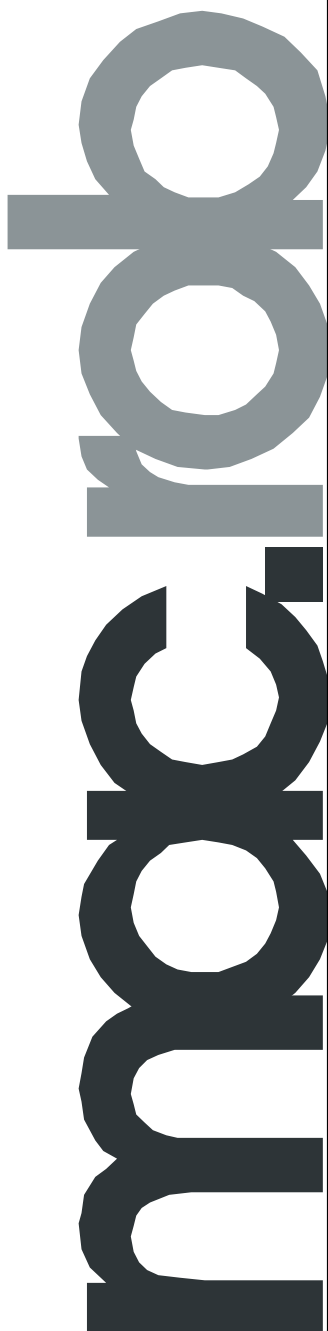


NEWSLETTER

Issue 17

15 June 2007



**The Mac.Robertson
Girls' High School**
350 – 370 Kings Way
Melbourne 3004
Telephone 03 9820 0788
Facsimile 03 9864 7777
office@macrob.vic.edu.au
www.macrob.vic.edu.au



Principal News

Last week a number of parents, teachers and students enjoyed an evening of music in the hall staged by Mrs Jane Elton-Brown and Ms Mary Johnston with the choir and instrumental groups which will be touring the United Kingdom starting next week. The Friends of Music provided some wonderful hospitality in the form of special mince pies and mulled wine. In addition to the two ensembles who performed separately and together,



there were a number of individuals, duets and small groups performing with vocal items and instruments.



The result was a great representation of the multiple talents of our students and a thoroughly enjoyable night for the audience. The evening was also a fundraiser to complete the payments for the grand piano.

This week the mid year VCE examinations began on Tuesday and included the General Achievement Test (GAT) which is used to moderate the other examinations. As usual, with the number of Year 11 students taking Unit 3/4 subjects, we had approximately 500 students sitting the GAT which is always a logistical effort for Mr Peter Skinner and the examination administrators.

Next week I will be on a study tour to the UK visiting a number of specialist trust/iNet schools and the National College of School leadership in Nottingham. At the end of the study tour I will join the music tour for the first week of the school holidays and return with the school group. In my absence, Ms Marilyn Smith will be Acting Principal.

Jane Garvey

Student Representative Council (SRC)—Multicultural Week 2007!

From 21 to 25 May, Mac.Rob celebrated the much anticipated annual Multicultural Week. The girls were treated to wonderful speeches from our special guest speakers and an array of exciting events they could participate in. The week began with our multicultural assembly where comedian Courtney Hocking enlightened the girls with her tales of multiculturalism and the multicultural week parade was held where the girls dressed up in their beautiful international



clothes. Monday was also Europe Day and activities included an Ikea assembling competition and Gladiators tournament (a bit more friendly than a real one!). Tuesday was America Day where the girls held a softball competition as well as piñata smashing.



Wednesday was Africa Day where the girls could participate in a Lion King quiz and a mummification competition, and there was also our international cake stall. The SRC sold pizzas, Krispy Kremes and sushi as well as many other delicious international food items.

Finally on Thursday, Asia Day, we had a wasabi eating competition, Bollywood dancing lessons and the highlight of our multicultural week came to school, our special guest speaker the Honourable Mr John So. Counsellor So praised the girls on celebrating Melbourne's multiculturalism and spoke of the importance of cultural diversity to a packed hall of excited students.



I would like to thank the SRC for all the hard work they put in to organising a fabulous multicultural week and hope that for many years to come, this strong tradition in the Mac.Rob community will continue.

Jessica O'Connell
SRC Vice-President

STUDENT WELFARE — PARENTING SUPPORT

This week the first of the articles by Michael Grose is included in this newsletter. Communication is central to all relationships especially at a time when communication methods are many and varied. We hope you find the article interesting and informative.

Over the next few week articles will be provided to assist parents with information about a variety of issues that may arise in the family.

Gillian Baldock
Student Welfare Coordinator

CAREERS

On Tuesday, 5 June all Year 10 students spent the afternoon at the inaugural "Career Your lifestyle" Expo at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. The title of the Expo was designed to encourage participants to recognise that a career is not just a job or an occupation but an integral part of the way

they will live their lives. This was organised by the Inner Melbourne VET Cluster (IMVC), of which Mac.Rob is a member.

