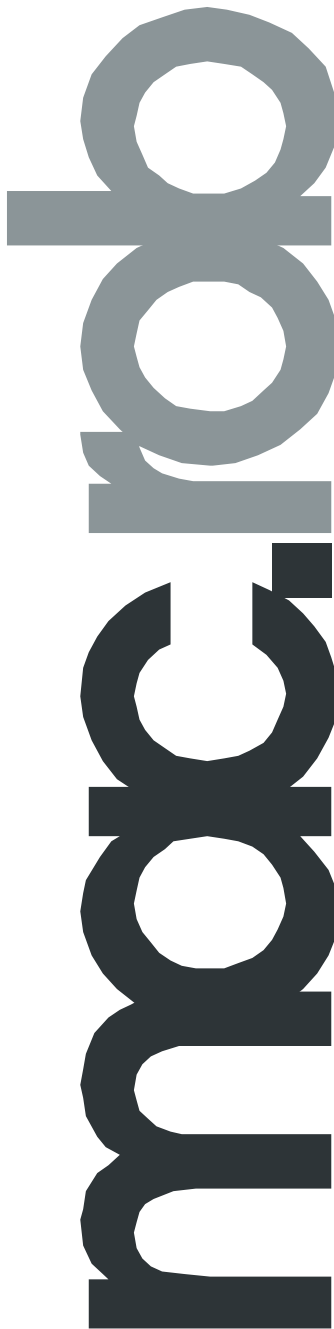


## NEWSLETTER

Issue 10

18 April 2008



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## Principal News

We had marvellous weather for the annual House Athletics Sports at Olympic Park last week and I congratulate all the competitors on their performances and Oreads on winning the overall competition on the day.

All week we have been listening to the houses rehearse for the House Chorals which should be truly magnificent if what we have heard so far is an indication. Next newsletter will reveal all.

Last Friday I was invited to the summit held by the Department on the 'Blueprint for Early Childhood Development and School Reform' held at the Grand Hyatt. This Blueprint follows on from the first one launched five years ago. It has three main themes; Partnerships with parent and communities, System development and reform and Workforce reform. The discussion papers can be found at [www.education.vic.gov.au/blueprint](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/blueprint) and written submissions are invited until 16 May 2008 if you would like to respond. Administrators and educators from across the state were invited and the proceedings began with a live video link address from Sir Michael Barber, renowned educator and former advisor to the British Government, now head of education consultants, McKinsey and Company. He made a number of observations about ways to reform the education system to deliver for all students. He also talked about the ways in which educators are trained and selected in top performing systems and mechanisms such as examinations and interventions which are used to track and correct student underperformance in these systems.

Congratulations to Danielle Panaccio who is the Victorian state winner of the Lions Youth of the Year competition and will now go on to the national finals. Good luck Danielle. Also congratulations to Emily Davies who was earlier selected for the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra. Emily distinguished herself at the forum and was selected as one of ten students to represent Australia at the International Youth Science Forum in London. Emily has to raise \$8000 dollars to cover her trip costs and I hope that everyone will contribute to fundraising to be conducted to assist her do this.

*Jane Garvey*

## Grand Piano Donors' Plaque Unveiled

A stainless steel plaque featuring a graphic of a piano keyboard engraved with the names of all the donors who gave \$100 for each of the eighty-eight keys of Mac.Rob's new Bernstein Conservatory Grand Piano was unveiled by the school's Principal, Ms Jane Garvey, in the Function Room on Wednesday, 19 March 2008.

The Director of Music, Mrs Jane Elton-Brown, welcomed the guests and acknowledged the design of the plaque by Murray Findlay of 'Artifacts'.

Major donor, Bernie Capicchiano, of Bernie's Music Land accepted thanks – and a school spoon! from Ms Garvey. Other guests included Assistant Principal Miss Margaret Akins, Palladian's past President Mrs Wendy Taylor, Friends of Music (FoM) @ Mac.Rob Ms Colleen Colman and past-President John Gebbie, School Councillor Dr Helen Marshall, School Archivist Peter McCallum and members of staff.



