

connect

MAGAZINE



Brighter FUTURES

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Esther Fotheringham

Under the rule of our sovereign God, Carinya acknowledges the Gamilaroi people as the traditional custodians of the land on which the School is built.

As we engage as a community to discover a world made through Jesus for His glory, we recognise the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this land.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation as we enjoy God's grace to us through Jesus.

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*"Out of Sight,
Out of Mind"*
by Isaiah Keays

From the Principal



Brighter FUTURES

As I write this article our Year 12 students are only days away from finishing their Year 12 school year. The completion of schooling is a speed bump for our students and their parents, a reminder that time passes and new opportunities await. Year 12 stares into the headlights of the HSC exams but what they are thinking most about is what happens after the HSC.

One of the questions our Kindergarten children have asked in our Year 12 Final Assembly is “what are you going to do when you grow up?” This is a great question and one that we tend to want to ask people at this age. Our students have wrestled with exams, assessments, and 13 years of schooling preparing for their life. When visiting Lilly Pilly Cottage I see those first interactions as the little children learn to play and interact with each other. Simple things, like learning how to share a toy, sitting and eating their lunch together and saying please and thank you. Then through the years watching their ability to read and count unfold as they advance through their schooling. Yet while we have prepared them the best we can for the future, perhaps asking them “what they want to do when they leave school?” is not the most important question.

1+2

There are many great Bible verses that help us to think about the future. They don't talk about what sort of job we do as adults but focus on what sort of person we need to be. Qualities such as integrity, honesty, kindness, faithfulness and love. Getting our priorities right and putting Jesus first in our lives helps us work out the sort of person we want to be.

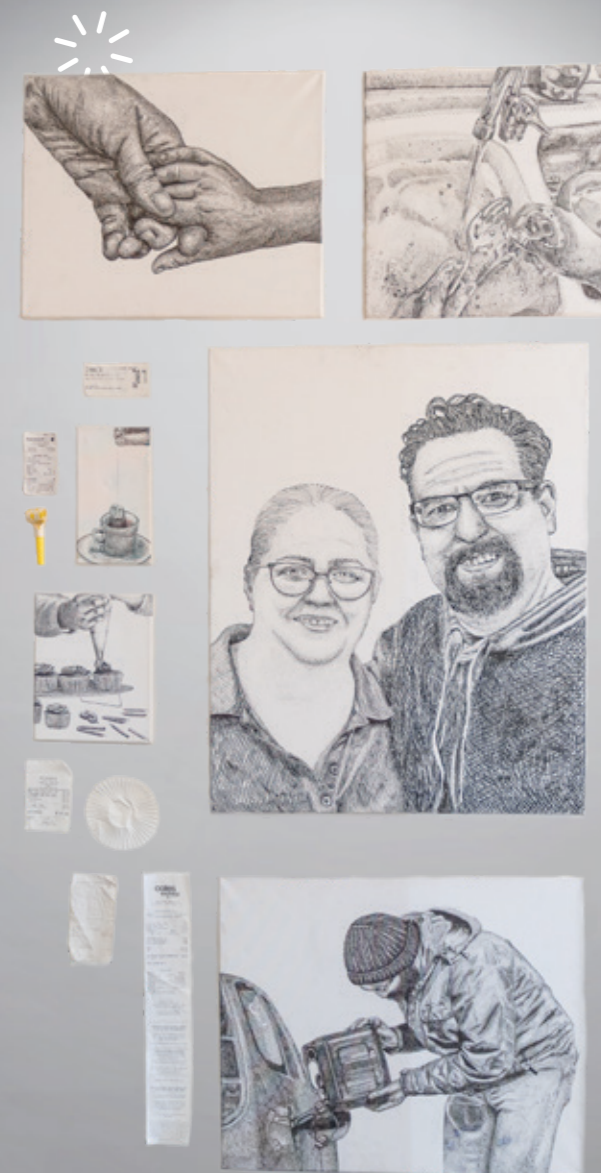
Proverbs 3:5-6 says “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” At Carinya we love our kids to get good marks but more importantly we want them to be people who grow to love and serve God and others in their community. Working faithfully is like a bright light for their futures. Martin Luther King Junior, reflects the joy for the Lord that comes through working faithfully, stating:

If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, ‘Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well’.

In a world where there are so many different and changing pathways to the future, we can tell our children that what you do in life does not matter as much as the type of person you want to be. Through Jesus comes clarity and confidence and so again in the words of Corrie Ten Boom, we can trust our unknown future to a known God.

