Good afternoon Parents and Caregivers,

**SCHOOL OPINION SURVEYS**

Thank you to the 47 families who responded to the annual School Opinion Surveys. Your opinions given in the survey will be used to generate strategies for 2015 school operations.

**OUR WEEKLY ATTENDANCE**

We are still striving to reach our attendance rate goal of 95%. Recently our attendance rate has dropped slightly as there has been a lot of sickness going around. Genuine illness is an acceptable reason for illness, as we would not want illness to spread throughout the school. However, if you are healthy – you should be at school every day. **EVERY DAY COUNTS!**

**OPTIMINDS**

This Sunday August 24th our school will have 3 groups of students participating in the Optiminds challenge. We have groups participating in Science/Engineering, Social Sciences and Literacy. The challenge is being held at Pioneer SHS. Thank you to the staff and students for giving up their personal time to participate in this challenge.

**TWILIGHT CONCERTS**

Over the next two Wednesdays parents will have the opportunity to see various performance groups presenting their skills at our school. On Wednesday 20th August all our choral groups will be presenting various songs in the hall. The concert will start at 6pm.

On Wednesday 27th August our instrumental groups will be performing. These will include the Recorder Band, Instrumental Band, String Ensembles (including beginners) and African Drumming Troupe. This concert will take place in the Activity room and will begin at 6pm.

**RATS OF TOBRUK**

Next Friday evening at 5.30pm our school will participate in the second of the annual Rats of Tobruk ceremonies at Queens Park. Our Recorder Band will be performing the National Anthem as part of the ceremony and our student leaders will be involved in the presentation ceremony.

(Cont’d)

**PERFECT ATTENDANCE RATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100% Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>95% Attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92.4% Attendance</td>
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</table>

**PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

Everyone here every day!

**OUR SCHOOL TARGET FOR 2014—**

“Every Day Counts”

So far this year—Let’s all work together to reach our target!

**date claimer**

- Twilight Concert……………………………………...Wed 20th Aug
- Jump Rope for Heart…………………………...Wed 20th & Thurs 21st Aug
- P & C Red Day……………………………………...Fri 22nd Aug
- P & C Craft Morning…………………………...Tues 26th Aug
- Twilight Concert……………………………………...Wed 27th Aug
- Life Education Van…………………………...Thurs 28th Aug - Wed 3rd Sept
- Jump Rope Forms Returned………………………Fri 29th Aug
- Rats of Tobruk Ceremony………………………..Fri 29th Aug
- Year 5 Camp……………………………Mon 1st Sept - Wed 3rd Sept
- P & C Fathers Day Stall…………………………Fri 5th Sept
- Year 2 Camp……………………………………Fri 5th Sept
- Year 3 Camp……………………………………Fri 5th Sept
- School Photos……………………………………Tues 9th Sept
- Last Day of Term 3……………………………..Fri 19th Sept

**WE ARE NOW TAKING ENROULMENTS FOR 2015**

**ADDRESS:** Harvey Street
PO Box 3012
North Mackay QLD 4740

**PHONE** 07 49 400 333
**FAX** 07 49 400 300
**EMAIL:** the.principal@macknortss.eq.edu.au
WAKAKIRRI

On Friday 8th August 39 students competed in the annual Mackay Regional Wakakirri finals. On the evening the troupe performed very well and was given very complimentary comments by the judging panel. Our group was judged as the school with the best teamwork and hence won the “Best Teamwork Award.” They were also commended in the following areas:

CATEGORY AWARDS

- Solo Acting
- Individual Costume Design
- Group Acting
- Staging
- Choreography
- Overall Costume Design
- Combination of Dancing and Acting

Thank you to all involved with the organisation of this event. It takes many hours of time that can go unnoticed and the efforts of the staff, students and parents are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank North Mackay Rotary who in association with Education Queensland has kindly donated a class set of hand held microscopes. They are being kept in the library for our students to use during their science lessons. I’m sure our budding scientists will enjoy using such a generous gift.

