

# MATER HIGHLIGHTS

Mater Maria Catholic College

MAY 2022



WALK IN NEW LIFE

MATER MARIA  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

## VENIO RETREAT



Over the weekend of Friday 27 May to Sunday 29 May some thirty students from across the secondary schools of our Diocese attended a Venio Retreat at St Joseph Spirituality and Retreat Centre Kincumber. Liliana Wanstall from Year 11 and Jess Muir from Year 12 (pictured above with Sr Rosie) represented Mater Maria Catholic College at the retreat. All of the students attending the event had the opportunity to participate in rich experiences of prayer and reflection. There were many opportunities for the students to share their faith experience and searchings with students of their own age and year. Bishop Randazzo opened the retreat on Friday night and set the tone of the three days by encouraging the students to 'listen with the ears of their hearts'. All were open to this invitation of the Bishop and reported a most fruitful time, as indeed did all the staff attending. Jess and Liliana were fine representatives of Mater Maria and were both remarkable at the retreat.

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# MOTHER'S DAY BLESSING AND LITURGY

## *Mother's Day Prayer*

Loving God,

We thank you for the love of the mothers you have given us, whose love is so precious that it can never be measured, whose patience seems to have no end.

May we see your loving hand behind them and guiding them. We pray for those mothers who fear they will run out of love or time, or patience.

We ask you to bless them with your own special love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother.

Amen.



Mother's Day at Mater Maria Catholic College is always a very significant event. It was particularly so this year. What pleased us most about the event was the very strong response from so many mothers to find or make the time, on a chilly morning in May, to be present at our Blessing. It was the strongest attendance at a Mother's Day Blessing that we have had to date and we know that many mothers re-arranged other important schedules so they could be free to attend the event at our College with their sons and daughters.

The blessing was led by Mr Halliday our Director of Evangelisation and Catholic Formation, along with our very capable leaders, College Captain, Luke Peterson and College Vice Captain, Jessica Muir. Our Assistant Principal, Ms Gabie Stojanovski, was upset to miss this special event due to COVID-19. In her place, our new Director of Pastoral Care, Ms Michael Woodhill, read a poem which reflected on the importance of being a mother.

The highlight of our Mother's Day Blessing is always the very public display of love and affection that is demonstrated between our students and their mothers. Such expressions of affection and care are always a vivid reminder for us who work in a Catholic school that education is so much more than the delivery of knowledge. It is always about enabling the full flourishing of the students in our care, and that is what mothers do so well. To observe a mother's love, even more to experience it, is an education and a blessing for us all.

The morning was a wonderful opportunity for our students to celebrate and show appreciation for their mums and join in prayer for the wonderful gift that they are to our families.

Michael Halliday  
LECF





# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

On Monday 2 May and Tuesday 3 May, 26 students undertook their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice Adventurous Journey in and around Glenworth Valley on the Central Coast. The expedition is in preparation for their qualifying walk which takes place in September. Students had a chance to practice their navigational skills including reading and interpreting topographic maps, using compasses, and taking map bearings. They carried all their food, clothing, tents and sleeping bags in their backpacks. We were blessed with sunshine and warm temperatures and all the students demonstrated great teamwork, culminating in a wonderful two days of hiking and camping in beautiful surroundings.



# MONTHLY SPORT NEWS

## BROKEN BAY SPORTING PHOTOS

Many amazing photos are taken at all Broken Bay sporting events and many are used for sporting updates, in the monthly newsletter and the Mater Maria Catholic College Yearbook. However, many of these photos do not get utilised and we are sure many parents would love to see action photos of their children. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access all photos that are taken by the photographer at Broken Bay events.

## BSSSA CROSS COUNTRY



We had some fantastic results from our students in the Broken Bay Secondary Schools Sports Association Cross Country run. Congratulations to Callum Fitzsimmons, Lias Pipi, Finn Bailey, Jayden Richards, Harrison Newall, Alberto Jordan, Zane Ryals, Jack Munro, Sam Roche, Gethan Hawyes, Liam Howells, Samuel Perri, Ava Gray and Macy Beuzeville who all gained selection for the NSWCCC Cross Country.

