

Macquarie College



Prospectus

Macquarie College is a centre of Christian education which promotes the holistic development of young people. We aim to optimise the learning potential of all students while building a community of faith which seeks to know, experience and share Jesus Christ.



Our Mission



an outstanding learning environment

Macquarie College is a dynamic education facility providing a comprehensive and outstanding educational experience that is totally supported by Christian values. It has a proud tradition of producing graduates that have not only enjoyed a well-rounded education, but have also learned the life skills and values to take them through life.

The College was first established in 1901 at Kemp Street in Hamilton (Newcastle) and relocated to its present site at Wallsend in 1994. Ideally and centrally located, the state-of-the-art facility caters for students from pre-school to Year 12. The architecturally designed campus, reminiscent of a 'village green' is a highly desirable and unique educational environment that is characterised by a sense of openness, freshness and vigour for life, learning and personal development.

The campus facilities, located in a circular arrangement around the central oval ring-road, are of the highest quality and have been designed to ensure that the learning experience of students is enhanced. The purpose-built specialty facilities include: a Library Resource Centre, Music Centre, Science and Computer Laboratories, Visual Arts, Design and Industrial Arts Centre as well as a Multi-Purpose and Performing Arts Centre



The Inspiration

Macquarie College has forged strong partnerships with parents and the local community and values these important relationships. In particular, priority is given to the Parent and Teacher Association, College Community Services and the College Foundation.

A service orientation is fostered through the Student Association as well as a variety of other college ancillary services available to both students and parents.



to Achieve

The world is changing rapidly. Almost every day we hear of innovation, advances in technology, a breakthrough in research or an enhancement of knowledge and quality of life. At the same time we live in an age of immediate information, where we can find ourselves bombarded with conflicting messages and values.

It is in these times of social, cultural and educational change, perhaps more so than ever before, that it is vitally important for young people to be provided with an educational experience that gives purpose, meaning and a sense of security. Equally, it is important to provide an educational environment that is based around the core values of personal integrity, respect and care for the welfare of others.

Macquarie College facilitates this and more. It offers differentiated learning experiences, opportunities that allow students' full potential to be realised, a comprehensive program of sporting, creative and cultural activities and enjoys strong parental and community partnerships. It is an environment where Christian educational philosophy, mission and practice is put into action, and where unique opportunities abound.



At Macquarie College, learning is regarded as an exciting journey of discovery and also as an opportunity to grow and mature in preparation for the responsibilities of life. It is an environment where the learning potential of all students is fostered, their welfare is nurtured and a sense of self-discipline is a priority.

It is also an environment where the Christian worldview is the framework of reference for learning and the values of Jesus Christ are transmitted and upheld, and where spiritual development is a primary focus.

We are proud of Macquarie College's reputation as one of the premier independent schools in the region. Its distinctive and attractive environment forms a backdrop for its educational, creative, sporting and community activities.

Innovative teaching, high academic standing, out-standing sporting achievements and a lively performing and creative arts program, complemented by pastoral care and student welfare programs, ensure a continuing high demand for enrolment and admission.

In all respects, Macquarie College is a place where students are encouraged and challenged, where their sense of self-worth and value is fostered and where they develop the skills to take them forward to a life of meaning and purpose.

Bruce R Youlden
College Principal



Principles and Values

All education programs at Macquarie College are supported by key principles and core values. They provide a framework of reference and serve as a guide in the daily operational practice of College life. Some of the key elements that characterise life at Macquarie College include a commitment to excellence, holistic development, integrity and respect, personal care, friendships and a motivating environment.

We believe that school education should be motivating, interesting and challenging while at the same time, allowing students to have fun and develop their individual talents.



...making a real difference

Excellence

Macquarie College is part of a world-wide system of Christian education operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with a proud tradition of excellence for over 140 years. It is governed by an elected Council and a regional Board of Directors.

Macquarie College has established itself as a leading independent school in the Hunter region. It takes pride in the excellent reputation it has earned across many areas.