David Jones

“
Never be afraid to trust an
unknown future to a
KNOWN GOD
Corrie Ten Boom”



*“Great things are done by a series
of small things brought together”
by Matilda Moore*



The Sport Run Down

**“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”
Phil Jackson (NBA Coach)**



Charles Bickersteth
Sport Coordinator

Sport at Carinya continues to grow with more and more teams in each sport. With more teams comes the problem of finding more coaches. Thankfully, we have a large range of older students willing to help coach teams. The skills these students learn whilst coaching sets them up for life after school. Yasu Akioka has been coaching our Primary Basketball team for 3 seasons now. I caught up with Yasu and asked him a few questions.

Why do you want to coach?

I coach for several reasons: I enjoy playing basketball myself, and I have realised that I learn while teaching others. So I also gain an insight about how the game works and seeing it from a coach's perspective is really different compared to a player's. It is fun. Younger students are fun to work with and it is rewarding to see them grow, no matter how long it may take or how frustrating it can be at times. To serve. I enjoy that coaching is a way that I can pass on the benefits that I have received from those who gave up their time to coach me.

Can you remember a good coach that you had? What made them a good coach?

Yes I can, he was a good coach because he was more than just a coach, which I think is fairly important, he was also a teacher of life skills. Coaches have a pretty big role in an athlete's life. I personally think a coach should not only help players develop on the court/field but also off the court, in terms of positive attitude and personality, which is what I try to embody when I coach.

What are the most rewarding things about coaching?

Seeing people improve or their “A-ha” moment when things click, even if it takes a while.

What has been a highlight of coaching?

Winning the 2022 summer basketball competition. It was a close game where I think the team was pushed to think harder and play better.





Stephen Carter

Business Manager

Where did you grow up? Central Coast, NSW

What is your job in the school and how long have you been doing it for? I am the Business Manager for Carinya Tamworth and Carinya Gunnedah. I have been in this role since 2014.

Name one other job you have done in your life and what did you enjoy, or not enjoy, about it? I worked in a fish shop where I had to scale, gut and fillet fish. It was great to learn the skill but keeping the shop clean was quite a challenge. There were fish scales and guts everywhere most days.

What is the best thing about working in a Christian school? There are so many great things about working in a Christian school, but the amazing staff culture is the best thing about Carinya as a Christian workplace.

What do you do in your spare time? I love to exercise, complete home renovation projects, spend time with my family and eat good food. We are very fortunate to live in such an amazing country that affords us such luxuries.

What is your favourite meal? I love all food, it would be unfair to pick a favourite.

Name one book (other than the Bible) you would recommend everyone to read? Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky. It is such a deep insight into humanity.

If you had to live in another country for 12 months, where would you choose and why? I would choose Japan as I think it is a fascinating culture, I enjoy skiing, I love their food, and I would like to learn the language.

If you had 1 million dollars to spend in 24 hours, how would you spend it? Assuming I can't give it away or invest it, I would spend most of it on a sailing boat and the remainder on 12 months of sailing lessons.

Name one practical way Jesus has made a difference in your life. Jesus provided the supreme example of how we are to live our lives, especially in how we think about and treat others. It is no coincidence that almost all of the top 20 countries in the IEU Global Democracy index have a cultural heritage linked to Christianity. I would like to think that the teachings of Jesus have influenced the way I respect all other people.

... A Message From The Board

In many ways, Carinya Christian School is like any other school. Students learn Maths, play sports, build community and do a thousand things students do in every school. They learn 2+2=4, that the First Fleet came to Australia in 1788 and what the names of the planets in our Solar System are. They learn skills, are sent on excursions and are cared for by dedicated and professional teachers. Alongside the similarities, there are many differences. Some are so big they make a difference to everything.



Ross Fotheringham
Chairman of The Board

The Carinya Board is totally committed to these big differences. What are these big differences?

1. The Bible really matters at Carinya

It is in the Bible we discover the reason 2+2 always equals 4. We discover why it is important to know the history and the wonderful way in which this world works. It is in the Bible we discover why all people really matter and why hard work and respect matter. It is in the Bible that we discover why we exist and what life is for. Indeed, education that does not actively and vigorously take the Bible seriously will answer many questions, but not the big ones.

2. Jesus Christ really matters at Carinya

The Bible says that Jesus is central to everything. "By him all things were created ... by him and for him ... and in him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:16, 17). All things are FROM him ... and all things are FOR him. The bottom line is that nothing makes ultimate sense apart from Jesus. Whether it is doing history, enjoying art or playing sport. This world only makes sense when the one who stands at the heart of the universe gives depth and meaning to everything in it.

