

# 2017 Mac.Rob Newsletter

Issue 1, 15th Feb 2017



Ceiling fresco at Opera Garnier, Paris depicting Pallas Athena



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A very warm welcome to the 2017 academic year to all of our students and their families and Happy Lunar New Year!

2017 is the year of the Fire Rooster and apparently brings with it great excitement and energy. In Chinese astrology each zodiac year is not just associated with an animal sign, but also one of the five elements (metal, wood, water, fire and earth) and these pairing occur every 60 years, thus the last Fire Rooster year was 1957. Roosters are very observant, hardworking and confident, so I encourage our Mac.Robbians this year to follow in the rooster's footsteps and channel self-assurance and diligence in their studies.

2017 at Mac.Rob has started with much enthusiasm and vitality. Our first assemblies, the Year 12 conference, the introduction for Year 9 to 'The Mission to Mars' project and the commencement of classes have reflected this. The annual combined Student Leadership Conference on Wednesday 8th February was a great success with student leader representatives from all four academic select entry schools participating. Thank you to Ms Michele Dean and our school leaders, Ms Ann Baby, Ms Demi Tangri, Ms Caitlin Fleming and Ms Aiko Ridwan for their exemplary organisation and implementation of a day which focuses on student voice and contribution.

The two Year 9 Camps to the Valley Homestead, Ovens Valley over the last fortnight have been an important part of the induction to the Mac.Rob school culture. I had the opportunity to attend both camps and to participate with the Year 9 students in a variety of activities such as bike riding. The camp provides a challenging program and the venue is well organised. Our new Mac.Robbians were very impressive at both camps and it was lovely to see new friendships being formed and the students in their form groups bonding. Thank you to camp leaders Mr David Beale, Ms Tamaryn Stevens and Mr Ewan Campbell and to the staff who gave of their time to ensure that our students were well cared for.

All families should have received a letter concerning the election of parent members for our 2017 School Council. School Councils play a key role in Victorian government schools, and being a member of the school council is a rewarding and challenging experience. Acting as a team, council supports the principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students. The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School Council membership has three categories, Parent Membership, DET Membership and Community Membership. I encourage you to consider nominating for one of the three vacant Parent positions.

We are delighted to announce that in the recent Australia Day Honours, two of our alumni were recognised for their service to Australia and received the award of Medal of The Order of Australia (OAM). Ms Julie Raines received her OAM in recognition for her service to the performing arts as a musician and teacher and Ms Janet Spooner received her OAM in recognition for her service to the community through charitable organisations. We are very proud of their amazing contribution to the wider community.

Archivist, Mr Peter McCallum and I enjoyed a wonderful meeting with Reverend Clarrie Edwards last week. Reverend Edwards was a young parish reverend in Armadale and came to know our former Principal, Ms Mary Hutton in the last two years of her life. Ms Hutton was our longest serving Principal and held the position from 1934-1948. Reverend Edwards gifted the school with four books of poetry from Ms Hutton's personal library. It was lovely to listen to him speak fondly of her and recall her passion for learning and her sense of fun.





Staffing

We warmly welcome the following new staff members who have joined us in 2017:

- Ms Lilian Shen (English))
- Mr Ewan Campbell (Mathematics and Year 9 LCO)
- Ms Kattina Howell (English)
- Ms Fraine Mahoney (Mathematics)

Additionally, we welcome back staff members who have been on leave including Dr Amy Brown (English), Ms Jo Patocs (Music), Ms Belinda Parsons (Music), Ms Valentyna Shapiro (English) and Ms Fay Bock (Mathematics).

The beginning of the year is an important time for all students when they are meeting their new teachers and making new friends and it is not a good time to be absent. Can I please ask all families to consider carefully before taking their daughters out of school for extended absences for family holidays. Absences are to be avoided at all cost, especially in the senior years of schooling and I take a particular interest in the attendance of all students. The reason for this is that absence is a lead indicator for academic achievement and engagement outcomes. Recent research demonstrates that there is a strong correlation between student attendance and learning outcomes and that even small amounts of absences can have significant negative impact. Parents must apply in writing to me ([principal@macrob.vic.edu.au](mailto:principal@macrob.vic.edu.au)) to seek permission for any student to be taken on holiday for an extended period (two or more weeks), prior to purchasing tickets etc. The student’s attendance and involvement in the co-curricular program will be considered before approval is given. It may be that approval is not given due to poor attendance or achievement, or a further discussion and agreement may be sought about how the student will commit and improve her application to study.

