Dear Parents and Friends of St Clare’s

This week while reviewing some professional reading, deciding which resources to keep and which I would recycle, I came across a document that had a strong and lasting influence on me as an educator. The document “Make their Heads Spin” was published by the Western Australian Department of Education and Training and was aimed at improving learning in the middle years of secondary school.

The document makes many excellent points including:

- Student, teacher, family and community partnerships provide powerful links that enhance learning. Learning opportunities are enhanced when a school community links to, recruits and extends the expertise, skills, support, cultural experiences, resources, facilities, business acumen and knowledge of its members.

- Community-based learning is learning that takes place in the community, beyond the confines of the classroom and the school. It involves individuals, other than teachers, as part of the learning process. Students remain at the centre of the learning process, while maintaining connections to, and support from, teachers, parents and other community members.

This has certainly been the case at St Clare’s this week. Year 10 Hospitality and Music students have engaged with the aged at the annual Parish Christmas Lunch. Year 9 students have mentored and worked with Grade 5 students to form relationships and problem solve together. Our Japanese language students gathered over Japanese cuisine to reminisce about their trip to Japan and discuss the cultural lessons they had learned with their teachers and peers. Year 10 students and teachers from Year 11 and 12 have been working together to improve the transition from Stage 5 to Stage 6 education.

When learning takes place in contexts outside the classroom (in the workplace, a church, museum or shopping centre) students are able to observe ways of behaving, ways of speaking and conventions that are particular to certain situations. They quickly learn to adapt their own language and behaviour according to purpose and audience. This ‘on site’ learning can be more meaningful than learning conducted in an isolated classroom, away from the real action. My thanks to all the staff and students who have worked diligently to enhance the learning in our school.

God Bless

Principal
YEAR 10 AWARD CEREMONY: Please note that the time noted in the letter which went out to Year 10 students recently for the Year 10 Award Ceremony (9:30 am) is incorrect. The actual time for this ceremony is 10:15 am as stated previously in the Newsletter. My apologies. Karen McCann, Year 10 Student Coordinator

TEXTBOOKS: A reminder to all students in Years 7 to 10 and Year 11 Preliminary that they will need to return their textbooks and library books to the bookroom so that they may be processed for 2016. Textbooks will not be lent to students next year if outstanding loans are not returned or paid for if missing. Karen Kelly, Bookroom Supervisor

PRAYERS: Please pray for those who are currently experiencing health difficulties and continue to pray for community members experiencing challenges, pain, sickness and grief in their lives at this time.

PRAYER POINT:

“A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.
And all shall see the salvation of God.” Luke 3

This is what we wait for in Advent - for the time when all the “crooked” parts of me will be made straight and all the mountains I climb will be flattened.

But Luke tells us that we should be doing this for the Lord - that all the ‘crooked’ parts in me need to be straight so that the Lord can walk into my life and show me salvation. And… it is God who is going to help me do this; it is God who is going to help me flatten every mountain; that all my winding ways, and rough roads will be made ready by God to allow Jesus into my life.

God will do all this - the ‘trick’ is to let it happen/be done to me.
I pray that our hearts will be open to this.

Denise Ryan, Ministry Coordinator

Caritas Australia’s new Advent app - http://www.caritas.org.au/advent
A MESSAGE FROM OUR CONGREGATIONAL LEADER

Christmas is a special time when our hearts are drawn to respond generously to those people and places in our country and our world where the issues of ongoing poverty and disadvantage continue. Mary MacKillop always had an “eye out” for those who found life difficult. Often she noticed the children who were most disadvantaged as she moved around the schools of this country. Once when visiting a school community she noticed a small boy who had only ragged clothes and no shoes. Mary’s immediate response was to go to this child and say to the Sister teaching the class: "Ah Sister these are the children I love". Children were at the heart of Mary MacKillop’s work and mission as she provided homes for those without families, schools for children in rural and isolated communities and support to bereaved families. One of the important marks of Mary MacKillop’s education was that the struggling children and families in their schools had the opportunity to enjoy treats on special days of celebration. Mary MacKillop believed that everyone had the right to moments of joy amidst the struggles of the everyday.

I am personally grateful to the Sisters of St Joseph who came to the small country community of Allora – for the values they taught me, for the practical broad based education that they offered and for giving me a sure foundation on which to develop my life-long education.

