**Staff News**

**24th October 2016**

**Year 9 Initiative  15-19th August**
The annual Year 9 Initiative culminated in a showcase of students’ work on Friday, 19th August and it was great to see the number of parents and community members who visited to support our young people. Learning for Life sessions were used to plan students’ projects for the week, and then they were into it. A wide range of topics was investigated, including graphic design, engineering, neurology, photography and cake decorating. Many students visited sectors of the community as part of their research, and we are grateful that the community has welcomed our students and contributed to their learning in this meaningful way.

**Year 10 Work Experience  15-19th August**
Year 10 students participated in the Work Experience program and benefitted considerably from the experience, whether it was in identifying a potential career pathway or finding out that a prospective career was not for them after all. The week’s work is also important in that it contributes to the students’ Personal Learning Plans – a required part of their SACE. Again, we are grateful to the wider community for providing placements for our students.

**SSO Week  15-19th August**
The annual SSO Week gave us an opportunity to reflect on the outstanding contribution which our SSOs make to the running of our school and the well-being of all who learn and work here. Celebrations included a morning tea.

**Visit by Primary School teachers to Art**

**Vietnam Veterans Day (Long Tan Day)  18th August**
Year 8 students and their teachers, Jodie Allen and Tom Sutterby, attended the Vietnam Veterans’ Day (Long Tan Day) ceremony in the War Memorial Park. This occasion commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. SRC Co-Presidents, Alana Winter and Cory O’Connor, also attended and laid a wreath on behalf of the school community. A number of Year 11 students also chose to attend the ceremony, as did Rob Thornett and Jason Plunkett.

**Knock out Basketball 18th August**
Chloe Long, Sarah Walker and seven excited students travelled to Adelaide to participate in the Open Basketball Pool C SSSSA State Finals. After a good night’s rest and an early start the girls began the day strongly. Aliza Pfitzner and Ella Kain worked hard from the start, showing consistent shooting and pressure down the court to give the girls a strong lead. Alana Winter and Romi Eckermann showed their toughness and strong skills throughout the day setting up plays across the court. Hannah Klemm, our secret weapon in attack, showed the competition that even a netballer can do a layout to score points. Emily Winter was a stand out all day, demonstrating leadership and enthusiasm and showing the rest of the girls how to shoot 3s. The girls won the first two games, but went down to a determined Portside College team in the final minutes of the last game.

**Early Morning School Assembly  18th August**
An early morning assembly was held in the foyer to celebrate recent successes. Cory O’Connor started the ball rolling with a farewell to student teacher Jacob Melville-Smith and was followed by Ella Kain who
farewelled Student teacher Georgia Irvine. Both these trainee teachers contributed enthusiastically to our programs during their time with us.

Jackie Poumako introduced the students who competed in the Debating Eisteddfod, and Jason Plunkett handed them their certificates. Jason also presented certificates to members of the senior General Knowledge winning team from Maths Quiz Night.

Chloe Long presented members of the senior girls’ netball and basketball teams to the assembly and then announced the winners of the Olympic Games competition which she ran during home groups in week 3. Overall winner was Ella Kain, who received a soccer ball for her efforts. Other prizes were won by Jacob Robbie, Brooke Hutchesson, Bentley Galpin, Hamish March and a team from Year 12.

Rob Thornett spoke briefly about Vietnam Veterans’ Day.

Science and Engineering Challenge Visits Rotary  22nd August
Gorgia Robbie, Phoebe Tregenza, Jack Walker and Joe French along with Winsley Wighton attended a meeting of the Lakes Rotary Club in Mt Gambier where they were warmly welcomed. In view of our success at the Mt Gambier Challenge, the students were invited to talk about their experiences there. The students represented us in fine style, speaking well and handling questions with aplomb.

