

St Stephen's  
Catholic College



# St Stephen's News

Issue 17 - Term 4 - Week 4

**Principal:** Ms Kerry Manders  
**Deputy Principal:** Mr Simon Vaughan  
**Assistant Principal Religious Education:** Ms Janai Sugars  
**Assistant Principal Administration:** Ms Toni Smith (Acting)  
**Business Manager:** Mr Hadyn Flynn  
**College Leader Pastoral Care:** Mr Matthew Draper



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## Celebrating Student Success!



St Stephen's Catholic College held the Award Ceremonies, in 3 separate COVID-19 safe events on Thursday 22 October, celebrating the excellent achievements of students.

Above left: Thomas Jackson - Rotary All Rounder.

Above right: Aarin Ryan and Giulia Pilat - Dux of the College.

Left: Jenna Kerswell - Sr Mary Stephen Memorial Award.

*For more photos, refer to pages 17, 18 and 19.*

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# NOTICES

## UPCOMING EVENTS:



**Monday 26 October to Tuesday 17 November**  
Year 12 External Exams

**Monday 9 November to Friday 13 November**  
Year 7 Camp

**Tuesday 10 November**  
P and F Meeting

**Friday 27 November**  
Term four ends

**REMINDER:** Please remember that any adults onsite must adhere to social distancing requirements and COVID-19 safe regimes: washing hands, avoid touching our faces, keep a safe distance (1.5 meters), sneeze and cough into the elbow and if unwell, stay home and follow the Queensland Government recommendations to have a COVID-19 test.



Keep up-to-date with COVID-19 by clicking on the link above.

## CHESS CLUB

with Mr Harnischfeger (Mr H)  
**Room: MCR - during Recess 2**  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



## TERM DATES 2020

**Term 4**  
Tuesday 5 October  
to  
Friday 27 November

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

Please inform the college if your child has achieved success in an extra-curricular activity not directly related to school, so that the college community can celebrate these achievements. Please email the principal ([ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au)) with any information and photos.

## Change of Details

To ensure communication is received, please advise the college if you have changed your email address. Please email the office: [ssm.office@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ssm.office@cns.catholic.edu.au) or telephone: 4086 2500. This also applies to any other contact details.

## ABSENTEE EMAIL

If your child is absent, please email:  
[ssm.absentee@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ssm.absentee@cns.catholic.edu.au)

## Maths Tutoring Available

**Tuesday and Thursday**

Recess 2 - MCR

(all students welcome)

**Wednesday**

3.00 pm - 4.00 pm - Library

Years 10 -12 only



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

On Thursday last week, we had the opportunity to celebrate the excellent achievement of our students. We then followed this on Friday with Graduation to farewell our Year 12 graduates. Both days were a highlight of the year - full of joy, excitement and pride. I would like to share excerpts of my address to the students at Awards Ceremony as I think the message is pertinent to all students.



*"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who are receiving awards and commend all students for trying their best particularly during this tumultuous year. We come together to celebrate the achievements of our students. We are very proud of you. Today we celebrate excellence or more importantly the pursuit of excellence."*

*The pursuit of excellence comes from viewing the world through a hope-filled lens. It is future focused, always looking for opportunities to change ourselves and the world around us. Hope-filled thinking is drawn from an understanding that with God all things are possible. Hope-filled thinking gives us the confidence to take courageous risks and persist, knowing that with trust in the Lord and our own capacity then all things are possible.*

*This is very different to being hopeful. Hopeful thinking is like making a wish. We are all hopeful of winning lotto and I am sure we have all planned our lotto wins. As you know wishing and hoping doesn't get you too many tangible rewards. You are here because you have a tangible reward and your search for excellence starts by using a hope-filled mindset.*

*I believe that pursuing excellence is being relentless in the search for our own success. I want to be clear that I am encouraging a pursuit for excellence not perfection - they are not the same thing. Consider Christ as our model. Christ called us to have life to the full, to love and serve. This means, seeking to live every day to be the best we can be, to **BE** better and to **DO** better tomorrow than today. Christ did not call us to be perfect. The question is what does the pursuit of excellence look like?*