This legacy newsletter provides you with the opportunity to express your gratitude to the Sisters of St Joseph in their Sesquicentenary year by supporting one of their outreach programmes described in the following pages.

As I come to celebrate Christmas I wish to express my deep appreciation for your generous support and interest over this past year. May Christmas bring you joy and peace.

Sr Monica Cavanagh
Congregational Leader

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150 YEARS WORKING WITH CHILDREN

The Sisters of St Joseph was founded in Penola, South Australia in March 1866. Next year, we will be celebrating 150 years since the founding of the congregation. In that time, we have provided a solid education and an opportunity for a “fair go” in life to thousands of children across Australia and overseas, particularly to those children who would not have otherwise had an opportunity to learn. The congregation was founded because Julian Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop saw a need in remote Australian communities and did something to ensure that it was met. Their commitment, dedication and perseverance have ensured the future success of generations of children and for that we are very thankful.

Our Sisters have dedicated their lives to providing support, care and education in our most vulnerable communities. Your generous support this Christmas will help us to continue this work into the future, through our many established aid agencies. Our agencies are working closely together to offer programs which continue to meet the needs in these communities. But, we cannot do this without you.

We are listening to the heartbeat of the world... be part of the story.
Mass Times

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Taree**  
75 Albert St, Taree  
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm  
Sunday Mass: 9:30 am

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wingham**  
8 Farquhar Street, Wingham  
Sunday: 8:30 am

**St Bernadette’s, Krambach**  
Bucketts Way, Krambach  
Saturday: 6:30 pm (On the weekend of a 5th Sunday, a Liturgy of the Word with Communion is held at Nabiac Church)

**Our Lady Star of the Sea, Harrington**  
Pilot St, Harrington  
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm  
(1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays in each month)  
Saturday Liturgy of the Word and Communion: 6:00 pm  
(2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month)

**Our Lady of Fatima, Old Bar**  
20 Hall St, Old Bar,  
Sunday Mass: 7:30 am

**St Patrick’s, Cundletown**  
River St, Cundletown  
Sunday Mass: 6:00 pm

**Forster-Tuncurry Catholic Parish**  
Holy Name of Jesus Parish Church, Forster  
33 Lake Street, Forster  
Sunday Mass: 9:00 am

**St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Tuncurry**  
15 Peel Street, Tuncurry  
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm  
Sunday Mass: 7:00 am

FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL:

**Year 12 students** continue to receive offers of employment and tertiary education placements. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of students and **Careers Adviser, Mrs Carol Healey**, nearly 120 University Early Entry offers have been made with some students receiving multiple offers. Bearing in mind that there are 91 students in the Class of 2015, this is again an outstanding achievement.

Students will receive their 2015 HSC results via email and text message from **6 am on Wednesday 16 December 2015**. Students will also be able to access their results at the same time via the BOSTES **Students Online** site.

Students should now access the **Online > My Details** and check that their email addresses and mobile telephone numbers are correct. They could use their personal email address, rather than school email address, although the St Clare’s school email system will remain open to the Class of 2015 until the commencement of the 2016 school year.

For more information, contact: **Students Online > Results > Getting your results** or ring 1300 13 83 23.

On **Thursday, 17 December 2015** (the day following the release of HSC results) those students who applied will receive their **Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)**. ATARs can be accessed from 9 am at [http://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/atar/](http://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/atar/)
Students will need their **Year 12 student number** and your **UAC PIN** to log in. Families are reminded that, although the school has the student numbers, we **DO NOT** have access to each student’s PIN.

Visit the [ATAR website](https://www.ATARsunrise.com) to read about how the ATAR is calculated and more information on getting results. In general, the ATAR provides a measure of a student's overall academic achievement in relation to that of other students and helps universities rank applicants for selection into their courses. Each .05 increment has about 50 students i.e. there are about 50 students who will receive an ATAR of 67.85. So, the highest ATAR of 99.95 will contain the top 50 students in the state – it does **NOT** mean that they got an average mark of 99.

In terms of our ability to make recommendations to students in future years, it is vital that all Year 12 students contact the school to inform us of their ATARs. By comparing these ATARs with HSC marks, it enables us to gauge trends which assist us in supporting our next cohort, the Class of 2016, with regard to post school options. This information will **NOT** be released unless approval is given by a student.

