"His mum and I are both teachers so I guess he is joining the family business."



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Mr Chris Whicker, Administration Coordinator at Magdalene Catholic High School, was recently presented with the Duke of Edinburgh Medal of Recognition for his Long Service to the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. The ceremony was held at Parliament House hosted by the Hon Stuart Ayers, MP in his capacity as Minister for Sport.

This award recognises Chris' outstanding commitment and contribution to the development of young people through the Duke of Edinburgh program in NSW since 2006. Well done Chris!



## CAREERS NEWS: *STUDENTS EYES LOOK SKYWARDS...*

This week a dozen students from Years 11 and 12 were fortunate to have Carly from QANTAS come out to speak to them about what was involved in becoming a Flight Attendant. The myth about being a 'waitress' in the air was dismissed as the students heard about the high level of skills needed in security, first aid, swimming, food handling, RSA, child care, human relations and the list goes on.. that the Airlines now require. She outlined the high level of responsibility an individual takes on in this role.

Carly also described the intense training she underwent but reassured the students that in her case, the stress was worth it. She now enjoys wonderful work relationships and travel opportunities.



## Verve Junior Twilight Retreat



The Verve Twilight retreat program is a voluntary retreat program run at Magdalene facilitated by Magdalene teachers and Senior Students. It is designed to provide students with opportunities to explore their own journey of faith, life and humanity. The hope is that through a series of fun, informative and relaxed experiences students can come to better know themselves, their community and ideas about faith, hope and living a good life.

During this year's junior Verve Twilight Retreat held on Friday 28 April, the main focus of the night was to 'Smile More' through the fruits of the Holy Spirit. This night allowed the year 7 and 8 students to bond with people within their year group as well as the senior students of the school. At the beginning of the night the students participated in many icebreaker games although they still stayed focus on the theme of the night by being patient, loving, kind and understanding to those surrounding them.

At the end of the night they took a moment to reflect on their life and to consider things they want to change, for example if they have learnt tonight to be kinder to people around them. A special congratulations goes to the many senior students from Years 10, 11 and 12 who helped and Mr Collins who put the program together and coordinated the event. Below are some student reflections on the night:

Year 7 Student:

*"Thanks for an amazing night. My favourite thing was the hunt and all of the activities. It was good of you to provide dinner and afternoon tea so we did not have to bring it ourselves which I am thankful for. I also liked the fire and the band which was really good. Make sure you tell 22 strings that they are amazing. Overall the night was amazing so thank you and have a good weekend."*

Year 7 Student:

*"We had the opportunity to meet older students. There were a lot of fun activities to do. A highlight of the night was the Year 11 band '22 Strings'."*



## YEAR 7 HISTORY EXCURSION



### Year 7 History Excursion

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, we went on a History Excursion to the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. We saw about six ancient Egyptian mummies. They were from the British Museum and were about 1800 to 3000 years old.

As well as the six ancient mummies, there were many artefacts such as jewellery and clothing. Each of the mummies had their own individual, unique backstories. Their sarcophaguses all had different images and hieroglyphics which indicated their level of importance/status.

We all had a great time learning about the intriguing mummies and their history as well as discovering new information. We all enjoyed exploring the ancient lives and it was a valuable learning experience. We are very grateful to our teachers for taking us to this amazing, experience.

Written by Mckenzie Young 7:4 HSIE





## Magdalene Swimming Update DIOCESAN SWIMMING CARNIVAL RESULTS

Despite the wet weather, the Diocesan Swimming Carnival went ahead at Corrimal Pool. Although conditions were poor our swimmers did very well:

We had a number of students achieve Age Champion or place highly:

- Georgia FINIANOS 12 years (2<sup>nd</sup> place)
- Isabella LOPEZ 13 years (Winner)
- Sheree FARRELL 18 years (3<sup>rd</sup> place)
- Jacob SIMPSON 14 years (Winner)
- Jack BEEBY 16 years (2<sup>nd</sup> place)
- Matthew BURKE 17 years (Winner)

Magdalene was runner up in the point-score to Holy Spirit College finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

