# **Maclean High School**



# December 2024



As our 2024 school year concludes, I would like to thank all our students, staff, parents and carers and community for their immense efforts. It has been an incredible year for Maclean High School and I am immensely proud of what we have achieved and what is still to come.

Over the last two weeks, I have had the great honour of attending all the Presentation events at our local partner primary schools. While there, I have been able to award 7 Year 7 Scholarships to very worthy recipients. Students are nominated by their primary schools and this year we received a range of outstanding nominations. Students could be nominated for one or more of the following:

- Academics
- Sporting Achievement
- Citizenship

E DOT

Principal's

• Cultural Leadership

Students who are awarded these scholarship receive a prize worth over \$1000 that includes;

- \$300 Uniform Shop Voucher
- \$200 School Excursion Allowance
- Free Year 7 Camp admission
- School fees paid for Year 7
- 1 x Year 7 book pack

Congratulations to our 2025 Scholars:

- Emily Oppenheimer (Gulmarrad Public School)
- Indianna Courte (Maclean Public School)
- Danica Rae (Palmers Island Public School)
- Amber Deakin (Chatsworth Island Public School)
- Rex Corston (Iluka Public School)
- Tahya Rattray (Lawrence Public School)
- Jayda Fung (Yamba Public School)

We can't wait to see what you achieve at Maclean High School.

This week we received our HSC Results for 2024. Yet again, our school demonstrated outstanding achievement with students consistently achieving across the top 2 bands. Congratulations to our 4 Distinguished Achievers from the HSC Music 1 Course:

- Sumira Mahoney
- Sabrina Bowly
- Isla Gray
- Simon Chung

All of our Year 12 students worked hard to achieve their personal best. This year, our students received 22 early entry offers to university. We were also able to assist them in achieving 61 Nationally recognised qualifications, while at Maclean High School. These statistics are testament to our ability to ensure that every student is supported on a post-school pathway that is tailored to their needs, passions and skills. Well done Year 12!



At our recent Presentation Evening, I shared a long list of our 2024 achievements. This ranged from Academics, Sporting, Cultural Leadership, Civics & Citizenship to Creative and Performing Arts. Many of these achievements we have been proud to share with you throughout our monthly newsletters. When you look at the culmination of these achievements, the true power of public education can be seen. Our school consistently aims to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for. We are committed to the plan for public education and provide an education for our students that is focused on excellence, support, personalised learning, relationships and success – the true magic of Maclean High School!

For 2025, I look forward to continuing to advocate for our students and community to improve our facilities and maximise the opportunities with the great resources that we have.

We continue our focus on our strategic directions of improved student performance, student wellbeing and engagement and building the capacity of our staff. We have invested heavily this year in resetting our school values as Respect, Effort and Safe and used this to establish strong and high expectations across all aspects of our school. We have refined our systems and processes and shifted our attention to student-centred decision making. Into 2025, we look forward to;

- Driving whole school improvement in teaching and learning
- Strengthening our partner primary school and community relationships
- Ensuring that all our students leave Maclean High School set for success.

In conclusion, thank you for welcoming me this year into the Maclean High School community. Being principal of this school was my ultimate professional goal and formed as a small seed in my mind when I first came here on holidays while studying teaching at university. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this school into the future, maximising on our strong history of success and building new opportunities to drive excellence for our students.

I hope you all have a fantastic holiday break and I look forward to welcoming you back for an amazing 2025 school year.

James Witchard Principal





## **Reaching for the Stars**

We are excited to announce that two of our Year 12 students, Ella & Maddi, have been awarded the prestigious Chancellor's Scholarship at Southern Cross University (SCU). This scholarship recognises high school students for their personal development and drive to pursue tertiary education.

The Chancellor's Scholarship provides significant support for Maddi and Ella as they transition to their studies at Southern Cross University. This scholarship not only acknowledges their willingness to pursue post secondary pathways at university, but it also alleviates some financial burdens, allowing them to focus on their academic pursuits and further personal development.

Congratulations to Maddi and Ella on this well-deserved recognition! We look forward to witnessing all the incredible things they will accomplish at Southern Cross University and beyond.

**Miss Fisher** 

# Important Dates

- 31 Jan 5 Feb • School Development Days
- 3 Feb 7 Feb
   0 G2G Camp
- 6 Feb

   All students return
- 9 Feb 15 Feb
  0 Heron Island
- 11 Feb

   U15's Zone Touch
   Woodenbong
- 12 Feb
   Swimming Carnival
- 20 Feb
  - Zone Swimming Lismore
- 20 March

   School
   Photographs
- 31 March Cultural Tours





We are excited to share that ten of our dedicated students, including two of our school leaders Jasper & Elora, have successfully completed their Working at Heights qualification during Activities Week! This important certification provides participants with the essential skills and knowledge needed to work safely at elevated positions, which is crucial in various sectors, including construction, maintenance, and emergency services.

By completing the Working at Heights qualification, these students are now equipped to identify hazards, implement safety measures, and effectively utilise fall protection systems. This training not only boosts their employability but also instils a strong understanding of safety in high-risk environments. With this certification, they are better prepared for future roles that may involve working on ladders, scaffolding, or rooftops, giving them a competitive advantage in the job market.

This year is particularly significant for Maclean High, as it marks the first time we have been able to offer this valuable course on-site, made possible by our collaboration with CHS Training and their mobile training unit. This unit brought expert trainers directly to our school, allowing students to participate in handson learning in a familiar setting. This innovative approach made it more convenient for our students to access high-quality training without the need for offsite travel, enhancing the overall experience.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Education Pathways Program and Connect Northern Rivers for their generous financial support, which enabled us to provide this training opportunity. Their investment in our students' futures has allowed us to offer the Working at Heights course directly at MHS, enriching our students' educational experience and strengthening pathways to meaningful employment in our community. We appreciate their support and look forward to future collaborations that empower our students with essential skills and qualifications.