Stephen Bobby
IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION

“Consider the results of a March study by researchers from Boston Medical Center who carefully observed caregivers and children at fast-food restaurants. Out of 55 caregivers, 40 used their mobile devices, and their absorption was such that their "primary engagement was with the device, rather than the child." In many cases, the caregivers expressed irritation when the children tried to get their attention. One observer watched a woman push a small boy away as he took her face in his hands in an attempt to get her to look up from her tablet.

It’s possible all those adults were following an urgent work email thread. More likely, they were on Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest. A 2011 Nielsen poll found that people with children use social media more than those without. Maybe these adults were reading an article shared by another parent. Maybe they were making plans with friends and family. But they were definitely communicating to their children that they were less important than whatever was on those devices.

This might seem absurd to today’s parents, who feel like they give themselves to their children in ways previous generations never imagined. But the undivided attention that children need from us is in jeopardy. Most people just don’t realize how much time they’re spending online; what feels like a few minutes is often a half hour or more. When we are with our children, we need to be with our children — not with them except for the part of us that’s reading emails, tweeting and checking Facebook.” (http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/08/11/comment-parenting-while-distracted)

Ensuring that you are engaging with your child is so important in your child’s development. Giving attention to and communicating with your child not only builds a positive relationship but ensures a rich vocabulary and understanding is being developed for your child. This gives a strong foundation to work on to provide success for your child in so many areas but particularly reading, writing and spelling. Technology has a place, however, is it more important than your own child?

READING

There is more to reading than just being able to say the words. We need to be able to understand what we read, think about what has been read and talk about what is read. All of this requires a good vocabulary and understanding of words and language. This is developed from a very early age and continues to develop as we grow, learn about and experience the world.

To assist your child develop into a successful reader, borrow a picture book from the library and read it, not by reading the words printed in the book, but by looking at the pictures and talking about what is happening in each picture, what the characters are doing or might do next, feelings and emotions from character’s facial expression or body language and what the characters might be saying or thinking in that situation.

This is also a valuable exercise to do with home readers before reading as it helps to build vocabulary and background knowledge prior to reading the book. This enables your child to feel more successful as a reader and build a love of reading that can last a lifetime.

(Cont’d)
WAKAKIRRI

I would like to congratulate all those involved in a very successful 2014 Wakakirri performance. The cast of Jack and the Bean Stalk did the school proud not only in their brilliant performance on stage but also in being awarded for best teamwork. The staff involved in planning, organising, making and preparing the students are to be commended and thanked. A huge thank you also goes to the parents, who made sure their children were at rehearsals and prepared for the final performance. Well done to everyone. It was a fantastic show!

SCHOOL PHOTOS

♦ School Photos will be taken on Tuesday 9th September.
♦ Students are required to wear full school uniform on that day. This includes seniors, who are to wear school uniform, NOT senior shirts.
♦ Photo envelopes will be sent home next Monday 25th August.
♦ Every student will have their own envelope.
♦ To purchase school photos, a separate envelope must be completed for every student.

♦ Correct payment must be included, even if payment is in another family member’s envelope, as change cannot be given from the school office.

♦ Envelopes are to be brought in on the day that photos are being taken (Tuesday 9th September).
♦ If you would like a sibling photograph of siblings who are attending this school, please collect a Sibling Envelope from the school office.

STAFFROOM MAKEOVER

Help us to win a $20 000 staffroom makeover! It’s easy to participate in ‘Staffroom for Improvement.’ When you do, not only will you have the satisfaction of supporting our school – individual voters also have the chance to win daily prizes through the Ultimate Staffroom Accessory poll.

Start by registering your details here. Once you’re signed up, you’ll be sent an email to verify the information you provided. Just click the link in the email and you’ll be on your way!