The partnership between home and school is important. I encourage you to be active in your daughter’s education. Ask questions and discuss the daily events of school life. The support and trust we share will help enable our Mac.Robbians to be happy and successful. Please do not hesitate to contact our staff if you have any concerns or questions as they are here to support your child. I hope Term 1 sets a strong foundation for the remainder of the year.

Yours in learning

Dr Toni E. Meath

School Calendar

Week 4	Monday 20th Feb - Whole school swimming	Term 1
	Tuesday 21st Feb - School Council	
	Friday 24th Feb - School Photo Catch up	
Week 5	Monday 27th Feb - 1.00pm School Tour for prospective parents/students	
Week 6	Tuesday 7th March - Alice Pung - guest speaker 7.00pm	
	Wednesday 8th March - Whole school athletics	
Week 7	Monday 13th March - Labour Day Holiday	
	Wednesday 16th March - 9.30am School Tour for prospective parents/students	
Week 8	Tuesday 21st March - 11.00am School Tour for prospective parents/students	
	Thursday 23rd March - Synchronous E-Learning Day - Students not required at school	
	Friday 24th March - Australian Grand Prix - Student Free day	
Week 9	Wednesday 29th March - House Chorals	
	Friday 31st March - Last day Term 1	

Parents and Students are encouraged to check Compass for events which impact students. All SAC dates and important events for Term 1 are listed and these will be updated as the year progresses.

Students are to wear plain white crew socks with the Summer uniform, or they may wear long white socks if they wish. Sports socks or socks with logos from various sport companies, are not acceptable.

Students should be carrying the school bag or else a plain black backpack with their uniform. Backpacks of other colours are not part of the uniform and are not to be worn, nor are school bags from other schools. For students seeking an easier way to carry heavy books, we do permit the use of a trolley backpack, in the colour of black/grey. Tanya Prasad, a student in 12J (Form Room: Mezzanine) would be happy to show other students her trolley/backpack.

For students wearing the Hijab with the school uniform, the following is the expected norm:

- With Summer Uniform – a white Hijab and white tights
- With Winter Uniform – black tights with a Hijab in either black, maroon, green or grey - the school colours.

Students travelling on public transport are to give up their seats to others. They should not conduct loud conversations between themselves, use foul language or leave bags in aisles where they can cause tripping hazards for others. Every student who travels to and from school is a representative of our school. People judge the behaviour of all 960 students by the way the student in their line of sight conducts herself, so it is essential that each student understand this and behaves accordingly. The members of the public should not be upset by the behaviour of students who share the same transport. While we understand that the majority of students behave in a way that brings credit to all, there are some students who do not behave in the appropriate manner and cause members of the public to contact the school and complain. I ask parents and students to talk about acceptable behaviour.

For parents who drive their daughters to school you will notice there is a No Parking zone at the Kings Way end of the service road off Albert Road. You may stop there for a couple of minutes to drop your daughter off. If, however, you stop on the right hand side of the service road, an area that is designated No Standing, you can be fined. The traffic in the service road is two way traffic and so by stopping on the right hand side you are, in fact, stopping on the wrong side of a two way traffic area. Of most concern, however, is the danger you expose your daughter to in letting her open the car door into traffic entering the service road from behind your car. We would not like to see any of our students injured by stepping out of your car into the pathway on oncoming traffic.

Parents are advised that DET does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance or ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport as well as any other transport costs.

Private property brought to school is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage. This can include mobile phones, calculators, sporting equipment and music instruments.