Jack Beeby, Jacob Simpson and Matthew Burke – Age Champions



**A number of students were also selected for the Wollongong Team which went to NSWCCC on 31 March at Homebush (a top 6 place is indicated).**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Matthew BURKE:                         | Jack BEEBY:                                    |
| 50m Freestyle                          | 50m Freestyle                                  |
| 100m Breaststroke                      | 200m Individual Medley (3 <sup>rd</sup> place) |
| 50m Butterfly (3 <sup>rd</sup> place)  |  |
| 200m Ind. Medley                       | Jacob SIMPSON:                                 |
| 100m Butterfly (5 <sup>th</sup> place) | 50m Freestyle                                  |
| 50m Backstroke (6 <sup>th</sup> place) | 100m Freestyle (5 <sup>th</sup> place)         |
|  | 100m Breaststroke (2 <sup>nd</sup> place)      |
| Georgia FINIANOS:                      | 50m Breaststroke (3 <sup>rd</sup> place)       |
| 50m Freestyle                          | 200m Ind. Medley (2 <sup>nd</sup> place)       |
|  | 100m Butterfly                                 |
| Isabella LOPEZ:                        | 200m Freestyle (5 <sup>th</sup> place)         |
| 50m Freestyle                          |  |
| 50m Butterfly                          | Sheree FARRELL:                                |
| 100m Backstroke                        | 200m Freestyle (6 <sup>th</sup> place)         |
| 100m Freestyle                         |  |
| 50m Backstroke (4 <sup>th</sup> place) |  |

### NSWCCC Swimming Representation

Swimmers that gained entry into the All-Schools competition to be held at Homebush on 12 May include:

Jack Beeby for the 200m Individual Medley

Matthew Burke for the 50m Butterfly

Sheree Farrell for the 400m and 800m Freestyle

Jacob Simpson for the 50m Breast Stroke, 100m Breast Stroke and 200m Individual Medley

**Well done to all our students who have represented the School and the Diocese.**



## SPORTS NEWS

### Diocesan Cross Country

On 1 May our Cross Country Representatives took the long trip down to Nowra to run in the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival. As usual, our Magdalene students applied themselves with focus accompanied by healthy competitiveness. Amalia Plummer finished first in her age division. Five of our athletes were able to make it through to the NSWCCC Cross Country Carnival to be held at Eastern Creek on 16 June.

Congratulations to the following students for making it into the Wollongong Team to compete at the NSWCCC championships:

- Amalia Plummer
- Jaimee Kitchener
- Aleesha Austin
- Luke Small
- Rhys Miller



### Diocesan Tennis Carnival

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March our Boys and Girls Tennis Teams went to Wollongong to compete in the Diocesan Tennis Carnival. Our players applied themselves admirably as they came up against some skilled adversaries. Our girls team was able to win the consolation final while our boys gave of their best despite their overall lack of experience in match-play.

Thanks to the following Tennis players for their efforts on the day:

- Hannah Isaacs
- Brady Polkinghorne
- Alison Rivet
- Elliot Birrell
- Rhys Miller
- Joshua O'Reilly
- Brittney McCrorey
- Brooke Peters
- Joshua Creecy



### MISA Golf Championships

On 3 May the MISA Golf Championships were held at Lakeside Golf Course. Two of our students competed with great sportsmanship and fair play. Congratulations to Brandon Vella and Benjamin Clarke for their excellent efforts on the day. Both players were playing off Handicaps against experienced players from both North and South MISA Schools.

Last year Brandon won the Junior Division of the competition and was able to capitalise on this success by winning the Overall Championship in 2017. The trophy will be displayed in our office foyer and Brandon will be recognised at our assemblies.



## SPORTS NEWS

### 9 MAY 2017

#### MISA RESULTS : Magdalene v Mount Carmel (Round 1)

SPORT	WINNING SCHOOL	SCORE	MOST VALUED PLAYER
9 Girls Netball	Magdalene	29-20	Well done for our first game of the season. In very hard conditions you came away with a solid win. Thanks to Jasmine for umpiring. Coach: Mrs Hort
10-12 Girls Netball	Mount Carmel	23-20	A hard team to play for our first game, especially with no reserves and players playing out of position. A good effort by our girls. MVP: Tiarna-Lee Magro. Coach: Mrs Parkes
7 Boys Soccer	Draw	3-3	A good first game by the boys who were unlucky not to get the win. Coach: Mr Manns/Mrs Lapa
8-9 Boys Soccer	Mount Carmel	1-0	A great first game and we were unfortunate not to get the win. The boys showed great team spirit but couldn't get the vital goal. MVP: Joseph Smith Coach: Mr Arzapitian
10-12 Boys Soccer	Mount Carmel	1-0	A good, close first game. MVP: Zac Gomes Coach: Mr Quinn
10-12 Boys Softball	Magdalene	8-7	MVP: Connor McFarlane. Coach: Miss Gavin
10-12 Girls Softball	Magdalene	6-4	Very good first game. Well done! MVP: Bethany Coach: Mrs McAllister
7-9 Boys Hockey	Magdalene	Forfeit by Mount Carmel	Coach: Mr Hewitt
7-9 Girls Hockey	No Game		Coach: Miss J Miller
7-9 Ultimate Frisbee	Magdalene	7-5	A very interesting first game and a good win. Well done team. Coach: Mr Fordyce
Open Rugby League	Magdalene defeated Thomas Hassall	34-0	A great start to the competition with 6 tries spread between 5 players. Well done team. MVP: Cooper Rodwell and a great game by Ryan Blankenstein. Coach: Mr Fordyce