A special mention to the Under 12s Boys who took out first overall for all schools on the day, winning first, second and third place in the event.

## BSSSA OPENS SOCCER

The BSSSA Open Boys and Girls Soccer Gala Day brought all types of surprises to an action-packed day of soccer. In the boys Gala Day, Captain Thomas Silvas led the boys to a thrilling penalty shootout in the semi-final and took the boys through to the Grand Final. The team exceeded all expectations. They made the Grand Final and only just fell short in a spirited performance against St Pauls. The girls experienced a great day with fantastic sportsmanship on display.



## BSSSA INTERMEDIATE SOCCER GALA DAY

Another Gala Day was held for any students aged under 15 for the intermediate football girls and boys Gala Day. This was a great opportunity for students to come together as a team and have some fun whilst promoting our Mater spirit. Well done to all involved.



(L) Intermediate Girls Soccer Team; (R) Lennox Cleary

## BSSSA U16 Girls Rugby League Selections

Lilieta Pouli, Polly Webster, Ella Fiaola and Molly Molloy travelled to the Central Coast for the BBSSSA U16 Girls Rugby League Trials. All the girls trialed very well and showed their skill and talent on the field. We would like to congratulate all four girls for their selection into the Broken Bay team. They will now participate in the Metro Trials.



(L -R) Molly, Ella, Polly & Lilieta



## PENINSULA CUP NETBALL COMPETITION

Term 2 has been a great opportunity for all girls who love their netball to participate in the Peninsula Cup Netball Competition. This competition is about representing the College as well as socially engaging with their friends. The nine Mater Maria netball teams have been lucky with the weather getting all round games played except one. Next week, the girls will play in their last game of the rounds, followed by semi-finals. We wish them all the best of luck.



U14 Division 2A



U14 Division 2B



U14 Division 3 Green



U14 Division 3 Green



U14 Division 3 White



Action shot

## INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

### KYAH PEMBLER – EQUESTRIAN

Congratulations to Kyah who competed in the State Pony Club One Day Event and Combined Training in Harden. Kyah and her horse won their age group, making her 'State Age Champion - 11 and under 13 years for the Combined Training'.



Kyah in action

### GETHAN HAWYES - NSWCCC SOCCER

Congratulations to Gethan for his selection in the U16 Boys NSWCCC Soccer team. These trials are always very tough and to make the team is a tremendous achievement. We wish Gethan all the very best in the upcoming tournament.

### RUGBY 7S - MANLY MERMAIDS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

Congratulations to Ella Fiaola, Lilieta Fiaola, Molly Molloy (U16 Girls) and Olivia Durdevic (U14 Girls) for their selection in the Manly Mermaid's Girls Rugby 7s State Championships Team.

We also have many boys selected in the Warringah Rats rugby teams for the upcoming State Championships. We wish all our representative students the very best of luck in the upcoming tournament.

# ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

We held our Athletics Carnival on Wednesday 25 May. It was a fabulous day with great weather. We had fantastic participation, particularly from the Year 12's traditionally dressed up in costume to add to the fun day. The school spirit presented a great example of the positive culture at Mater Maria. Due to the wet weather, we could only hold the track-only events with field events being conducted later. The winners will compete at the annual BBSSA Athletics Championships.

Well done to Alberto Jordan (Year 8) who broke the record for the U13s Boys 400m race. Congratulations!



# BATTLE OF THE CHEFS

On Friday 6 May, three Year 11 Hospitality students, Armelle Harding, Amelia Maric and Eve Stuart, competed against other Hospitality students from the Broken Bay Diocese in the annual Battle of the Chefs competition.

This competition pits the best Hospitality students from across the Broken Bay Diocese, which are predominantly Year 12 students, against each other in a highly competitive environment. This year, a mystery box was included which consisted of pork fillet, bacon, red capsicum, leek, button mushrooms and carrots. They were also required to produce an Apple Crumble to industry standards.