We prefer students to come to school to speak with staff, especially **Mrs Healey, Mrs Avery and Mr Evans**, but, if that is not possible, then a phone call to the office is fine. Students will be asked to respond to 3 questions:

1. What is your ATAR?
2. In light of this ATAR, what is your intended career choice for 2016 (i.e. further study, employment, gap year)?
3. Can the school release your information/photograph to the wider community including local press?

**Mrs Healey, Mrs Avery, Mr Nicholls, Mr Gibney and Mr Evans** will be available on:

- Thursday, 17th December, until 1 pm (start of the staff off-site Christmas Lunch)
- Friday, 18th December, until 3 pm (start of the School Summer Holidays).

**Year 11 students** are well and truly in HSC Course assessment task mode. Many Year 11 students have already had at least one formal assessment task and most subjects will have had tasks by the end of Term 4. It is of concern that some students and their families are not notifying the school when students are **absent on the day of a task OR the day before the task**. All should be aware of the requirements of BOSTES and the school in regard to these matters as the policy has been well publicised both by word and in print. Students who do not comply with the requirement to notify the school if absent on the day of the task/day before the task **automatically receive a zero for that task** although this zero can be appealed if extraordinary circumstances apply – simply forgetting to make contact is **NOT** grounds for an appeal.

For students in both Years 11 and 12, this time of year can be very **stressful**. Students and families are reminded that the **School Counsellor, Tania Gorton**, is available to provide professional support.
We remind ALL students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 that their attendance at school is required up until the final day for students – Wednesday, 16 December 2015. This day will feature our Annual Awards Assembly.

Ian Evans, Year 12 Student Coordinator and Bronwen Davidson, Year 11 Student Coordinator

HOSPITALITY HAPPENINGS: Parish Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, 2 December, a number of Year 10 Hospitality students along with Mrs Gale and Mrs McFarlane, helped Sue Maurer and the Parish Hospitality Group prepare a delicious morning tea and lunch for the Parish Hoy and Card Groups.

The guests were entertained by Year 10 Music students, Kymren and Mr McDougall.

Santa made an appearance to hand out gifts. He was assisted by the students and Mrs Gale’s daughter, Amelia. Gabrielle McFarlane, Hospitality Assistant
This display and awards for the work of students studying TAS subjects has been held in the district since the early 1980’s and has had many formats and locations over the years. In 2014 the display was transferred to the Manning Regional Art Gallery and was again held there this year. Showcasing the creativity of TAS students from Year 7 to 12 from all secondary schools in the district, the awards/display allows for the exhibition of students work from Year 7 & 8 Technology (mandatory), Year 9 & 10 Industrial Technology (Timber, Metals, Graphics, Textiles & Design and Food) and Year 12 HSC Industrial Technology (Timber, Metals, Graphics), Design & Technology, Textiles & Design and VET Construction. This year many St Clare’s students exhibited some excellent work and some were well rewarded for their efforts with awards.

Again sincere and heartfelt thanks must go to Mr Graeme Taylor from Wingham High School who, with Mr Steve Foxwell from Taree High School, organised the display and awards. The event is sponsored by the Manning Regional Gallery, Mid-Coast Water, Manning River Steel Supplies, Rocket Tools Taree, Southcott Engineering, Bunnings Taree and Masters Taree.

St Clare’s TAS students who won awards were:

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<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Lee</td>
<td>Year 12 Textiles &amp; Design</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Lee</td>
<td>Manning River Steel HSC Student Encouragement Award</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bianca Heiss</td>
<td>Year 12 Textiles &amp; Design Runner Up</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<td>Joshua Barry</td>
<td>Year 10 Industrial Technology METALS</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua Barry</td>
<td>Year 10 Graphics Technology</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keisha Perry</td>
<td>Year 9 Textiles &amp; Design</td>
<td>$40</td>
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<td>Danielle Murray</td>
<td>Year 9 Food Technology Folio Prize</td>
<td>$40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haylee Buttsworth</td>
<td>Year 8 Technology Food Folio And the David Gillespie, Lyne MP YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD</td>
<td>$20</td>
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Many thanks to Mrs Healey and Mr McGrath who were able to attend the awards presentation held at the Manning Regional Gallery last Sunday afternoon and to the other talented TAS teachers that St Clare’s is lucky to have, namely Miss O’Mara, Mrs Avery and Mr Gonfond. Mark O’Neill, TAS Teacher

Above Year 12 students Bianca Heiss and Victoria Lee who won awards for their HSC Textiles & Design major works which can be seen in the background. Accompanying them is talented Year 8 student Haley Butsworth

Above – Danielle Murray, Year 9 Food Technology Folio Prize and Keisha Perry, Year 9 Textiles & Design

Left - Year 10 student Joshua Barry who won awards in both Industrial Technology (Metals) and Graphics Technology.