## SPORT REPORT

### DIOCESAN GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

The girls had an enjoyable trip to Woonona where we drew 3 games and lost to St Mary's. We also drew our play off game against St John's, Nowra. Our most consistent player was Bethany Perkins.



## NOTICEBOARD

**St Paul's Camden**

**2017 FETE**

**Saturday 20th May**  
**9am - 3pm**

Thanks to our Major Sponsors:

- Harvey Norman Campbelltown
- Downes Wholesale Nursery
- Camden Furniture One
- Dragonfly Portraits
- Chef & I Catering
- Anytime Fitness
- Bombora Pools
- Eden Day Spa
- Camden Hire
- Easy Signs
- TRN Group
- Upstairs@Fred's
- Fowlers Carpets
- Fordham Family
- BMW Macarthur
- McGrath Narellan
- Family Focus Legal
- MLG Conveyancing
- Raptis Fresh Produce
- Get Away Travel & Cruise

*"Once Upon A Time"*



## NOTICEBOARD

### May

14	Sunday	Mothers' Day
15	Monday	Winter Uniform Now Compulsory Year 11, 2018 Subject selection 5.45pm start
15–19	Monday– Friday	Yr 8 Examinations/Assessments
26	Friday	National Sorry Day
27 May - 3 June	Saturday– Saturday	Reconciliation Week
31	Wednesday	Year 8 Italian Excursion

### June

1	Thursday	School Photographs
2	Friday	Year 10 Reflection Day
9	Friday	Year 9 Reflection Day
12	Monday	Queen's Birthday PUBLIC HOLIDAY
13	Tuesday	Years 11,12 Titration Competition
15	Thursday	Magdalene Shines 7pm
19 - 24	Monday – Friday	Brewarrina Immersion
20	Tuesday	Misa Dance Festival

### SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

Students will go into winter uniform on Monday 15 May. It will be optional from 1 May.

The Second Hand Uniform shop is always happy to receive donations of pre-loved uniforms, but please only send **CLEAN** uniforms in **GOOD CONDITION**.

The second hand uniform shop will be open on Monday 15 May 8.00am - 8.20am.

If you require uniforms please call  
Kelly O'Keeffe 0410 553 812

### SCHOOL FEES

In line with the Wollongong Diocesan School fee policy, all accounts are on a 30 day basis. Families wishing to pay fees over the duration of the school year, regardless of the payment method, should by now have completed and returned to the School a School Fee Agreement Form. These forms are available on the school website [www.mchsdow.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mchsdow.catholic.edu.au). Go to the Enrolment tab, Fees tab and then select the Diocesan School Fee Agreement Form.

If we have not received a fee agreement form, regardless of payment method, your account would be considered overdue.

CANTEEN	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Term 2</b> Week 4B 15 May - 19 May	<b>15 May</b> Grace Versace Connie Iacano	<b>16 May</b> Sharon Draper Anna Geering	<b>17 May</b> Eve Farkas Rosalie Lopez	<b>18 May</b> Hilary Nguyen Gaby Varela	<b>5 May</b> Liz Murko Sandy Bird
<b>Term 2</b> Week 5A 22 May - 26 May	<b>22 May</b> Mara Severin	<b>23 May</b> Fran Lapa	<b>24 May</b> Veronique Smith	<b>25 May</b> Isabella Cantrella Raylene Joyce	<b>26 May</b> Lyn Kelly Lee Street
<b>Term 2</b> Week 6B 29 May - 2 June	<b>29 May</b> Cathy Burke Lisa Burke	<b>30 May</b> Sharon Draper Sally Potter Small	<b>31 May</b> Fiona Secheny Karen Tekely	<b>1 June</b> Jenny Davies	<b>2 June</b> Michelle Heward Cathy Stewart

## MAGDALENE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

*"Because I have seen the Lord"*

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