# **Reaching New Heights**



# Space Camp

Established in Sydney, Australia in 2015, The One Giant Leap Australia foundation is an organisation whose purpose is to advance STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education and careers through workshops and programs. They provide life changing opportunities for students and educators to develop and build their knowledge and understanding of STEM. Their vastly engaging educational programs about space science, technology and exploration are unique, equitable and diverse. One Giant Leap's goal is to create a world-class space STEM education ecosystem that fosters innovation, creativity, and critical thinking skills among students and educators alike:

- Develop a resilient and strong space STEM educational base
- Prepare for the future space and STEM labour market locally and globally
- Provide lifelong learning opportunities for educators and the community.

To do this, they work with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JANA) on behalf of the Australian Space Agency (ASA).

A project that One Giant Leap has recently renewed and is aimed to do again in 2025 is the Space Tour USA trip. Space Tour USA is a two week trip to the United States of America. In July, I was accepted for a scholarship to go on the first USA trip since covid. It was an amazing trip with 15 other Australian students and I learnt a lot. I am so grateful I was able to go because now I get to represent the foundation and help other students go on trips like the one I went on. After a 14 hour flight we landed at 6am and stayed at the Anaheim Residence Inn, having dinner at Raising Canes, a very popular fast food restaurant. The next day we woke up early and left for Serrano Middle School, spending the day meeting and collaborating with American students. And yes, its just like the movies. The next day was spent at the La Brea tar pits, these pits captured live animals from the ice age and fossilised their bones forever, allowing us to study their structure and their way of life. Over a million bones have been found and more each day, thanks to it being an active research site for palaeontologists We spent the afternoon at the Criffith Observatory for Astronomy and Physics. The next two days were spent at the California Science Centre, the Natural History Museum, and Disneyland.



# Space Camp



At last, it was the end of our time in California and finally, space academy. Here is a little history about space academy. It is run by the U.S Space and Rocket Center and has been open for more than 32 years, and has more than 700,000 alumni. Some of these alumni include Elon Musk, founder of Space X, and the current commander of the International Space Station, Andreas Mogensen. Space academy was amazing. We trained like an astronaut on the 1/6th Gravity Chair, the Multi-Axis Trainer, and in the scuba tank. We had night lessons in which we learnt about the history of space exploration, such as the Gemini, Mercury, and Apollo programs. We also did evening engineering challenges, in which we had to create a heat shield for an egg, simulating creating a heat shield for spacecraft re-entering earth's atmosphere. My favorite thing we got to do were simulated missions in which our team was split up into different roles, and had to work our way through a simulated mission to Mars.

Each person had a role, if it was either on Earth in mission control making sure everything went right, orbiting Mars as an impromptu 'space station', or on Mars, collecting and testing samples of soil. These missions were so much fun and I learned a lot. I understood the importance of communication and leadership in a team. After a week at space academy, we had graduated, and so came the end of our trip. From entry to graduation, I learnt so much, and I changed. Some of the things I learnt at space academy will stay with me forever, and so will the connections I made on the trip. I still talk to the students that went on the trip with me, and I still talk to the representatives of One Giant Leap that came on the trip. Before we all split up at Sydney airport, we were asked to be student representatives of the foundation, and to inspire other students to take advantage of opportunities like this.



- Eve Year 10

In Week 8, our Year 10 students took an important step forward in their educational journey by participating in the two-day Year 10 to Year 11 Senior Transition Program. This initiative, organised and facilitated by Mrs Ryan from the English Faculty, was designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary for their transition into Stage 6.

The event opened with a keynote address from Principal James Witchard, who outlined the expectations, roles, and responsibilities of senior students. Deputy Principal Penny Graham followed with a briefing on Stage 6 policies and assessment procedures. The session concluded with a warm welcome and words of pastoral support from Year Adviser Mr Mitchell.

Students then attended workshops led by Ms Vadher and Mrs Ryan. These sessions focused on balancing academic commitments with personal life, offering valuable insights into study techniques, organisation, time management, and effective study strategies. Additionally, students participated in wellness activities to support their mental health and were given a dedicated opportunity to complete their Minimum Standards requirements.

On the second day, the program took a practical approach. Careers Adviser Miss Fisher and ALSO Aunty Anj Warburton led a session on essential steps for navigating Stage 6, providing students with a comprehensive checklist to help them prepare for their HSC journey. This was followed by an inspiring Alumni Panel, where former MHS students shared their post-school experiences, pathways, and decision-making processes. The open forum allowed students to ask questions and gain valuable insights into life beyond high school.

The program concluded with a well-deserved reward: a trip to The Saraton Theatre in Grafton for an afternoon of snacks and a movie. This final activity underscored the importance of balance and downtime, a crucial lesson as students prepare for their senior studies.

We are proud to have offered this valuable opportunity to our Year 10 students. The program not only provided practical tools and advice for managing Stage 6 but also highlighted the strong support network available at MHS. As they embark on their HSC journey, we are confident they are better prepared to face challenges with resilience and determination.

This initiative reflects our commitment to student success and wellbeing, and we look forward to seeing these young individuals thrive in the years ahead.

Mrs Ryan







# **Preparing for Success**





We are proud to celebrate the achievements of our alumni, Paris Brailsford, who recently represented the Clarence Valley at the inaugural NSW Youth Summit in Sydney. At just 21 years old, Paris has made a significant impact as a youth advocate, working to amplify the voices of young people across the state.

As a member of the Youth Summit Working Group, Paris helped design the event, which brought together participants from diverse backgrounds to discuss critical issues such as education, mental health, housing, and climate change. Her role at the summit included participating in workshops and panel discussions with NSW Government Ministers and leaders, ensuring that the perspectives of regional youth were heard.

Paris's commitment to advocacy extends beyond the summit. She has served on the NSW Youth Parliament and the Regional Youth Taskforce and continues to champion issues like youth homelessness, education access, and fairer financial support for students. While studying a Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Laws at the University of New England, Paris balances her academic pursuits with her dedication to creating a brighter future for NSW youth.

We are incredibly proud of Paris's contributions and look forward to seeing her continue to lead and inspire.

lumni student - Par



**Miss Fisher** 

## Year 9 Food Technology

Year 9 have been baking recently to create gingerbread biscuits. These tasty morsels were created using a variety of shapes and designs. Students enjoyed this practical as they finish off Foods for Special Occasions unit. Birthday cakes to follow - stay tuned!'

