

MONTH IN REVIEW

Mater Maria Catholic College



WALK IN NEW LIFE

MATER MARIA
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

MARCH 2022

MONTHLY SPORT NEWS

MATER MARIA SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The weather played havoc with the Mater Maria Swimming Carnival this year. After one cancelled Swimming Carnival at Manly Aquatic Centre, a Competitors only Swimming Carnival was organised at Warringah Aquatic Centre on Thursday 17 March.

Eighty five students, Year 11 and Year 12 Sport and House Captains and a handful of staff and parent helpers experienced a fantastic day with many fabulous swimmers demonstrating their skill and talent in the pool.

We were privileged to witness the new Year 7 swimmers with Taj Greenwood, breaking his uncle's 30 year record in the 13 Years 50m butterfly. We also had Charli Barbour break the U13 Girls 50m freestyle record and Macy Beuzeville break the U15 Girls 50m freestyle, 50m backstroke and 50m butterfly records.

Congratulations to everyone that competed and assisted.



BBSSSA SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Monday 21 March, the Mater Swim Team took 35 swimmers to Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre to compete in the Broken Bay Secondary Schools Sports Association Swimming Championships which is the level of the swimming pathway.

The College was tremendously proud of the swimming achievements, earned by the students competing with special mention to our two relay wins (4 x 50m Junior Freestyle Relay, 6 x All Age Freestyle Relay) and 3 Age Champions; Charli Barbour (U13 Girls); Macy Beuzeville (U15 Girls) and Harvey Monnock (U15 Boys).

We had 10 students selected to represent Broken Bay at the NSWCCC Swimming Championships in April.

A special thank you to Mrs Flynn for her management of the team.



Macy B, Charli B & Harvey M (age champions)

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

CHELSEA MCLERIE

Congratulations to Chelsea McLerie who was selected as a member of the NSWCCC Girls Open Cricket team. The team was crowned NSW All Schools Champions 2022.

Captained by Chelsea, the girls were undefeated during the tournament, held at Campbelltown on Friday 25 March.



2022 HOUSE CAPTAINS

Introducing the 2022 House Captains to the broader Mater Maria community. These year 11 leaders have taken on the responsibility of driving College and House spirit and organising House Cup events for students to get involved in College events. They play an integral part in both the swimming and athletics carnivals and create a culture of participation and inclusiveness amongst all students.



AMIEL:

Penelope Martin & Brooke Baines

PIUS:

Charley Gardiner & Claire Bottero

FLEMING:

Talia Kupceric & Evan Flynn

KEENAN:

Kyla Gaughan & Lauren Muriti (absent)

THERRY:

Amber Kendall & Liam Howells

INTERSCHOOLS MOUNTAIN BIKING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Over four days, 14 Mater Maria students recently spent an adrenaline-packed time in Thredbo, competing in the Interschools Mountain Biking Championships. With races such as Cannonball, Flow Motion, Downhill and All Mountain Assault, this was not an event for the faint-hearted.

A special thanks to parents, Joey Edginton and Mark Richards, for their leadership on the mountain and at training leading up to the event. It was the largest team we have had competing and it looks like they had a fantastic time.



INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

ALBERTO JORDAN

Alberto has been selected in the NSW Team, to compete at the Australian Little Athletics Championships (ALAC) which is being held in Melbourne on 23-24 April, 2022.

An athlete in the U13 age group has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be selected and make the NSW State Team, a team that usually consists of about 30 athletes. This opportunity is only available to U13 and is considered an honor and a privilege. For this to occur an athlete must place in the top 8 at the State Championships to be considered for selection.

Alberto finished in the top 8 in four events obtaining a bronze medal in High-Jump, 5th place in Shot-Put, 7th place in Discus, and 8th in the 400m sprint.

Congratulations Alberto.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

Our students recently celebrated International Women's Day. The theme for this year was Break the Bias which was also our running theme in Mentor classes for the week.

Students prayed for gender equality and were challenged to think about practical ways that they could affect change at school and in the broader community. They tested their knowledge of influential women and their impact on the world at the annual IWD Morning Tea Trivia Challenge in the Benedict Learning Centre.

Here are some of our senior students promoting the importance of striving for change.