Margaret Akins

Assistant Principal





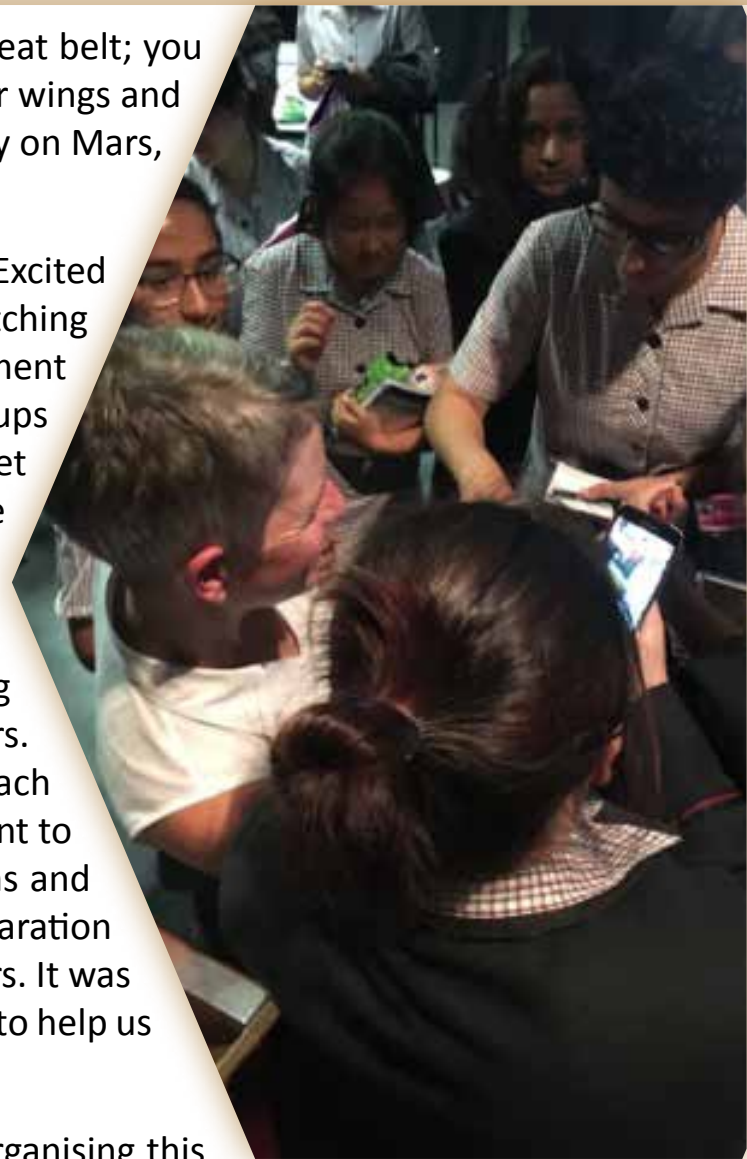
It is 2022 and right now everything is shaking. Your body presses against the seat belt; you are like a bird when it's about to be released from your cage, ready to flap your wings and conquer a new environment. You are inside a rocket ship going to start a colony on Mars, and you are not coming back.

On Friday the 3rd of February, our Year 9 Mission to Mars program was launched. Excited Year 9 students gathered in the theatre and we started off the morning by watching *The Martian* in order to gain a little insight into living in a Mars-like environment before we officially started the program. After the movie, we gathered into groups and brainstormed challenges and questions to ask the guest speaker who we met later that day. We then did a test to determine our capability to survive on the moon where we had to prioritise a list of items such as oxygen tanks, a radio transmitter, water, a shotgun and a lifeboat.

In the afternoon, we listened to a presentation by Dianne McGrath, who is among the 100 other short-listed candidates to be one of the first people to land on Mars. She answered our questions on the selection process she went through to reach the top 100 candidates for the Mars One mission, as well as why she would want to take a one-way ticket to Mars. The year level asked many interesting questions and the talk covered a variety of topics, from the intense training on Earth in preparation for a one-way trip to Mars to the Universal Laws protecting possible life on Mars. It was such an inspiring session and we gained so much more knowledge on the topic to help us in the coming year with our Mission to Mars project.

On behalf of our cohort, we would like to thank all the teachers involved in organising this unique experience. We are excited to discover 'what a successful colony on Mars looks like', because in the future we may be a part of it.

Ananya Shaw and Chenuli Halgamuge, 9G



Alice Pung, acclaimed author and ex-Mac.Rob student, will be sharing her experiences with our parents and students. Her books include: Laurinda, Her Father's Daughter, Unpolished Gem and Growing up Asian in Australia. For more information about Alice, please check <https://www.alicepung.com/>. This should be an interesting opportunity for both parents and students at our school and we encourage you to attend as a family.

In Alice's words: "High school is the only time in your life where a large part of your identity is actually shaped by other people. As an adult you can choose your friends, and your time is finite, so of course, you try to only spend time with people who like and affirm you. As a teenager, though, you are forced to fit yourself in amongst 200-1000 other people, who are all with you every day. So I've always been interested in how teenagers adapt to this."

Please check Compass in the near future for details on how to book places. There is no charge for this activity.



## Swimming Sports - Monday 20th Feb MSAC

The annual House Swimming sports day will be held at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC) on Monday 20th February. This is a terrific day on the school calendar and a compulsory event for all students across all year levels. For students who are confident and capable swimmers we are hoping for record entries in the pool this year. For those not so keen on participating in the pool, there are ample opportunities to support their House on the day - participate in novelty events, get dressed up and join the highly anticipated fancy dress parade or just cheer on their house swimmers from the stands.

