

NEWSLETTER

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The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School

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PRINCIPAL NEWS

On Thursday night the annual Winter Concert jointly presented by **Mac.Robertson Girls' and Melbourne High schools** was held in the Dallas Brooks Hall. This event is highly valued by the communities of both schools and the students obviously relish the opportunity to work and perform together. The standard of performance was truly excellent and with an exciting program, the enjoyment of the audience was assured.

The concert began with the combined Symphonic Band playing music of Rimsky-Korsakov and Vaughan Williams followed by the choirs of both schools singing independently. The combined Brass ensemble with twelve trumpets, eight trombones and four French horns gave us the wonderfully stirring overture from "William Tell" by Rossini (some of the older members of the audience may have needed to suppress the image of a man on a silver horse here) and the first part of the program finished with great jazz from the Combined Stage Band with the Ray Charles' 'What'd I Say'.

After interval the Chamber Voices and the MHS Singers and Mozart Orchestra combined in a very beautiful rendition of selections from Mozart's Requiem. The program concluded with the Combined String Orchestra with a lively piece from Elgar before the Combined Symphony Orchestra played 'A Night on Bald Mountain'. Again this was a huge ensemble and it provided a very rich and beautiful sound. The Grand Finale this year was a selection from 'The Pirates of Penzance' by Gilbert and Sullivan and the Dallas Brooks Hall with its stepped performance space filled with students from both schools behind the combined orchestra produced a quality and richness of sound that I venture to say could be provided by no other school group in Australia. I look forward to this experience every year and pay tribute to the talented music students whose performance is of such an outstanding quality and the work that they and the teachers who work with them put in to achieve this. The new silk scarves adorned with the Mac.Rob logo which the girls wore for the first time looked stunning, especially in the finale.

I would like to congratulate our two outstanding Directors of Music, **Dr Anne Lierse** and our own **Ms Jane Elton-Brown** on an outstanding night of music. Thank you also to conductors **Anne Gilby, Curtis Bayliss, Vladimir Goncharov, Katharine Parton, Trevor Jones, and Mary Johnston** for their outstanding contributions to the night; the **accompanists** who played for the rehearsals, the **teachers and Friends of Music** who gave their time to supervise, the **Stage Crew** led by **Emma Wenlock, Noelene Smith** for creating the program and the **Melbourne HS Old Boys Association** for managing the ticketing. Thank you to the two Assistant Principals **Janet Prideaux** and **Rebecca Vosper** who have fielded so many logistic challenges in the organisation between the two schools.

If you were not there, you missed a great night.

Jane Garvey



Japanese Exchange Program



Yuri, Saki, Chinami, Saho, Mayu, Rina, and Yukiko are the seven girls we grew to know and love over the unforgettable two weeks that they stayed with us. We were very excited. We couldn't wait to meet these girls who were coming from our sister school, the **Shinwa Girls' High School**, all the way from Kobe, Japan.

At the airport, we were suddenly struck by a flood of insecurities. What if they didn't like us? What if they couldn't understand us? What if they didn't listen to the same music, read the same books, watch the same movies as we did? Looking back, these fears seemed pretty silly. I guess we just forgot that the beauty of the exchange was that we would have different lives. We should've realised that although they lived a 10-hour plane ride away, these girls were just like us – excited to learn about and more importantly, to understand a different culture.

Indeed, this exchange was an extraordinary educational experience for everyone. The visiting students saw Melbourne; they adapted to student life in Australia and they practised their English. But I think this exchange provided something more than just education. It wasn't about speaking each other's language fluently and perfectly. It was about the fun we had in trying different ways to communicate our thoughts, ideas and feelings — pointing, waving, and when all else failed, the Japanese girls using their very cool electronic dictionaries!

The student exchange program has given me the opportunity to make friends with someone who lived on the opposite side of the world, and to enjoy our similarities as well as differences. Now that they've returned to Japan, it feels weird. I still expect to have my host sister here to share ideas and to gossip and chat about nothing for hours on end. We can't wait for November, when we'll meet up with our Japanese friends again.

We would like to thank **Mr Sawaki** for organising this exchange, because without him, we wouldn't have made such lifelong friendships. "

Hui-Ling Yeoh 11B

National Youth Science Forum

Greetings to readers of the MacRobertson Girls' High School Newsletter. My name is **Emily Davies** of 12B and I would love to tell you a wonderful tale of how quantum computing, accretion and the string theory can produce a purple low energy elephant in two places at once, however I'll settle for informing you instead of my experiences within the past year.

About this time last year I was selected to attend the **National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)** in Canberra. The forum consists of roughly 288 students from all around Australia who have a general interest in science all living together at ANU and exploring different scientific careers. At first I had no idea what to expect from this forum. I was half convinced I would have to spend two weeks of my summer holidays having detailed conversations with people about the bacterial culture growing on my dinner. Alas it was not to be. Instead I discovered some of the most amazing, inspiring and scientifically motivated people from all around Australia.

I was able to visit many limited entry laboratories, scientific faculties and scientific companies to really explore where a career in science could take me. I also got an opportunity to discuss some significant scientific issues such as Nuclear Power and Global Warming with my peers. The forum also had a focus on public speaking and bridging the gap between scientific communication and research. This was a significant aspect for me because it made me realise I wanted to be part of the scientific voice of the world in the future. The **NYSF** was awesome, and I am sure I have convinced all of you to follow a death defying career in science!! Just when you thought things couldn't get any more exciting, they do.