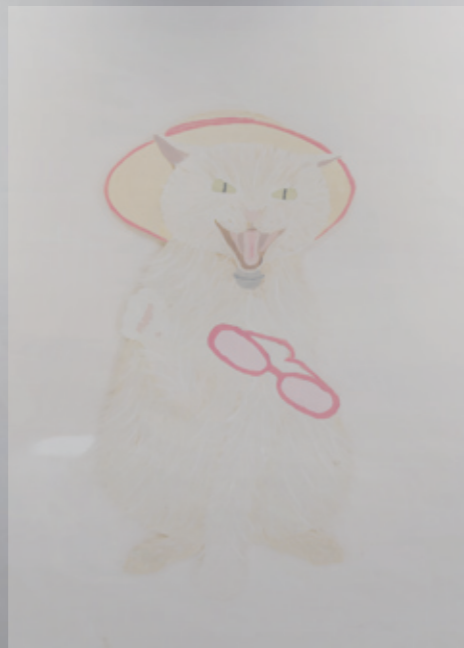
The members of the Board are as committed to this vision of Christ-centred education as they have ever been and we are delighted that both Carinya Gunnedah and Carinya Tamworth continue to provide an education that is Christ-honouring in its shape, and highly professional in its delivery.

Over the past year, students will have observed the extension and development of E block. One of the exciting projects ahead of us as a school is the extension of the lower E Block area into a small theatre which we think will be a wonderful addition to the school's resources. This is only the start of some significant building projects for the Tamworth school and we look forward to the completion of such projects and their use in the school community.

2022 has also been a year in which we have not been interrupted by shutdowns. Wherever people stand on COVID one thing I am sure we all agree on is that we were made by Jesus to be people in the community and it has been wonderful to return to learning together as a community. We are so very thankful to be able to again enjoy each other's gifts and skills as we learn and grow together. We are delighted that the Connect Magazine displays just some of the joy which forms your child's education at Carinya.

✦ CHRIST 🤝 COMMUNITY 📖 DISCOVERY

Engaging as a community to discover the world made through Jesus
for his glory



"Picture Perfect"
by Emily McBride

Ont Major Works



Jacob Faulks - Electric Motorbike



Samantha Wilkie - Electric Cello



Michris Matumaini - Lap Table



Wesley Bowd - Acoustic Guitar



Brianna Henry - Bench Chair



Benjamin Livingstone - Garden Bed



Kayne Lynch - Boat



Seb Tindall - Bird Bath



Aaron Spykstra - Fire Place



Gemma Wilks - Floor Mats and Coasters



Nick Spencer - Dining Table



Ethan Beckhaus - Chair



Bianca Aylwin - Girl's Top



Mani Mirzamohammadi - Bottle Holder



Rebekah Boschma - Coffee Table



James Hutton - Dining Table

Sam Fletcher

We sometimes get ex-students turn up at the front office to say hello. Recently one of our Alumni from 2000, turned up to say hello. While there were not many of us left who taught Sam it was great to catch up with him.

When did you finish school: 2000

Favourite movie: Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

Favourite Excursion at School: The Year 10 trip to Sydney. Mr Murray was a great tour guide, knowing more about the history of the city than anyone else I knew.

Favourite Subject at school: English with Mrs Newman

What was your dream job when you were at school: I wanted to be a sports commentator like Bruce McAvaney. I loved AFL and at the time the mighty Bombers!

What are some of the things that you enjoyed about your time at Carinya: The camaraderie amongst the teachers was very special, especially in Years 11 and 12. I also loved the open spaces, the facilities and how the school always seemed to be ahead of the game in things.

What have you done since you left school? I went to university in Newcastle and studied Business. I then worked in Melbourne before taking a job opportunity in New Jersey, America, for an adventure. I then moved to California.

Where are you doing at the moment? I'm happily married to Kristy and together we enjoy our horses and 2 cats. I work in management for a home goods company, supervising supply chain and inventory.

What advice do you have for kids in Year 12 and as they think about life after school? Do university, pick something you enjoy but don't feel like you are locked into this for the rest of your life. Keep your options open, there is plenty of time to work things out.



Building and Maintenance



Caring for and Respecting our Property and Possessions

At Carinya we are blessed with the resources and facilities we have developed over the 38 years we have been operating. God has provided for us in so many ways and we want to encourage the children to enjoy and look after the environment in which they work and play. Ensuring our facilities are in good working order not only creates an excellent environment but also establishes a platform from which we can help students to appreciate, respect and care for their school.

