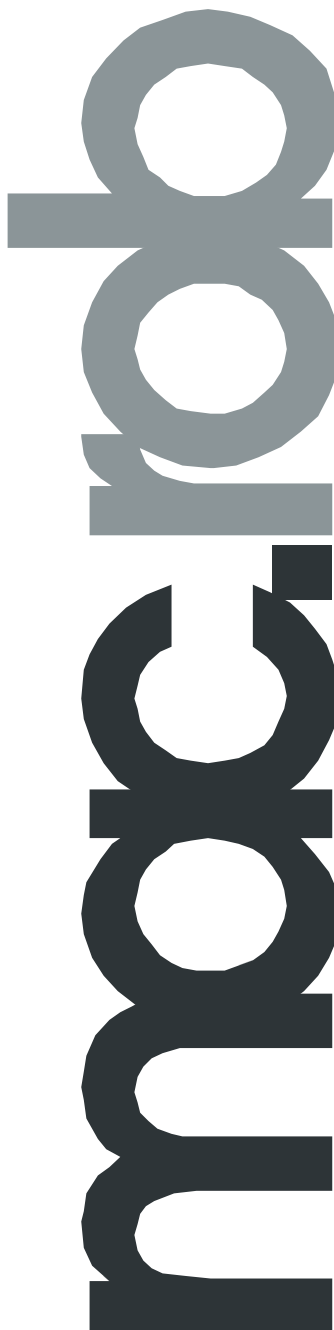


## NEWSLETTER

Issue 24

17 August 2007



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## PRINCIPAL NEWS

Professor Brian Caldwell, who is acting as our Critical Friend in the school review process, this week conducted a further forum as part of the consultation process, this time with the students. The form captains were given the questions prior to the forum and asked to consult with their form members. It was impressive that they came to the forum with many ideas to feed back through the 'zing' system. The truly astonishing thing was the speed with which they were able to reply. Professor Caldwell announced after the responses to the first question were tabulated that, in all his experience of using the system, this was the first time he had received over a hundred responses. You can imagine how the girls responded to that challenge! When asked about what they valued most about Mac.Rob, there was a huge range of responses but many of these centred on their appreciation of the work of their teachers and the passion they bring to their teaching.

We will receive the tabulated responses soon from Professor Caldwell which I will pass on to teachers but I just wish that more of them could have been there to experience the warmth and the depth of the appreciation for their efforts which was expressed by the girls. It was a truly heart-warming experience and Professor Caldwell was strongly impressed by the thoughts, ideas and coherence of the reflections fed back to him, not to mention the excellent spelling and explanations, so much so that he declared that he could write a book about the session. Thank you to Ms Bronwyn Moline and Miss Margaret Akins for their work in facilitating this consultation.

We are very grateful for the professor's involvement in our review, particularly in gathering together feedback from all sections of the community. Next Wednesday he will preside over the review meeting which is the culmination of the self evaluation process and sets directions and priorities for the future. Following the review, we will write a new Strategic Plan for the next four years which will be available by the end of the year. Thank you to everybody who has contributed to the self evaluation phase of the school review.

*Jane Garvey*

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## PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS—MONDAY, 27 AUGUST

A reminder to parents that the parent/teacher interviews for Semester Two will take place on Monday, 27 August in the Lakeside Building from 2.30 p.m. until 8.00 p.m. with a break for the teachers from 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. All students will be dismissed at 1.30 p.m.

Your daughter has been given an appointment sheet for you to arrange interviews with any of her teachers you wish to see. Please make these appointments as soon as possible and remember that teachers will not be able to see you if you have not made an appointment beforehand.

Please also remember that the interviews are for five minutes only and that issues requiring a longer time should be raised with the Level Coordinator so that an appointment can be made for another occasion.

*Marilyn Smith, Assistant Principal*

## THE 2007 PARENT OPINION SURVEY

This annual and anonymous survey will be conducted in government schools across Victoria during the week commencing Monday, 27 August. Mac.Rob will be posting the survey to 150 randomly selected parents that we can receive valuable information and feedback from our parent community. In past years the data from this survey has been used to drive school improvement but we often have quite a low return rate. If you do receive the survey later this month, it would really be appreciated if you could complete and return the survey to the school as soon as you are able.