*Firstly, create a hope-filled vision that helps you to make big goals, often called big audacious goals. Don't play it safe. Think big, really big, push past the limits of possible then make it happen. Don't settle for something that you can do perfectly, set a goal that is bigger and aim for it even if it's not perfect! Secondly, have the courage to push past the voice of failure. It is often the fear of failure, that makes us play it safe.*

*What will your big successes be?*

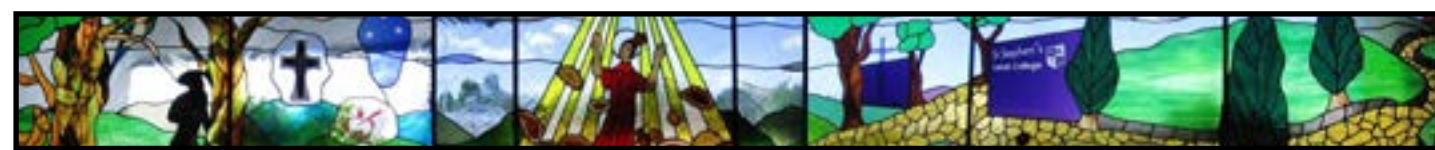
*How amazing are your goals?*

*Are you limiting yourself by worrying about not doing it perfectly?*

*It takes an incredible amount of courage to pursue excellence.*

*Thirdly, work for it, persist! This takes faith. The old saying goes that faith can move mountains, think about it? What does move mountains – one drop of water - the constant drip, little by little that water changes the rock. It is when we look to the mountain and keep going that we make a difference.*

*I encourage you as you move into 2021 to draw on the hope, courage and faith of St Stephen to guide you as you pursue excellence in the coming years".*





## FROM THE PRINCIPAL (CONT)

I know that it is our own grit that helps us stay on the road to excellence, it is a journey that must be littered with attempts. I agree with Simon Sinek who says falling is not failing, it is an important part of the journey and it is in continuing the journey that we succeed. I would also like to share with you my thoughts for the seniors on their graduation.

*"It gives me great pleasure to offer a few words of gratitude and advice at this the last time I speak to you. Parents, you have been your child's first teacher, you have been their greatest support, you have nurtured and guided them to adulthood. It has been our privilege and honour to have your children at the college and we offer our sincere thanks for their presence.*

*To you the graduating class, we are very proud of you and your achievements over the years, you have been successful in a wide range of pursuits from academic to sporting to cultural and community building ventures. The time has come for you to leave the security of St Stephen's and move to the next chapter of your journey - to see all the world has to offer – the excitement, challenges and responsibility. And whilst there is always some sadness at leaving school, it is a with great excitement and celebration after your thirteen years of education. I would like to give you some advice for the next phase of your journey. I have adapted it from JK Rowling's best advice to young people, when she said:*

*"Personal happiness lies in knowing that life is not a check-list of acquisition or achievement. Your qualifications, your CV, your belongings, your friendships, your Instagram profile are not your life, though you will meet many people who may confuse the two. Life is difficult, and complicated, and beyond anyone's total control, and the humility to know that and the courage to ride with it will enable you to survive life's changing fortunes."*

*I believe that courage and resilience is your middle name, because as a group, you are the trailblazers, the innovators and the explorers - your resilience and work ethic are to be admired - you have led the way in the new QCE system, homebased learning and the College response to a global pandemic. Courage helps you moderate all that life throws at you. Courage is addressing your fears and feelings, taking responsibility and being accountable for your actions and taking on the struggle. Remember regret is harder to swallow than defeat.*

*As our seniors embark on the last few days of exams, we bless you and send them on their way...  
May God's blessing follow you all as you find new journeys to travel.  
May you walk safely along the pathways of your dreams.  
May his gentle hand guide the decisions you will make and the passions that you follow  
May your hearts and lives always reflect his love and truth,  
And may hope be a light within you that you carry into each new day.*

*Remembering that you have been educated in the light of Jesus and St Stephen – Go make the world a better place – you have all you need to do it. Go light your world!"*

In considering the pursuit of excellence and the positive impact that our seniors can make in the world, I ask that each one of us spend some time in reflection on how each one of us helps the community as a whole to grow towards excellence each day, and create a world of love and mercy.