WHS Audit  22-24th August
The long anticipated three-day WHS audit was completed, and we now have a clear picture of further changes we need to implement to be fully compliant with the many regulations which apply. Silvana, Vicki and Andrew accompanied the auditor during the site inspection and Vicki and Silvana guided him through our policies and processes. All staff are indebted to these two and the members of the HWS committee who have worked diligently on implementation. Particular thanks must be given to Silvana who invested many hours of her own time in this work and went well beyond the call of duty. We await the final report.

Stomping Ants  24th August
A well-attended women’s well-being meeting was held in the Sports Club in the evening and was catered for by Jodie Allen and the Café 43 students. The students and Jodie received many compliments for the beautiful finger food which they provided. It was fresh, appetising, well-presented, nutritious and plentiful. The students did us proud – their service was polite, friendly and professional.

Stomping Ants  24th August
As part of her studies for Stage 2 Health Education, Cody Faux took on the challenge of raising awareness of child abuse in the community. Cody sold cupcakes at Toffee n Treats for a gold coin donation and created an awareness-raising poster. $145 was subsequently donated to the Australian Childhood Foundation.

Mary McKillop Littlies Visit for Book Week  22nd, 25th August
‘Australia Story Country’ was the theme for this year’s Book Week and the library and seminar room were decorated accordingly. The Year 1 and 2s and the reception class from Mary McKillop school visited and
listened to readings of ‘Possum Magic’ and ‘Piranhas Don’t Eat Bananas’ before undertaking related activities.

**Kids Time  26th August**

The Book Week Kids’ Time was also based around the ‘Australia Story Country’ theme. As well as book readings the children and their attendant adults were involved in making moving fish, a hand-eye coordination activity, ‘Feed the Piranha’, and fishing with hooks fitted to polystyrene cups. Morning tea was lamingtons which the children dipped themselves and vegemite sandwiches.

**NAPLAN Trials  26th & 29th August**

**Wattle Range Council Youth Consultation  29th August**

Andrew Stockley travelled to Millicent with a number of SRC representatives to enable them to participate in a consultation process designed by Wattle Range Council to find out about services which young people would like Council to provide.

**Shared Staff Moderation  30th August**

Staff joined with others from Millicent High School and Kangaroo Inn Area School at Kangaroo Inn to undertake shared moderation activities. Teachers appreciated the opportunity to work with others to confirm their assessment decisions around the Australian Curriculum and share ideas and resources to help further develop their pedagogy.

**SACE Information Evening  31st August**

Jason Plunkett, ably supported by Andrew Stockley and a number of classroom teachers, conducted a SACE information evening for parents of students in Years 10 and 11.

**Year 9/10 Photography Workshop  30th August**

**Science and Engineering Challenge  30-31st August**

Our team of thirty Year 9 and 10 students travelled to Adelaide to represent the Limestone Coast in the State Finals of the Science and Engineering Challenge. The Titanium Basketball Stadium at Findon made an impressive setting for the eight teams who competed. Many of the activities provided were similar to those seen at Mt Gambier, but some, such as the catapult were new to the students. Team membership was determined before leaving Penola, but students only discovered which activity they would be undertaking when a ‘lucky dip’ was held at the start of the Challenge. This put the emphasis squarely on students’ participation, team work, innovation and resilience rather than on specific pre-event preparation. All the activities had been modified to increase the level of challenge. Our students embraced the activities enthusiastically with some fine individual and team performances. Overall, the team finished seventh.

**Nangwarry Transition Visit  31st August**

Students from Nangwarry Primary School visited us as part of their transition program. The students enjoyed their day with us and participated in specialist lessons such as Art, Tech Studies, Phys Ed., History, Science and IT.

**Senior Photography Workshop  31st August**

**Year 12 PE Excursion  1st September**

**Student Free Day  2nd September**

Our student free day was a very busy one indeed and got off to a flying start with a session on ‘Student Voice’ led by Kristen Bence. Andrew Stockley followed with a discussion around the theme of the ‘Shape of
Things to Come in Education’. Then it was down to the increasing complexities and demands of hazard management followed by faculty finance meetings to consider 2017 budget proposals. ‘Failure Mindsets’ was the title for Kristen’s next session and Andrew then led us to consider the relative merits of mission and vision statements. Jacqui Poumako refreshed our memories about the work of education guru John Hattie and the day ended in staff sharing ideas.

