

NEWSLETTER

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**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



DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING NEWS

It has been a busy time for our many talented debaters and public speakers this month. The DAV finals have begun and we are happy to announce Mac.Rob teams have, once again, topped the ladders in three out of four grades.

Congratulations to all the teams competing this year, especially our finalists: B Grade Team 1, C Grade Teams 3 and 4 and D Grade Team 3!

Congratulations also to the Mac.Rob team who were victorious in the Adelaide Exchange earlier this month!

Recently, **Kellymaree Butler** was a State finalist in the VCAA Plain English Speaking Award. The competition has been running for 30 years in Victoria and the standard improves every year. Kellymaree was outstanding and impressed us with the diversity of her ideas and her style. Congratulations Kellymaree.

Today **Bebe D'Souza** and **Christine Carder-Rice** have flown to Canberra as the State winners of the Rotary United Nations Youth Assembly. They will be representing China in an assembly at the Old Parliament House and we wish them the very best of luck and an enjoyable weekend in our nation's capital.



Yvette Arnott

Debating & Public Speaker Coordinator

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CAMP (NLC) 2007

During the school holidays, Varshini Ganeshpillai, Maria Selvadurai, Michelle Nguyen and I attended the Rising Generations NLC at Collaroy Beach in Sydney's northern beaches. At first I thought this was just going to be another camp, but in fact, it proved to be a genuinely unforgettable experience.

In the morning of July 10 I arrived at the Collaroy Conference Centre nervous and not really knowing what to expect of the next few days. This all changed once we met the camp organisers and mentors, who welcomed us ardently and introduced the theme of NLC 2007, *Agents of Change*.

The focus of the second day was the NLC Olympics and so much of our time was dedicated to preparing for it. Each tribe produced a flag, pep rally and march to perform as part of the opening ceremony. It was entertaining to watch the performances and once all hyped up, we finally began the Olympic events which consisted of wheelbarrow races, coins and jelly snakes.

In the evening when we had all settled down we listened to a few of our junior mentors sharing some of their most personal experiences as part of the 'Words of Wisdom' session. Their stories were poignant and it was amazing to hear how such young people created something positive out of otherwise grim and difficult times.

After the Words of Wisdom in which we heard the moving accounts of the life-changing experiences of three camp leaders. The atmosphere was intense and by the end of it I think we all left the room inspired by these remarkable women.

At six the next morning we awoke to what we'd all been dreading for the previous two days – boot camp. Needless to say, having just woken up without breakfast did not make the task easier. But with all our amazingly energetic

mentors cheering us along, we became more motivated to reach the top of the cliff and in time to see the sun rise completely into the sky.

After breakfast and into the afternoon we were treated to two engaging speakers, Robyn Moore, a prominent Australian voice-over artist who is probably best known for providing the voice of *Blinky Bill* and the boot camp instructor, Brett Murray. Both delivered such exciting speeches full of humour and passion.

The main activity in the evening was the NLC songfest and dance-off for which we had all been diligently preparing with our tribes and it was all good fun to see everyone dressed up and prancing around to famous tunes such as *Eye of the Tiger* and songs from *The Sound of Music*.

The last day of camp was definitely full of ambivalence – the eagerness of going home and applying everything we'd learnt but also the sadness of leaving all the wonderful friends we'd made. By the end of our final session together as the NLC Agents of Change 2007, almost everyone in the main conference room was in tears. After saying 'see you later' we boarded the buses physically tired but all the more motivated and enthusiastic to get out there and be the change.

NLC is doubtless going to be a cherished life-long memory. It expanded my understanding of leadership further than I had imagined, telling me that there's more to a leader than badges and organizational skills. Rather, it is fortitude and the courage to go against the tide for one's convictions that constitute a true leader.

Kenaira Inot
Year 11 Student

GERMAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Two Year 11 students, **Stephanie Deraugo** and **Christine Demir**, have won a prestigious scholarship for a ten week exchange to Germany. The scholarships are offered by



the Society for Australian-German Student Exchange, which is sponsored by various German companies in Victoria. Each year, around 15 winners are selected from hundreds of applicants.

As the Society aims to involve as many schools as possible, it is rare that two candidates from the same school are successful, and it indicates that **Stephanie** and **Christine** have presented themselves in an outstanding way. They will leave for Germany at the end of November and return at the beginning of February, staying with carefully selected families and taking part in several excursions around Germany. All expenses are paid for by the scholarship and all they need is a few *Euros* for pocket money.

Congratulations to both of them on this wonderful achievement, and *viel Spass in Deutschland!*

Gisela Paffenholz
German Teacher

ARMY CADET EXCHANGE (ACE)

The ACE program is an annual international cultural and military exchange. Australian army cadets were given the opportunity to travel to countries including Austria, Canada, Cayman Islands, Germany, Netherlands, South Korea and the United Kingdom for two weeks on a trip fully funded (airfare, accommodation, most meals) by the cadet program of the home and hosting countries.

I travelled to the United States with four other Australians where we met cadets from all of the countries mentioned above. Jet lag had the potential to become an issue however everyone soon got used to thriving off two to four hours sleep a night. Our first area of travel was New York – big, bold, loud. Staying in Manhattan, we were in walking or subway distance from most of the sites. Times Square was a primary destination and shopping sprees were inevitable.

