

College Houses

[College Learning Communities]

MacKillop Catholic College's four Houses or College Learning Communities (CLC) are named for significant elements of the 'MacKillop Spirit' and 'Josephite charism'.

While each College Learning Community represents a particular element in a purposeful manner, all elements are embraced by every CLC, so that together the four elements are characteristic of the 'MacKillop Way'.

Each Learning Community has a distinctive emblem bearing the footprint of an animal native to the Mount Peter region. A Yidinji *songline* narrative of each creature describes its natural behaviours and the cultural wisdom which complements the values embodied by each CLC.

The Stories behind the House Emblems 'Footprints'

Each one of us leaves behind footprints on our journey throughout life. These footprints tell our stories. The footprints created here represent the stories of the native wildlife of Cairns. Each has their individual story and journey. Each journey is a songline to the Gimuy Walubara clan of the Yidinji Nation. These songlines are told in our song and dance.

Gudju Gudju – Yidinji Elder

Learning Communities of MacKillop Catholic College

Inspiring Hearts, Minds and Spirits

MacDonald

D

Woods

W

McCormack

C

Loyola

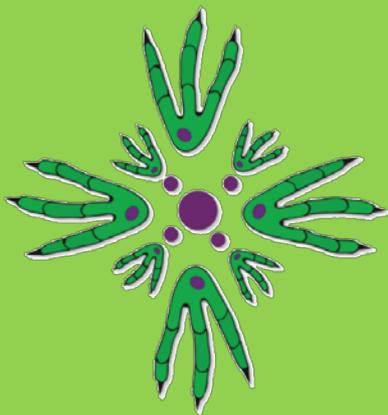
L

MacDonald

D

a spirit of community in the manner of family

- Named for St Mary MacKillop's maternal family, the MacDonald clan. Mary was very close to her family on her mother's side, many of whom emigrated from Scotland to settle in Australia. It was within the MacKillop and MacDonald families that Mary first experienced being loved and initially heard Jesus' good news of God's love for all people.
- **MacDonald** gives expression to the Christian spirit of family which is welcoming, inclusive and supportive.
 - St Mary MacKillop would lead us to Jesus Christ who says: *“Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”* (Jn 14:23)
 - *“You first led me to love Him”* Mary MacKillop
 - *“God will protect and work with us”* Mary MacKillop
 - Mercy is at home in family and community.
- Yidinji Emblem - *Djarraga* the Scrub Hen



This emblem represents the journey of the scrub hen. Djarraga is the word for scrub hen in the Yidinji language.

The emblem shows a family relationship, the mother, father and the two chicks. The scrub hen's journey is one with the family. The mother carries the chicks until she is ready to lay the eggs once she has laid the eggs the father helps to take care of the eggs until the chicks hatch. Then as a family they collect food together until the chicks are old enough to fend for themselves. The Scrub Hen's Nest (Djarragun), today known as Walsh's Pyramid, is visible from MacKillop Catholic College.

- Colour: GREEN

Woods



minds with a love of learning

- Named for Fr Julian Tenison Woods who, with St Mary MacKillop, founded the *Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart*. Their motivation was to provide access to education for children of families whose financial or remote circumstances would otherwise not allow this. Fr Woods himself was a renowned scholar in secular society as an accurate observer of the physical world and made original and valuable contributions to academic fields of Australian geology, palaeontology and zoology.
- **Woods** gives expression to the gift of learning which a precursor to life-long growth and opportunity.
 - Fr Woods would remind us that Jesus - the master teacher - was himself a learner: *“After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.”* (Luke 2:46-47)
 - *“Do your best and God will bless your efforts”* Mary MacKillop
 - *“Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority.”* (Matthew 7:28-29a)
- Education is among the Christian works of mercy.
- Yidinji Emblem – *Janggull* the Quoll -



In the Yidinji language Janggull means both quoll and right hand.

The journey of the quoll involves taking the righteous and just path. The journey of the quoll includes understanding one's own capabilities and preparing an open heart for learning.