May the hope, faith and courage of Christ be with you.

God bless

**Ms Kerry Manders**

**Principal**

Email: [ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au)

## ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATION

Wow - what a term!

I have really enjoyed the experience of being Acting Assistant Principal Administration for Mr Priestly whilst he has been on leave. It has been a very challenging but massively rewarding experience.

This past week, we had the last immunisation session with Queensland Health which is a relief for our year seven and ten students. We also had the year eleven block exams, and the absolutely wonderful Arts Exhibition.

Also in this past week, hosted in our beautiful Holy Spirit Centre, we had a amazing awards ceremony day, which came about due to COVID restrictions and our belief that parents should be present to see the reward for the effort put in by their children. It was lovely to catch up with proud parents in a beautiful setting.

Additionally we had a very emotional Graduation Mass for our year twelve students who will now be entering their external exams. I would like to wish them the best of luck for these exams, as they are the first cohort of students to sit this style of exam, and gain entry to university using the ATAR system.

PAT testing will occur for our year seven students in week four. But more excitingly for them will be the long awaited camp to Camp Patterson – this was unfortunately delayed in term one due to COVID – so the students are super keen to finally go.

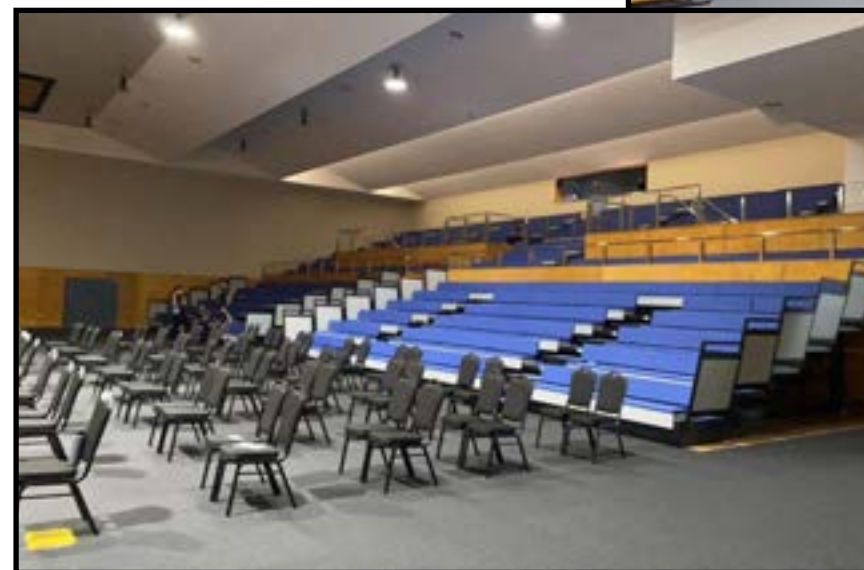
I would like to thank the year twelve students for their efforts over the years at St Stephen's Catholic College. The cohort were the first 'preppies', they were the first year seven class in high school and now the first "ATAR" students.

I wish them well for the future.

**Ms Toni Smith**

**Acting Assistant Principal Administration**

Email: [tsmith6@sscc.qld.edu.au](mailto:tsmith6@sscc.qld.edu.au)



It was a pleasure to host the Awards Ceremonies and the Year 12 Graduation Mass in the The Holy Spirit Centre. To have these facilities on site at St Stephen's Catholic College is a blessing.



## MATHEMATICS

### Australian Maths Competition

Last term, forty-five students competed in the Australian Mathematics Competition, which due to COVID-19, was held for the first time as an online paper. Seven students received distinction awards this year (listed below):

- Kip Williams – Year 7
- James Fowler – Year 8
- Tully Smith – Year 8
- Seno Franklin – Year 8
- Milan Maloberti – Year 9
- Natalie Millerd – Year 9
- Linda Emmerick – Year 11



### Times Table Challenge

Emma Cavanagh set a school record for the Times Table Challenge at assembly recently, with 144 correct answers in two minutes. Over 230 students competed in the Times Table Challenge in 2020 and Emma's score has won her the Times Table Trophy which is awarded annually to the fastest times-tabler in the school.