All details related to House Swimming are now available for you to read via Compass Events. Parents are asked to consent to their child attending the venue on this day via Compass. All classes are cancelled and students are expected to arrive at MSAC for a roll call at 8.30am; students will be dismissed from the venue at the completion of the competition events, at approximately 1.30pm.

This is a great opportunity for the students to experience the strong House culture that exists at Mac.Rob and to watch some highly talented swimmers from their year level and others. It's also fun to watch the teachers go through their paces in the hotly contested staff - student race. Good luck to all competitors on the day!

Michelle Pride





## Victorian Tertiary offers -Round 1

236 Year 12 2016 students received a first round VTAC offer Many students have also received multiple offers from interstate and are still deciding which offer to accept.

### Destinations

Monash	112
Melbourne	95
LaTrobe	13
RMIT	5
Deakin	5
Swinburne	4
Aust. Catholic University	2
	236

Biomedicine	40
Health	36
Science	36
Commerce	35
Arts	22
Law	20
Engineering	13
Info Tech	9
Psychology	6
Combined Courses (Science/Arts, Science/Biomed,Comm/Arts, etc.	13
Construction	1
Screen Production	1
Film and TV	1
Music	1
Design	2
	236

Health includes:	
Medicine	15
Physio	6
Pharmacy	5
Dentistry	3
Nursing	3
Radiations	1
Paramedicine	1
Exercise Science	1
Audiology	1

## Tax File Number (TFN)

Any student will need a tax file number if he/she starts work (part-time and full-time) and all students planning on a tertiary education require one when they start.



Importantly, current Year 12 students are reminded that they cannot enrol in a CSP (Commonwealth Support Place) course at university without a Tax File Number, so it is worthwhile getting an application submitted early!

Students must apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office. To apply and also to find out about participating Post Offices, visit TFN Application

## Tuckwell Scholarship

Australian National University (ANU) launched the Tuckwell Scholarship Program in 2013. Receiving a Tuckwell Scholarship – valued at over \$21,000 per year for the duration of an undergraduate degree – is not just about a student's intellect. It is also about their desire and determination to use their natural abilities to realise their full potential so that they can make a difference in the world. All up, one could say, this is no ordinary scholarship!



Eligible students need to expect an ATAR of 95+ but students who have experienced disadvantage, or who have achieved significantly in other ways, may still be eligible. Applications open on 6 March 2017 and close on 27 March 2017.

For more information about the Tuckwell Scholarship Program visit [Tuckwell Scholarship and Applying for the Tuckwell Scholarship](#).

Applicants for the Tuckwell Scholarship require closed references from teachers and the school Principal. Please make sure you allow sufficient time for your referees to be able to provide a suitable reference which does justice to your abilities. Make sure you ask if the person is able to provide the reference – do not assume. The closing date for applications is close to the end of term which may impact a person's ability to provide the reference – hence, please apply early in the process, if you are going to apply.

## UMAT2017

Year 12 students should note that applications to sit the UMAT2017 are now open and registrations close on Friday 2 June 2017 at 5.00pm sharp – no extensions are possible! The UMAT2017 will be held on Wednesday 26 July 2017, and the results will be available late September 2017. Students should also note that results from UMAT2017 can only be used for undergraduate medicine or health science courses beginning in 2018 but not 2019. Students should not register for UMAT2017 unless they are planning to apply for a course commencing in 2018 and they meet the eligibility criteria specified in the UMAT2017 Information Booklet.

For more information, and/or to apply visit [UMAT2017](#) or call (03) 8508 7643.

Year 11 students may not sit the UMAT2017 and should they do so, their results will be cancelled and they may not be allowed to sit the UMAT again.

Students sitting the UMAT should note that candidates who do not possess a current passport, driver's licence or learner's permit are strongly recommended to apply for an Australian Keypass or Australian Proof of Age Card as soon as possible as no other forms of ID will be accepted. Candidates without correct photo-bearing identification will not be permitted to sit UMAT2017 and will be turned away.

The UMAT is required for the following courses:



The University of Adelaide	Medicine, Dental Surgery
Charles Darwin University	Clinical Sciences
Charles Sturt University	Dental Science
Curtin University	Medicine
Flinders University	Clinical Sciences/Medicine
La Trobe University	Health Sciences in Dentistry/Master of Dentistry**, Oral Health Science**
Monash University	Medicine
The University of Newcastle/ University of New England	Joint Medical Program
The University of New South Wales	Medicine
The University of Queensland	Medicine (provisional entry), Dental Science
University of Tasmania	Medicine
The University of Western Australia	Medicine (Direct Pathway), Dental Medicine (Direct Pathway)
Western Sydney University	Medicine
The University of Auckland	Medicine
University of Otago	Medicine, Dental Surgery

\*\*UMAT only required for non-Year 12 applicants.