Right - is one of Joshua’s CAD assembly drawings which formed part of his Graphics folio and his Metal folio. Joshua’s major work for Industrial Technology was the off-set vice which he has modelled here using CAD software
ROWING: Tom Steedman (Year 11) travelled down to Sydney to compete in the Independent Schools Championships for Rowing (ISRA). He and Baxter, another member of the Manning River Rowing Club, competed in the Schoolboys Double Scull event. This was the premier double race of the regatta. Crews that participated were from Newcastle Grammar, Canberra Grammar, Sydney schools such as Cranbrook, Redlands and Kinross Wolaroi Orange.

They started the race ok, with two other crews jumping out to an early lead and at the 500m mark Tom & Baxter were coming 4th, slightly behind a Canberra crew. They pushed for 20 strokes and broke the Canberra crew to go into 3rd. They settled and were gradually pulling water off the Newcastle Grammar crew. The Grammar boys were physically bigger and stronger but that didn’t intimidate the Manning boys. Grammar didn’t realise that Tom and Baxter were taking water off them and when they tried to put the pressure on Tom and Baxter kicked again, a tactic employed by the boys.

At the 1500m mark Tom made another move from the stroke and they put everything they had into catching the Grammar crew. They drew up to their bow then started to creep along their boat to half way. The coach of the Grammar crew was yelling at his crew to lift as the Manning crew was catching them. The boys coach Sam Steedman (Tom’s brother and ex St Clare’s student) then yelled at the boys encouraging them not to stop now and keep going. The race ended with a thrilling finish that left all crews very exhausted. Tom and Baxter finished 3rd overall in one of the best races of the day!

The Cranbrook crew who won it were on the other side of the course. This race now sets up an anticipated re-race at the Taree Summer regatta in Taree in January, then again at the State Championships in Sydney in February with the possibility of Nationals in Sydney in March. Tom is to be congratulated on his amazing achievement at the Schools Rowing Championships!! Jenna Rowsell, Representative Sports Coordinator
MANNING GREAT LAKES REGION ALL SCHOOLS SURF LIFE SAVING CARNIVAL: Last Friday saw 14 students head to Forster Main Beach to compete in the Manning Great Lakes Region All Schools Surf Life Saving Carnival. The day started out with the water events including a Swim Race, a Board Race, the Iron Person and the Cameron Relay event. All competitors who entered these races are to be congratulated on their efforts and their dedication to the sport they love. Sam Webber (Year 7) was our only male competitor in the Iron Person event and represented St Clare’s with his extraordinary effort in the water. Chelsea Green (Year 9), Katarina Kladis (Year 8) and Karla Berg (Year 8) competed very strongly in the girls water events.
Our area of strength lied in the beach events where St Clare’s finished in the top 2 in every event. The beach sprint was very competitive in the Open Males with interclub rivalry coming to the fore. All St Clare’s students competed in all the beach events and we proved to be very strong on the sand.

Overall a great day was had by all and our students performed with great sportsmanship. Well Done! **Tanya Johnson**
MATHS WORKSHOP - Mathematics Workshop provides the opportunity for every student to obtain assistance and support in improving their understanding of mathematics. Four mathematics teachers are available each week to explain the concepts you are finding difficult or give assistance to enable you to complete your homework, assignments or any work that you may have missed due to absence from class.

WHEN IS IT ON?  Wednesday lunchtime - every week.
Bring your lunch!

WHERE?  Room 10
We hope to see you there!
Mrs Julie Rowsell- Mathematics Coordinator

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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>7/12</th>
<th>Jenny Garland</th>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>8/12</td>
<td>Brigitte Anderson</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>Karen Larkin</td>
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<td>THURSDAY</td>
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<td>Help Urgently Required</td>
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<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>Pam Squires, Jenny Chippett - ½ day</td>
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VACANCIES STILL EXIST
MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
IF YOU CAN ASSIST PLEASE CONTACT CHERYL KINGSFORD
ST CLARE’S CANTEEN: 6591 2104, HOME: 6552 1857 OR
VIA EMAIL: cheryl.kingsford@mn.catholic.edu.au