### Mr Christopher Ellison

#### Middle Leader Mathematics

Email: [cellison1@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cellison1@cns.catholic.edu.au)



Australian Maths Competition - Distinction Awards, back row: Seno Franklin, James Fowler, Milan Maloberti, Natalie Millerd and Linda Emmerick. Front row: Tully Smith and Kip Williams.

## VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

This term at St Stephen's we're collecting hamper donations for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Donations can be brought to home form each morning.

## WHAT TO DONATE

### Hamper foods:

Tinned food  
Cereal  
Pancake mix  
Biscuits  
Dried beans, lentils  
Instant noodles  
Pasta, rice  
Vegemite and other spreads  
Christmas cake, fruit mince pies  
Long life juice/ cordial

Pasta sauce  
Jelly  
Gravy mix  
Chips and snacks  
Candy canes  
Confectionary  
Long life custard/ custard powder  
Long life/ powdered milk  
Tea, coffee, sugar, Milo

### Christmas items:

Bon bons  
Tinsel  
Christmas cards

Gift tags  
Decorations  
Small toys/ gifts



## GOOD LUCK CLASS OF 2020!



Good Luck! 😊

## GOOD LUCK CLASS OF 2020!

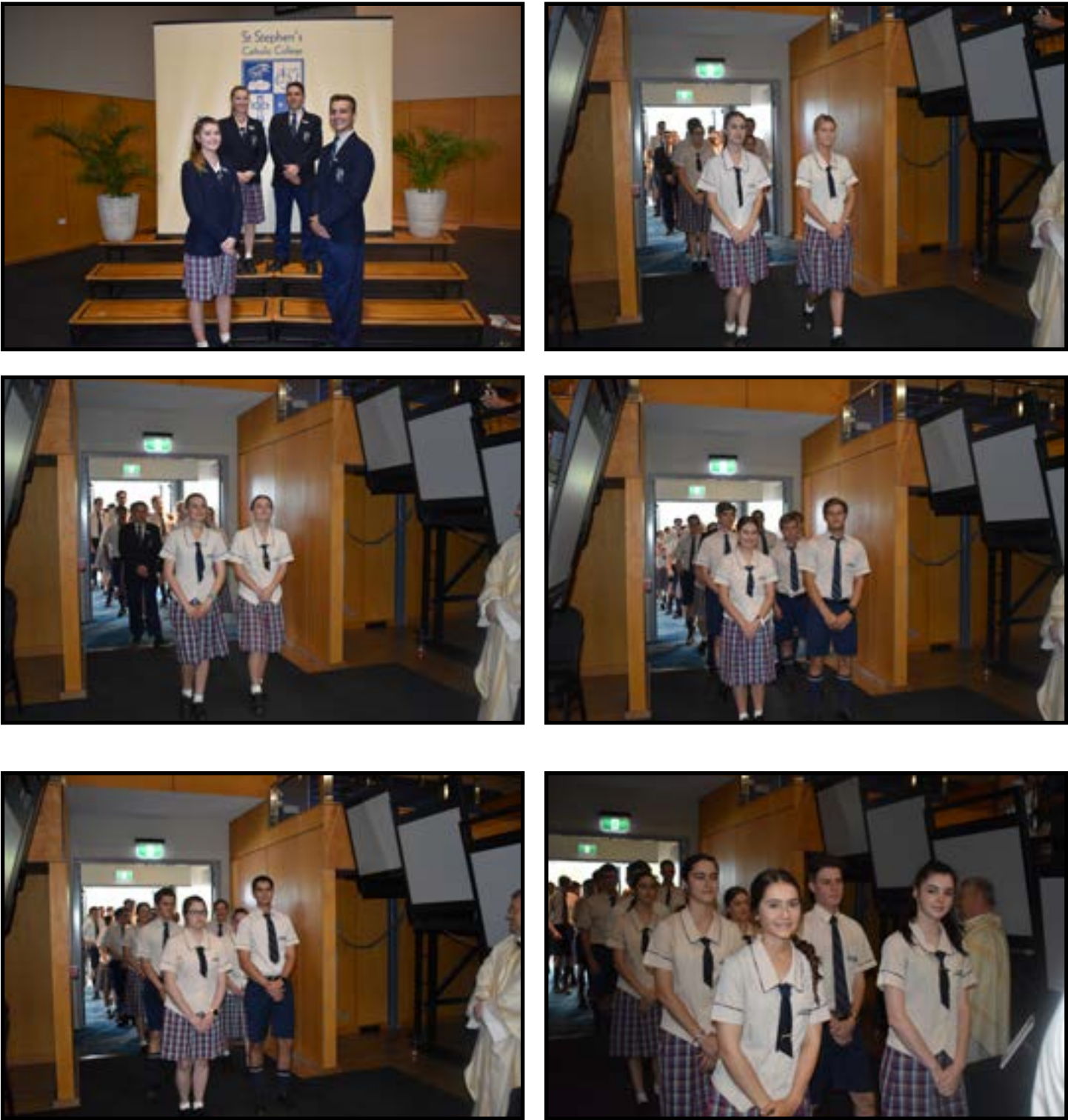


Good Luck! 😊



## GOOD LUCK CLASS OF 2020!

St Stephen's Catholic College farewelled the year twelve cohort on Friday 23 October, with the graduation and mass being held in the Holy Spirit Centre. Parents/carers were in attendance to congratulate the students on their achievements and to wish them all the very best for their future endeavours. To those students who have returned to complete their external exams for the next three weeks, we also wish you the very best for your ATAR results.



## GOOD LUCK CLASS OF 2020!





## DEADLY CHOICES WITH MAKENZIE AND TYLER MARTIN

Deadly Life Choices is a program where it teaches you about the harm and danger of drugs, smoking, abusive relationships, as well as healthy relationships. Deadly choices also teaches and practices physical advice and activities too. You can even reach out to the Deadly Life Choices program if you're struggling with addiction to any harmful substance.