Course Counselling 8th September
Course counselling proceeded smoothly, with most families of students in Years 10 and 11 able to attend on the day. Many fruitful discussion were held and potential career pathways explored to ensure that students were embarking on courses that would best meet their needs and enable them to pursue their desired careers and courses post school.

Encounter Youth 13th September
Amber Bailey from Encounter Youth visited and provided hard hitting information about alcohol and drugs to students in Years 10, 11 and 12.

RYDA Excursion 16th September
Year 10 students attended the annual RYDA program in Mt Gambier. The day is designed to challenge student thinking in relation to road safety. Activities included a stopping distance investigation, personal stories and information from hospital workers and police on the impact of crashes on all those involved.

Results Plus Visit
Teachers from other sites involved in the local Results Plus project visited PHS to explore some of our initiatives at first hand.

Touch Football 22nd September
Year 8, 9 and 10 students were invited to be part of a Touch Football clinic run by Mat Swan from Touch Football SA. 21 students participated in the two hour clinic, learning the basic rules of touch football, tactics and tricks of the game. The students’ skills improved quickly over the two hours. The students finished off the session with a competitive game of touch football highlighting the new skills they had learnt.

Kids’ Time 22nd September
The theme for this well-attended Kids’ Time was ‘Chooks’. Ali Bond and her team skilfully combined action songs with counting practice. Gross motor skill development was catered for with an obstacle course which culminated in the children walking along a beam with an egg on a spoon. Children practised grouping using chook pictures and then built their own ‘bokking’ chooks. The children listened attentively to Rob Thornett, Heather Stone and Ali as books were read. Morning tea was an egg shaped biscuit which the littlies iced and decorated themselves.

Music Fund Raiser 23rd September
An enthusiastic group of ‘musos’ has been gathering in the Drama room during lunch times. One of their number, Imahgen Hecht, organised a fund raiser to help pay for equipment. Staff and students were asked to dress up as their favourite musical character and make a gold coin donation.

Stage 2 Community Studies
Felicity Drury, one of our Year 12 Stage 2 Community Studies students, has been studying an Aged Care Certificate at TAFE one day a week, whilst completing her Year 12. Felicity used her talent for conversation by organising and hosting various activities at Pinchunga. A “Biggest Morning Tea” was held as a fundraiser for the Cancer Council of Australia, and Felicity prepared, along with the Café 43 students, beautiful cakes,
biscuits and sandwiches for the residents and staff. She raised nearly $250 dollars for the cause. She also worked with residents, completing a craft activity, which was then donated for display at the nursing home. Felicity found this involvement extremely valuable, as it gave her insight into her future career and also supported some of the learning occurring in her TAFE course.

**Year 9/10 Girls and Boys Yoga Class**
During term 2, as part of National Health and PE Day, which aims to promote our PHS school value of Healthy Lifestyle, we organised a girls’ and boys’ Yoga class, run by local instructor Bec Wight-Moore of ‘Stay Tuned Yoga’. Yoga is a perfect form of exercise for teenagers as it encourages and promotes myriad aspects of well-being such as awareness of mind and body, correct breathing, the alleviation of stress and improved body-image, whilst decreasing self-consciousness.

All students who participated said it was extremely beneficial and the boys actually got into it the most; dressing up in some exciting “Yoga” styled outfits, which was very amusing!

**Breakfast Program**
The breakfast program, instituted early in term 2, continues to be successful, with many students having breakfast or an extra slice of toast at school. We are indebted to Windara Bakery for the continued generosity in donating the bread for this program.

**Teacher T&D**
*Scott McCulloch  29th August*  The Maths Project. Scott and Simone Combe (formerly of our staff) have invested a great deal of thought and energy in this project with outstanding results. They have been asked to make a two hour presentation about their work in November.

