Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Course  18th September
On Friday September 18th, all of the Year 10 students plus Miss Combe and Mr Sutterby travelled to Mount Gambier for the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Course. Given that most students in Year 10 either already have their learner’s permit or will gain them within the next twelve months, the students were very interested in hearing about their responsibilities on the road. One particular highlight was a practical demonstration where students were asked to guess how quickly a car would stop while travelling at 40km/h and 50km/h. Poor little ‘Dan’, our crash test dummy, was squished by the car in our first guess. Students (and teachers!) were very surprised to find out how large safe following distances are, and how far we travel before we are able to react and hit the brakes. Other sessions included guest speakers who had been in car accidents talking about how their lives were affected by the crash, and a police officer speaking to the students about legalities surrounding driving. Every student left the day with lots of new knowledge and a renewed respect for how careful we need to be when driving a car.

Rural Reconnect and the Tertiary Trip  21st-24th September
Penola High School combined with Grant High School to send a group of Year 10 students to UniSA’s Rural Reconnect Program and a group of Year 11 students on a tertiary trip. Fleur Roachock and Max Donaldson came from Grant and accompanied the Year 11 students while Dave Vannini and Winsley Wighton from Penola took care of the Year 10s.

The first activity was a combined visit to the Adelaide campus of Central Queensland University where Associate Professor Sarah Blunden and Dr Ray Matthews, assisted by colleagues, gave students a tour of the Sleep Research Facility. The highlight occurred when one of the more lively students was wired up and we all observed the changes in his brain waves as he relaxed in a darkened room.

From CQU, we travelled to the Mawson Lakes campus of UniSA and here the two groups went their separate ways, only coming together again in the evenings for shared social activities. At Mawson Lakes, the Year 10s visited the planetarium and soldered together small devices which produced tones and which could subsequently be combined to produce simple tunes – much to the students’ delight. The afternoon finished with students vying to outdo each other bouncing electronically metered basketballs.

On Wednesday morning, the Rural Reconnect students visited the School of Business at the City West campus where they were set the task of planning a commercial enterprise to be established in their home communities. All of the groups came up with interesting ideas, but the Penola group’s vision of an electronic services hub, presented in a most lively and entertaining manner by Daniel Meek-Fennell, was deemed the best, and our students came away proudly clutching their prizes of key ring torches. A visit to the School of Art, Architecture and Design provided students with an
opportunity to design and make their own badges, and the morning finished with a history quiz at the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research.

A quick visit to the Adelaide museum was undertaken on the way as students walked from City West to City East to undertake the afternoon’s program. This saw our students making moisturising cream and trying their hands at blood grouping. Students also toured the campus.

On the final morning, students visited the Magill campus, touring the Sound Studio, Radio Station and TV Studio, before participating in a Cognitive Neuroscience Activity.

In the meantime, on Tuesday, the tertiary trippers had their own tour of the Mawson Lakes campus before taking the train back to the city. Wednesday was a busy day with a tour of Adelaide Uni in the morning and a visit to Flinders, with lots of uphill walking in the afternoon. While at Flinders, the students visited the Anatomy Museum and undertook a tour of the university’s student accommodation. There was a general campus tour and students finished up at an app development workshop. They were rather tired by the time they arrived at Glenelg for dinner and a walk on the pier. On Thursday morning, the students toured the Magill campus before heading home.

Simone Treloar Visit 25th September
Animal Science honours graduate and former PHS student, Simone Treloar, visited the school and spoke to Year 11 and 12 students about studying agriculture and veterinary science at university. Simone also spoke of her own journey and the steps she has taken to find a pathway into vet.

Games Night
Scott McCulloch organised a Games Night for the first Tuesday of the recent holidays. This was organised as a fund raiser for the Vietnam trip. Twenty-four students attended and a great time was had by all, with plenty of late night fun. $320 was raised.

Year 11 Photography Excursion 12th October
As part of the Stage 1 Photography Course students are studying a unit of work on famous photographers. Each student chose a photographer to research and to replicate their style of photography. Most students in the class chose a famous Australian landscape/seascape photographer, so Kristen Bence and the class decided to travel to Robe to create the photos. On the first Monday of term, Lucy Tonkin, Jayden Watson, Damon Burford and Kristen travelled to Robe for an afternoon and evening session of photo-taking to capture the sunsets, different lighting and a range of scenes to create their major products for this term. The outcome was excellent, with a perfect blue sky day in Robe, and the students successfully taking over 200 photos for the creation of their magazine spreads.
**Ella’s History Challenge Success**
Ella Kain has been awarded first place in the Democracy category of the state-wide National History Challenge. Ella’s theme was ‘Leadership and Legacy’. She wrote her research essay on the life and achievements of Nelson Mandela.

**Knock Out Basketball 21st October**
On Wednesday 21 October the Year 10 SESSSA Knockout Basketball Competition was held in Millicent. The female team was coached by Chloe Long and had a mixture of Year 8, 9 and 10 students. After some close games earlier in the year at Open Knockout Basketball the girls were fired up to get a win. Emily Winter and Ella Kain showed leadership within the games, driving hard to the basket and putting on defensive pressure. Romi Eckermann and Gorgia Robbie worked the ball around and created plenty of opportunity to score. Kate Skeer, Joanne Drury and Imahgen Hecht put on defensive pressure all over the court and improved their performances throughout the day. The girls should be proud of their efforts with a close game against Mount Gambier High School and a win against Naracoorte High School.

After tough competition at the open Knockout Basketball Scott McCulloch stepped down as coach of the boy’s team and James Braddy took over the roll. James had his work cut out for him as most of the boys on his team had not played competitive basketball before. Callum Sutcliffe and Josh Currie worked hard throughout every game to gain possession and create scoring opportunities. Hamish March and Daniel Meek-Fennell took on the advice from James and set screens and jumped for rebounds. Bentley Galpin and Logan Gibbs put up plenty of shoots for the day with Bentley sinking a 3 pointer. Meanwhile, Tom Abbey and Jack Kain put on defensive pressure all over the court. Although the boys didn’t record a win for the day they should be proud of their efforts as they scored over 10 points in each game they played.

**Show Society Youth Ambassador Dinner 21st October**
The Penola Pastoral Agricultural and Horticultural Show Society held its annual dinner and invested their new Rural Ambassadors. Georgie Beighton, a current Year 12 student, is the Young Rural Ambassador, and past student, Aimee Galpin, the Rural Ambassador. Aimee has just about completed her teacher training as an English/PE teacher and is looking forward with excitement to teaching back in this district.

**Loud Shirt Day 23rd October**
The SRC held a ‘Loud Shirt Day’ to raise awareness of mental health issues in our district and community. Students and staff wore loud tops, some of which were excitingly loud, and made a donation to Men’s Watch, in memory of Penola resident, Mark Williams.