The **NYSF** selects some of its participants to attend international forums all over the world each year. In March of this year I received a phone call inviting me to **represent Australia** along with five other students from the **NYSF** on a science study tour incorporating the **London International Youth Science Forum** in July. Needless to say I instantly accepted and started preparing myself for prospect of travelling overseas for four weeks during Term three of Year twelve. After months of preparation and endless meetings to raise the \$8,500 quota for the trip, which dear SRC and School Council helped me with immensely, a holiday's term full of preparation homework, I found myself on a plane.

The first stop on my adventure was to the **Kimberleys** in **W.A.** The main focus of this trip was to undergo a breathtaking five day trek through the **Australian Outback** with all necessary camping equipment on our backs. This allowed me to develop leadership and team bonding skills within my fellow group. This experience in itself was amazing. I discovered such a sense of patriotism and pride in my beautiful homeland and came to terms with what it means to be Australian. Equipped with this wonderful realisation I departed for London.

The **LIYSF** ran from July 22 until August 6. I stayed at a college in the heart of London, the **University College London (UCL)** and attended inspirational lectures on many different innovations in science. I met many of the world's leading scientists and participated in "heated" scientific debates.

The **LIYSF** was extraordinary. It incorporated students from over forty different countries who had won national science fair prizes, scientific competitions and represented their country in Olympiads. This meant that I had the opportunity to learn so much more than science. I also learnt about the world around me from some of the most intelligent, amazing and diverse friends I will ever have the honour of knowing. My time in London taught me about the importance of science in our world and the importance of thinking as a global community. It was an experience I will always cherish.

After a few days in **Paris**, my amazing adventure saw me disembark at Melbourne and return to VCE. I have been back for a week now and although at times aspects of my trip were challenging, I loved every minute of it. I gained such a diverse and inspiring knowledge of the world around me. As part of my experience at **LIYSF** I have the opportunity to return to **NYSF** on the summer holidays. I can complete public speaking and leadership training programs, which will enable me to staff the **NYSF**, gaining leadership experience.

Recall that I applied for this opportunity about a year ago and if anyone told me then what the next year was going to entail, I would have found it hard to believe and pinched myself hard! I have stood beneath **Newton's Apple tree**, I've visited the resting place of **Marie Curie** and I've walked the steps of **Watson and Crick**.

It has been an eventful year for me but certainly a time of immense excitement and no regrets. I have loved every busy moment of it and I believe I have learnt more in the past few months than I ever could have at school. I urge you all to seek out all opportunities and grab it with both hands because you never know what it could lead to and what you can discover along the way. A career in science must correlate with an understanding of the world, especially in this day and age.

"Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science." ~Edwin Powell Hubble

Emily Davies 12B



Request to Parents

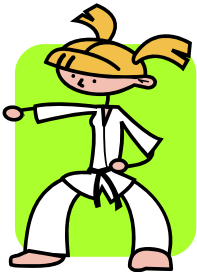
With winter viruses doing the rounds we need to make a request to our parents -

Please do not send your daughter to school if she is unwell.

Although we have a wonderful and caring **First Aid Assistant**, in **Paula Glover**, we do not have the facilities at the school to cope with large numbers of ill students. Colds and 'flu are also very contagious and by staying at home your daughter will not be spreading the virus to other students and staff.

Thank you

Rebecca Vosper
Assistant Principal



Karate Achievement At National Championships

Georgia Goodchild of 10C has continued her excellent feats in the field of Karate, with yet another outstanding effort at the **National Championships** in Perth recently. Georgia is an experienced and accomplished student of **karate**.

In Perth she competed in the **Team Kata** – an event in which you perform a series of pre-arranged moves and must do it in synch with two other participants.

To her credit Georgia achieved a **second place** in this event which qualifies her and her team to compete, once again, at the **Oceania Karate Championships**. These Championships will be held on September 12—14 in New Zealand. We wish Georgia all the best with the competition.

Ms Pride

WHERE: Kingsway Courtyard, MacroB
Outside Performance, Weather Permitting, Dress Warmly

WHEN: 10 -13th September

TIME: 7.30pm

TICKETS: \$18 Adults
\$15 Students
\$55 Family
2 Adults, 2 Students

Tickets available at
www.mhstix.com.au
OR
at MHS or MACROB
general offices



Mac.Rob and MHS present
COMBINED SCHOOL PLAY

KING UBU

by Alfred Jarry
translated by Kenneth McLeish
Presented by Special Arrangement
with Dominie Pty Ltd

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: TERM 3



Week Seven:

Tuesday 26 August

Classes finish at 1.35pm
Parent/Teacher Interviews 2.30 — 8pm

Wednesday 27 August

Late start — 9.20pm

Friday 29 August

Third round of Gardasil Immunisation

Week Eight:

Sunday 31 August - Tuesday 2 September

Sydney Girls Exchange

Wednesday 3 September

Friends of Music Cake Stall

Friday 5 September

Year 11 Formal – Evening

Week Nine:

Wednesday 10 September - Saturday 13 September

Combined Play - Evenings and Saturday Matinee

Wednesday 10 September

Fun Run at Albert Park Lake—after school

Week Ten:

Monday 15—19 September

Bairnsdale Exchange

Friday 19 September

Last day of Term 3
2.20pm Finish



**BRIGHTEN UP
THOSE GLOOMY WINTER DAYS**

Purchase your very own
Mac.Rob Umbrella

\$30 .- Red or Dark Green
Good quality and sturdy.
Available at the General Office.