Quolls usually hunt independently but they come together for ceremony, learning and the sharing of knowledge and good times.

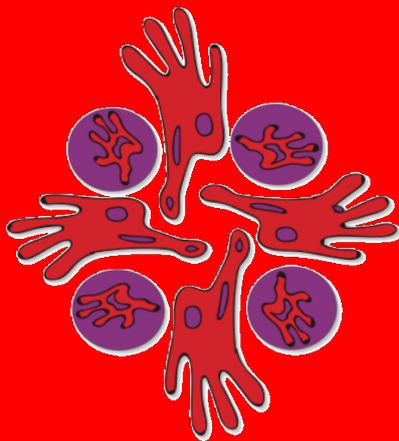
- Colour: BLUE

McCormack



a spirit of compassion and service

- Named for Sr Irene McCormack rsj, whose commitment as a Sister of St Joseph saw her living amongst and supporting the poor of Peru. She stood with her adopted people supporting works of justice, education and outreach. Sr Irene was martyred in 1991.
- **McCormack** gives expression to the Christian imperative to outreach to those in need in a spirit of generosity and loving service.
 - Sr Irene McCormack would remind us that Jesus reveals his presence in the lives of the poor and powerless: *And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”* (Matthew 25:40)
 - *“Let us really love one another”* Mary MacKillop
 - *“God loves all of us, but he loves best those who help the weak”* Mary MacKillop
 - *“Never see a need without doing something about it”* Mary MacKillop
 - Christian service is mercy enacted.
- Yidinji Emblem - *Dimin* the Sugar Glider



Dimin means sugar glider in the Yidinji Language.

The sugar glider lives in and respects the old wise trees of the forest. The sugar glider shares their homes with other gliders in a community of sugar gliders.

The adults share the responsibility of bringing up the young and after the young gliders are old enough to fend for themselves they journey out and leave the tree house for another families to occupy.

Their life is full of generosity, respect and loving service to their community and environment.

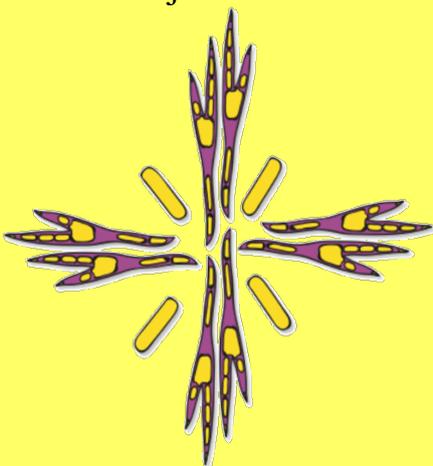
- Colour: RED

Loyola

L

hearts for spirituality and faith

- Named for St Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. Mary MacKillop's own spiritual formation was deeply influenced by the *Ignation charism* which beckons us to seek God within, and to look for Him in creation and in the hearts and minds of the human community around us. Mary's family was befriended by Jesuits, the Jesuits came to Mary's support in times of crisis and the ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph was supported by Jesuits in many places. Mary's brother Donald became a Jesuit priest.
- **Loyola** gives expression both to the spiritual quest that is integral to the human experience, and to the Christian faith which offers meaning and direction to life's journey.
 - St Ignatius Loyola, who reminds us that *"Love is shown more in deeds than in words"*, would have us take to heart St Peter's declaration of faith in Jesus Christ, *"Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."* (John 6:68)
 - *"If we have love in our hearts, we shall have God with us"* Mary MacKillop
 - *"There where you are, you will find God"* Mary MacKillop
 - Faith is a gift given by our God of mercy.
- Yidinji Emblem - *Mabi* the Tree Kangaroo



Tree kangaroo in Yidin is Mabi. The journey of the tree kangaroo starts with taking care of its young but they will also care of abandoned young who have lost their family, they are very compassionate.

They are slow when moving along the ground but when they are in the trees they are risk-takers, bold and agile.

Their hearts are light and they move with faith that the forest will provide the right pathway and lead them to safety.

- Colour: YELLOW