YEAR 7 CAMP

On Monday and Friday of Week 5, Year 7 and some of their Year 11 Peer Counsellors visited Sydney Academy of Sport at Narrabeen for their camp days. The weather was wet but it did not dampen their enthusiasm. Students had fun in the water kayaking, sailing and stand-up paddle boarding. Some groups went on a bushwalk and then sat around the fire pit and cooked damper. Initiative activities had them working together in teams to solve challenging situations. Year 7 had a fabulous time and many new friendships were formed.



NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE

We recently promoted the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Our Year 11 Drama students performed the annual Anti-Bullying play to the whole school in the College Assembly, reminding all students what action to take if they witness any form of bullying. The students will be touring our primary feeder Catholic schools later in the year to perform this play. This play has been performed by Mater Maria students for the past 18 years.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is an important and valued event in the liturgical calendar of our College.

Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance as it marks the beginning of the 40 day Lent season, where we confess our sins and profess our devotion to God. By enduring 40 days of Lent we replicate and commemorate the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert. Repent is the central theme of Ash Wednesday as we are called to heal our broken relationships with each other, ourselves and God.

Throughout Lent the colour purple is used to decorate altars, communion tables and lecterns. It symbolises repentance and the royalty of Christ as King of all Kings. It was established as a symbol of Lent because Jesus was deliberately dressed in a purple robe and a crown of thorns to put a shame on him for declaring himself King of Jews. The colour purple is meant to remind us of the moments we disrespected Christ through our sins and to call us to repent and ask for forgiveness.

Towards the end of the Liturgy we experience the distribution of Ashes. The Ashes are placed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross and symbolise mourning, penance, death and repentance.

The Liturgies were conducted for all year groups and were led by Mr Halliday, Director of Mission, Mrs Stojanovski, our Assistant Principal and Mrs Wooldridge REC. The Ash Wednesday services were very prayerful and meaningful. They were greatly assisted by Year 11 students and the College Prefects helping with the distribution of the Ashes. Throughout the Liturgy, the band played beautiful hymns which created a perfect ambience for reflection. The service really launched us into the season of Lent where we give a particular focus

to Project Compassion where, as a College, we give such dedicated thought to the care and wellbeing of people who live in circumstances of such adversity.

Thank you to all teachers and students involved, it was such a meaningful service.

Liliana Wanstall, Year 11



F1 IN SCHOOLS STEM CHALLENGE

The F1 in Schools program is one of many activities offered in Mater Maria's STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program.

F1 in Schools is an international STEM competition for school children (aged 11–19), in which groups of 3 to 6 students have to design and manufacture a miniature car out of the official F1 Model Block using CAD/CAM design tools. The cars are powered by CO₂ cartridges and are attached to a track by a nylon wire. They are timed from the moment they are launched to when they pass the finish line by a computer.

The cars have to follow extensive regulations, in a similar fashion to Formula 1 (i.e. the wheels of the car must be in contact with the track at all times). They are raced on a 20m long track with two lanes to allow two cars to be raced simultaneously. Software called F1 Virtual Wind Tunnel was designed specifically for the challenge. F1 Virtual Wind Tunnel or F1 VWT uses computational fluid dynamics (CFD) to simulate air resistance on the "cars" made in the CAD.

The aim is to introduce younger people to engineering in a more fun environment and the competition is held annually.

Michael Di Costanzo, our Year 9 student, worked on this project himself creating his prototype on a CAD program, sending the files off for CNC machining and then refining his car design with sanding, painting and adding wheels and stickers. Michael also designed and produced some marketing posters about the process he took to develop this project.

On Tuesday 22 February, Michael and his family went to Oran Park Raceway to race his vehicle. There were 17 competitors in his class and his vehicle came second overall. Mr Hinson, our TAS teacher, watched the racing on live feed and at all times Michael represented the College with great maturity. He certainly promoted the College in a positive manner.

Congratulations Michael, on your fantastic result! We look forward to following you again next year when you move up to the next level of the competition.



SOUL MASS

Thank you to all our students and staff who attended our second Soul Mass this year on Sunday 6 March. We held a BBQ, music and games for students and staff after the Mass. It was a wonderful night and well attended by our Mater Maria community. Here are some photos.





Rehearsals have commenced. The principals did a read-through of the script and the ensembles have been learning new songs. A great start for our show which will take place in Term 2 Week 8.