You can visit the website each day, and click on The Big Red Button to support our school. The first time you visit, your click will give one apple to our school. Your second visit and click will count as two apples. Your third visit and click will give... (can you guess?!) ...three beautiful juicy apples to our school. From there, the sky’s the limit! Go back each day and watch your apple giving power increase. Our school will really appreciate your effort! Thank you for helping us.
CLASS WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Missing just one day of school has negative consequences for a student’s academic achievement. And school attendance patterns established as early as year 1 can predict how often a student will show up to class right through high school, according to the research. She (Julie Townsend) said acceptable grounds for leave could include compassionate reasons, health complications or the commitments of elite athletes. “School isn’t something you normally or mostly do. It’s something you always do,” she (Jenny Allum) said. ‘If you’re making a commitment to something else over school, boy that better be important.”


INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT FAMILY

CHILDREN HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

This program is for the Indigenous children of Mackay North State School. It is held in the Library, every Monday and Wednesday 2:45pm - 3:45pm

Please feel free to bring your children. Supervision is required by a parent/guardian or an adult family member to come on your behalf eg. grandmother, grandfather, uncle or aunty (not an older sibling) but it has to be family. If you or another adult family member can’t help supervise, AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK, your child/ren will not be able to participate in this program.

Light refreshments will be supplied. All parents with children attending need to fill out an enrolment form before the program commences.
Respite Services

Last newsletter I included some information about Respite Services for students with disabilities and their families. I have since been in contact with Blue Care Mackay Galaxy Project which offers some local support and services to children with disabilities and their families. If anyone wishes to explore this service further they may contact the organization personally or request a referral form from us at the SEP. Please come and see us if you have any queries.

Blue Care Mackay Galaxy Project

Supporting and Promoting
Wellbeing
Independence
Resilience

We can support you by:

♦ Listening to the issues that are most important for you
♦ Providing services that are focussed on working with you, not telling you what to do
♦ Supporting you and/or your family to plan and identify goals
♦ Identifying the strategies, skills and networks to enhance your independence
♦ Developing strategies to improve your current skills or develop new skills
♦ Motivating you to achieve your goals and celebrate important milestones
♦ Supporting you to build effective working relationships with your network
♦ Supporting you to identify and build new networks
♦ Being a key contact point for information during stressful times or if you are on your own
♦ Planning for the unexpected to give you greater control over the unknown
♦ Planning and strategies for the future

This Service is partially funded by:
Queensland Community Care Services Commonwealth HACC National Respite for Carers Program

To meet the costs of support we ask you to make a small contribution to the cost of the services we provide. If you are experiencing financial hardship this cost can be reviewed to ensure you receive the services you need. Please talk to staff about any financial concerns you may have.

Hours: 8am-4pm Monday to Friday
Level 2—60 Wellington Street, Mackay 4740
Phone 07 4957 6016
Fax 07 4953 5408
MackayGalaxy.community@bluecare.org.au

(Cont’d)
TRANSITION PROGRAM TO HIGH SCHOOL

Permission notes went home Monday afternoon for students eligible to attend the Transition Program at Mackay North State High School. The first session is on Friday 22 August with a follow up session in September. Students will be expected to attend a session every Friday during Term 4 and are looking forward to experiencing this new venture. Please come and see us if you have any questions about this program.

Helpful Tips & Strategies to Prevent Meltdowns

♦ Limit instructions

♦ Send student on an errand

♦ Walk don’t talk (take the student for a walk but don’t ask questions or comment on behaviour)

♦ Redirect to quiet time: petition desk, reading corner, sit at teacher’s desk, headphones

♦ Give them a sensory toy to hold

♦ Repetitive physical activity – wall push ups, crab walks, push all the chairs in

♦ May need a toilet break or drink break

Remember when the student is in meltdown or shutdown it is too late to use most strategies.
FAIR ISN’T
EVERYBODY GETTING THE SAME THING....