Accreditation reports and academic results regularly place the College among the top schools in the region and in New South Wales.

Holistic Development

The philosophy of education at Macquarie College is founded upon the Christian worldview of life, centered upon the reality and purposes of God for each of our lives.

There is a commitment to the holistic development of the intellectual, social, physical and spiritual elements of each child's life; and assurance that all aspects of College life are integrated into a comprehensive and balanced approach to education.

Integrity and Respect

The College is committed to upholding and transmitting the principles and values of the Christian faith, with an emphasis on integrity in all things and respect for all people.

Staff encourage students to value such principles as honesty, loyalty, respect, purity, truthfulness, unselfishness and charity to all people. This lays the foundation upon which students can ultimately serve the needs of society with dignity.

Security

The College is committed to providing a safe and secure environment at all times. The observance of a philosophy of quality care and responsibility to others ensures that all students feel safe and secure at all times.

Priority is given to the observation of Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) standards to protect all engaged in the life of the College and to minimise potential risks of injury.

Personal Care

The College is committed to the personal and individual care of each student.

Moderate class sizes allow for a more personalised, supportive educational environment for students, while the House System provides an effective structure for their pastoral care.

Friendship

The College is committed to fostering personal friendships and to the development of self-confidence and resilience in students.

In particular, the College seeks to ensure that each student feels accepted by their peers and affirmed through its student welfare and social skills programs.

Motivation

The College is committed to ensuring that learning is motivating and set in a context of purposefulness, fun and enjoyment. Teachers seek to ensure that creativity, innovation and differentiated learning opportunities help to inspire all students to optimise their learning potential.



Learning Experiences

In recognition of the stages of development of its students, Macquarie College has made a serious attempt to cater for the differentiated learning needs of children from early childhood through to Year 12. This initiative provides families with the continuity of education for their children as well as a stable, secure and differentiated learning environment where each individual can grow and mature.

Pre-School...

discovering that learning is fun

The Macquarie Pre-School is designed to give children a head start to their education journey. Its programs are focused around both indoor and outdoor experiences that encourage children to develop an enjoyment of learning.

This environment enables them to gain an appreciation for literacy and numeracy; a capacity to think, investigate and problem solve; to work, have fun and play as part of a group; to share, cooperate and listen to others; as well as to feel safe, secure and accepted.

The centre is available to children aged three to five years and is open 48 weeks of the year. Commonwealth subsidised places make the Pre-School affordable for the family budget.



... for each stage of development

Junior School...

learning and growing in a supportive environment

Macquarie College Junior School supports and encourages children to explore, strive for and achieve their potential in a creative, energetic and caring environment.

The holistic approach to learning in the Junior School entails an understanding of how each child learns and how best to cater for their individual needs. Curriculum content and teaching delivery are varied to cater for the different abilities and learning styles within classes.

During this stage the College gives high priority to the development of the foundational skills of reading, writing, comprehension, spelling and numeracy. The Junior School Support and Extension Program is designed to ensure that these skills are developed appropriately by all students.



Senior School...

preparing for an exciting future

The Senior School provides a series of significant steps by which students learn and mature.

Importantly, while friendships and networks are developed during the early years of Senior School, they become platforms for personal and academic development in the latter years.

Academic standards are high by national standards, with staff committed to maintaining a proud record of excellence in the School and Higher School Certificates. This tradition is the product of high expectations, flexible course composition, optimum class sizes and individualised academic counselling for students.

The College has strong reciprocal links with a range of external professional organisations and tertiary institutions. Records show that a majority of Senior School students gain entrance to and successfully undertake tertiary studies.



Optimising Individual Potential

Macquarie College embraces the challenge to create a variety of learning opportunities to optimise the individual potential of all students. This is accomplished through leadership opportunities, it's academic extension or support program, creative and performing arts, sport and fitness program and extensive outdoor education program.

Leadership Opportunities

Macquarie College provides extensive opportunities for students to take on leadership responsibilities, including participating in the Student Representative Council (SRC) and associated sub-committees, house system positions, cultural and sporting leadership roles, peer support positions as well as in community service roles.