Irene Serpless/ Susy Puszka

Careers

All Year 10 Mac.Rob students complete a week of Work Experience. Work experience is a compulsory part of the Year 10 program which has been developed to benefit students by providing them with an opportunity to:

- develop an understanding of the world of work and employer expectations
- nurture self-understanding and provide insight into potential career options
- develop independence, confidence, and a range of personal and interpersonal skills: employability skills

Students may also request their supervisor provide a personal reference, subsequent to their placement, to use in applications for part-time employment, scholarships or exchange programs.

Students have received information on the program at an information session at school on 9th and 10th February, and all the resources and information on the program are available at the Work Experience site of the Student Portal of the school's intranet (<https://sites.google.com/a/macrob.vic.edu.au/student-portal/> ). This site includes tips to help students find a placement, as well as information on the Work Experience Arrangement Form and safe@work occupational health and safety training that will need to be completed before their placement, and resources and links they will need to complete their paperwork. The site contains a list of the employers who have hosted Mac.Rob students in previous years, although students should not restrict themselves to this list. They should consider industries they may be interested in working within, their personal interests, as well as workplaces they may have contact with through family, friends and acquaintances, or that are located in their local area.

The Work Experience Arrangement Form contains a section that parents must read and sign, as well as sections for the student and the employer. Where relevant, parents/guardians must also provide a document outlining any ongoing medical condition the student may have, including details about how the condition is managed or what to do in an emergency situation. The employer must maintain the confidentiality of this health information (and all the information about the student within the Work Experience Arrangement Form) and only disclose this medical information to another party if treatment is required for a known medical condition or in the case of a medical emergency.

The Work Experience week for 2017 is Monday 11th December - Friday 15th December, and the expectation is that students make every effort to arrange for a placement at this time. However, if the employer is unable to offer work experience at this time, or if the student will be on one of our school exchange programs during this week, they may arrange a placement for one week of the Term 1 or Term 2 holidays.

The work experience arrangements and paper work must be finalised by 1st August, but students are urged to commence their job-seeking early and are encouraged to forward their form and certificates to Ms Puszka as soon as possible.

Please contact Ms Puszka at [work.experience@macrob.vic.edu.au](mailto:work.experience@macrob.vic.edu.au) if you have any enquiries.

Ms Susy Puszka, Work Experience Coordinator



When I look back at the fortnight I enjoyed at the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF), a multitude of emotions fill me. I have just returned from the best two weeks of my life so far, feeling so inspired and so excited by the intelligence, motivation and especially passion and enthusiasm displayed by the other 195 attendees and 21 staffies at Session A (Jan 2 – 14) of the NYSF.

The NYSF is a 12-day residential program, held at the Australian National University in Canberra, that brings together 200 Year 12 students from all over Australia who are interested in the field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).

I first heard about the program in the middle of Year 10 and I was interested in it, but applications were only open to Year 11s going into Year 12, so I waited another year before submitting my application. I approached the Rotary Club of Lilydale with my application, had an interview with the Club Presidents and they kindly endorsed it. The next round was District interviews, so it was late in July 2016 that I travelled to Brighton and was interviewed by a panel of 4 including NYSF alumni and Rotarians. I was ecstatic and so excited when I was called about my successful interview which I was initially quite nervous about. We were then given a few opportunities to meet and get to know fellow NYSF attendees during the following months.

On the morning of January 2 2017, I boarded the coach with fellow Victorians and some South Australians. The 9-hour bus ride was tiring, but along the way we were given introductory information and also swapped seats a number of times so we were able to meet new people. We finally arrived at Burgmann College, Canberra, in the late afternoon and when we got off the bus, fellow students formed a bridge for us to run under as a welcome – it was quite amazing, and definitely something that immediately pops into my mind when I think about my NYSF experience.

The next 12 days were some of the busiest days I have ever had, but they were amazing. Some of the main events included the opening ceremony at Parliament House, the visit to the Australian Academy of Science's Shine Dome, the dress-up disco on Saturday night, Partners' Day, and arguably the best of all was the Science Dinner at the National Museum of Australia where we all dressed up in formal attire and heard from Professor Richard Payne about biochemistry and its medicinal significance.