FAIR IS
EVERYBODY GETTING WHAT THEY NEED IN ORDER TO BE.....

SUCCESSFUL

Sue Larkey
Autism Consultant

Mondy Daniel

WANTED
CLEAN GLASS JARS WITH LIDS

PLEASE TAKE TO MRS SAUNDERS' ROOM
On Friday 8th August our school performed at the Mackay Entertainment Centre in Wakakirri 2014. We were so proud of our students who performed exceptionally well on the night as well as conducting themselves in an exemplary manner throughout the rehearsals during the day. Our school was the proud recipient of the following awards:

**Category Awards**
- Solo Acting
- Individual Costume Design
- Group Acting
- Staging
- Choreography
- Overall Costume Design
- Combination of Dancing and Acting

**Show Awards**
- Best Teamwork Award
Mackay North SS News

Jack & his Cow

Giant and Harp Ladies

Village Scene
This event wouldn’t have been possible without the support and assistance from our many staff helpers. So we just want to say……..

THANK YOU

Kyra Geoghan - Choreography
Judy Heel - Village Costumes
Erin Daley - Giant’s Vest
Toni Day - Costumes, costumes, costumes, props and support
Kerry Carroll - Props and Harp headpieces
Trish Fenech - That amazing Giant’s Head
Danell Keyter - The amazing house for Jack and Giant, props, support
Sue McGann - Props, harp costumes and support
Jacqui Maunder - Props and support
Kevin Barker - Handyman skills
Hayley Langridge - Photography
Staff and Families - donations of props and materials
Families - Getting your children to rehearsals!
Admin Team - Assistance with purchasing & support

Kristy Scott & Mondy Daniel
A direct deposit has been made into the school bank account on 6 August 2014. It cannot be identified. Please contact the school office on 4940 0333 if you made a direct deposit into the school bank account during the first week in August.

When making a direct deposit **PLEASE INCLUDE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING** as the reference:

- Student name
- Invoice number
- Students EQID

Including one of the above as the reference when making a payment will enable us to receipt the payment to the correct student. Use student or parent surname if making a direct deposit for more than one student. Parents are welcome to send in the bank receipt with students or email the school at admin@macknortss.eq.edu.au letting us know that a payment has been made, date the payment was made and what the payment was for.

There are a number of families with outstanding fees from the beginning of the year. As we are nearing the end of the year we ask that all families contact the school to ensure that fees are up to date. If you cannot pay your child/ren’s fees in full please feel welcome to make progressive payments each week. Even a small fee of $5 per week will help to reduce your outstanding payment amount.

Our school now uses Centrepay.

Our Centrepay provider number is 555-107-065-L.

Deduction forms can be obtained from the school office or you can contact Centrelink by phone or internet to arrange deductions.

The school accepts payment via cash, cheque, EFT, direct deposit and Centrepay.

(cont’d)
SCHOOL FEES
Class levies for all year levels are now overdue.
Payments can be made at the office by cash, cheque (made Payable to Mackay North State School) or eftpos.
Parents can send in Visa/MasterCard payments with their child (fill out bottom section of invoice and include CCV number), phone the office and give Visa/MasterCard details or direct deposit into the school bank account (details on the bottom section of the invoice).
The school now has Centrepay. If parents/guardians are interested in this payment option, forms are available at the school office.

Fees are as follows:

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>Year 6</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>$33</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please see the office to pay any outstanding fees ASAP

Jessica Polglase in 5S was one of the Tappet Cover Race winners at Seaforth Hot Rod and Classics Car Show earlier this month.
Colin Germanotta presented Jessica with her trophy.
GLOW FOR GIRLS CLUB
We are into Term 3 fabulously and our ‘Glow for Girls Club’ is glowing. So far we have had 3 weeks of great programs. In week 7 a professional hairdresser will be coming in for ‘Hair Care.’ At the end of this program they will all receive a little bag of goodies and a graduation certificate. We hope to have a celebration with cupcakes and tea, with the girls and their families. A note will be sent home for catering purposes.