Coney Island boasted of the first rollercoaster ever built – in 1901. We were assured that it had been reconditioned since then before we jumped in for the ride! A live performance of STOMP was truly amazing. We were able to get involved – clapping and stomping in time with the artists for the finale. That night, we had the opportunity to take a look over the lights of New York City from the height of the Empire State building.

A short ferry ride and some thorough security (we were tested for radioactive substances) and we



were able to climb the 500 plus stairs inside the Statue of Liberty to have a day-time aerial view of New York. A visit to their eye-opening immigration museum also awaited us. Later that night we got involved in the sporting culture and watched the entirety of a baseball game, of which the NY Yankees claimed victory. A small group of us then caught a cab to Ground Zero – where the twin towers once were.

All of this and more was fitted into three days, before our song-filled six hour bus trip to Washington DC. We stayed at American University – which emanated the summer atmosphere portrayed in all Hollywood college movies. Not much of America's program was military-based, but that which was, focused on their civil war and the Marine Corps. We had a look at the National Museum of the Marine Corps which consisted of interactive and life-sized displays.

On Thursday we then had a guided tour of Gettysburg Battlefield which was the site of a prominent battle during the civil war. We got to spend a few hours at Wal-Mart – the excitement for this was beyond proportion!

Friday we toured Arlington National Cemetery (the same cemetery JF Kennedy is buried at). I was fortunate enough to be chosen to help represent the ACE group by taking part in the wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns. We then walked to the National Mall, White House and Washington Monument from which we had a 360 degree view of the surrounds, including the White House and National Mall.

Our exploration of America then took us down to Sweet Home Alabama where we participated in a typical American Summer camp and undertook the 'Aviation Challenge'. At the US Space and Rocket Centre we learnt [some much better than others] how to fly simulator planes. We spent everyday in the water and got to experience 3Gs of gravity in a variety of simulators. And then it was on the way back to the *real* Home Sweet Home.

This exchange allowed us not only to experience the culture of the country we visited, but also mingle with cadets from all over the globe and find out about their culture too. It was definitely a very worthwhile opportunity that provided us with an unsurpassed educational experience.

Bridget Pianta

Mac. Rob Cadet 2007

CAREERS

Occupational Therapy: offers skills and advice aiming to increase a person's safety, independence and quality of life. Austin Health is holding an Information and Demonstration Evening 6.15 p.m. for a 6.30 p.m. start, till 8.00 p.m, Thursday, 6 September; Education Precinct, Level 4, Austin Tower, Austin Hospital, Studley Rd, Heidelberg (Mel 31, K4); No cost; Parking: Austin Tower for \$8 with car park voucher available for collection on the night; RSVP: 3 Sept to Loretta Hanson, ph 9496 5105, Loretta.hanson@austin.org.au.

Contemporary Dance: Deakin's Bachelor of Creative Arts dance students have creative dance training, explore collaborative performance making with other art-forms and new technology, and develop advanced choreography skills. The Faculty is running a school holiday three day course to give prospective students a taste of what the program offers. Students will take contemporary dance classes and choreographic workshops. 9.30am-1pm, 24 –26 September; Deakin University, 221 Burwood Hwy (P1.29 – the Dance Studio, Building P); Cost: \$99. Enquiries: Shaun McLeod, 9251 7651.

Flight Training at RMIT: Information about becoming a commercial pilot on Open Day on 9 September. Point Cook Airfield (drive down Princes Highway, take Laverton exit, follow

Point Cook Road to the Point Cook RAAF Base and signs to RMIT); also see the RAAF Museum; Enquiries: 9394 9999.

Fashion at RMIT: A holiday fashion course aimed at applicants for the Bachelor of Design (Fashion) and those interested in fashion thinking and design. Guest speakers, and afternoon studio workshops will explore the design process. 10am-4pm, 24-28 September Cost: \$395; Further information: 1800 067 117, www.rmit.edu.au/programs/types/shortcourses

Year 11 students: The Extension Program for high achieving Year 12 students offers the opportunity to study a first-year university subject while completing Year 12. For more information: www.services.unimelb.edu.au/umep.

An extended version of the careers newsletter has been placed on the school intranet.

*Irene Serpless
Careers Coordinator*

THE 2007 PARENT OPINION SURVEY REMINDER

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 so 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 next week, 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*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*Dear Music Students at
Mac.Robertson Girls'
High School,*

Please bake a cake or slice

And bring to the music department on the morning of
Wednesday, 29 August

**FRIENDS OF MUSIC @
MAC.ROB
CAKE STALL**

Fundraising for Friends of Music @ Mac.Rob

Sunday, 26 August	Palladians reunion, Function Room at 5.00 p.m.
Monday, 27 August	Parent / Teacher interviews.
Monday, 27 to Friday, 31 August	Parent Opinion Surveys mailed out for completion and return.
Tuesday, 28 August	Later start at 9.20 a.m.
Tuesday, 28 to Friday, 31 August	Ski Trip.
Wednesday, 29 August	Friends of Music cake stall at recess.
Thursday, 30 August	Author Shane Maloney to speak at lunchtime in the Library.
Friday, 31 August to Sat, 1 September	Year 12 Environmental Science field trip.
Tuesday, 4 September	<i>A Case of Identity</i> —Year 9 Science program.
Friday, 7 September	Year 11 social. Year 11 students dismissed at 12.30 p.m.