What I enjoyed about Deadly Choices is that they teach you about the dangers of drugs and what's in them. I've learned a lot about what's in drugs are some of our daily use items, for example, we may use bug spray everyday and there's bug spray in cigarettes.

Deadly Life Choices is an overall good program and I would recommend it to anyone that would like to learn more about drugs and how harmful they are or if you're struggling with relationships or physical health.

**Makenzie Martin**  
Year 8



Last term we had the privilege to attend and meet the staff from Mulungu who presented their Deadly Choices program. In this program, we learnt about many issues that affect our indigenous people such as; alcoholism, nicotine addiction, drugs, healthy and unhealthy relationships, and the importance of physical activity. The way that the program was presented to us was through a weekly slideshow, they provided information about; side effects and treatments to addiction, relationships, and physical activity. We would like to thank Mulungu for such an engaging and informative program and for them taking the time out of their day to come and see the students at St Stephen's. I know I and my peers were grateful for this opportunity, and this program

**Tyler Martin**  
Year 9



## MIDDLE LEADER STUDENT DIVERSITY

As the 2020 school year draws to a close, it feels as though we can all exhale (with face masks still on in some places of our country!). Our students and staff continue to work diligently to achieve the best outcomes for all of our learners with opportunities, albeit different from the norm, the 'new normal', prevailing, occurring.



One such opportunity that I had the pleasure leading in 2019 and again this year is The Quest. This challenge, organised by BRAINways (<https://brainways.com.au/>) and in conjunction with various universities throughout Australia, has inspired many of our High Potential Learners from years seven to ten.