I was assigned to an interest group with 13 other enthusiastic students. My group was Darwin, specialising in earth and environmental sciences. We went on lab visits to the ANU School of Chemistry for titrations, the School of Earth Sciences for studying geology and earthquakes, Lake Ginninderra and University of Canberra's School of Ecology for the day, donning waders and studying microscopic freshwater organisms, the Mount Majura Solar Farm for learning about solar energy and panels, and the CSIRO Black Mountain Laboratories for learning about genetically modified crops. At each of these labs we were able to see science in action and apply some of the knowledge and theory we learnt at school.

We also attended a number of lectures given by different scientists and learnt about their experiences and research. I was most fascinated by Professor Brian Schmidt and his lecture about the expansion of the accelerating universe, for which he won the Nobel Prize in Physics. I was completely mind-blown at the discovery his team had made - by studying supernova, they calculated the Universe's rate of expansion and came to 2 conclusions: one in which the Universe has a lot of material in it, slows down, contracts and is finite; another which has little material, continues expanding and is infinite. I also thoroughly enjoyed the lecture by Dr Ceridwen Fraser, who is the 2016 ACT Scientist of the Year. She is a marine biologist and talked to us about biogeography, gene flow, genetic drift and the evolution of species. These were





topics I learnt about in VCE Biology last year, so I really liked how I could connect my studies with a scientist who works with such concepts day in day out.

Not only did NYSF drive my passion for science even further, it also helped me improve important skills. We were asked to write and present a 5-minute speech and we also had to present impromptu speeches which made us think on our feet. We attended workshops about our future choices, body language, critical thinking and entrepreneurship. These sessions allowed us to learn and develop skills that will come in very handy when we step into the wider world and make our mark in science.

The National Youth Science Forum was truly an incredible experience; it opened up a world of endless possibilities. Biology has always been my favourite STEM subject, but I have a new-found interest of astrophysics; in fact, so many more things in this field now excite me. By meeting other Year 12s who all have huge passions for different areas of STEM, I have developed more appreciation for the other fields such as geology, ecology and engineering. Although as NYSFers we met for just two weeks, we made strong friendships that we hope will extend into the future and hopefully, into our careers as well because of the huge alumni and professional networks already established. The NYSF has given me invaluable an insight into the world of science which I will carry with me well beyond Year 12, and I am so grateful to have been provided with this amazing opportunity. Special thanks must go to the Rotary Clubs of Lilydale and Port Melbourne for their support and sponsorship, Rotary District 9810, Mac.Rob, the NYSF staff and especially my parents for giving me this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

I highly encourage any current Year 11s interested in STEM to apply for the NYSF in March this year for a wonderful fortnight in the summer of 2018 before your final year of school.





Over the Summer Holidays, three of our top achieving Year 11 students (class of 2017) attended the Science Olympiad Summer School Programs. Shani Palawaththa (12I) and Anna Sing (12B) attended the Biology Olympiad Summer School, while Michelle Yu (12F) attended the Physics Olympiad Summer School. These students attended lectures, tutorials, conducted experiments and went on field trips for two weeks. They have some more exams and tests coming up at the end of this term for the opportunity to represent Australia at the National Science Olympiads. More information on this website: <https://www.asi.edu.au/programs/australian-science-olympiads/interational-science-olympiads/> and a snapshot of each of their experiences is shared below.

## Biology Olympiad Summer School Program

I was given the wonderful opportunity to attend the Biology Olympiad Summer School, held at Australia National University in Canberra over 16 days. We spent a lot of time in lectures, learning about several diverse topics, ranging from enzyme kinetics to biosystematics and many things in between. We usually had at least two practical sessions every afternoon, during which we consolidated and gained a better understanding of the content developed each day. A highlight of the experience was probably the three-day field trip that the Biology cohort went on to Kioloa on the NSW coast. We were fortunate to be able to study ecology in a gorgeous setting filled with an amazingly diverse array of flora and fauna. The best part of the summer school would have to be meeting like-minded, intelligent, delightfully nerdy and slightly crazy people from all the disciplines – even now, after the summer school has finished, I am keeping in touch with many of the friends I made from all over the country! The program augmented my already ridiculous love for science, as I discovered how many seemingly abstract concepts have potential to be applied in contexts that can improve many lives. Overall, it was an incredible, albeit intense experience that was filled with fun, friendship and no shortage of memes!

Shani Palawaththa 12I

I attended the Australian Biology Olympiad Summer School in Canberra at the Australian National University from the 5th to the 21st of January.

Summer School was an immensely valuable academic and social experience, and I truly cherish it for the enthusiastic learning environment, the lasting friendships with like-minded students, and the intensive pace that drove us to surpass all our expectations.