Ms Goodwin



Towards the end of last month Year 11 were getting ready for the Rotary Dinner. This event was a smashing success and consisted of braised steak, mash potatoes, green beans, asparagus and carrots. Mrs Kirkland and I supported students through the whole process. Sensational work Year 11 Hospitality!'

Year 11 Hospitality

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Ms Goodwin



During the first week of December 6, of our Year 11 students and our Careers Adviser joined 90 others from as far as Macksville and Nambucca Heads on an exciting Queensland Universities excursion organised by the Coffs Clarence Careers Advisers Network. This overnight opportunity allowed students to explore tertiary education options, gain insights into university life, and develop skills to prepare for the transition to higher education.

The day began with a visit to Southern Cross University's Gold Coast campus, where students explored the facilities and learned about the diverse courses available. Next, they travelled to the University of the Sunshine Coast's Moreton Bay campus, where innovative programs and a supportive campus environment were showcased. After checking into Union College accommodation at the University of Qld, the group then toured the UQ Campus. Here, students interacted with staff, explored state-of-the-art research spaces, and gained inspiration for their future academic journeys.

The following morning, students toured and engaged with staff from the Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University on the Gold Coast. These visits offered further insights into campus life, academic opportunities, and potential study pathways, rounding off an inspiring and informative trip.

This excursion provided students with greater awareness of tertiary education options, helping them make informed decisions about their futures. They experienced university culture and expectations first hand, learning about the challenges and opportunities of higher education. The trip also fostered independence and self-management skills, as students navigated living away from home, managing time and responsibilities. Direct interactions with university staff and current students clarified eligibility requirements and career-aligned course options, giving students confidence and easing anxieties about transitioning to university life.





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Miss Fisher



### 16th-19th October

The Lismore Show was our second last show of the year. This was a fantastic show for the whole team, and we had some impressive results for both students and cattle. The team participated in paraders, led in the stud classes, and had the privilege to watch Chelsea, and an ex show team member, Georgie competed in the zone junior judging competition. A big congratulations to Georgie for placing 3rd. In paraders, numerous members made it into their age group final against tough competition.

Overall, the team came 2nd in the best school's competition, which is a massive achievement for everyone and their efforts. Results Below:

### **Paraders Final**

13 years and under: Lyall (out of 25) 15 and under 17s: Bryson & Nathan G

### Bradfords

Female 24 & under 30 months: MCN Fortune - 1st Female 30 months & older: Glynnelly Mystique - 2nd and Little Valley Bonnette - 3rd Cow with calf at foot: Glynnelly Mystique and Allure- 2nd Reserve Senior Champion Female Braford: Glynnelly Mystique

### Speckle Parks

Bull 12 and Under 16 months: Check Him Out - 2nd Bull 16 and under 20 months: Breaking News - 1st Reserve Junior Champion Male Speckle Park: Breaking News Female 12 and under 16 months: Very Elegant - 4th Female 16 and under 20 months: Lightning Lass - 1st Female 24 and under 30 months: Belva - 3rd Female 30 months and older: Lightning Lady - 2nd Cow with calf at foot: Lighting Lady -1st and Belva - 2nd Breeders Group; Breaking News, Lightning Lady, Midnight Special & Lightning Lady - 2nd School Led Steer Comp Heavy Domestic Over 400kg - Double Trouble - 2nd (Simmental) Champion School Led Steer Double Trouble - 3rd - Prize: \$20 + Certificate Hoof Section - Steers 431kg - 480kg Heavy Domestic - Double Trouble - 4th

#### Brahmans

12 & under 16 months: Aljulie Park Imogen - 3rd, Aljulie Park Miss Isis - 5th and Aljulie Park Iris - 7th

#### **Steer Auction**

ZigZag - bought by: Maclean Variety Meats - @\$6.20kg - 211kg DW - \$1308 Pablo - bought by: Maclean Variety Meats - @\$6.50 - 253kg DW - \$1644 Double Trouble - @\$7.00kg - 241kg DW - \$1690



# North Coast National- Lismore Show





#### 5th-6th November

Northern Schools was the team's last show of the year. The team arrived at the farm at 5:30 to get on the road by 7 to travel to Tenterfield for the night. Although we had half of the team absent, we came back with magnificent results. The competition was run by Tenterfield High School and consisted of Junior Judging, Paraders and Classes for the five steers we took up. Simba, Dutton, Buckshot, Sterling, and Smokey were the five steers that competed at Tenterfield. It was not only cattle coming back with prizes. Tully got first in his class, champion parader and 3rd in Junior Judging. Leya placed 3rd and Grace 4th in the year 9 and 10 paraders final, which is a massive achievement for the students. We are currently waiting on hook results for the carcass competition.

#### **Steer Classes**

1st - Champion Middle Weight Steer/Reserve Overall Steer- Medium Weight Class (Class 2) (431 -460kg) - Simba 2nd - Medium Weight Class (Class 1) (400 -430kg) - Sterling 4th - Medium Weight Class (Class 2) (431 - 460kg) - Smokey 4th - Medium Weight Class (Class 3) (461-499kg) - Dutton

### **Paraders Finalists**

Year 7 & 8 Taia and Jimmy

Year 9 & 10 Nathan, Xavier, Ashley, Ronann, Lilly, Leya - 3rd, Olivia, Bryson, and Grace - 4th.

A huge thank you to the parents and volunteers and all the cattle owners for their time and generosity. Congratulations to everyone for their efforts.





**Northern Schools Steer Competition - Tenterfield** 



Congratulations to our 2024 class of Junior Debaters. Having the courage to stand up for your ideas is so important. Each of us has the ability to influence our surroundings, and with that influence comes the responsibility to advocate for what we believe in. This is what debaters do. Formal debating is a powerful tool that sharpens our ability to articulate ideas, think critically, and engage in respectful discourse. It teaches us not only the logic behind our arguments but also the wit required to present them effectively. Through debating, we learn to listen, to challenge assumptions, and to defend our views with confidence. I am so proud of our amazing MHS teams who have shown great courage and determination to hone their debating skills this year. What wonderful future leaders!