*Rebecca Vosper, Assistant Principal*

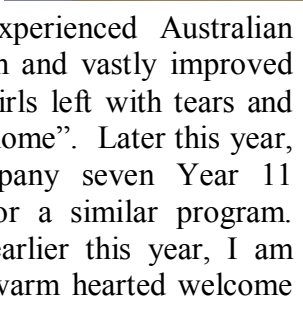
## JAPANESE SISTER SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP

This year we were lucky enough to have experienced the first year of our sister school relationship with Shinwa Girls' High School from Japan. Shinwa Girls' High School is situated at the bottom of a mountain range in the city of Kobe, close to the economic centre of Osaka. Like our school it has a long and proud history full of tradition and like Mac.Rob it is dedicated to empowering young women with knowledge. Not only are foreign exchanges like this, fundamental in developing language skills, and enhancing the appreciation of a different culture and society, but they allow us to increase our awareness of our own strengths and weaknesses, and I am glad to have been a part of this one.

Seven students and their teacher, Yokoyama Sensei, traveled to Mac.Rob for a two week cultural and language exchange. In these two weeks, the students have participated in various activities such as cooking, calligraphy, football, netball, and surfing at the Great Ocean Road. The students formed lasting friendships, well outside the boundaries of the Japanese classes, experienced Australian culture, the education system and vastly improved their language skills. The girls left with tears and cries of "I don't want to go home". Later this year, Sawaki Sensei will accompany seven Year 11 students to Shinwa High for a similar program. Having visited the school earlier this year, I am assured of the friendly and warm hearted welcome we will receive.

I thank both Sawaki Sensei and Yokoyama Sensei in organising this exchange, as well as the Principal, Vice Principals and teachers in giving their support - without you this exchange would never have taken place. Finally, to the students of Mac.Rob and Shinwa I hope that you will continually treasure these experiences.

*Hannah Gould, 11C Student*



## PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE (PRC)

Congratulations to Year 9I for winning the Premier's Reading Challenge Form Competition. The students' of Year 9I read a total of 1650 books.



Congratulations also goes to Georgia Goodchild who won the Individual Award, reading the total of 249 books.



The students from Year 9I and Georgia will be taken to the Writers' Festival to hear Michael Gerard Bauer, the author of *Don't call me Ishmael*, speaking about "How to write funny". This excursion is planned for the afternoon of Tuesday, 28 August.

Students who have yet to return their verified reading list have until 30 August to hand it into Mrs Fitzgerald. Students who meet the criteria for the official PRC will receive a certificate of participation and will have their names published in 'The Age'.

*Lisa Fitzgerald, LRC Coordinator*

## SPORT NEWS

### Competition Results

The Intermediate Badminton team represented Yarra District in the Northern Zone Competition. The team, captained by Tracy Liu, easily accounted for Viewbank and Lalor Secondary Colleges six games to zero. The match against Reservoir Secondary College was closely contested. Reservoir won three of the four singles matches with Tracy Liu winning for Mac.Rob. Mac.Rob was able to win both of the doubles matches with the result of three rubbers each. Reservoir scored 17 more points than



Mac.Rob and will represent Northern Zone in the State Championships to be held on Wednesday, 22 August.

The Aerobics Team competed in the State Championships held at Melbourne Girls' College last week. The team of Lillian Meighan, Heloise Meighan and Emily Davies won this event and the other two teams also competed with distinction. The winning team will now compete in the National Championships to be held in Sydney later this year. The senior cross country team also achieved a commendable result in the State Championships held recently at Bundoora winning the bronze medal for the team event.

The senior badminton and netball teams will represent the Northern Zone in the State Championships to be held next week and Intermediate Teams will compete in the Yarra District Competitions in the sports of basketball, hockey, squash and table tennis.

### Mac.Rob Retains the Prefects Cup

Laura Smith and Rebecca Bacskos, Mac.Rob's Sport Captains, have led the Mac.Rob teams to retain the Prefects Cup for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year during the Adelaide Exchange. All of the events were keenly contested and played in the best of sporting traditions.



Monday, 6 August was Adelaide's day winning the football, soccer, tennis and rowing, with Mac.Rob winning the debating and cross country. Tuesday commenced with Adelaide winning the softball, thus leading the competition. Then it went all Mac.Rob's way, with wins in hockey, table tennis, theatre sports, basketball, chess and badminton. The netball was won by Mac.Rob on



Wednesday morning, to establish a nine games to five result for Mac.Rob.

This year we were favoured by fine weather and excellent teamwork which enabled the program to run smoothly and with



minimal disruption to the school program. I thank Ms Akins who organised the social events, Ms Lambert for arranging the billets, Ms Pride the timetabling of staff and students, all of the coaches for the preparation and management of the sport teams, Mrs Elton Brown and Mr Goncharov for arranging the musical items and equipment and the staff who made the Adelaide Staff and Students feel part of the school. Another feature this year was the use of the Albert Park Grounds for many of the sports events The YWCA Rowing Club in enabling the rowing event which was held on Albert Park Lake.

