

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 9

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Girls' High School**  
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## Principal News

During the holidays I had the pleasure of attending the Centenary Celebration Dinner for Adelaide High School at which distinguished members of parliament, the Lord Mayor of Adelaide and 1200 of their old scholars celebrated the highlights of their first century. When the principals of Mac.Rob and Melbourne High were introduced at the beginning of the night there were enormous cheers indicating the importance placed on the annual exchange program between the three schools.

I also attended the launch of the new Select Entry Schools at the invitation of the Minister for Education, Bronwyn Pike, and the Premier, John Brumby. Jeremy Ludowyke, Melbourne High Principal, and I have also been asked to be members of the Steering Committee charged with the responsibility of building these new schools which will be in the growth corridors of Wyndham Vale and Berwick. The good news from our viewpoint is that the 3% selection cap will be raised to 5% for the first intake in 2010 which ensures that each school will be able to select suitable students based on the examination results. There has been some negative press about the establishment of these schools but also a great deal of support for the opportunities they will offer to students who would obviously be disadvantaged by distance were they to seek a place at either of the existing schools.

There has been a number of articles about the participation of some of our students in the Melbourne High cadet program in the media recently and there will probably be more as some of the cadets continue their campaign to extend the program. School Council has monitored the program since its beginning in 2005 at Mac.Rob and there have been a number of consultations and comprehensive debates about it. The difficulties of running a program between two schools with different timetables and different organisational cultures have meant that there have been a series of issues which have not been able to be resolved to our satisfaction, resulting in disruption to the curriculum, loss of class time and the need to reschedule SACs and other assessments for Mac.Rob students with many attendant difficulties for student coordinators. It has been extremely difficult for Mac.Rob to get accurate and timely information about which students were involved in the camps and activities resulting in unexpected student absences, despite every attempt to avoid this. At the end of last year it became clear that despite continued efforts to obtain information in a timely way, the disruptions would continue. When the coordinating teacher from 2007 left us it looked as though the program was in further difficulty. I decided that I would coordinate the program myself in 2008 to allow it to operate until Mrs Bock volunteered to do so. In this context, School Council judged that the sensible option was to give notice that the program would end at the end of this year and that students wishing to be cadets should join one of a number of community cadet programs which exist around Melbourne. This decision would allow for an orderly wind down of the program. Melbourne High School has represented that there are a number of girls in leadership positions currently, including the RSM, who are needed by MHS cadets to lead their program. I agreed to represent to School Council at its next meeting that these girls be permitted to continue their involvement in cadets to the end of their schooling to allow this to happen. When School Council confirmed the November decision to finish the program at the end of 2008, at its February meeting, the cadet staff at MHS decided that the Year 9 girls would not now be able to commence the program this year, resulting in disappointment to the girls who had already had their first training day.

I have had further discussions with the principal of MHS about arrangements but there are still significant difficulties and negotiations continue. It is worth pointing out that this is only one of a large number of interest groups at Mac.Rob and that the Duke of Edinburgh Program also offers excellent outdoor activities including survival training and bush camping. There are currently twenty girls in the cadet program and I am very disappointed that a small number of them have chosen to characterise their teachers and the school so negatively in the media in an attempt to pressure both schools to do their bidding. I will keep the school community informed of any developments.

I would like to congratulate a number of 2007 Year 12 students on their achievements. Caitlin Louth has had her photography selected for the VCE Season of Excellence in Top Designs at the Melbourne Museum and Tamara Vogl has been selected for Top Acts for her work in Drama. Wen-Jie Yang has been awarded an undergraduate scholarship at Melbourne University and on Wednesday night I attended the Centenary Scholarships Ceremony of Swinburne University where Justine Loong who is taking a Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Business degree was awarded a full scholarship for her courses. The address to the ceremony was given by one of last year's winners, also one of our students, Perri Palmieri, who is taking degree in design and maintaining the distinction grade average required to hold the scholarship.

*Jane Garvey*

## World's Greatest Shave

On the last Monday of Term 1, our Debating Vice-Captain Christine Carder-Rice, of Year 12 shaved her hair as part of the 'World's Greatest Shave', run to support the Leukaemia Foundation.

Lymphoma is the fifth most common cancer in Australia, and the number of people affected has doubled in the last 20 years.

The Leukaemia Foundation is the only national not-for-profit organisation



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dedicated to the care and cure of patients and families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders. The 'World's Greatest Shave' is a well-known annual event held by the foundation. Students were asked to pay a gold coin donation to see Christine shave her blonde hair completely off, and were also able to have hair spray painted on Tuesday, with all proceeds going towards the cause. Christine hopes to raise \$2000. If you would like to donate to Christine for bravely shaving her head and help vital research please contact her in 12A. Social Service would like to thank her for her great efforts in raising money for this worthy cause and wish her luck in reaching this target!

*Justine Carey*

*Social Service Captain*

## Careers

The third volume of the extended careers newsletter has been placed on the intranet.

The University of Melbourne extends an invitation to Year 10 students to participate in Master Class 2008. This program offers interested students the opportunity to sample tertiary level study prior to choosing VCE subjects later in the year. Participation is free.