The students were given one hour to source a recipe and then recreate it within the given timeframe. The Mater Maria students held their heads high and approached the task with a calm and concise manner. They created a Stuffed Pork Fillet with Mushroom cream sauce and Glazed carrots. It looked great and tasted even better. Their Apple Crumble was well above the standards and would not be out of place in a high-end restaurant.

We are thrilled to announce that our students came third place in the competition, and I would like to congratulate the students on their efforts and attitude on the day. I would also like to commend them on their enthusiasm and attitude for coming into the College in the holidays, as well as giving up their lunchtimes to ensure that they were best prepared.

Tim Josephs  
Hospitality



**Mater Maria Catholic College**  
**THIRD PLACE**



# SOUL MASS

Thank you to all our students and staff who attended our Soul Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Sunday 1 May. This year we are focusing on the College value of Spirituality and promoting opportunities for our students to be involved in the faith life of the College. Our students were involved in the church band, choir and Readers of the Word. Activities after the Mass included pizza, music and games and took place in the courtyard outside of the Church. It was a wonderful night and well attended by our Mater Maria community.

Attending Soul Mass counts as community involvement for the Gold Award and students also earn ten points to the House Spirit Cup.

We encourage all students to come along to our Soul Masses which are held on the first Sunday of each month and share in the Eucharist as a community. Our next Soul Mass will be taking place on Sunday 5 June.



# GREASE REHEARSALS

The rehearsals are taking shape. Here are some photos taken this month. Our VET Entertainment students have been busy creating the set in the Byrne Theatre and the costumes are almost ready!

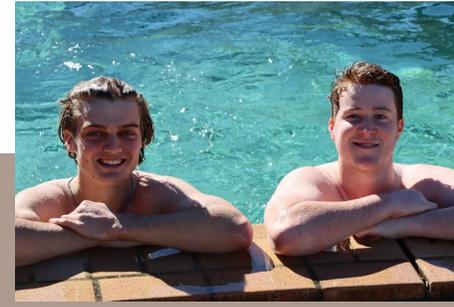


# YEAR 12 RETREAT

After a long delay imposed by the past COVID-19 restrictions, our Year 12 students were able, at last, to have their much-anticipated Senior Retreat. What a wonderful time we had together at the beautiful location of The Benedict XVI Retreat Centre at Grose Vale. Our Year 12s enthusiastically explored a variety of topics and experiences. They engaged in different types of prayer experiences, participated in discussions on the nexus between science and faith as well as wrestling with ethical questions which face young people today. Over the course of the week student groups (amidst much chat and laughter), assisted Mrs Tamara Harding in creating bracelets which will be sold to raise funds for Soibada in East Timor. Each student also brought their creative talent to the decoration of a personal candle holder which will be returned to them at their graduation and, hopefully, will remain a symbolic connection for them of their retreat and indeed of their journey through Mater Maria.

A very big thank you must be given to the 15 generous staff who accompanied the students through the Retreat Programme and who contributed so much to making the time so successful and enjoyable.





# MATER FEAST DAY MASS

Tuesday 24 May marked Mater Maria's Feast Day, the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, patroness of Australia. Students and teachers came together to celebrate with two lovely masses led by Father Richard from Sacred Heart and Father Adrin from the Lakes Parish, together with our Year 12 prefects in the Marana Complex. The first Mass was for our Year 7 and 8 students during Period 3, then we held another Mass in Period 5 for Years 9 to 12 with beautiful music by our Year 7, 8, 11 and 12 musicians.

We were hoping for students to enjoy our normal vast range of activities that take place on Mater Feast days but unfortunately the wet weather meant that these activities will now take place later in the year when the outdoor areas can be enjoyed.