DRUM BEAT PROGRAM
I am looking forward to the ‘Drum Beat’ program in Term 4. There will be a note sent home to parents whose daughter is chosen to participate. Unfortunately only 10 girls can be catered for. This program will end with a presentation as either a lunch or an evening event for all parents, grandparents and the community, but more information later. We may get the other 26 girls to present something else as well on the day or night.

BOYS BUSINESS PROGRAM
In Term 4 we will also be having a ‘Boy’s Business’ program. Notes will go home in the last week of this term to all the grade 6 and 7 boys. This will start in the 2nd week of Term 4.

CAMP EAGLE
Reminder about the camp at “Camp Eagle” run by SU Queensland at the beginning of the September School Holidays on the 12th, 13th and 14th. This is 2½ days of learning life skills and a whole lot of fun. Please ask for registration forms from the school chaplain. The cost of camp is $40. Primary school aged grade 6 and 7 children only can attend.

GOOD START BREAKFAST PROGRAM
Our brekky program called ‘Good Start’ begins in Term 4 and I would ask if anyone could kindly donate a jar of Vegemite, jams or 2 old (but working) pop up toasters that pop 4 pieces. This would be much appreciated.

RECIPE BOOK
I would love to receive recipes (hot, cold, healthy, kid-friendly, desserts and preserves), hints and tips, old fashioned proverbs and ideas, craft projects and recipes for homemade toiletries, candles etc as I am looking to put together a book for a fundraiser that will help support some of our school programs, projects and breakfast club.

OLD FASHIONED HINT EXAMPLE
Grandma’s Magic for Dirty Sneakers
Dirty sneakers don’t look great, so wash them regularly in warm soapy water, using an old toothbrush to get into all those nooks and crannies, and to get rid of any marks. Rinse them in cold water and then allow to dry.

The book will also contain drawings and paintings laced throughout, that will be done by our students whose drawing or painting is chosen from a competition that will run in Term 4.

Any contributions for the book you wish to submit can be placed in the box at the office labeled “North Mackay School Community Recipe Book Contributions,” or email to admin@macknortss.eq.edu.au

God Bless.
Have a great week.

Jacquie Mcilwraith
(Alias Ms Mack)
Children are invited to bring a parent along for a story-telling session in our Library!

Thursday 11th September
5.30 — 7pm

In the Library with Mrs Maunder and Mrs Schmidt

Bring your pillow, teddy and wear your pyjamas, ready to listen to some great bed-time stories with us.
Hot chocolate served as a treat after and the chance to borrow some great books to take home!
Hope to see you there!
This Friday, 22 August is Red Day. All orders are in and the Pizza has been ordered!

And it’s Bookweek!

Don’t forget to dress up as your favourite story book character on Friday. There are great prizes to be won for each year level!

Next gathering - 9:00am - 26 August 2014

Did you know?
We are always looking at ways to make your life easier – currently we are researching on-line ordering for tuck-shop and uniforms. If you have any experience from online ordering at other schools, we’d love to hear from you!

Father’s Day is almost here!
Save time and Mum’s Sanity and come and buy a great gift for Dad at our Father’s Day Stall – Friday 5 September 2014. All gifts $10 and under!
Free gift wrapping. Cards available for $2 and Gift Bags $1.

P & C Executives
Deb Clark (President/Uniform shop) Callista Butler (Vice President)
Jenya Loxton (Secretary) Allison Coleman (Treasurer)

If you have any suggestions, queries or want to get involved, please email us at pandc@macknortss.eq.edu.au

Deb Clark
Ready Set Go is a pre-prep program to assist our children and parents to best prepare for the curriculum and learning expectations of the upcoming Prep Year. Any children starting Prep next year are welcome to attend regardless of which school they will be attending.

Purpose of the Program:
To provide an orientation and skill based program to help prepare our future students for the Prep Curriculum in the year ahead.