LOST PROPERTY:  There are numerous items in the school lost property including jumpers and tracksuit jackets. Please claim any items before the end of the year as they will then be donated to St Vincent de Paul.
COMING EVENTS

Term 4

Week 10 Sunday 6/12 ♦ Carols by Candlelight, Our Lady of the Rosary, Taree
Activities commence 3:30 pm – Carols from 6 pm
Monday 7/12 ♦ Year 10 Camp Commences
Wednesday 9/12 ♦ Year 8 Excursion to the Big Buzz Fun Park
Friday 11/12 ♦ Year 10 Camp Concludes
♦ Year 9 Art & Photography Students presenting the Poppy Installation at Club Taree Memorial at 12 noon – All welcome to attend

Week 11 Monday 14/12 ♦ Year 10 Awards Ceremony – 10:15 am
♦ Final Day for Year 10 Students
Tuesday 15/12 ♦ Year 10 Social – Rowing Club
Wednesday 16/12 ♦ HSC results released
♦ Years 7, 8, 9 & 11 Annual Awards Ceremony – 10:15 am
♦ Parent/Teacher Interviews (by request) – 1 pm
♦ Final Day for Students
Thursday 17/12 ♦ ATARs released by UAC
♦ Pupil Free Day
♦ Final Day for Teachers

2016

Term 1

Week 1 Wednesday 27/1 ♦ Staff Development Day – Pupil Free Day
Thursday 28/1 ♦ Staff Development Day – Pupil Free Day
Friday 29/1 ♦ Years 7, 11 & 12 Students Commence
Monday 1/2 ♦ Years 8, 9 & 10 Students Return

Week 3 Wednesday 10/2 ♦ P & F Meeting – 6 pm School Library
CHOOSE YOUR GLOBAL GIFT

THE GIFT OF WATER
Bring the joy of fresh, clean water to some of the world’s most vulnerable communities. This Global Gift will help improve health, sanitation, and hygiene. With clean water, diseases can be prevented and communities begin to flourish.

THE GIFT OF FOOD
Bring the joy of nutritious food to people who don’t have enough to eat due to poverty, conflicts, natural disasters or climate change. This Global Gift will give mothers access to food for their children, and could help save a life this Christmas.

THE GIFT OF AGRICULTURE
Bring the joy of sustainable agriculture and new livelihoods to some of the poorest communities in the world. This Global Gift will help support training programs that empower communities to produce sustainable crops, providing essential food and income for families.

THE GIFT OF EDUCATION
Bring the joy of education to children and adults who don’t have access to schools and learning. This Global Gift will help people to learn to read and write, empowering them to create better futures for themselves and their families.

THE GIFT OF EMERGENCY RELIEF
Bring the joy of emergency relief to people stricken by war and natural disasters. This Global Gift will help provide shelter, food, water, healthcare, education and protection to people who are dealing with the immediate and ongoing consequences of an emergency situation.

THE GIFT OF HEALTHCARE
Bring the joy of healthcare to mothers and children around the world. This Global Gift will help provide mothers with education and training on preventative healthcare, dental hygiene and fund programs that provide food and medical aid to improve community health.

THE GIFT OF JOY FOR AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY
Transform lives and bring joy to entire communities. This Global Gift will help support far-reaching community programs that empower extremely poor communities to create change. Through HIV/AIDS education, agricultural training, and improved access to water, food and sanitation, communities are able to build paths out of poverty.
# How to Purchase a Global Gift

Complete the form and return it in the envelope provided. Call us on 1800 024 413 or order online at www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts.

## Order Your Global Gift

Simply choose how much you want to pay for each gift and the number of cards you want to send at that price. Or choose your own amount and calculate the total in the column provided.

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*Read amount only

Or I would like to make a one-off donation $________

Please allow 7 working days for delivery. Orders should be placed before Dec 12th to arrive in time for Christmas. Donations over $2 are tax deductible.

Please find enclosed

- [ ] Cheque
- [ ] Money Order (Payable to Caritas Australia)
- [ ] Cash

Please debit this card

- [ ] Visa
- [ ] MasterCard
- [ ] Amex

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

Name of Cardholder

Signature

Email

I would like my receipt sent to the above email address to help save administration costs and ensure more of my donation goes where it is needed most.

Address: 24-32 O’Flordan St, Alexandria NSW 2015  |  Phone: 1800 024 413  |  Email: questions@caritas.org.au

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