Guests enjoyed performances on the new grand piano by members of the Mac.Rob Academy of Pianists—Alice Lee, Mandy Wu, Jenny Hu, Angela Shen and Felicia Aulia, who received Certificates from the Principal.

A special occasion indeed, happily concluding with a delicious FoM afternoon tea!

## I Can Still Dream

Congratulations to Shannon Davidson of Year 9B whose macromedia flash animation *I Can Still Dream* has been selected for inclusion in the St Kilda Film Festival's Under the Radar, Under 20s Short Film Competition.

Shannon's film will be showing at the Palace George Cinema, Fitzroy Street, St Kilda on Wednesday, 7 May at 6:00 p.m.

The winner of the competition will be announced at the St Kilda Film Festival Awards Night on Sunday, 11 May.

*Kevin Walsh*  
*English Teacher*

## Mathematics in Industry and Technology (MIT)

The University of Melbourne is running its 2008 Maths Fair & MIT Challenge on Wednesday, 25 June. Mac.Rob is the defending champion in this biannual competition which attracts a first prize of \$800 to be shared by the winning team of four students. The MIT Challenge is a competition designed to give students a taste of real world consulting in just over two hours. This competition is suitable for strong Year 11 and 12 mathematics students. The MIT Challenge is just one part of a whole day of activities aimed at allowing students to gain a better understanding of university courses and careers involving mathematics and statistics. We can take 15 VCE maths students to the fair. If you are interested, see the leaflet on the Maths Noticeboard 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Kingsway, your maths teacher or Mr Campbell for further information.

*Geoff Campbell*  
*Mathematics Teacher*

## Parenting Suggestions

Last year I ran several articles on parenting ideas by Michael Grose who is an adolescent psychologist. I shall continue to include these suggestions occasionally in the 2008 newsletter. This week the article is directed to advise parents on the management of the young person's use of the internet. Our students spend a large amount of time on the internet for academic research, recreation and social interaction. The overuse of this resource has some significant concerns for parents. I hope the advice is useful.

If you have any concerns about your daughter please contact Gillian Baldock, Student Welfare Coordinator (SWC) on 9647 7713

*Gillian Baldock SWC*

**mac.rob**

## Northern Zone Swimming and Diving competition

On Thursday, 10 April the Mac.Rob swimmers and divers headed off to the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre for the Northern Zone competition. Everyone competed extremely well. The Intermediate team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and the Senior team won! All girls should feel proud of their achievements.

Thanks to Ms Puszka for her assistance with timekeeping. Thanks also to Zoe Skeggs, Zoe Lee, Tanya Lupancu, Anna Schneider, Caitlin McInnis and Greta Leropoulos who helped out on the day.

Notable successes are indicated below. Those girls who finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place will now represent the school at the State Swimming championships on Tuesday, 29 April.

| Place           | Event                     | Swimmer/Diver   |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | U16 Diving                | Anna Schneider  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | U21 200m Freestyle        | Emily Megow   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | U15 200m Freestyle        | Anna Lieschke   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Open 100m Breaststroke    | Emily Megow   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | U21 50m Breaststroke      | Emily Megow   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Open 100m Butterfly       | Julia McGennissen   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | U15 50m Butterfly         | Tanya Lupancu   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | U17 50m Butterfly         | Eunice Wong   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | U21 50m Butterfly         | Julia McGennissen   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | U21 100m Freestyle        | Julia McGennissen   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | U15 50m Freestyle         | Anna Lieschke   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | U16 50m Freestyle         | Lucy Hodgkinson   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | U17 50m Freestyle         | Dorota Korab  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | U21 50m Freestyle         | Emily Megow   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | U15 50m Backstroke        | Anna Lieschke   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | U16 50m Backstroke        | Alice Kennedy   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | U17 50m Backstroke        | Dorota Korab  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | U21 50m Backstroke        | Heloise Meighan   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | U16 4x50m Medley Relay    | Alice Kennedy (Backstroke)<br>Kayla Milana (Breaststroke)<br>Anna Lieschke (Butterfly)<br>Lucy Hodgkinson (Freestyle)   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | U21 4x50m Medley Relay    | Heloise Meighan (Backstroke)<br>Emily Megow (Breaststroke)<br>Julia McGennissen (Butterfly)<br>Dorota Korab (Freestyle) |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | U21 200m IM               | Julia McGennissen   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | U15 4x50m Freestyle Relay | Anna Lieschke, Kayla Milana,<br>Zoe Skeggs &<br>Catriona Nguyen-Robertson   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | U16 4x50m Freestyle Relay | Lucy Hodgkinson, Alice Kennedy<br>Charlotte Langdon & Tiffany Wang  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | U17 4x50m Freestyle Relay | Dorota Korab, Eunice Wong,<br>Caitlin McInnis & Yen Nguyen  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | U21 4x50m Freestyle Relay | Julia McGennissen, Emily Megow<br>Simone Hibbert & Stephanie Dearaugo   |