I have the courage to speak my truth and stand up for what I believe in





## **Junior Debating 2024 - Reflections**



"This season of debating has been quite interesting. I've gained a lot of confidence in myself, and I've noticed it in my team-mates too. It was great to watch Byron Bay High's winning team dominate, they were amazing as the reigning state champions. It was good to have a chance to learn, face to face, about what can be thrown at you on the spot. It was all valuable." - Tessah

"I'm really glad I gave debating a go this year. This past season has been really enjoyable and such a great introduction to the competition. I especially loved my first ever debate, which was in-person against Byron Bay High. Debating has personally improved my confidence and ability to improvise, and to write on the spot. Everyone on the team are close friends, and every debate is a good time together. I think I'll sign up again next year." - Em





"I believe throughout the year we have performed exceptionally well as a team. We had never debated together before, and worked really hard to gel so well as a tight group. By the end of the season, we were really strong. We were a great team, and we should have won! Next year, we will persist. We will never give up!" - Lucy

"I enjoyed working as a team and being able to experience the different positions as a speaker. Each person has an important role to play." - Soph

"Arguing with people and going on the day trip to Byron Bay was so much fun. It was my first time going away on a debate day and it was really fun! Loved it." - Taia





# Wheelchair Basketball and Goalball Success



On Tuesday, December 3rd, a group of students proudly represented Maclean High School in wheelchair basketball and goalball competitions. The event, organised by Social Futures and Clarence Valley Council, celebrated the International Day of People with Disabilities. The Maclean High School team embraced the competition with enthusiasm and came in 3rd place. Congratulations to all the students who participated in this wonderful initiative, the day was an incredible success!

Ms Plowman







What an incredible time we had during Activities Week! Our students truly embraced the opportunity to step outside their usual routines, explore new interests, and foster valuable skills. The week was filled with laughter, learning, and unforgettable experiences that contributed to personal growth and friendships.

From surfing on the stunning local beaches to enjoying moments of relaxation with beach reading, students had the chance to immerse themselves in nature and enjoy the great outdoors. Creative minds flourished in activities like laser cutting, cultural activities and upcycling, where students discovered their artistic talents while promoting sustainability.

Adventure seekers had the thrill of snorkelling in vibrant underwater ecosystems and trying their hand at rowing, all while building teamwork and resilience. Additionally, many students took advantage of the opportunity to gain essential qualifications such as the White Card for working safely on construction sites, as well as certifications for working safely at heights and SCUBA diving. These qualifications will undoubtedly enhance their future career prospects.

A huge thank you goes to our dedicated staff, whose enthusiasm and support made this week possible. Their guidance and encouragement helped create an environment where students felt safe to take risks and try new things. The week also included relaxing moments with board games and a trip to the cinema, allowing students to bond and create lasting memories.

Activities Week was not just a break from academics; it was a celebration of growth, exploration, and community. We are so proud of all our students for their enthusiasm and participation. Thank you to everyone who made this week a success! We can't wait to see what they take away from these experiences as they continue their educational journeys.



# HI TO A NON VERSE

## **Activities Week**

We are experiencing exciting times at MHS this year with many changes and new initiatives unfolding. There is a positive focus and direction being implemented in all facets of the school, which will move MHS into a new era.

Having been on the P&C for the past 6 years, with the last 3 as president, I am proud to witness the progress that has been made, and with the continued hard work and dedication of our teaching staff, under the expert guidance of our principal, Mr James Witchard, I look forward to seeing what great heights, MHS will reach.

Our P&C at MHS is a vital not-for-profit organisation supporting our school. We are a group of dedicated parents who volunteer their time, to support and promote the interests of the entire school community. We assist in providing facilities and equipment for the school and to encourage parent and community participation in education and school issues.

Our P&C prides ourselves on a superbly run school canteen. We employ a full time canteen supervisor and a casual part time assistant. Our school canteen is our sole source of income of funding that gets distributed back into the school. It is a vital part of our school, which provides excellent service to the students and staff, with deliciously prepared, well priced and nutritious food options. We rely heavily on volunteers to assist in the canteen with food preparation and serving. As this is getting more and more difficult, we may need to hire more help, which will in turn lead to a substantial increase in prices. Do you think you can volunteer in our canteen to keep prices down? At present, this is a well established set up and simply requires support and assistance from the P&C. Thanks goes to Penny Lane and Anna Law for their hard work in the canteen this year.

We would also like to thank the following volunteers for their time dedicated to our canteen:

Taineisha, Sue, Naoko, Shirley, Marilyn, Deb, Cheryl, Pat, Angie, Jo and Julieanne

Without these volunteers, our canteen would not be able to operate

We would also like to thank our SRC volunteers for their time dedicated to help with service during their recess and lunch breaks: Zach, Willow, Ella, Ruby, Hayden, Andy, Isobel and Matilda.

Thanks goes to Mrs Kane our Head Teacher of wellbeing at MHS, for contributing towards these volunteers appreciation gifts.

# P & C Wrap up for 2024



I would also like to highlight the areas in the school the P&C has contributed towards financially:

- 1. Maintenance and equipment for the canteen
- 2. Seating for the new undercover sports area
- 3. Yr 12 Graduation sashes
- 4. School bus
- 5. Mathematics students
- 6. Science students
- 7. Sports excellence students
- 8. PBL rewards
- 9. Presentation Night Awards
- 10. Mens Shed

Our P&C Committee for 2024 would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication to our students at MHS, and we want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and health and happiness in 2025

President – Philippa Hayman Vice Presidents – Jane Abbott & Vivien Miller Secretary – Katharine Stoddard Treasurer – Veronica Barker

As my time on our P&C is drawing to an end, I am appealing to the school community for some new faces on our committee and we will definitely be looking for a new president and secretary, as both myself and Katharine will be stepping down. All other positions will be declared vacant at our next AGM in March 2025 but these are 2 positions I know will be vacant.