In the regional competition our school was very well represented by students selected by Middle Leaders of Humanities, Science, Mathematics, Pastoral and myself. On 19 and 20 October, the auditorium in the Holy Spirit Centre was the space utilised for the online delivery of the challenge. Students used video links and 'moodles' (a common platform for universities) for an introduction to new concepts and to further their understanding in the above mentioned curriculum areas. Their collaborative approach to tackling the open-ended challenges presented to them was inspirational. I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the below participants:

- Year 7 - Harley Cek, Brylee Cummings and Kip Williams
- Year 8 - Riley Lennon, Isabel Morris and Hannah Steele
- Year 9 - Ella Schrale, Nathaly Tarca and Mackenzie Wuth
- Year 9 - Natalie Millerd, Amelia Morris and Caitlin Wadley
- Year 10 - Ilana Bannink and Eloise Bertola

On the weekend of 7 November - Natalie Millerd, Amelia Morris and Caitlin Wadley will represent St Stephen's Catholic College at the State Championships for The Quest challenge at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. This team scored 100% in all three challenges and are very well placed to continue this success, particularly as it will be the second year in a row for two of these team members. Good luck to you all and thank you to Miss Debel for chaperoning this team. An update on their success will be communicated before the end of term.

**Mrs Trudy Pretorius**  
**Middle Leader Student Diversity**  
Email: [tpretorius@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tpretorius@cns.catholic.edu.au)





## LIBRARY NEWS!



Last term, Georgina Weiss (year seven), entered the QSuper Top 5 Book Competition. Georgina had to list her top 5 books of all time, something she said, 'was the hardest thing she ever had to do.'

Georgina won a \$500.00 book voucher for the school library. Georgina has picked the books for the school library and will also take home a large quantity of books for her own bookshelf. This should keep her reading through the Christmas holidays.

Thank you, Georgina, for winning this amazing prize for the school and congratulations.



**Mrs Simone Gillies**  
Teacher Librarian

Email: [sgillies@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sgillies@cns.catholic.edu.au)



**Mrs Suzanne Assenheim**  
Library Assistant

Email: [sasseheim@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sasseheim@cns.catholic.edu.au)

## MORE FROM GEORGINA WEISS!

In September, I had the opportunity to go out to Chillagoe with my dad and help CSIRO scientists research autonomous robots. They are taking part in an international competition to design robots that can work and communicate underground without human help. Our job was to help them find the perfect cave for their tests. The CSIRO had brought out three robots (Rat, Kitten and Pumpkin) and lots of drones as well as LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging equipment) instruments. The robots and the drones were taken into the cave and their mission was to find items that we had placed into the cave (helmets, ropes, people dummies).



They were not allowed human help and had to communicate amongst each other to explore, map and take 3D scans of the cave within a one hour time limit. It was very exciting to see them in action. The CSIRO is the only non-American robot team in this competition. We helped them get fantastic field experience and data for their next robot development. It was a great experience and it was great to see science in action. Thanks for the days off Miss Manders!



**Georgina Weiss**  
Year 7



## VET AND PATHWAYS

### What Does An Agronomist Do?

We were fortunate to have past student Olivia Pezzelato pay a visit last week to talk to interested students about her role as an agronomist and her experiences as an agriculture university student. Students heard about a typical day in the life of an agronomist and the important role agronomists play for many of our local farmers. Olivia also spoke about the subjects students should be studying in years eleven and twelve. Thanks Olivia for your time and great presentation.



### Recent Work Experience

St Stephen's Catholic College is grateful to the many work places and employers who recently gave valuable opportunities for students to undertake work experience. All employers reported positive experiences, giving glowing recommendations for the students involved. In some cases, students and employers are now negotiating school-based apprenticeships and traineeships for 2021. Well done to all involved.