YEAR 8 ITALIAN AND JAPANESE MASK COMPETITIONS

The Year 8 Japanese language students have been studying Mamemaki (a bean throwing ceremony) and have entered a Mamemaki Mask Competition. Similarly, the Year 8 Italian language students have been studying Il Carnevale, in particular, the Carnival of Venice which takes place during the beginning of Lent. All Italian students took part in the Carnevale Mask Competition. Students are to be commended on embracing the mask competitions with interest, effort and creativity. A special thank you to Mrs Sandra Jurlina for kindly judging the competition.

Congratulations to the following Mamemaki winners

FIRST PLACE
Tyla Wolfe



SECOND PLACE
Marley Hamilton



THIRD PLACE
Chloe Cotton



HIGHLY COMMENDED
Vanessa Trevallion



Congratulations to the following Carnevale winners

FIRST PLACE
Lily Parnell



SECOND PLACE
Rosie Molluso



THIRD PLACE
Chloe Cotton



HIGHLY COMMENDED
Arabella Czerwenka & Tess Milbourne-Carusio



RESPECT, UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE DAY FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS

"On Wednesday 16 March seven Year 9 students, together with Ms Wilson, attended the annual Respect Understanding and Acceptance Day at The Venue, Alexandria.

This was a very fruitful and thought-provoking day for all who attended. We learned about the dangers of racism. We learned that racism comes in many different forms and can impact people very negatively in many ways. We returned from the day with much insight about racism and about how different people are treated, and indeed mistreated.

We also had the opportunity to hear of the experience of students our own age from different schools which have different cultural and spiritual backgrounds to Mater Maria. We met students from Jewish and Islamic Schools. We learned, with interest about these schools with their different cultures and backgrounds and about what they do in their day to day lives. Many parts of their school day were like ours, but equally many things differed, such as prayer times, styles and religious practices.

We also had the opportunity to share with the other students a small sample of what life is like for students like us at a Catholic School such as Mater Maria.

It was the most enjoyable day and we thank Mr Halliday and Ms Wilson for organising it for us and taking us to it."

Hannah Berrell and Madison Eichstadt, Year 9



MR RITCHIE'S PET REPTILE SHOW

On Wednesday 23 March, Mr Ritchie with the help of Mrs Rushby and Mr Graham, held a reptile show in the Byrne Theatre for our students.

Mr Ritchie has several reptile pets. He has owned Juliet for three years. Juliet is a huge 3 metre Jungle Carpet Python which are often found in the rainforests of Queensland. He also owns Snakey and Nugget. These are both Children's Pythons which are a nonvenomous, nocturnal species found in the northern half of Australia. He is also currently rehabilitating a baby Blue-tongue Lizard.

Snakey has been in Mr Ritchie's family for 15 years. Both Juliet and Nugget were unwanted pets and needed a new home, and he acquired the little Blue-tongue through his work with WIRES. The lizard was attacked by a domestic pet and Mr Ritchie is currently nursing him back to health. The lizard will be returned to the wild as soon as he is ready.

"Juliet is my favourite due to her tough life before I took her in. I volunteer for WIRES specialising in reptiles. My work involves relocating all types of snakes from residential properties and placing them in the bush out of harm's way. Occasionally I will care for injured reptiles and release them back to the wild when they are rehabilitated. It is very rewarding to care for wounded animals then being able to release them to live their best lives. I always tear up when I release them! This role is very rewarding, scary at times, but a great way to help those that often can't help themselves," said Mr Ritchie.

One hundred students held the reptiles at our show. Some were nervous yet enjoyed the experience. "The highlight of the show was watching Ms Stojanovski, Assistant Principal, face her fears and hold one of the snakes. The students were very impressed", he said. Students enjoyed learning about the different reptiles and holding them. For many, overcoming a fear themselves.

The students organised \$2 reptile lolly bags, \$1 entry fee and \$1 photos with all proceeds towards Project Compassion.

A total of almost \$300 was raised.



OPENING COLLEGE MASS

Fr Aldrin Valdehueza, the recently ordained and newly appointed Assistant Priest at the Lakes Catholic Parish led the celebration of the College Mass for Years 7 and 8. Fr Richard Sadowski SDS of Sacred Heart Parish Pittwater led the celebration of the College Mass for Years 9 to 12.