To model and provide activities and ideas for parents to work on with their children at home, to ensure that they have the best opportunity to succeed in the Prep Year.

To foster and build relationships between teachers, students and parents prior to the commencement of the school year.

To provide opportunities for our future Prep students to interact with one another and build relationships prior to commencing school.

If you are interested in attending please complete an enrolment form and return to the school office. Please remember that students must attend with an adult but this may be grandparents or other parents that are attending.

We look forward to meeting you and your child!

Kristy Scott and Wilma Grant
We are looking for information for descendants of the first 37 students who enrolled on 23rd March 1915.

We are asking anyone with information on the following people to contact the school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>CHRISTIAN NAME</th>
<th>REG NO</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Roy</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Audrey</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Andrew</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Harold Ernest</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLEMING</td>
<td>James (Father Robert)</td>
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<td>1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>HILL</td>
<td>Roland</td>
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<td>Alan</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRADFORD</td>
<td>Arthur</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monday 4th August - 6:00pm - Library - All Welcome
Dear Parent or Guardian,

iPad Program for 2015

We invite all parents and guardians of students in Year 7 and Year 8 in 2015 to attend an iPad Information evening. The iPad Information evening will commence at 5.15pm, Wednesday 27 August, 2014, in the Senior Centre Auditorium.

The purpose of the iPad Information evening is to provide parents and guardians of our incoming students with the eLearning platform their students will be embarking on, at Mackay North State High School in 2015.

Mackay North SHS has been operating a 1-to-1-Laptop Program for students in Years 9 to 12 since 2011. Under new legislation Government funding to support this program in schools is no longer available and all schools will begin operating in a BYOx (Bring Your Own) capacity.

What does this mean?

This means that it will no longer be the school responsibility to supply a device for your students to meet their ICT needs within the school environment. Therefore we have jointly decided that the introduction of a BYOx program in 2015 for our Year 7 and Year 8 students will meet and exceed expectations to progress an eLearning platform that will provide 21st Century learning opportunities for student from the time they enter High School.

The iPad Information evening will provide parents and guardians with much information about the new learning environment and also provide opportunity for questions to be asked.

Yours faithfully,

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Mackay District Junior Rugby Union
2014 Season

It's Time to get into Rugby!

Starts Friday 29th August
10 week season (with three week break over September School holidays)
Friday Night Games at Quarry Hill & Saturday Carnivals in Proserpine and Burdekin (see draw over page)
$150* player registration includes MDJRU training kit of shirt, shorts and socks valued at over $75
(*Discounts for Siblings, Rookie to Reds & Country Muster Players and Qld Government 'Get Started' funding available)

U6s (2008, 2009): 4pm til 5pm
U8s (2006, 2007): 4pm til 5pm
U10s (2004, 2005): 4.30pm til 5.30pm
U12s (2002, 2003): 5.30pm til 6.30pm
U14s (2000, 2001): 6.30pm til 7.30pm
Female U15s & U18s (2000 to 1996): 6.30pm til 7.30pm
U16s (1998, 1999): 7.30pm til 8.30pm

SIGN ON at Quarry Hill
4.30pm til 6pm Fri 15th & 22nd August

Stay up to date by liking our facebook page, search "Mackay District Junior Rugby Union".
Visit our website www.mackayjunior.rugbynet.com.au
Contact us at mdjru.registrar@outlook.com

Proudly Supported by:
ALWAYS TELL SOMEONE YOUR PLANS…(4Ws + H)

WHO...you are with
WHAT...you are doing
WHERE...you are going or have been
WHEN...you left
HOW...you are travelling

- FEELING UNSAFE remove yourself. Always safety first.
- LISTEN to your body. Trust & act on your instincts.
- BE ALERT & AWARE ditch your headphones & be aware of your surroundings.
- AVOID walking alone & shortcuts. Walk with a mate.