The recently constructed senior student amenities at the Tamworth school are a great example of this philosophy. These new facilities were designed to maximise the number of toilets available and to help students be individually accountable in caring for the facility. The amenities are finished to a high standard and the individual rooms offer appropriate privacy whilst the facility as a whole improves accountability and transparency. Needless to say, the students have enjoyed the new toilets and the new secondary classrooms

Whilst the design and build of the facility is important, it is the way our maintenance team cares for the amenities that helps students appreciate and respect the space. The maintenance team clean and service the amenities on a daily basis ensuring that they are ready for use and that ill treatment is quickly identified and rectified. Ensuring that the amenities are well maintained means we can demand a high standard of the students in how they care for them. If damage is reported by our maintenance team we will always seek to identify how the damage occurred and speak with those involved. God made us to live in community and looking after the classrooms and playground is one way that we can care for others.

As a school community we can be very thankful to the Lord for the excellent facilities we are able to enjoy. By ensuring they are maintained to a high standard we can continue to teach students to care and respect the facilities, as they should all other property within our broader community.



Our Maintenance Team



Our Maintenance Team - or Men in Blue, as they are affectionately called - do a great job at keeping our school well maintained. On any given day we are blessed to have over 1000 people at the Tamworth school and 250 people at the Gunnedah school. This does mean our facilities require continual upkeep. Across the two schools Carinya has 20 staff who work to maintain and improve our facilities. A large number work on a part-time basis to clean the classrooms and amenities before lessons commence, whilst others are focused upon the ongoing maintenance of the schools and the construction of new facilities.

We can all support the work of the maintenance team by doing our best to look after the facilities. This can be as simple as using the rubbish bins provided or reporting damage when it occurs. Everyone can play a part in caring for our schools.

Building The Future

Over the past seven years God has provided the opportunity for us to complete many different building and maintenance projects. With the recent rain, the grounds have never looked better. At both the Tamworth and Gunnedah schools we continue to make plans for the development of the facilities over the next five years, as we address the various needs, which include: classroom capacity, the provision of specialist learning spaces, improved car parking and shade, more play spaces and staff work areas. The best way our parent community can contribute to the improvement of our facilities is by ensuring school fees are paid in full and on time as it is school fees which remain a critical source of revenue for all future developments.



We thank parents and students for your ongoing support and look forward to enjoying the benefits of our wonderful school.

Mr Stephen Carter
Business Manager

junior school

Peter Spence
Head of Junior School



“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.”

Psalm 127:3

Futures **START HERE**

What is the goal of our parenting? I think we’d all agree—at least when you haven’t been kept up all night and are sleep deprived—that it’s not to keep them our babies for as long as we can. We are aiming to raise responsible, well adjusted, happy and independent adults who make good choices and contribute to society. So how do we train independence?

At home we train them to do small things like dressing themselves, tying shoelaces, adjusting the temperature of a bath or shower, making breakfast, packing a school bag, how to correctly use a knife and fork etc. As children grow we give them chores like setting the table for dinner, feeding pets, making their bed, vacuuming the floor. Whilst this is often hard, we practice saying no to our children and deliberately engineer situations where they fail or lose. If we’re brave enough, we talk them through their first solo ride to the park. They catch a bus to school, walk or ride by themselves. Eventually, we encourage them to get casual work and drive a car. These years of training culminate in independence.

At school a major goal is to train independence. Education is about creating change, healing ignorance and growing people who can serve others in community. In Junior School a primary focus becomes on teaching children to read, write and do arithmetic. Reading is the underpinning of every other discipline, helping children grow their understanding of the world. Interestingly, the importance of reading doesn’t stop there, it helps children make sense of other people, building social-emotional skills and of course, imagination. In our literate world, writing is an essential part of independence. It’s an essential job skill! Writing is often the first contact we have with people and therefore their first impression of us. Obviously, writing well creates greater independence as we are more able to clearly express our thoughts. The famous astronomer, physicist and engineer Galileo said: “Mathematics is the language with which God has written the universe.” He was perhaps expressing the thought of how intertwined or fundamental mathematics is to our lives. Being numerate, understanding and using mathematical concepts, helps children know and understand the world around them. It allows them to successfully communicate with others.

Training independence is fundamental to raising children. Whilst homes are essential in teaching skills that allow this increased self-sufficiency, they are not alone in this process. We don’t often think about schools as a place where independence is formed, but they are. Parents partner with quality schools like Carinya, to grow our children into responsible, independent adults.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Term 3 in K-4

Kindergarten

Kindergarten visited the Tamworth Regional Art Gallery this term where they took part in science and technology activities, created artwork and viewed the works of others, including a laser light show. The robotic cars were a highlight for many children as they played robotic car soccer.