# NATIONAL SORRY DAY

On Thursday 26 May, Mater Maria, along with the rest of Australia recognised National Sorry Day. National Sorry Day is a day to acknowledge the strength of Stolen Generations Survivors and reflect on how we can all play a part in the healing process for our people and nation. It aligns closely with the anniversary of the National Apology and the Bringing Them Home Report which also acknowledges the injustices faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia. It is important that we continue to reflect and understand the truth of our history while continuing to build on our journey moving forward.

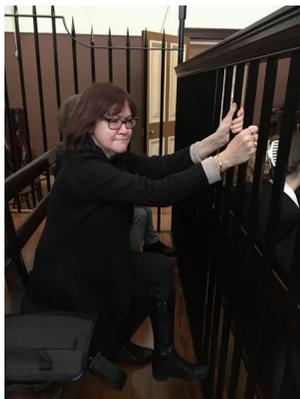
Students watched a presentation, documentary and completed a worksheet and asked to research, reflect and pray.



# STAGE 6 LEGAL STUDIES EXCURSION

Our senior students visited the Justice & Police Museum in the City on Monday 30 May. They toured the historic site, learning about the heritage of the building. Students experienced the condition of the notorious holding cells, learnt about the role of forensic techniques in solving crimes during the early 20th century, and participated in a mock trial to learn about the functions of judicial personnel.

Our Year 11 and Year 12 students then visited the Supreme Court and were permitted to sit in the gallery to experience a court in session. Students also had the opportunity to interact with members of the press waiting outside to cover high profile cases.



# SARAH CASSIDY 'THE APPLE TREE'



This month our Year 12 student Sarah Cassidy, had one of her short stories 'The Apple tree' published in Voiceworks magazine.

Voiceworks is an Australian quarterly literary journal that features exciting new fiction, nonfiction, poetry, art and comics by people under the age of 25.

A huge congratulations to Sarah on such a promising start to her writing career!

## NAPLAN 2022

During the week of Tuesday 10 May to Friday 13 May, our Year 7 and Year 9 students sat their NAPLAN tests online. These year groups missed the last round of NAPLAN due to the COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020 and it will be interesting to see if we continue to see the outstanding growth that we saw last year.

We congratulate our students on their efforts for the week.



## SUBSCRIBING TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Our monthly newsletter is distributed to our parents, carers, students and staff via the Compass Newsfeed, and for those that do not have the Compass app, they receive the newsletter by email. However, many of our past students and extended family members, such as grandparents, are also keen to receive our newsletter to keep up to date with the Mater community.

These past students and extended family members are welcome to sign up to receive our newsletter. To do so, simply click on ['SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER'](#) and complete their details and we will add them to the Mailchimp directory so that they may receive the newsletter by email.

# SCHOOLTV REPORT ON SCREEN TIME



As a result of the global pandemic, there has been a noticeable shift in the amount of time people spend on screen-based devices. Families are transitioning back to pre-COVID routines, but many are still struggling to re-establish the boundaries and rules around screen use. Some continue to deal with digital conflict and tech-tantrums daily. The latest research found that 77% of teenagers spend more than five hours on screens per day, but it is important to note that not all screen time is considered equal.

Parents play a crucial role in modelling a positive and healthy approach to using screens and assisting children to navigate the content they watch. It is better to model and mentor screen use, rather than monitor it. Children tend to do more of what they see us do, and less of what we tell them to do. However, it is still important to outline the risks and highlight the benefits of screen use to ensure you keep a balanced attitude. Encourage discussions around the issues that people experience in monitoring their screen time and be honest about your own difficulties.

Parents need to remain firm in their approach to managing screen time. Excessive screen time can be detrimental to a child's overall wellbeing. Ensuring the correct privacy settings are in place is vital to prevent children from being inadvertently exposed to inappropriate content or online predators. Parents need to also be mindful of the potential impact screen time can have on a child's social, emotional, educational, behavioral, and even physical domains.

In this edition of SchoolTV, caregivers will be provided with a range of guidelines and strategies to help manage screen time at home. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this month's edition, and we always welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to this month's edition <https://matermaria.nsw.schooltv.me/newsletter/managing-screen-time>