The role of the president is to oversee the P&C and associated committees, presiding and running the meetings, and liasing with the school principal. The president must drive the agenda of the P&C and understand the issues of parents and citizens so that they can be represented to the school. Certainly some organisational skills and being able to delgate and remain diplomatic, are required skills for the role. If anyone would like any more information about this or anything else with regards to the P&C, please feel free to contact me

Philippa Hayman 0439015714

# P & C Wrap up for 2024



## **Dreamworld PBL Excursion**

On Wednesday 11th December, a group of students from Years 9 & 10 attended a rewards excursion at Dreamworld. Braver students tried out the Claw or Steel Taipan, while those that wanted a more relaxing rewards experience tried rides like the Flyer or Tailspin. They enjoyed mild weather, and very short ride queues, and had an awful lot of fun.

Mrs Dehnert





We are thrilled to announce that Antwone from Year 12 has made the North Coast Bulldogs Laurie Daley Team! This significant achievement highlights not only his exceptional talent but also his dedication to the sport. Out of an extensive initial training squad, Antwone was selected as one of the top 25 players, showcasing his skills and potential on the rugby league field.

The Under-18s Laurie Daley Cup is a prestigious competition that represents the best of NSW's regional talent, featuring teams from both the north and south of the state. Being chosen for this team is a remarkable accomplishment, as it allows Antwone to compete against some of the brightest young athletes in the region. This opportunity is not just about the game; it's also a pathway for personal growth, teamwork, and sportsmanship.



## North Coast Bulldogs Laurie Daley Team

## **UNSW Blak Hack Summer Program**

We are excited to share that one of our School Captains, Jasper has been selected to participate in the prestigious University of New South Wales (UNSW) Blak Hack Summer Program! This week-long initiative, held at the university's Kensington campus during the upcoming school holidays, is designed specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Year 12, providing a unique platform for young leaders to engage with pressing Indigenous issues.

During the program, Jasper will collaborate with community leaders and UNSW faculty staff to "hack" solutions to challenges faced by Indigenous peoples. This innovative approach combines creativity, critical thinking, and cultural insights, allowing participants to develop practical solutions that can make a real difference in their communities.

Not only does the Blak Hack Program empower students like Jasper, but it also fosters a sense of belonging and connection to culture. By working alongside mentors and peers, participants gain valuable skills in problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership, all while celebrating their heritage.

Jasper's selection is a testament to his dedication and passion for making a positive impact. We are incredibly proud of his achievements and can't wait to see the innovative ideas he brings to the table during this transformative experience.



We are excited to share that twenty enthusiastic students from Years 8 to 10 have successfully completed their White Card training during our Activities Week! This important certification is a vital step for those interested in pursuing careers in the construction and building industries, as it demonstrates their understanding of workplace health and safety practices.

The completion of the White Card training equips our students with foundational knowledge about safe work practices, risk assessment, and the importance of maintaining a safe environment on construction sites. This certification not only enhances their employability but also provides them with valuable skills that will benefit them in various future career paths.

With their newly acquired White Card, these students can explore a variety of job opportunities in fields such as:

Construction Labourer: Many students may choose to start as construction labourers, assisting with various tasks on building sites, including site preparation, material handling, and basic construction work.

Apprenticeships: The White Card can open doors to apprenticeship programs in trades such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, and more. These programs provide handson training and are a great way to gain practical experience while earning a qualification.

Landscaping: Students interested in outdoor work may find opportunities in landscaping, where they can apply their skills in creating and maintaining gardens, parks, and commercial properties.

Safety Officer: With further training and experience, students could aspire to become safety officers, responsible for ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations on construction sites.

Project Management: For those with leadership aspirations, the construction industry offers pathways into project management roles, overseeing projects from inception to completion while ensuring safety standards are maintained.



# **Building Dreams**

Environmental Consultant: Students interested in environmental issues can explore roles as environmental consultants, focusing on sustainable building practices and compliance with environmental regulations.

We would like to express our appreciation to Connect Northern Rivers for their generous financial backing, which enabled us to provide this training opportunity. We would like to express our appreciation to Connect Northern Rivers for their generous financial backing, which enabled us to provide this training opportunity. We are thankful for their support and look forward to future partnerships that will help equip our students with essential skills and qualifications.

We are incredibly proud of our students for taking this initiative and investing in their futures. Completing the White Card training is just the beginning of their journey into the dynamic and rewarding world of construction and trades. If you know someone who would like to undertake their White Card in 2025 make sure they keep an eye on Sentral and their emails

Congratulations to all the participants for their hard work and commitment. We cannot wait to see how they will apply their skills and knowledge in their future careers.





We are delighted to announce that Year 12 students Cody and Grace have been awarded the highly esteemed Vice-Chancellor's High Achievement Prize (VCHAP) from the University of New England (UNE). This recognition is awarded to selected high school students for their outstanding performance and dedication across various domains, including academic excellence, personal development, social and community contributions, and active participation in school activities.

Cody and Grace have consistently demonstrated exceptional commitment in their studies and have made significant contributions to our school community. Their achievements reflect not only their academic prowess but also their passion for making a positive impact in the lives of others.

Cody is set to embark on a Bachelor of Environmental Science, aspiring to specialise in volcanology. With a keen interest in understanding our planet's geological processes, Cody aims to contribute to the field's knowledge and preparedness for natural events. Grace, on the other hand, will pursue a Bachelor of Agriculture, driven by a passion for sustainable farming practices and a desire to enhance food security in rural communities. Both students embody the spirit of inquiry and determination, and we are excited to see how they will shape their futures.

The VCHAP not only acknowledges their hard work and dedication but also provides crucial support for their future studies at UNE. This prize particularly focuses on enhancing access to tertiary education for students from rural and remote areas, ensuring that talented individuals like Cody and Grace can pursue their academic dreams without barriers.

We are incredibly proud of Grace and Cody for their remarkable achievements and the example they set for all students in our school. Their success is a testament to their hard work and the support of our dedicated staff and community. We wish them all the best as they embark on their exciting journeys at the University of New England and beyond.