Children were introduced to the services of Tamworth Regional Library concluding with a Story time with the local librarian. Kindergarten also had the opportunity to take part in Dot Art this term, please enjoy some of the highlights below.



Year 1 and 2

"Dreaming With Eyes Open" was this year's Book Week theme. Children enjoyed celebrating the day by dressing up as their favourite book characters and exploring their favourite books. Parents and grandparents were able to visit for the morning enjoying classroom activities themed around books.

The morning was concluded with a Kidz Bizz assembly where through the use of book character examples children were encouraged to treat each other with respect and kindness. Reading is an important part of growth and we believe Book Week is a great way to highlight how fun reading can be.

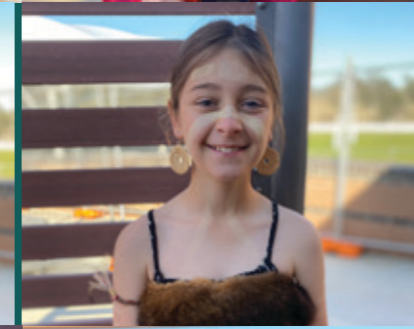


Dreaming with eyes open...

Year 3 and 4

Year Three delighted in getting dressed up as a character or theme from one of their favourite books. Many came along looking just like their hero and were so glad to be using the time to read these books. They explored the theme "Dreaming With Eyes Open" and learned how to be creative with the knowledge from books and their own imagination.

Year Four celebrated their love of literature and learning by delving into the imaginary world of their characters. Such a fun way to connect literature and learning! To dream with eyes open means to step into your own story and live and learn from the story and those around you.



middle school

Bronwyn Larkin
Head of Middle School



Brighter Futures In Stage 3

A great delight in Middle School is when we have the privilege to take students away from the environs of the school and explore wild places together. We love to show our students God's amazing creation as well as exercising in the outdoors. Year 6 had the opportunity to bushwalk in the lovely Gara Gorge, just east of Armidale. Anyone who knows the gorge will be aware that it is a place of significant natural beauty. Additionally, the wet conditions over the last number of months have seen many streams flowing and waterfalls forming. Year 6 was entranced by the loveliness of their surroundings and enjoyed their adventure very much.

Year 5 had the opportunity to participate in some plein air art lessons when they visited Nundle in the last week of Term 3. Mrs Lukins, one of the secondary Visual Arts teachers, gave instruction in the principles of both perspective and landscape drawing. It was encouraging to see Year 5 put into practice a number of skills they had been learning in the classroom. Some amazing artworks were produced.

As always, our staff love the opportunity to spend time with your children in different settings. Students could be seen chatting and joking with each other on both of these outings and it is such a joy to witness.

Homework

Middle School is a time when homework becomes compulsory. The rationale behind this is to help students establish good habits that will stand them in good stead as they progress through the school. Detentions are applied for missing or incomplete homework for the same reason. If a student does not do their homework in Stage 3, the consequences may appear to be minimal. This is not the case once a student moves towards the upper years. In High School, if a student does not hand in an assessment task, they immediately lose 20% of the available marks. If the task is not handed in before 9am the next day, the student will receive zero marks for the task.

At HSC level, this consequence is serious. We talk to our students at every level of the school about valuing work for the work's sake: to find the reward in the task. We are thankful for you as parents as you support your children by encouraging them to complete their homework to the best of their ability.



*"Futility at
The Hands of Time"*
by Michris Matumaini

OUT & ABOUT (Year 5)

This term Year 5 went on a trip to Sheba Dams where they enjoyed bush walking and exploring. The day was finished with a picnic together. Year 5 also went on a excursion to the Peel River to study how built environments interface and impact natural environments.



GARA GORGE ARMIDALE (Year 6)

Year 6 headed to Gara Gorge in Armidale in Term 3, where they had the great opportunity to see the beautiful views and explore God's magnificent creation. It was also a great opportunity to get out and about and exercise.



