15 September 2014

**Simon Cox Visit 18th August**
Simon Cox visited the Year 12 Chemistry class. Simon is a highly respected forensic scientist who has specialised in fires and explosions and whose work has taken him all over Australia and to South East Asia and New Zealand. (He is also an old boy of PHS.) Simon spent an inspirational hour with the students describing the way in which he investigated the Kiwi Self Storage Facility fire in Wellington, NZ, earlier this year. It was great for the students to see the way in which some of the techniques they have been learning about in their course work come to life in the ‘real world’.

**National Literacy and Numeracy Week 25th-29th August**
Several engaging and challenging competitions were held across the school to celebrate National Literacy and Numeracy Week. These included a Caption writing competition which was won by Ben Martin who also won the Senior 50 word story competition. Other winners in the junior section of this event were Imahgen Hecht, Callum Sutcliffe and Brandon McMurtrie, while Mike Hentschke took out the staff award. Rachel Murphy won the five word story competition and Camryn Schriever the five word revue with his response to the Chooky dancers. The winning Shakespearean insult was written by Georgie Brighton, with Joel Moore hot on her heels. The Sonnet Awards were won by Imahgen Hecht, Hamish March and, jointly, Callum Sutcliffe and Jamie Colbert. Mr. M’Culloch’s Maths competition winners were Rachel Murphy and Lewis March. Rob Thorne and Ali Bond organised a competition in the library with winning performances from Ben Martin, Aliza Pfitzner and Ashlee Sullivan.

**Djuki Mala: The Chooky Dancers 26th August**
The Year 9 students, accompanied by Jackie Poumako, Kristen Bence and Tom Sutterby attended a performance by Djuki Mala, the Chooky Dancers, at the Sir Robert Helpmann theatre. The vibrant performers told their stories through traditional dance and film and then performed to contemporary music. The students were highly engaged, clapping and stamping along to the beat.

**SAPOL Road Safety Presentation 28th August**
Officer Michael Lord from SAPOL’s Road Safety Section recently visited us and delivered a road safety presentation entitled ‘The Fatal Five’ to Year 11 students. This powerful and interactive program discussed road safety issues, including the causes of road crashes such as fatigue, alcohol and drugs, speed, risk-taking, peer pressure, and driver attitudes, and ways in which to reduce the risk of becoming a crash statistic. This program incorporates contemporary government road safety messaging through partnership with the Motor Accident Commission (MAC).

The Road Safety Section also provides a free bi-monthly e-newsletter ‘Talkin Road Safety’ to schools which provides articles on road safety which are of interest to drivers and other road-users. SAPOL provided the following web addresses which could also be of interest: raa.com.au, mylicence.sa.gov.au, sapolice.sa.gov.au and howsafeisyourcar.com.au.

**School Industry Partnership Celebration 3rd September**
Fleur Roachock and Winsley Wighton attended the 2014 School Industry Partnership Celebration at The Barn in Mount Gambier where we were joined by Luke Skeer and Sonya Kingsbury from Wynns. The Partnership Awards recognise school business partnerships which support schools in the Limestone Coast region. Our partnership with our friends and supporters in the wine industry has a twenty year history, during which time our Stage 1 Chemistry students have been able to have a close look at this important local industry and have been supported to make their own wine. It was very exciting when our partnership was announced as joint winner in the Established Partnership Award. In his acceptance speech, Luke, who is an old boy of PHS, spoke highly of our school. The
other winner in that section was the partnership between the Rotary Clubs of Mount Gambier and the Science and Engineering Challenge – another partnership which benefits our students.

Course Counselling 4th September
Course counselling for students entering Years 11 and 12 in 2015 was held with students and their parents/caregivers discussing prospective pathways and subject selections with staff members. Many students and their families had given careful prior thought to these important decisions, so the process ran smoothly.

Ice Bucket Challenge 5th September
After staff at the IGA threw down the challenge, SRC President Laura Price and Secretary Melyssa Steed decided that the SRC should organise a bucket challenge for PHS. Scott McCulloch volunteered to be iced if the students managed to raise $100. So appealing was the idea of a bucketed McCulloch that $150 was donated to go to the Motor Neurone appeal. Charlie French won the privilege of casting the first bucket, and then SRC members doused other willing staff members: Kristen Bence, Fleur Roachock, Simone Combe, Tom Sutterby and Rob Thornett.

SRC Quiz Night 5th September
A highly successful SRC quiz night was held in the Hall with those who attended enjoying themselves with the questions Sarah had prepared. Our congratulations are extended to Laura Price and Melyssa Steed for the excellent job they did of organising and running the evening.

School Assembly 8th September
The SRC organised a whole school assembly in the Hall. Melyssa Steed opened proceedings with the acknowledgement of the Land and then introduced Lion Darren Powell who had come to present a cheque for $400 from the Lions Club to Montana Freeman and Hannah Klemm to assist them with the cost of the Culinary Challenge in New Zealand. Montana then introduced Simone Combe who shared the exciting news that Kelsey Batt has received a Secondary Schools Sporting Award for her contributions to football.

Bradley Tregenza introduced Jackie Poumako who announced winners and handed out prizes for several of the events of Literacy and Numeracy Week. Maths Quiz Night certificates and partnership certificates, celebrating the recognition of the PHS-Wynns partnership were presented by Fleur Roachock. Emily Winter introduced Scott McCulloch who spoke highly of the hard work of those Year 9 students who had undertaken the Maths Challenge for Young Australians. Credit certificates were awarded to Aliza Pfitzner, Hamish March, Ella Kain and Logan Gibbs, while Cody Faux and Brad Tregenza received participation certificates.

Amy Wetherall introduced Jackie Poumako to present the debating awards listed in the previous ‘Staff News’. Following this, Rob Thornett presented the library competition awards.

Joe French introduced Fleur Roachock who spoke about the nature of the SRC and its role in decision making. While she dwelt on the responsibilities involved in being an SRC member, she also spoke of the benefits, particularly the opportunities provided to develop leadership skills. The Co-Presidents for 2015, Ashlee Sullivan and Alana Winter, then addressed the school, outlining their visions for the year ahead.

Laura Price, current SRC President, brought proceedings to a close by thanking all those who contributed to the assembly.

Football Award
Congratulations are extended to Scott Merrett on being named the joint Under 17 Footballer of the Year for the KNTFL.