### Practice Quizzes for Future Apprentices

When you are applying for an apprenticeship or traineeship, you often are required to undertake a literacy and numeracy aptitude quiz. It is a good idea to have a practice before you need to do 'the real thing'. They are nothing like assignments at school and you will be far more successful if you practice before hand. Australian Apprenticeship Pathways has a bank of quizzes for seventeen industry areas - [www.aapathways.com.au/literacy-and-numeracy-quizzes](http://www.aapathways.com.au/literacy-and-numeracy-quizzes)

### 10 STEM Careers for 2020... and Beyond

There are many different STEM careers out there, many of them in new fields that did not exist a few years ago. Check out Twig Education's most exciting career opportunities for 2020 which include:- Gameplay Engineer/ Programmer, Certified Ethical Hacker, Underwater Archeologist, Nanosystems Engineer, Atmospheric Scientist/ Storm Tracker, LEGO Designer, Mobile Application Developer, Aerospace Engineer, Photonics Engineer, 3D Printing Engineer. [twigeducation.com](http://twigeducation.com)



## VET AND PATHWAYS (CONT)

### Year 13 Website

[Year 13](#) is an online resource for post school options. It provides information on Jobs, Gap Year Programs, Job Vacancies, Studying, Money Advice, Internships and more. The site has a 'Get Advice' section with many articles you might find interesting and informative. Visit the 'Study' section for useful information about industries and occupations.

### Tax File Number - Do you have one? You will need one!

Prospective university and TAFE students will need a Tax File Number (TFN) to be able to defer their fee payment through HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP, VET FEE-HELP or a VET Student Loan. These loans are made on the basis you pay it back later through the tax system. So, if you do not have a TFN, you will not be able to finalise a government loan for study. There are several ways to apply for a TFN. Visit the [Australian Tax Office website](#) for details. You need to apply early as it will take some time to receive your TFN.

### Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarships

These scholarships assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from low socio-economic backgrounds, particularly those from rural and regional areas. They are administered on behalf of the Commonwealth Government by eligible universities. You will find information about these scholarships in the Scholarships webpage of the institution you have applied to.

### Looking For Degrees And Which Institutions Offer Them

[Course Seeker](#) is an Australian Government initiative. The interactive website displays course information, entry requirements, and admission processes across Australia. It is particularly helpful if you are thinking of studying interstate. Course Seeker provides access to the full range of higher education study and support options to all students, particularly those experiencing disadvantage, from regional areas and from families with limited historical exposure to the higher education system.

### Mr Paul MacCallum

Middle Leader VET and Vocational Learning

Email: [pmacallum@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pmacallum@cns.catholic.edu.au)



## 2020 AWARDS



Left to right: Mason Blaney - Vocational Education Training Award (VPG), Jace Turner - TAFE at School Award and Blake Tahir - Trade Training Centre Award.



Left to right: Kara Cazzola, Giulia Pilat and Aarin Ryan - Amaroo Medical Bursaries. Emmylou Milgate - Claude Cater Business/Law Studies Bursary, Maia Gambino - Evan and Fay McGrath Education Studies Bursary and April Wilson - Mareeba Chamber of Commerce Encouragement Award.



From left to right: Aarin Ryan - Sonia Fenwick Trust Bursary, Blake Tahir - Drama Award, Holly Bryce - Cultural Award and Aarin Ryan - Public Speaking Award.

## Awards Ceremony 2020





## 2020 AWARDS



From left to right: Sophie Schrale - James Cook University Shield Award (Year 11), Jamie Hewitt-Toms James Cook University Shield Award (Year 12), Aarin Ryan - Australian Defence Force Future Innovators Award and Jenna Kerswell - Australian Defence Force Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award.



From left to right: Andrew Gallo - Mareeba and Dimbulah Community Bank Award for Citizenship, Natalie Millerd - James Cook University Shield Award (Year 9), Jessica Reedman - St Stephen's Catholic College P and F Citizenship Award for Years 7 to 10 and Jorja Eales James Cook University Shield Award (Year 10).



From left to right: Alannah Falvo - Robert Fabris Trust Bursary, Audrey Cant - Australian Defence Force Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award and Alannah Falvo - Australian Defence Ford Future Innovators Award.

## Awards Ceremony 2020



## 2020 AWARDS



Year 7 Academic Medal Winners: Ewan Hall-Matthews and Brylee Cummings.