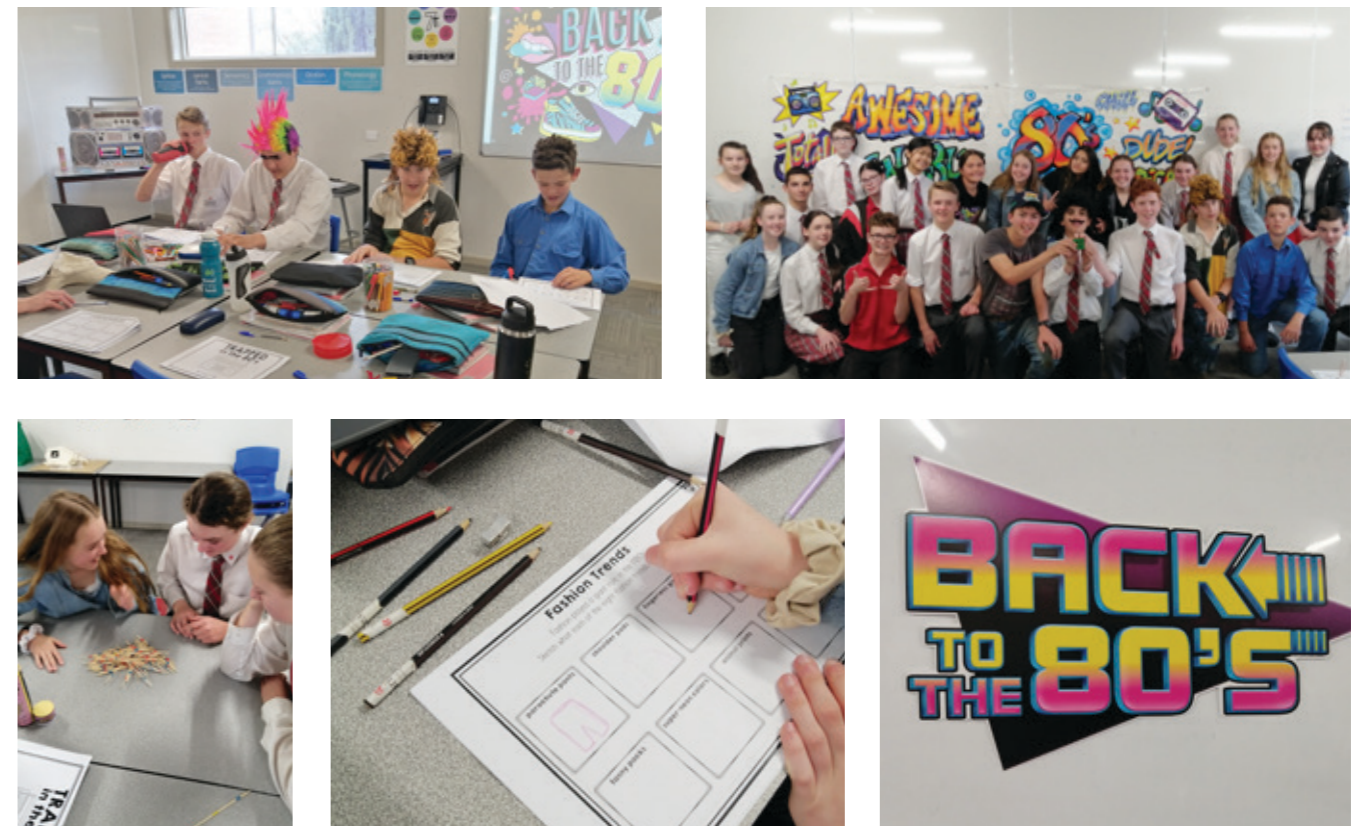
CERAMICS IN ART (Year 7)

Year 7 spent Term 3 learning about ceramics. They started with plasticine and claymation, manipulating their creations physically and digitally in order to produce a very short film. From here, Year 7 continued to expand their skills, working from small pieces of decorative sculptures and moving into larger functional ceramic pieces.



BACK TO THE 80s (Year 8)

In Term 3 Year 8 went back a few years... 40 to be exact! They came dressed up in their best 80s outfits, some even brought back the dreaded mullet. The day was filled with fun activities from the 80s like pick up sticks, Rubik's cube and 80s trivia. The day was lots of fun and it was a great opportunity to learn about Australian 80s culture.



senior school

Josh Davis
Head of Senior School



Stepping Into Bright

futures

At the time of writing this article, Year 12 have finished their last formal lessons and have their Final Assembly tomorrow morning. With the Higher School Certificate Examinations looming and their schooling coming to an end, the theme of this Connect issue, 'Brighter Futures', is certainly an appropriate concept.

All the way back in 2010, the first iPad was released, Instagram was launched, the Winter Olympics were held in Canada, but more importantly the current Year 12 students were in Kindergarten. And what a journey it has been! It is great to be able to reflect on this group's past 13 years of schooling - we can clearly see God's goodness in so many ways. We can reflect on the way God has blessed each of them in enabling them not only to finish their schooling but to grow and change from the small children that they were in Kindergarten to the assured young men and women that they are today.