*Bronwyn Moline, Teacher-in-charge*

## Oreads Win the Interhouse Athletics

The annual inter-house Athletics Competition took place at Olympic Park on Wednesday, 9 April 2008. The weather was conducive to a fun day, and competition commenced in earnest on the track with the walk events. Students were soon dispersed to compete in field events and a variety of novelty activities involving teamwork which included Geeta boards and stilts. On the track, competition took place in 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m (Walk and Run), and in 90m and 100m Hurdles. For the Field events, students competed in Long Jump, Triple Jump, High Jump, Discus, Shot-put and Javelin. Competition for each of these events, took place at Under 15, Under 16, Under 17 and Under 21 levels. Oreads and Naiads soon established a dominance and this continued throughout the day.

The results of the interhouse competition were:

First: Oreads  
Second: Naiads  
Third: Nereids  
Fourth: Dryads

The Age Group Champions were:

Under 15: Catriona Nguyen-Robertson  
Under 16: Jade Gilbert  
Under 17: Greta Leropoulos  
Under 21: Stephanie Dearaugo

Congratulations to all of the students who achieved success during the day and thank you to the students and staff for their organisation and management of the program.

*Russell Webber*  
*Sport Coordinator*

## Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Semester 1 EMA cheques are now available for collection from Mrs Baldock in the Student Welfare Office.

*Gillian Baldock*  
*Student Welfare Coordinator*

## Harmoniously Edible Treats

A Cake Stall is to be held at recess on Wednesday, 30 April by *Friends of Music @ Mac.rob.*

Music students, please bring cakes and slices. Students and staff please come and delight in them.

*Friends of Music*

## Parents@macrob

\*\*\*\* Assistant Treasurer required \*\*\*\*

The Parent's Association would like an understudy to our Treasurer. He has done a great job for two years and continues this year but his daughter finishes this year and so will he.

So we don't lose his experience we would like a Year 9 or 10 parent to join the Parent's Association Committee this year and understudy his role with a view to replacing him next year. No accounting experience is necessary, Rob says he doesn't have any.

Please send a reply to [parents@macrob.vic.edu.au](mailto:parents@macrob.vic.edu.au) or come along to our next meeting on Tuesday, 22 April.

**\*\* Notice of Meeting—Tuesday, 22 April, 2008 \*\***

All Mac.Rob parents are warmly invited to the April Meeting of the Parents' Association.

The meeting is usually held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in the function room on the first floor of the gymnasium. During these meetings we discuss parent issues and activities.

During this meeting we will discuss coming activities for the year. We will include an information session on cadets.

Next months meeting will include a short subject presentation on English at Mac.Rob.

We invite parents from all year levels to join us to meet other parents and discuss parent issues and activities at Mac.Rob.