Year 12 Achievers Awarded Vice-Chancellor's High Achievement Prize



Recently, Year 10 students were inspired by a panel of alumni who returned to share their experiences as part of the Transition into Stage 6 workshops. The panel featured Nathan Rheinberger from BIG4 Saltwater Yamba Holiday Park, Luke Douglas from the Clarence Valley Council, Zhanae Whalley from Maclean Public School, Amy Wiggett, a qualified electrician, and Kate Hogan from the NSW Department of Education. Their stories of growth and resilience offered valuable insights as students prepare for their senior years.

The alumni shared their diverse career paths, from leadership roles in education and government to trades and tourism, illustrating the many possibilities that follow high school. They emphasised choosing HSC subjects that align with interests and goals, highlighting how those decisions shaped their futures.

The panelists spoke candidly about overcoming challenges during Years 11 and 12, whether balancing study with part-time work or managing selfdoubt. They credited resilience, strong support systems, and guidance from teachers and family for helping them navigate tough times.

Their career journeys showed that success isn't always linear, and each experience—whether planned or unexpected—can contribute to personal and professional growth. The alumni also stressed the importance of wellbeing, encouraging students to prioritise mental health and seek help when needed.

As they reflected on their high school years, the panel shared advice about embracing challenges, learning from mistakes, and focusing on strengths. Their message was clear: with curiosity, courage, and resilience, the journey ahead is full of opportunities.

Maclean High thanks these inspiring alumni for giving back to the next generation, leaving students motivated and better equipped to thrive in their senior studies and beyond. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of a future panel please contact our school Careers Adviser.



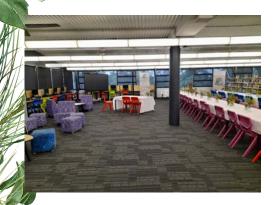
Miss Fisher

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# 2024 in the LIBRARY





MHS Library is a busy place! It is a hive of activity during recess and lunch with students reading, borrowing, playing cards, UNO, chess, and building Minecraft worlds on the computers.

Within the library, students are assisted by the careers advisor, technology support officer and teacher librarian. The Wellbeing Hub is located near the library entrance and is staffed by the WHIN, student support officer, psychologist and school counsellor. We say a fond farewell to the literacy and numeracy tutor and wish her well in retirement.

MHS Library has been the venue this year for many school and community events. It is truly the hub of the school. From transition days, Goanna Academy, River of Learning morning tea, to the interschool Rotary dinner catered by our hospitality staff and students. MHS students have the opportunity to particpate in a wide variety of activities.



Best wishes for 2025 from all the library sťaff

# Maclean Chamber of Commerce's Enchanted Christmas event

Thank You to our creative community for an Enchanted Community Effort! We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible efforts of our Year 8 students and teachers at Maclean High School, who have completed a remarkable community project combining creativity, technology, sustainability, and community spirit. This initiative was a part of the Maclean Chamber of Commerce's Enchanted Christmas event.

A huge thank you to Mr Kirkland for donating old fencing wire to construct the wreath structure, and Mitre 10 Maclean for supply and delivery of the photo boards. Thank you, Mr Nabb and Mr Fraser, for loaning equipment and cutting out the elves that adorn our creations. Your creative contributions made this project possible.

We also deeply appreciate members of the Maclean Lions Club, local op shops, and the Maclean Business District Chamber for their generous financial and resource support and collaboration, ensuring our talented students had access to materials and resources to bring this project to life.

A special shoutout to our Visual Art Teachers Mr Kay, Mrs. Stanford, and Mrs. Cameron, whose creativity and guidance empowered our Year 8 students to make meaningful community contributions. Together, they tackled the challenge of reducing the environmental impact of Christmas trees, some destined for landfill, proving that sustainability, creativity, and holiday joy can go hand in hand. This project not only highlights the power of community volunteering but also models the generational value of working together to create joy for others. The students' work shone as a centerpiece of the Enchanted Christmas event, an example of the incredible impact of young people coming together for a shared community cause.

Thank you to everyone involved for helping make the recycled wreaths, Find the Elves Competition and photo board projects a true celebration of community, MHS creativity, and Christmas! We were excited to see the three projects come together at the Maclean Enchanted Christmas event.



# **Tasting Success**



We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of Scott Wright, one of our talented alumni, who now works in the Hunter Valley and has been awarded the prestigious 2024 Galvin Foundation Scholarship. Presented at the recent NSW Tourism Training Awards President's Dinner this \$5,000 scholarship highlights Scott's exceptional dedication and leadership in the Tourism, Travel, Hospitality, and Events sectors, positioning him as a future leader in the industry.

Through this opportunity, Scott will engage in advanced training programs, industry conferences, and international study tours, enhancing his skills and expanding his professional horizons. Starting in the kitchens of Yamba, Scott's passion and determination have led to remarkable milestones, including being named TAFE NSW Apprentice of the Year.

Scott's success has been shaped by the guidance of Bernadette Ryan, another outstanding Maclean High School alumna. As a dedicated educator at Grafton TAFE, Bernadette has played a pivotal role in developing the region's culinary talent, mentoring countless aspiring chefs, including Scott.

Bernadette's contributions were also recognised at the same event, where she received an Award of Excellence. This honour celebrates her unwaivering commitment to excellence in training and her significant impact on the tourism and hospitality industries. Bernadette's passion and dedication continue to inspire the next generation of culinary professionals, ensuring a bright future for our region and beyond.

Image via TAFENSW website



We are thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of alumna Amie Bebb, who has recently been honoured as a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International. This recognition acknowledges her 15 years of dedicated service as a 'survivor presenter' with the Roadsafety Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) program.

RYDA is an impactful initiative which provides students with a one-day workshop focussed on road safety. The program is designed to engage students through small group sessions of approximately 25 participants, led by trained facilitators, including police officers and driving instructors. These sessions front-load students' understanding of road safety, equipping them with the knowledge to make informed decisions as future drivers.