"It is very timely that this month, the month of International Women's Day, we as a Catholic community celebrate the feast of the Annunciation of Mary, being that she is to be the Mother of God. This is a special feast day for us as the name of our school reminds us of that very special occasion. Our school, 'Mater Maria' simply means 'Mother of God'. So it seems that today is the most appropriate occasion for us to have our Opening School Mass.

This special commemoration of Mary's generosity tends to remind us of one thing. That being, the enormous role Mary has to play, in our ongoing development and deepening of faith in Jesus.

This feast day provides us with a very clear example of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Mary, Jesus' Mother was the first disciple; And the very first thing we find Mary doing is saying a wholehearted yes to the will of God the Father, that she becomes the Mother of Jesus.

It is also paramount to remember, especially for International Women's Day, that it is in fact, women and girls who suffer the most as a consequence of poverty. I believe that our efforts to raise funds to support these people are one of the best ways we can imitate the example given to us by Mary, the Mother of Jesus."

Tiffany Walsh, College Captain



DUKE OF EDINBURGH PLANNING

"As part of the Duke of Edinburgh Service Award, I run a project to knit squares to sew together as blankets for Father Reilly's Youth Off the Streets. For her Gold Award Service Jessica Muir made a whole blanket by herself. The other Gold, Silver and Bronze participants knitted squares for our other two blankets. I am so proud of their effort & care for youth that are much less fortunate than themselves."

Mrs Hollestelle-Watson



Ember McCabe, Chelsea McLerie, Neve Kilbane, Samantha Ginns, Natalie Maras and Charlotte Crouch, Year 12



Jessica Muir, Year 12



Annalise Muir & Keely McCabe, Year 10

CONCERT FOR CARITAS

We held a fundraising concert for Project Compassion on Wednesday 30 March. Our College bands played and we had music performances from students in all years 7 to 12. The concert finale from the Teacher Band was sensational. Tickets were sold to students for \$5 each with the much-needed aim to raise funds for Caritas Australia. We also sold lolly bags and had a Year 12 cake stall.

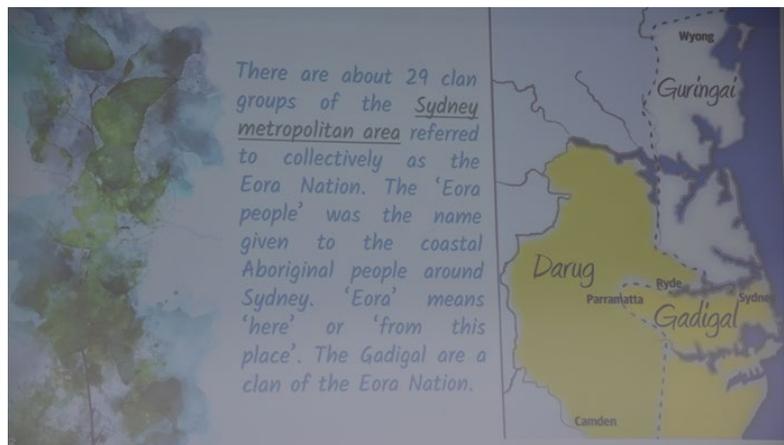
For over 50 years, Project Compassion has been raising vital funds for Caritas Australia to help those communities living in poverty and injustice in our world.

We raised \$3,000 from our fundraising concert.



YEAR 7 INCURSION

Our Year 7 students had an incursion on Tuesday 29 March as part of our RE program exploring the history of our College. The students participated in a presentation on the traditional custodians of the land on which Mater Maria stands. Pittwater and the Northern Beaches area was formerly known as Guringai country, the land of the Garigal or Caregal people and are part of the oldest surviving continuous cultures in the world. The students learned to write an acknowledgement of country and explored the significance of belonging to a place and how that informs identity and ongoing spiritual connections to the community.



OPEN DAY

After originally being postponed due to wet weather, our Open Day was held two weeks later on Thursday 31 March. Despite the wet and windy weather, we still had a great turn out on the revised date. The feedback we received from the general public and prospective parents was absolutely outstanding. They were very impressed with the welcoming, friendly and articulate students and staff.