Further information can be downloaded at [www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/masterclass](http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/masterclass)

## Health Science Course Changes at La Trobe University

Currently, the Faculty of Health Science's Bachelor degrees in Health Information Management, Occupational Therapy, Orthoptics, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Prosthetics and Orthotics, Speech Pathology and Social Work take between three and a half to four years to complete. From 2009 these programs will become Bachelor/Masters degrees leading to the same professional qualifications and registration. Students will enrol into a single Bachelor/Master program in Commonwealth Supported Places. These double degrees can be completed in four years. There will be more emphasis on professional practice in interdisciplinary settings under the new structure.

See: [www.latrobe.edu.au/health/coursechanges.html](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/health/coursechanges.html) for further details.

*Irene Serpless*

*Careers*

## Choosing University in Victoria Study

This is a reminder to students in Years 10, 11 and 12 and VCE Science and Maths teachers that there is still time to submit the *Choosing University in Victoria* survey. This survey, which is being conducted by the University of Melbourne, was distributed at MacRobertson Girls' High School at the end of Term 1.

The survey should take 10 to 20 minutes to complete. It would be appreciated if the survey is completed and returned in the supplied reply paid envelope by **Friday, 18 April**. Students who complete and return the survey will go in a prize draw for a pack of movie tickets. It is hoped that this project will enable universities to find out more about what information students use and need when deciding whether to attend university. Anybody who has further queries about this study is invited to contact Claire Jennings on 8344 7577 or e-mail to [clairej@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:clairej@unimelb.edu.au)

*Claire Jennings*

## Pied Pipers Good Friday Appeal for the Royal Children's Hospital

A very big thank you to all the Mac.Rob students, parents and teachers who volunteered as collectors, supervisors and drivers for this year's Good Friday Appeal. Your efforts were well and truly worthwhile, the total raised being a remarkable \$17,412.25!

## Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

A recent review of EMA cheques by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has identified that several Mac.Rob families have not presented their EMA cheques from 2006 and 2007. DEECD requests that parents please bank these cheques as soon as possible.

If you have lost or misplaced an EMA cheque from 2007 please contact Gillian Baldock, Student Welfare Coordinator. If you have lost or misplaced an EMA cheque from 2006 please contact the Cash Management Section, Corporate Services, DEECD, GPO Box 4367, Melbourne, 3001.

*Gillian Baldock*  
*Student Welfare Coordinator*

### 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

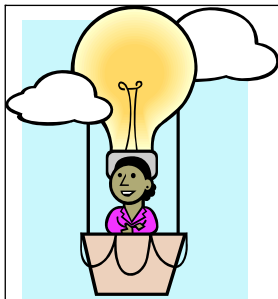
Friday, 6 June at The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School  
Morning session: Year 10      Afternoon session: Years 11 & 12

## Small Grants 2008 – A Parents’ Association Initiative

Dear brilliant Mac.Robians (Yes, students AND teachers) !!!

Did you want to organise on a Mac.Rob Activity? Can you think of one?

Here is your chance



- For Example
- Debating
  - Arts
  - Music
  - Sports
  - Community building
  - Cultural
  - (Insert your ideas here!!!)



to create and lead your own opportunity and take others with you on the journey!!!

Parents@Macro Small Grants support, through financial assistance, projects which –

1. Bring new experiences of learning – something you would like to do but isn't available yet.
2. Involve additional exploration of knowledge – e.g. through attending external events and conferences
3. Extend participation by students, teachers and parents
4. Will not become operational without this assistance

Please contact the General Office in term 2 for application forms and detailed criteria.  
When you have completed your application:

1. Make a photocopy for your record
2. Lodge the original at the General Office
3. Make a note of the name and person who dates and signs your form.

## Music Scholarships Commencing Term 2 2008

Mac.Rob Music Department is offering Music Scholarships for our current students to begin tuition at Mac.Rob in certain instruments.

The Scholarships cover the annual levy for music tuition in 2008.

Lessons will begin in Term 2 and continue throughout 2008.

Expressions of Interest should be made in person to the Director of Music, Mrs J. Elton-Brown, by mail to her at 350 Kings Way Melbourne, 3004, or on email [elton-brown.jane.h@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:elton-brown.jane.h@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Instruments presently listed for Scholarship tuition are: French Horn, Double Bass, Oboe or Bassoon, Trombone or Tuba.

### \*\*\* THE NEWSLETTER GOES ELECTRONIC \*\*\*

Like all responsible organisations, Mac.Rob is being proactive and identifying ways to reduce waste and the unnecessary use of resources. By no longer producing paper copies of the Newsletter, we could save 3000 sheets of paper per week adding up to 120,000 sheets every year.

From May onwards we will discontinue our current practice of sending the Newsletter home with students every week. Instead members of the school community can access the Newsletter on the Mac.Rob website with a new copy available every Friday. If they wish, parents can opt to receive a weekly email to give them a reminder and link to the Newsletter. If they still require a paper copy, their daughter can pick one up from the General Office on Fridays.

Next week there will be a mail-out of various information to all parents, including Progress Reports and information about the forthcoming Parent Teacher interviews and an appointments booking sheet. In this envelope there will also be a Newsletter options sheet for parents to fill out and return. This will enable them to inform the school of their preferred way of accessing the Newsletter once it 'goes electronic'.

### Forthcoming Events

Wednesday, 16 April	House Chorals—Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Friday, 18 April	Second round gardasil immunisation.
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.