Extended Academic Opportunities

The College seeks to extend the minds and abilities of its students by encouraging them to participate in a wide range of academic and co-curricula experiences. These include national and regional competitions in English, Mathematics, Science, Writing and Computer Skills as well as courses which enhance learning and organisational skills such as mock trials, debating and public speaking opportunities. These activities provide stimulating and confidence building opportunities for highly motivated students.



...and making the most of opportunities

Student Support Program

At Macquarie College we endeavour to cater for all of our students' needs, whether it be support or extension and enrichment. As part of our program the Support Department explores and implements ways to facilitate the acquisition of literacy and numeracy in its broadest sense. The Department conducts screening tests in basic literacy and numeracy twice a year and all the test information is given back to the classroom teachers to enable them to run programs that cater to the needs and the demographic of their class. The Support provides remedial programs for students focusing explicitly on the literacy and numeracy areas.

The College also provides programs for students with disabilities and those who have English as their second language.

Arts and Creative Expression

There are many opportunities for students to express creativity through talent quests, Eisteddfods, drama and musical productions, fashion shows, textile and art exhibitions and competitions, concert and stage bands and jazz groups. Students can also elect to study a musical instrument with external tutors.

Students can also enjoy the advantage of extracurricular activities such as Suzuki Violin or membership of the College Band, Orchestra, Chess Club or Choir.

A key feature of the Performing Arts Program is the annual tour schedule which includes interstate tours.

Sport and Fitness Program

There are opportunities for students to excel in a wide range of sports which include: aerobics, athletics, basketball, cricket, cross country, football, golf, gymnastics, hockey, ice-skating, lawn bowls, netball, orienteering, squash, soccer, softball, swimming, team handball, tennis, ten-pin bowling, touch football and volleyball.

The College sporting facilities include two large ovals for cricket, soccer and football, as well as tennis and basketball courts. Students also access the premium facilities at the University of Newcastle Forum and the Hunter Academy of Sports Centre.

Outdoor Education

The Outdoor Education Program includes a range of learning opportunities with regular excursions, study camps, tours and opportunities to join the Pathfinder Club (ages 10 to 15) hosted by our local churches.

Other activities that are camp-based include abseiling, hiking, high ropes, orienteering, rock climbing, sailing, snow boarding, snow skiing, white water rafting and a range of community oriented projects as well as the Duke of Edinburgh Award programs.

Representative Sports

Representative Sports include: athletics, basketball, cricket, cross country, diving, golf, gymnastics, netball, swimming, tennis, touch football and volleyball.

Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care

Macquarie College's Student Representative Council and attention to pastoral care ensures that each student can enjoy their educational experience in an environment of fairness and equality.

The College Chaplaincy Team minister to the spiritual needs of the school community and is complemented by an experienced and qualified Counsellor. Chaplaincy services include: weekly Chapel programs, Christian mentoring, popular Bible Studies, and involvement with community service projects. Each student is encouraged to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Welfare and Personal Development

Students have the benefit of an active Careers Guidance Service which organises work experience opportunities appropriate to career aspirations and teaches life skills.

Partnerships and Service

Macquarie College has forged strong partnerships with parents and the local community and values these important relationships.

In particular, priority is given to the Parent and Teacher Association, College Community Services and the College Foundation. A service orientation is fostered through the Student Association as well as a variety of other college ancillary services available to both students and parents.



...maintaining strong links

College Partnerships

Parent and Teacher Association

A high priority is placed on parental involvement. This has the benefit of creating and fostering effective partnerships with teachers, while also providing a sense of community among all families.

Student Association

The Student Association is a central feature of the College. It is a democratic structure within which students can take an active role in the direction and decision making processes of the College. It has an enabling role as it provides them with an opportunity to develop attitudes and practice in responsible citizenship.

Community Services

The College recognises the importance of its partnership with the broader community. Staff and students are actively encouraged to become involved in a variety of community aid projects such as Red Cross, Red Shield Appeal, World Vision, Asian Aid, Royal Blind Society and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) projects.