“My 6 year old son in Year 1 thought it was absolutely amazing and I was blown away. I have always had Mater Maria in mind for my boys for high school having heard great things and having attended a Catholic high school myself, but I had never actually been there.”

“The facilities, the grounds, resources and the presentation of your school were all excellent. The students and staff were the warmest, friendliest and most helpful I’ve come across, both as a local primary school teacher myself and as a prospective parent... I can only hope that my sons will one day be as polite & confident as the many students I saw today, and that they will be lucky enough to attend your wonderful school.”

“Congratulations to you all, a school like yours doesn’t just happen. The hard work and dedication of so many is very obvious. Furthermore, all the staff and students I talked to seemed so very happy to be there. That speaks volumes.”

SCHOOL TV - SPECIAL REPORT



Being exposed to a natural disaster, either directly through lived experience or indirectly through the media, stirs up various feelings of sadness, depression, anxiety and frustration. Communities and families around Australia have been touched by the recent floods in NSW and Queensland with many still coming to terms with what has happened. While others are rallying together to provide much needed moral and financial support.

As the clean-up continues, families are faced with the real presence of the disaster. Dealing with their emotions and providing support to their children and teenagers. How well young people cope, or manage any trauma, will depend on specific risk factors in existence before, during and after the event. It is vital to talk and listen to them to help them process their feelings.

Parents and caregivers need to remain vigilant in monitoring their children during this time and check in with them regularly. They may be distressed by images they have seen either physically or through social media and news reports. Young people may exhibit or experience a wide range of emotional reactions and it is therefore important to reassure them that what they are feeling is considered normal.

This Special Report offers a number of strategies to help support families during this time of recovery. We hope you take a moment to reflect on the information offered, and as always, we welcome your feedback. If this raises any concerns for you, a loved one or the wellbeing of your child, please seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report https://matermaria.nsw.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-flood-support-recovery

SCHOOL TV – ANOTHER SPECIAL REPORT



Around the world, people are saddened and devastated by the events unfolding in Ukraine. Both adults and young people alike are feeling the stresses of war from afar as they experience fear, frustration and helplessness. The 24 hour news cycle has shown us upsetting images raising many questions, especially for our young people, about what is happening.

Parents and caregivers need to be guided by their child’s curiosity. There is strong evidence to suggest that having a supportive discussion about a stressful event in a developmentally appropriate way, can actually decrease distress. It’s best to “name it, to tame it.” This will also combat any misinformation to which they have most likely already been exposed to through social media, pictures or video clips.

Children need to know that they are being taken seriously. So it is recommended that you don’t avoid the difficult questions. Ensure you address their questions honestly and sensitively. With less life experience than adults, young people may need help navigating news about this crisis. Use this as an opportunity to model and encourage compassionate views towards fellow humans, regardless of distance or circumstance.

This Special Report offers guidance on how best to discuss the conflict in Ukraine. We hope you take a moment to reflect on the information offered, and as always, we welcome your feedback. If this raises any concerns for you, a loved one or the wellbeing of your child, please seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report https://matermaria.nsw.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-conflict-ukraine-au



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www.sportsmanagementaustralia.com.au

April School Holidays Catholic Youth Camp

The Archdiocese of Sydney is hosting a youth camp for Yr 9-12 students on **April 20-22** at **19A Wesley St, Elanora Heights**. The camp features many **fun activities** such as praise & worship, group challenges, sports, as well as a host of **faith-based activities** such as Mass, Adoration, guest speaker talks & small group discussions. Cost is \$280 (accommodation and food included). For more information please contact info@sydneycatholicyouth.org or see website <https://www.sydneycatholicyouth.org/event/1010-camp-life-to-the-full/> for more details. **Registration closes April 11.**

Highlight video from last year's camp:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EC8KYrNYleQ&t=1s>



Open Air Cinema
Mona Vale

Saturday 30 April 2022
from 5pm

WRINKLE IN TIME

northern beaches council

It's time to snuggle up under the moonlight with our popular Open Air Cinema returning to Mona Vale! Bring your blankets and get cosy for family favourite, A Wrinkle in Time (2018). Rated PG.

Gates open at 5pm for a 6pm movie start. Pack your own snacks or treat yourself to dinner from a variety of local food trucks. Tickets are only \$5pp (+bf)