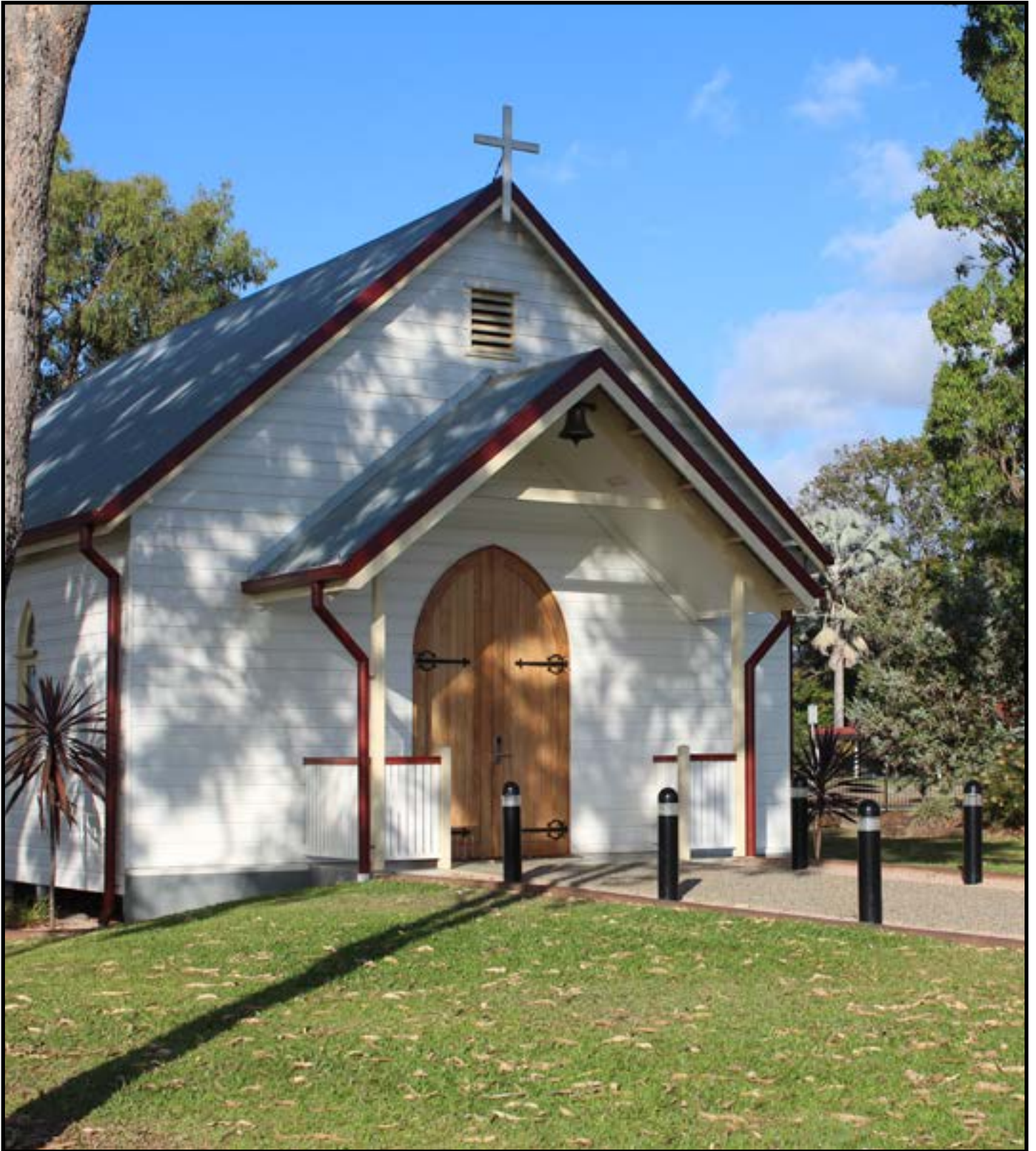


Year 8 Academic Medal Winner: Ursula Rose and Year 9 Academic Medal Winner: Caitlin Wadley.



Year 10 Academic Medal Winner: Alannah Falvo and Year 11 Academic Medal Winner: Tahlia Spena.





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