In two weeks, we covered the equivalent of a first year university course in morning lectures, afternoon labs, and evening lectures. Although the course was overwhelming at times, those challenges not only inspired a determination to continue immersing myself in biology, but also cemented my passion for a career in health or science.

Anna Sing 12B





On the morning of 23rd November, 2016, nine students departed from Melbourne International Airport, marking the beginning of a memorable trip to Kobe, Japan. Although flight delays caused a few headaches (and hours spent looking to reschedule a flight with Cathay Pacific), we arrived safely at Kansai International Airport on a chilly morning and made our way straight to our sister school, Shinwa Girls' Junior and Senior High School. In all of our un-showered, jetlagged glory, we were reunited with our host sisters before being treated to a traditional Japanese tea ceremony by the alumni of Shinwa. It was an interesting, relaxing, and enjoyable experience (though the students who weren't used to kneeling for so long may beg to differ).

From that point onward, we attended classes six days a week for two weeks, and spent our time after school shopping, taking photos at purikura, eating plenty of food and bonding with our classmates and host sisters. We visited many well-known places: Kyoto, Osaka, Arashiyama, Universal Studios Japan, Nara, Himeji Castle, Fushimi Inari Shrine, and more. Many of the days were spent walking, one struggle after another, especially when traversing the treacherous paths of Mount Rokkou - a blanket of slippery autumn leaves concealed a number of rocks ranging from jagged boulders to ankle-breaking pebbles, and the distance from the cable car to the outlook where we had lunch was about as long as the journey towards VCE. Nevertheless, every struggle, every debate over which food to eat for lunch and dinner, and every missed train, made for an unforgettable journey. Special thanks to Sawaki-sensei for organising and managing the exchange - without him, none of this would have been possible and we thank him for his hard work and dedication to the program.

Klementine Young 12J



## Music News

Instrumental lessons and ensemble rehearsals have commenced for those students involved in the Music program. Please confirm your enrolment with the music office if you have not received any news from the teachers or conductors. We are immediately launching into preparation for the Summer Concert, Tuesday, 21 March, commencing at 6pm at Mac.Rob. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the music office (Ph: 9864 7763 or email: [music@macrob.vic.edu.au](mailto:music@macrob.vic.edu.au)) or Mr Chua. ([chu@macrob.vic.edu.au](mailto:chu@macrob.vic.edu.au)).

Mr Chua - Director of Music and Instrumental Music



Forty-three Yr 12 Literature students accompanied by the Literature teachers attended the Australian Shakespeare Company's twilight performance of Twelfth Night on Saturday, Feb 4th. It took place under the stars at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Here is what a selection of the students who attended had to say:

"A night full of laughter! Watching an olden day version of the movie "She's the man" with a twist of humour in it was absolutely fantastic. Cute little setting out in the open gives off a nice, peaceful vibe. Also great audience participation, definitely very engaging. Did not fail to keep the audience's attention. Amazing play!" Jenny Nguyen-Pham

"... a magical night. The relationships formed, both on and through the stage, were powerfully and wittily constructed. The perfect balance between modernising yet adhering to the core of the original play's spirit - was a joy to watch!" Devangna Tangri

"The opportunity to take out the old picnic mat, bring a stash of junk food and enjoy a momentary drizzle to watch Twelfth Night under the stars was unmissable! It was fantastically directed, brilliantly casted and we even got a chance to sing along with drunken uncles. Definitely left smiling :)" Nandini Shah

"Intertwining modern themes and Shakespearean dialogue, Twelfth Night allowed us to see the play and it was supposed to be performed with music, humour and a satisfying ending." Freya Permezel

"Nothing compares to Shakespeare done right. The actors breathed life into the text and made it feel contemporary and relevant. Simply unforgettable." Stacy Chan

Twelfth Night was an interesting play to watch, it helped me comprehend the play as a whole, with a mix of modern humour while remaining true to the original play. It was also extremely entertaining. Jasleen Kaur

"An incredible play under the midsummer sky. The fools were hilarious, and the acting was engaging. Definitely had the audience on the edge of their seats". Rosalind Wei

"Twelfth Night is a traditional Shakespearean comedy, but where 16th century humour normally eludes the modern audience, this production of the play incorporated subtle references to popular culture, engaging the audience and making it a very fun play all in all." Inger Ma

Mary Purcell

Literature teacher



On Tuesday 31 January, the class of 2017 began their Year 12 journey by participating in a conference entitled, 'Our Day'. The day began with a presentation by Dr. Toni Meath who discussed the future direction of employment and education in the 21st Century. We were then treated to a moving talk by guest speaker, Koky Saly, founder of social enterprise the Beekeeper Parade. Koky discussed several life lessons and the importance of maintaining perspective during the final year of schooling.