Schooling at Carinya has helped Year 12 to get ready for their 'Brighter Futures' in many ways. Most significantly, we continue to emphasise to Year 12 that the most important thing that they can do in this life is to use their gifts to serve Jesus in whatever they do next. As John Piper says in his book 'Don't Waste Your Life':

"God created us to live with a single passion: to joyfully display his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life."

While many of the students have already secured work, apprenticeships and University offers, the future is still relatively uncertain. We trust that in the coming years, Year 12 will be encouraged to rest in Jesus and to strive to bring glory to His name in the things that they do. It is only in Him that we can find hope, meaning and security.

As they leave Carinya, they will very much remain in our thoughts and our prayers as they embark on the next stage in their lives which the Lord has already prepared for them.



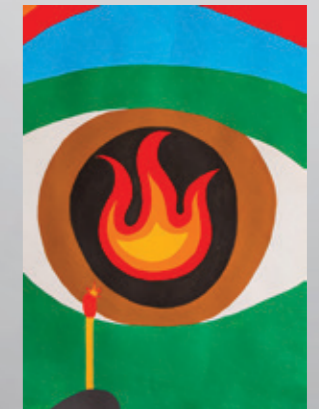
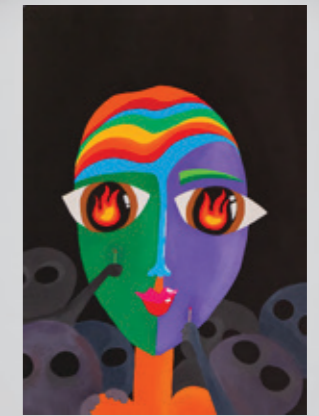
FRONT ROW: Brianna Henry, Matilda Moore, Ellie Cook, Gemma Wilks, Bianca Hawes, Lilli-Anna Baillie, Bianca Aylwin, Emily McBride, Lily Chaffey, Phoebe Witts, Miya Law, Sharia Nisha

SECOND ROW: Ellen Carter, Rebekah Boschma, Hamish Wallace, Gareth Whyte, Samantha Wilkie, Isaiah Keeys, Natarnia Horsburgh, Mani Mirzamohammadi, Jacob Little, Hilary Barwick, Caitlin Ferris

THIRD ROW: Balin Allen, Thomas Hannemann, Benjamin Livingstone, Clara Turnbull, Aiden Hindmarsh, Heramb Dayananda, Abbey Greentree, Caleb Bradley, Curtis Field, Wesley Bowd

FOURTH ROW: Michris Matumaini, Nathan Carter, Aaron Spykstra, Jacob Faulks, Caleb McIlveen, James Hutton, Joshua de Roover, Sebastian Tindall, Kayne Lynch, Ethan Beckhaus

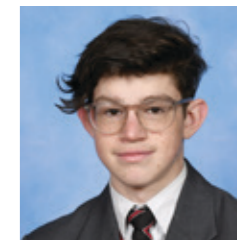
Farewell, Year 12



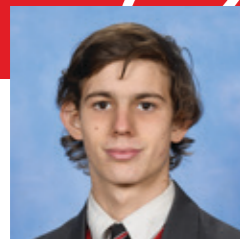
"Feeding Fear"