Our school has proudly participated in the RYDA program for over 15 years, creating a strong partnership that emphasises the importance of safe driving practices among our students. Amie's role as a survivor presenter has been particularly significant; she shares her personal journey to highlight the real-life consequences of road incidents, fostering a deeper understanding of road safety within our community.

The Paul Harris Fellowship is awarded to individuals who demonstrate outstanding service, and AB now joins the ranks of distinguished recipients, including U.S. President Jimmy Carter, polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk Russian President Boris Yeltsin, U.S. astronaut James Lovell, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk.

We congratulate Amie on this well-deserved honour and thank her for her commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people through her advocacy for road safety. Her work continues to inspire and educate future generations.





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# Lights, Camera, Gold!

We are excited to share the achievements of our alumnus, Caleb, who recently won two Gold Awards at the Australian Cinematography Society State Awards. Caleb earned accolades in the Canon-sponsored Documentaries category for his film Awake: Overcoming Insomnia and Anxiety with Ben Lee and in the Entertainment & TV Magazine category for Blue and Gold: Nth Coast Gold Fossicking with Luke Morgan.

In a night that also celebrated productions like Heartbreak High, Bump, and Furiosa as Gold Award winners, Caleb's recognition highlights his exceptional skill and creativity. We congratulate Caleb on this fantastic achievement and wish him continued success in his filmmaking journey.

Miss Fisher



If you still have Flood Vouchers for The Uniform Shop in Maclean, these need to be used by 31st December 2024.

## CALL FOR LIFEGUARDS

Lifeguard positions opening soon at the new Regional Aquatic Centre

 Positions available in December 2024
 Register your interest now at regionalaquaticcentre@clarence.nsw.gov.au

#### NAME YOUR NEW REGIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE

LIFEGUARD

Think big and share a name that reflects the entire Clarence Valley Go to <u>clarenceconversations.com.au</u>

Contraction Clarence

**Book Packs** 

www.maclean-h.schools.nsw.gov.au

Available in Term 4 As pictured - Including calculator \$69 - Without calculator \$35

www.maclean-h.schools.nsw.gov.au



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### WHY CHOOSE CHRISTIAN SRE? ?

learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens', it aids them to 'have a sense of selfworth and personal identity that enables them to manage their emotional, mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing'

#### 11

system, it benefits student mental health and well-being, provides safe places for students to explore faith and belief and strengthens multiculturalism.

The Honourable Sarah Mitcheil, MLC, New South Wales Minister for Educat and Early Childhood Learning.

The NSW Government published the independent SRE review findings and recommendations in 2017. These highlighted how SRE positively contributes to These ingring method sets positively contributes to students' understanding of their outburdheritage, is on overlue for their spiritual care, builds tolerance in schools, promotes multiculturalism, contributes to a wellkounded education, and connects schools with

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN

SRE?

Special Religious Education (SRE) also known as Scripture, is the time set aside in Public Schools where parents/carers can choose to have their children educated in the faith of their family and cultural background. The NSW Education Act (1990) allows for the local community to make this contribution to public education, via annually approved providers, responsible for authorising age appropriate lessons, training and authorisation of teachers.

Christian SRE begins with the Understanding that we were created by a loving God, who calls us to fullness of life. Chairen are encouraged to see themselves as God sees them, full of gits and patential to be a force for immerse gooaness in our world. As such, Christian SRE, combibutes to positive self-image, islamitly and realisence. Terming your people in their understanding of the morals and values from the teaching of Jesus.

different schools and regions. In some schools individual denominations provide specific class options (E.g. Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox), in other schools Churches unite their efforts to deliver a common auticulum in combined Christian



Better Balanced Futures pro the foundation for life values in our children, to assist them to navigate in an ever-changing world. It aims to continually improve the implementation delivery of SRE



#### CONTACT US



CHRISTIAN SRE

## CHRISTIAN SRE

## INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES



#### WHO teaches SRE?

SRE teachers are people from local Christian churches, same are poid, most are volunteers. All SRE teachers have mandatory working with children checks, as well as angoing training in child protection and classroom management, lesson preparation and the appropriate use of authorised curriculum materials.

## WHAT

?



Christian SRE teachers follow an authorised aurriaulum enabling students to question, explore and discover more about their Christian faith by examining the Word of God, church teaching and the faith experience of others. It helps students to grosp what it means to live well, to be in relationship with God and to embrace a life of service of others.

SRE teachers are encouraged to use o variety of teaching autivities including writing, arati, small groups, class discussion, songs, drama, starytelling, games and new learning technologies. Every SRE provider musik to the outline of the authorised curriculum they use.

## HOW

#### do we choose SRE?

Convertige and a set of the set o on-SRE options, including private supervised study or cial Education in Ethics classes where available.

#### COMMUNICATION

On occasion and with pre-approval from the Principal, teachers may send information home about local church services, annual seasonal celebrations, access to sacramental or church programs, as part of ongoing communication with parents/carers. There are clear processes available at a school level and via SRE providers to enable parents/carers to have dialogue, to ask questions or to make a complaint if they have





## YOUTH SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM FREE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 12-18!

LARENCE

JEWELLERY MAKING WORKSHOP Monday 6th January, 2pm to 4pm Lawrence Community Hall, Lawrence Bookings essential text - 0478 099 905

YOUTH WELLBEING CHECK-IN & PIZZA Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2pm to 4pm Iluka Skate Park, Iluka Just turn up!

LASER SKIRMISH Monday 6th January, 4pm to 6pm Iluka Skate Park, Iluka Just turn up!

LASER SKIRMISH Tuesday 7th January, 4pm to 6pm Market Square, Grafton Just turn up!

DREAMCATCHER WORKSHOP Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 10am to 12noon Copmanhurst Hall, Copmanhurst Bookings essential text - 0478 099 905

WEEK

OUT OF THE BOX YOUTH SESSION Basketball & Pizza Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 3:30pm to 5pm Out of the Box, Wherrett Park, Maclean Just turn up!