*Jeremy Hunt*  
*President, [parents@macrob](mailto:parents@macrob)*

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17 September  
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and Numeracy Week 2008

JUDGED BY LEADING AUTHORS:  
Sue Gough and Prue Mason

Theme for 2008: "Forests, Feathers, Fins and Fur"

Shire of  
Gunnedah  
Land of Opportunity

Namoi  
CMA  
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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

### **School Tours for Prospective Students and Parents**

Wednesday, 30 April 12.15 – 1.15pm      Tuesday, 13 May 11am – 12 noon  
Friday, 30 May 2 – 3pm      Tuesday, 10 June 11am – 12 noon

*(Bookings are essential for all School Tours (contact Registrar's office 9864 7755))*

### **Information Nights for Prospective Students and Parents**

Wednesday, 21 May 7pm—School Hall

### **Entrance Examination for Year 9, 2009**

Saturday, 14 June Royal Exhibition Building Carlton 12.30-4pm

### **Entrance Examination for Years 10-12, 2009**

Friday, 6 June at The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School

Morning session: Year 10      Afternoon session: Years 11 & 12

## **Forthcoming Events**

Tuesday, 22 April

- \* Anzac Rehearsal—all Year 10 students Melbourne High (periods 5 & 6).
- \* School Council Meeting—6.00 p.m.
- \* Parents Association Meeting Function Room, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 23 April

Parent/Teacher Interviews—Surnames  
Commencing from A - L, 2.30 - 8.00 p.m.

Thursday, 24 April

Anzac Service at the Shrine—all Year 10 students (morning only).

Friday, 25 April

Anzac Day—Public Holiday.

Thursday, 1 May

Parent/Teacher Interviews—Surnames  
Commencing from M - Z, 2.30 - 8.00 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 May

Curriculum Day—students not required to attend school.

Wednesday, 14 May to Saturday, 17 May

Combined Musical with Melbourne High School—'West Side Story'.

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# INTERNET

Teenagers use the Internet like the telephone of yesteryear

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Kids use it for entertainment, education and communication and not necessarily in that order. In some ways chat rooms are like milk bars and hamburger places of the past where young people could spend time without adult interference. The Net itself is not to be feared but it can become a distorted reality of your young person spends all their waking hours online.



The much-publicised risk of predators is small compared with excessive use and the consequent isolation it can lead to.

## WHAT'S THE ATTRACTION?

The Internet has a myriad of attractions to young people. It is instantaneous, highly-interactive and immensely private, which are highly prized attributes for most young people. It gives them access to their mates, music and media without leaving home. It has addictive qualities we know, but that doesn't mean that a young person should become a Net addict.

## HOW SHOULD PARENTS REACT?

TREAT .COM RELATIONSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES LIKE ANY OTHER.

Mocking their cyber friends and cyber activities can only drive them further into the cyber world of rebellion, and further away from the real world.

IF THE CYBER WORLD IS THE REAL WORLD for your young person as he shuns most other activities as well as people it may be time to take some action or even get some help.

INVOLVE YOURSELF IN THEIR CYBER ACTIVITIES, much as you would any other type of activity. Take the time to find out what they are doing and what they get from the activities.

NEGOTIATE ONLINE TIME ALLOCATIONS and share time online with other interested siblings. Locate the computer connected to the Internet in a public place at home so that you are accessible and also so sharing can occur.

ASK YOUR YOUNG PERSON WHAT A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME MAY BE ONLINE. If they violate that limit then ask them if they have a problem. Let them think it over for a time. Perhaps you can bargain real time activities in exchange for time online.

OFFER OFFLINE ALTERNATIVES TO ENTERTAINMENT, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION. Remind them that there are offline alternatives, even if they don't use them all the time.

## KEEP IN MIND

1. Be mindful of your connection with your young person so encourage him or her to talk about their online life.

2. The Internet offers many opportunities for young people to connect with each other that wouldn't ordinarily do so. It is a very positive thing, however it is healthy to maintain a balance between online and offline activities and relationships.
3. Keep an eye on your child's Net life. Without being too pushy try to ascertain what they use the Net for and set some limits for its use, much as you would for the use of the television.

  
**Parenting** *ideas*  
MICHAEL GROSE