In a day full of highlights, one of the more impressive events of the day involved Year 12 students taking the time to meet and greet incoming Year 9 students, with the most experienced members of our school community sharing their insights and wisdom with some of our newest members.

The day was a great success in terms of allowing the Year 12 cohort to bond and consider life beyond an ATAR result. The Senior School team would like to take the opportunity to thank our student leaders, in particular Ann Baby, Sreshta Sheri, and Demi Tangri, who took responsibility for planning and running a day that was of enormous value to our Year 12 students.

Carolyn Murdoch and Dean Allan

Year 12 Coordinators



## Family Peace Foundation

Esteemed psychologist Michael Carr-Greig, is promoting the messages from this foundation. We encourage our families to consider whether your own families could benefit from the advice offered and incorporate some of the suggested practices into their everyday lives. The first message, "8 minutes a day", is well worth everyone considering as to how such practices could enrich the lives of their family.

Family Peace Foundation (<https://www.familypeace.org.au/initiatives/01-8-minutes-a-day/> )



# SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

## SCHEDULE 5A: SELF-NOMINATION FORM FOR PARENT MEMBER CATEGORY

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent member on the

..... school council.

Name :

Residential address:

Contact phone (mobile or landline):

Email:

I am the parent/guardian of ....., who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Training but not engaged in work at and for the school

Yes / No (please circle)

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not:

- an undischarged bankrupt
- of unsound mind
- currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence; or
- a registrable offender within the meaning of the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*.

Signature of Candidate ..... Date ..... / ..... / .....

### You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

Further, the name, membership category, gender, term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether the member is an employee of the Department will be forwarded to the Department of Education and Training by the principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on .....

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.

# SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

## SCHEDULE 5B: NOMINATION FORM

### FOR PARENT MEMBER CATEGORY

I wish to nominate..... for an elected position as a parent member on the  
..... school council.

**CANDIDATE’S DETAILS**

Name.....

Residential address.....

.....

Contact phone (mobile or landline)

Email.....

I am the parent/guardian of ....., who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is the parent/guardian of .....who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is an employee of the Department of Education and Training but not engaged in work at and for the school.

Yes / No (please circle)

Name of Nominator .....

Signature of Nominator .....Date ..... / ..... / .....

**CANDIDATE TO COMPLETE:**

I accept the nomination and I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not:

- an undischarged bankrupt
- of unsound mind
- currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence
- a registrable offender within the meaning of the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*.

Signature of Candidate.....Date ..... / ..... / .....

**You will be notified when your nomination has been received.**

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate and to nominate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

Further, the name, membership category, gender, term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether the member is an employee of the Department will be forwarded to the Department of Education and Training by the principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on .....

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.

Have you ever thought how good  
it would be to be able to  
learn what it's like to live  
in another country?



Learn a new language?  
Experience a different culture?

You can have all of this in 2018

- With Rotary Youth Exchange -

*If you are in year 9, 10 or 11 in 2017 you can apply now*

*For further information contact*

**District 9800 Rotary Youth Exchange**

Phone: Gabrielle Morgan, 0419 398 507 or

Email: [loftandmorgan@ozemail.com.au](mailto:loftandmorgan@ozemail.com.au)

[www.rotaryyouthexchangedistrict9800.com.au](http://www.rotaryyouthexchangedistrict9800.com.au)



# ***Come visit* the Sunflower Forest 26 February 2017**

## **‘Acland Plaza’ corner Barkly St & Acland Street St Kilda**

- See the many sunflowers in Acland Plaza
- Drop in anytime from 11am - 5pm
- Free art event for children
- Paint and learn about nature and pollination

### **TIME**

### **PROGRAM**

All day PAINT plaster castings / a native pot plant with Salvatori to take home!

11:15am TALK - Pollination with Gio Fitzpatrick, Youth Wildlife Ambassador

12 noon WORKSHOP - Make an Insect Hotel with Gio Fitzpatrick

3:00pm TALK - plants & pollination with David Sparks, SKINC nursery

For more information: [www.sunflowerforest.org](http://www.sunflowerforest.org)



### **PARTNERS:**



Write on Target Australia



This project has been assisted by the City of Port Phillip Council through the Vibrant Acland Street Seed Grant Program.