Macquarie College Foundation

The ongoing relationship with Alumni is very important. Continuing and reciprocal relationships with past students, past families as well as present families and community supporters of Macquarie College are highly valued.

The Macquarie College Foundation consists of parents and community supporters who, through their membership, provide resources for the purpose of expanding and developing the education facilities to preserve the College's reputation for excellence. Membership of all families is encouraged.

Ancillary Services

Canteen Food Services

A canteen Food Service Program is provided with a range of hot and cold food available in harmony with better health practices. Parents are encouraged to offer voluntary support to this program.

College Uniform Store

The College Uniform Store is designed as a one-stop, convenient service to meet student uniform needs. Both new and used clothing is available at an economical price.

After School Hours Care

The 'After School Care' Program is an important service to parents. It is available on campus 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm and operated by registered carers.

Transport

Direct transport to the College is available via bus from the City (Newcastle, Hamilton), the West (Wallsend, Jesmond, Rankin Park), the Lakes Region (Wangi, Toronto, Valentine, Eleebana, Warners Bay), the South (Belmont, Charlestown), the Lower Hunter (Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Maitland, Hexham) and the Central Coast.





Fiona Hawke

***Bachelor of Applied Science (Podiatry)
(Honours)***

University of Western Sydney.

***Graduate certificate in the Practice of
Tertiary Teaching***

University of Newcastle.

Currently enrolled in PhD,

Faculty of Medicine

University of Sydney.

"It's difficult to single out any particular highlight of my time at Macquarie College. I guess it was anytime each day between the bus ride to school in the morning and home again in the afternoon. I thoroughly enjoyed being one of its students and I especially enjoyed the feeling of community. We managed to have a tremendously fun time while at the same time being challenged academically."

An Associate Lecturer in Podiatry within the Faculty of Health at the University of Newcastle, Fiona is also currently a PhD candidate at the University of Sydney and works in a podiatry practice in the Lake Macquarie area.

At Macquarie College, she was school captain, school sports captain, college dux and received the Year 12 community award.

Fiona enjoys the aspect of her profession that allows her to help people and is dedicated to promoting the importance of podiatry in overall health care.



Catherine Downie

Bachelor of Design (Architecture), Bachelor of Architecture (Honours 1).

“My education at Macquarie College was special and made even more so by the wonderful friendships forged and the energy and dedication of my teachers. It was an environment that fostered a focus on holistic growth.”

Catherine loves her profession as an Architect in a large, rapidly expanding firm in Sydney that specialises mainly in residential and educational buildings. She thrives in the stimulating environment surrounded by many enthusiastic and creative peers.



Brad Weslake

Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy), Bachelor of Computer Science - University of Wollongong. Bachelor of Arts (Honours Class 1) (Philosophy) University of Newcastle. PhD (Philosophy) University of Sydney.

“I remember my time at Macquarie College as being fun, both in and out of the classroom. I learned to always choose a path of study based on what you love, not on what you think is expected or prestigious or profitable.”

Brad is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York, USA and along with challenges of his profession, enjoys the constant interaction with his students and fellow colleagues. He believes that professional integrity and success is based on choosing a path of study based on what you love, not on what you think is expected or prestigious or profitable.



Steven Wawrzonek

Bachelor of Science (Environmental Geography and Bachelor of Laws) University of Sydney.

“I have fantastic memories of my time at Macquarie College and had some wonderful times. Macquarie College helped to shape my professional interests, particularly through subjects such as English and Religion, as well as the extra-curricular activities like drama, sport and worship. These were important factors in the development of my personal beliefs and approach to life in general.”

Steven is Manager of the Pacific Land Program for the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) which is part of the Australian Government. His role sees him encountering some diverse and interesting issues, people and places, e.g. he has helped support bee keepers in Mongolia, people removing land mines in Cambodia and assisted indigenous landowners in the Pacific.



c o n t a c t s

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