*Russell Welber*  
Sports Coordinator

## PROPOSAL FOR TRIP TO GREECE & TURKEY—TERM ONE HOLIDAYS 2008

As an extension to the curriculum for Literature and Philosophy, a study tour of approximately three weeks to Greece and Turkey has been planned for the end of first term and the term holidays in 2008. As the students in units 1/2 Literature will study one Greek play and an introduction to Greek mythology, including excerpts from *The Iliad*, and in Units 3/4 Literature, they will study one Greek play and rely on Greek myths in much of the poetry, there is an emphasis on classical Greece in these courses.

In all four units of VCE Philosophy, the texts of *Plato* and *Aristotle* are studied. The Units 3/4 Philosophy SACs and exam have, as one of the criteria, that the students demonstrate knowledge of the context of the philosophers.

The Units 3/4 Literature SACs and exam require them to explore the views and values of the writers. Both these requirements will be met by this tour, as the wording from the Philosophy study design demonstrates:

*On completion of this study the student should be able to describe the key elements of the texts and situate them and their authors in the historical and philosophical context in which they were produced.*

The girls would therefore benefit enormously from visiting the sites of the great dramatists and philosophers they are studying. The itinerary will include a seven day study tour of Athens and the Peloponnese, a visit to Samos where Pythagoras, Aristarchus and Epicurus were born, then a ferry to Izmir, Ephesus, and then complete the trip with a tour of the cultural riches of Istanbul. The proposed cost of the trip is approximately \$5000. We hope that you will encourage your daughter to participate in this wonderful opportunity. Expressions of interest will be sought shortly.

*Mary Purcell, Philosophy & Literature Teacher*

## CAREERS NEWS

### Guest Speakers

Our program of guest speakers continued this week with representatives from a number of faculties at Monash University.

Today the four speakers who presented to Year 12 students were: Mr Ross Booth—Course Director, Bachelor of Commerce & Bachelor of Economics, Mr Hemant Kokularupan from the Law Faculty, Ms Jessica Dobbie from Pharmacy and Ms Deryn Vahl-Meyer from Medicine.

On Wednesday Ms Christina Wilson, a manager from General Electric spoke to Year 10I about techniques of job research, job preparation and choosing a career.

### GAP Year

Year 12 students please note that GAP Australia are currently recruiting for projects in Brazil, China, India, Italy, Malaysia, Vanuatu and Vietnam. A complete list of which projects are available within these countries can be found at <http://www.gapactivityprojects.org.au>

Placements are limited so students should apply as soon as possible to maximise their chance of obtaining the project of their choice.

### Scholarships

A database of scholarships throughout Victoria has been placed in the library for Year 12 students.

This has been provided by the Inner Melbourne VET Cluster (IMVC) of which Mac.Rob is a member.

The database is very comprehensive and runs to 71 pages. Our thanks to the IMVC for providing this valuable resource. Students are urged to consult the list and apply. Universities and other organisations have many scholarships available for next year.

### Monash University

*Engineering Information Evening:* Wednesday, 5 September from 7.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre C1, Building 63, Clayton Campus. Presentations by academics and current students, tour of facilities and refreshments. Further information can be obtained from <http://www.eng.monash.edu.au/news>.

*Enhancement Studies for Year 11 Students:* Monash University Enhancement Studies Program provides an opportunity for high achieving students to extend their learning in a particular subject area by completing the first year of a standard university unit as part of their Year 12 program. There are ten different subjects available in the 2008 program in arts, business and economics, information technology and science. Classes are normally held outside school hours. You must be an outstanding student and the school must support your application. Information session is from 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 17 October in South One Lecture Theatre, Building 64, Clayton Campus. Information/bookings can be obtained at [enhancement@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:enhancement@adm.monash.edu.au) or call 9905 4241. See also [www.monash.edu.au/study/enhancement](http://www.monash.edu.au/study/enhancement).

### Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)

*Bachelor of Business (Entrepreneurship) course:* Meet staff, entrepreneurs and current students, and hear from lecturers and a graduate of the course. 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 4 September Level 1, 257 Collins St, Melbourne. Cost: \$15.00 (pay cash on the night) including light snacks. Further details can be accessed via [james@sandersventures.com.au](mailto:james@sandersventures.com.au).

*Irene Serpless, Careers Coordinator*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mon, 20 to Fri, 24 August	Health Week
Friday, 24 August	Sleep-in
Monday, 27 August	Parent – Teacher interviews
Tuesday, 28 August	Later start at 9.20 a.m.
Tue, 20 to Fri, 31 August	Ski Camp