There were over 117 exhibitors showcasing university, TAFE and private providers of education.

The Careers at Work Hall was set up for practical "hands-on" demonstrations and activities, which included driving and flight simulators, cooking demonstrations, robotics, electrotechnology, horticulture, exercise science and many more. Students could also choose to attend industry/education seminars on specific areas. These involved a range of guest speakers and question and answer sessions in small groups. They included seminars on business, law, sports, design, medicine, multimedia, hospitality, science, building and construction and natural resources and primary industries. Our thanks to the IMVC for providing this opportunity for our students.

On Thursday 31 May, Jason Watts—Recruitment Manager from Bond University on the Gold Coast, spoke to Year 12 students about courses and accommodation at Bond. He also encouraged students to apply for the many scholarships available at Bond. Application forms for these can be obtained from the Careers Room, closing date is Monday, 30 July.

Congratulations to Dheeshana Sayakkarage (Year 12 2006) who has been awarded a Women in Engineering bursary to study at Monash University. She is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Engineering. The bursaries worth \$2000 in the first year, were introduced to encourage high calibre female students to pursue a career in engineering. Australia faces a critical shortage of qualified engineers and the bursaries support the development of future engineering leaders. Students had to obtain an ENTER score above 97 to be eligible.

An American University Fair will be held on Tuesday, 19 June at 7.00 p.m. at the Melbourne Marriott Hotel, corner of Exhibition and Lonsdale Sts. Nine US universities will be represented and will go through the admission process for entrance to colleges in America.

Irene Serpless
Careers

YEAR 12 FORMAL

One of the highlights of the Year 12 calendar is the Formal. This event will take place on Friday, 20 July 2007 and the venue will be the Plaza Ballroom at the Regent Theatre, 191 Collins Street, Melbourne. The Formal will begin at 7 00 p.m. and conclude at 11.00 p.m.

On the day of the Formal the students will be permitted to leave at lunchtime so that they can attend any necessary appointments and prepare for the Formal. Morning classes will still run and it is expected that all students will be in attendance for these lessons. Students are asked to make their appointments soon to ensure these arrangements are made at a suitable time and so they do not miss valuable class time.

The evening will include a three course meal, with lamb, chicken and vegetarian options for main course. The Formal is an alcohol and drug free event, and security will be provided at the venue. The cost of the tickets is \$85.00. All Year 12 students have been given a letter with the details of the evening. Students must forward their payment, with the payment slip, to the Bursar by Friday, 22 June. Students are also asked to forward the return slip with the number of tickets required to the Senior School Office by this date, after payment has been completed.

We know that the students are looking forward to this very special event and the Formal Committee have put a lot of effort into ensuring that it will be an unforgettable night for all.

Miss Linda Harvey and Ms Susy Puszka
Year 12 Coordinators

THANK YOU PARENTS@Mac.Rob

A heartfelt thanks to Parents' Association for the wonderful staff morning tea last Monday. The food and decorations were truly marvellous and we all felt very much appreciated! It was lovely gesture and a very effective way of showing the benefits of parent involvement in the life of the school. A special thanks to Judith, Emily and Robert Koop, Helen Marshall, Pauline Lee, Lin Braun, Ganga Fernando and Jeremy Grant.

NEWS FROM PARENTS@Mac.Rob



Want to know more about what your daughter is learning?

Parents@Mac.Rob is organising a series of presentations by school staff, about the different subject areas at Mac.Rob. On **Tuesday, 19th June**, at **7.30pm** in the **Function Room** (above the gym) the **Convener of Humanities, Mr John Stewart**, will discuss the subject area of **History**. Remember the 'history wars', debated in the media late 2006/early 2007? Join us on the 19th, to hear how your daughter's school approaches the issues raised in this debate. It is also an opportunity to meet other parents over coffee.

The parents@Mac.Rob meeting will take place after **Mr Stewart's** talk.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, 16 June** - Year 9 2008 Entrance Examination, Exhibition Building Music Tour Farewell Concert, Hall, 6.00pm to 9.00pm
- Monday, 18 June** - Bivouac Briefing for Cadets
- Monday, 18 June to Tues, 19 June** - Duke of Edinburgh Camp
- Wed, 20 June** - Years 10, 11 and 12, 2008 Entrance Exam, 1.30 to 4.00pm
- Thurs, 21 June** - Music Tour departs Years 10, 11 and 12, 2008 Entrance Exam, 1.30 to 4.00pm Auditions - Combined Play (Theatre), 4.00pm to 6.00pm
- Friday, 22 June** - VCAA Plain English Speaking Awards - School Hall Auditions - Combined Play (MHS), 3.30pm to 5.30pm
- Friday, 22 June to Weds, 27 June** - Cadets Bivouac (Mt Disappointment)
- Monday, 25 June** - Combined Play callbacks, 4.00pm to 6.00pm
- Tues, 26 June** - All Year 10 Excursion to University of Melbourne