*Jodie Allen  30th-31st August*

*Winsley Wighton  6th September*  Winsley attended a Maths training session run at PAC by Tony Harradine. This very valuable session focussed on new topics in the Maths Methods course for 2017 and looked at innovative ways of using graphics calculators.

*Kathleen Phillips  16th September: ‘Differentiation in the Language Classroom’*
This session was specifically based on how to use and implement differentiation in the Japanese classroom. The focus was on those students at either end of the assessment scale, poor achievers and gifted students, and how to engage them more in the curriculum and classroom.

A range of practical activities allowed participants to experience at firsthand how to do these activities and then how to implement them into their practice. This was a very practical and interesting T&D."

*Kathleen Phillips  Intensive Japanese Seminar  26th-30th September*

Kathleen attended a week long conference in Sydney organised by the Japan Foundation. The focus was on improving spoken and aural language skills, cultural activities and Australian Curriculum planning and assessment.

Participation in this conference was done through an application process, involving information about the school setting and Kathleen’s skill level. Kathleen also had to provide a 500 character essay (in Japanese) about why she wanted to attend the conference and what she aimed to achieve from it.

**Year 8 Water Testing**
Students undertook an integrated SOSE & Science excursion to test the water quality at the Bakers Range Drain on Clay-Wells Rd. Students tested pH, salinity and turbidity and sought macroinvertebrates. This excursion was supported by the Natural Resource Management Board and Vanessa Freebairn from the education office helped out with the testing. This information is being used in the major assessment piece
for Geography on the Drainage Network in the South East. It is also planned to work more closely with the Drainage Board to develop student resources on this topic.

**Year 10 PLP - Mock Interviews**
All Year 10 students took part in mock interviews conducted by Kevin Gritton, Leanne Cameron from Business SA, Julie Howe from MGET and Luke from GTE. Feedback from the interviewers was that our students were all well prepared, with resumes and cover letters appropriate for the positions they were applying for. It is fantastic for our students to experience an interview in a safe environment with experts in the business. They received practical feedback on how they went, any changes they may need to make with their resume and cover letter and how to sell themselves in a job interview. This activity also allowed the Apprentice brokers to get an idea of students at our site who may want to go down that pathway.

**Maths Competition Results**
The results of the Uni of NSW Maths Competition have arrived, and we congratulate Jack Walker on achieving a Distinction and Cheyenne Faux a credit. All who participated are to be commended for being prepared to take on this challenge.

**Diabetes Nurse Educators Visit 18th October**
Three diabetes nurse educators visited and spoke to the Year 11 students about what it means to be diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes and symptoms friends should watch out for if they wish to support someone with this condition. The students were attentive. Later, the nursing group addressed the staff who appreciated the opportunity to ask questions and become better informed.

**Show Society’s Young Ambassador Dinner 19th October**
Ella Kain received her badge and certificate as the Youth Ambassador for the Show Society at their annual dinner. Ella spoke confidently about her agricultural interests and her experiences leading stud cattle for Galpin’s.

**Kids’ Time 20th October**
‘Bread’ was the theme for the most recent Kids’ Time. After the usual preliminaries, the littlies kneaded dough prepared by Ali Bond and made their own rolls which they later enjoyed with jam for morning tea. Recycled materials were used to make model pigs, tying this craft activity to one of the books read. A stimulating Maths activity with coloured geometrical shapes on a grid had the children stretching minds and bodies. Visitors were also offered a sequencing activity differentiated to best provide individual challenges.

**Visit to Senior Students 21st October**
Past students, Nick Kidman and Marcus Devereaux visited the Year 11 and 12 students during Learning for Life and conducted a friendly question and answer session about school life, career pathways and their own successful journeys. We are not surprised when our alumni are successful, but we are delighted when they want to give something back to our school.

**SRC Quiz Night 21st October**
Scott McCulloch, Jodie Allen and SRC members are to be congratulated for the excellent evening of fun and entertainment which they provided. Alana Winter and Cory O’Connor were comperes for the evening and were in fine form. It was good to see so many parents and friends rallying to support this event.