SURF LESSONS Thursday 9th January, 9am to 12noon Main Beach, Brooms Head Bookings essential text - 0447 693 863

OUT OF THE BOX YOUTH SESSION Soccer & Toasties Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 3:30pm to 5pm Out of the Box, Yamba Skate Park, Yamba Just turn up!

k out our Facebook page Clarence Valley Youth 28 420 908 if more del ies will be postponed i ils are required. the case of wet weather







DROP-IN - ASK, BBQ & MINI GAMES Monday 20th January, 3:30pm to 5pm Coutts Crossing Skate Park, Coutts Crossing Just turn up!

YOUTH WELLBEING CHECK-IN & PIZZA Monday 20th January, 2pm to 4pm Iluka Skate Park, Iluka Just turn up!

**GRAFFITI ART WORKSHOP** Monday 20th January, 4pm to 6pm Nip Welsh Park, Minnie Water Bookings essential text - 0423 134 173

**GRAFFITI ART WORKSHOP** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 4pm to 6pm Pirate Park, South Grafton Bookings essential text - 0423 134 173

WEARABLE ART WORKSHOP Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2pm to 4pm Dundurrabin Primary School, Dundurrabin Bookings essential text - 0414 284 150

OUT OF THE BOX YOUTH SESSION Skateboard Art & Pizza Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 3:30pm to 5pm Out of the Box, Wherrett Park, Maclear Just turn up!

information and updates, check out our Facebook page Clarence Valley Youth' all 0428 420 908 if more details are required. activities will be postponed in the case of wet weather. s proudly sponsored by:



**SKATE & CREATE** ary, 4:30pm to 6:30pm Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Janu Grafton Slate Park, Grafton Bookings essential register

https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/grafton-come-try-skateboarding-learn-to-skate-with-skate-and-creat tickets-1097778628429?aff=oddtdtcreator **GRAFFITI ART WORKSHOP** 

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 4pm to 6pm Woombah Park, Woombah Bookings essential text - 0423 134 173

**SKATE & CREATE** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 4:30pm to 6:30pm Wooli Skate Park, Wooli Bookings essential register w.eventbrite.co m.au/e/wooli-come-trystovaruing-learn-to-skate-with-skate-and-create sts-1097809270079?aff=oddtdtcreator

OUT OF THE BOX YOUTH SESSION Surfboard Art & Soccer Friday 24th January, 3:30pm to 5pm Out of the Box, Yamba Skate Park, Yamba Just turn up!



all and the state of the ARENCE YOUTH SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM FREE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 12-18! WEEK

OUT OF THE BOX YOUTH SESSION

Wednesday 15th January, 3:30pm to 5pm

Out of the Box, Wherrett Park, Maclean

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 9am to 12noon Main Beach, Minnie Water

Bookings essential text - 0447 693 863

Bookings essential text - 0475 428 003

OUT OF THE BOX YOUTH SESSION Handball Competition Friday 17th January, 3:30pm to 5pm

Out of the Box, Yamba Skate Park, Yamba

WOODBURNING WORKSHOP Friday 17th January, 10am to 12noon Iluka Community Hall Iluka

Bullrush, Art & Pizza

Just turn up!

Just turn up!

SURF LESSONS

**DROP-IN - ART & MUSIC** Monday 13th January, 3:30pm to 5pm Coutts Crossing Skate Park, Coutts Crossing Just turn up!

WOODBURNING, CLAY MAKING & WEAVING Monday 13th January, 10am to 12noon Brooms Head Community Hall, Brooms Head Just turn up!

YOUTH WELLBEING CHECK-IN & PIZZA Monday 13th January, 2pm to 4pm Iluka Skate Park, Iluka Just turn up!

LASER SKIRMISH Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 4pm to 6pm Bailey Park, Ulmarra Just turn up!

WEARABLE ART WORKSHOP Wednesday 15th January, 2pm to 4pm Glenreagh Community Hall, Glenreagh Bookings essential text - 0414 284 150

information and updates, check out our Facebook page Clarence Valley Youth' all 0428 420 908 if more details are required. activities will be postponed in the case of wet weather.



## 福田 法 化自己 CLARENCE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM WEEK 4 FREE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 12-18!

LASER SKIRMISH Tuesday 28th January, 4pm to 6pm Lawrence Memorial Park, Lawrence Just turn up!

Tuesday 28th January, 9am to 12noon

Bookings essential text - 0447 693 863

OUT OF THE BOX YOUTH SESSION

Wednesday 29th January, 3:30pm to 5pm

Out of the Box, Wherrett Park, Maclean

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SURF LESSONS

Turners Beach, Yamba

Basketball & Pizza

Just turn up!

Bookings essential text - 0414 284 150

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 4pm to 6pm Townsend Park, Townsend Just turn up!

**OUT OF THE BOX YOUTH SESSION** Surfboard Art & Soccer Friday 31st January, 3:30pm to 5pm Out of the Box, Yamba Skate Park, Yamba Just turn up!

es, check out our Facebook page Clarence Valley Youth 0428 420 908 if 0 900 nill be postpor osored by





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WEARABLE ART WORKSHOP Wednesday 29th January, 10:30am to 12:30pm Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton

LASER SKIRMISH

MACLEAN

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# **Everyone** deserves to feel safe at school

Please treat our staff and students with kindness and respect

Aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated Together, we can create a safe and harmonious environment for our students and staff

education.nsw.gov.au

## **Helpline Numbers/Online Resources**

Kids Helpline: 1800 551800 or www.kidshelp.com.au Lifeline: 13 1114 or www.lifeline.org.au Headspace: 1800 650890 or www.eheadspace.org.au Beyond Blue: 1300 224636 or www.beyondblue.org.au Reachout: http://au.reachout.com Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659467 Parent Line NSW: 1300 1300 52 or www.parentline.org.au WayAhead Directory: http://directory.wayahead.org.au Mental Health Telephone Access Line: 1800 011511 (operates 24 hours a day, 7 davs a week. It is staffed by clinicians who can provide advice, make referrals and link callers to the Mental Health Service in their local health district). School Counsellors: Mr Andrew Allen & Ms Tay Cone Wellbeing Health In-Reach Nurse: Ms Phoebe Meneer