by Hilary Barwick

Year 12 Class Of 2022



Isaiah Keeyes



Aaron Spykstra



Abbey Greentree



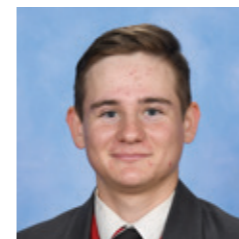
Aiden Hindmarsh



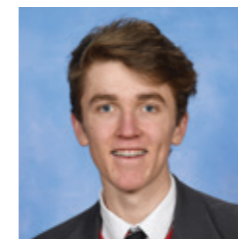
Balin Allen



Benjamin Livingstone



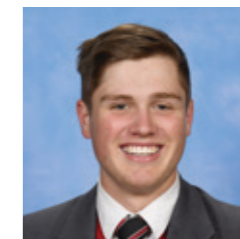
Jacob Little



James Hutton



Jessica Gallen



Jacob Faulks



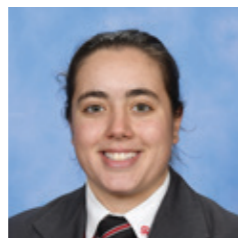
Joshua de Roover



Bianca Aylwin



Bianca Hawes



Brianna Henry



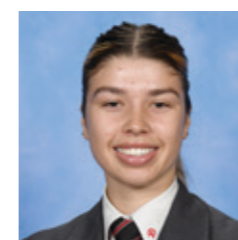
Caitlin Ferris



Caleb Bradley



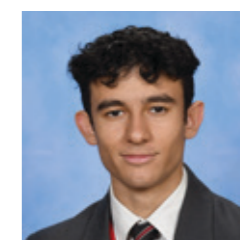
Kayne Lynch



Lilli-Anna Baillie



Lily Chaffey



Mani Mirzamohammadi



Matilda Moore



Caleb McIlveen



Clara Turnbull



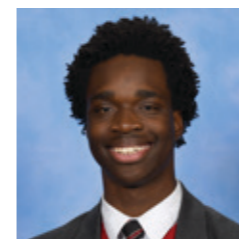
Curtis Field



Ellen Carter



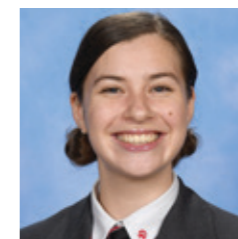
Ellie Cook



Michris Matumaini



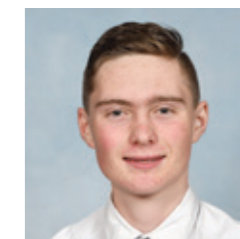
Miya Law



Natarnia Horsburgh



Nathan Carter



Nicholas Spencer



Emily McBride



Ethan Beckhaus



Ethan Woods



Gareth Whyte



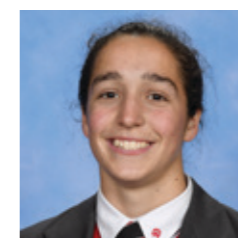
Gemma Wilks



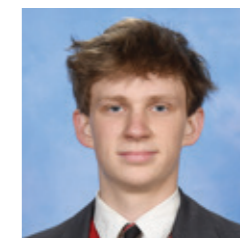
Phoebe Witts



Rebekah Boschma



Samantha Wilkie



Sebastian Tindall



Sharia Nisha



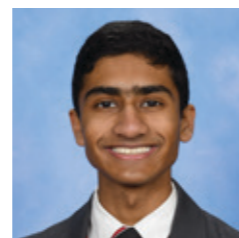
Wesley Bowd



Thomas Hannemann



Hamish Wallace



Heramb Dayananda



Hilary Barwick



“Love Language”
by Phoebe Witts

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Leadership Event - Esther Fotheringham

On Monday 12th September, Mr Jones and myself along with four students from Senior School attended a leadership event, held at Western Sydney University. We joined with staff and students from another 25 Independent schools across NSW, including Carinya Gunnedah. It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to bring students together to connect, learn and engage through discussions on culture, leadership and post-school pathways

After enjoying lunch together, students attended 3 workshops. These were on:
Culture - presented by Aunty Theresa Ardler from Gweagal Cultural connections.
Leadership - presented by staff from Western Sydney University.
Post - School aspirations and pathways - presented by Roz Thomas, the AIS consultant for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education.

The workshop sessions provided students with an opportunity to strengthen leadership capabilities by connecting, listening and learning through culture and identity. It was wonderful to see our students share their experiences, engage in activities and discussions and form connections with students from a wide range of other independent schools.

The evening dinner event included a keynote speaker and a panel session. This focused on stories of personal resolve and leadership to inspire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander senior students as they work towards completing their HSC, developing their aspirations, and considering learning and life beyond school.

The keynote speaker, Stephanie Swannell, a recent Financial Service Graduate from Western Sydney, who currently works at the Commonwealth Bank shared her story of growing up as a very shy and introverted young Aboriginal girl in Western Sydney and reiterated to the students to always do your best and try hard things.

The panel included a diverse array of personalities including a Manly Football player, Law Student, Educator and Pastor; all who in their different capacities offer mentoring and support for young people. One of the speakers, Uncle Willie, delighted in sharing his story of a colourful childhood, growing up in Redfern, but how his life was transformed by finding Jesus, and growing in the grace and knowledge of Him.

Our students were greatly encouraged by the evening speakers and engaged in more personal conversations with panel members after the formal part of the dinner concluded.

Before flying home the following morning, we enjoyed a quick trip into the city to visit the Art Gallery, viewing a number of artworks including the Daniel Boyd Treasure Island exhibition. It was a great opportunity to observe Boyd's artworks, that celebrate the interconnected histories of First Nations People and reveals some of the richness and diversity of contemporary Indigenous art practices.





With or Without Man

By Gemma Wilks



Carinya

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