



Lighthouse

Volume 30 Number 11

29 August 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Friends of SFX

At our College Assembly recently Mr Wayne Bennett was invited to speak to the staff and students. His message was powerful and challenging.



Many Australians would know that Wayne Bennett is an accomplished coach in Rugby League and has coached a number of first grade teams in Queensland and New South Wales. In 2001 his life was featured on the ABC program “Australian Story” where he spoke about the challenges that he has faced in being the son of an alcoholic father and raising two disabled children.

Perhaps due to these experiences, it became abundantly clear at the assembly that he is a man of strong convictions. It was these convictions that Mr Bennett chose to speak about to the College.

No doubt those who had the opportunity to listen to his address would react in different ways. Some may have dismissed the talk as being not really relevant to themselves while others may take away a few points that were of special importance to them. Everyone is different.

Whatever the reaction, he did raise a few points that are significant for all of us in our lives. One such point was the distinction between “promises” and “commitments.” He stressed that we should not focus on promises as they are easily made and easily broken. They tend to lack passion and keep the person removed from the outcome. Serious commitments however, force us to engage fully and make the necessary sacrifices.

Another point raised was the difference between “excellence” and “perfection.” Mr Bennett made the point that striving for perfection is a futile exercise and it can end up doing more harm than good. Excellence is a different matter as it demands diligence, purpose and sacrifice. He proceeded to add that our measure of excellence should be against ourselves, and not against someone else.

These were strong messages that were presented to the College. The keeping of commitments and the striving for excellence are not for the faint hearted. They have nothing to do with an ‘easy’ life or a life of mediocrity.

Br Robert Sutton, fms
Principal



McAuley Day 2014



After a week of rain and cold weather, the sun shone brightly for McAuley Day. The day celebrated 135 years of devoted work in our diocese by the Sisters of Mercy, who were founded by Catherine McAuley.

The day started in the Hall with our Assembly where the video rendition of Catherine's life produced many laughs, and Ethan's miracle half way swish brightened the day of all students.

During Long Tutor Group, a sea of stalls bloomed in the afternoon sun, while the live music entertained students and staff. Various food stalls circled the main yard and the dance off in the MacKillop Centre made for a lively environment. Many students also took the opportunity to relax in the sun and re-generate after a busy few weeks.

All money raised on the day will be donated to assist with purchasing protective equipment for those living and working within the Ebola outbreak area in western Africa.

Overall the day was a great success and we would like to thank all those who worked so hard to organise the Assembly, video, food stalls and activities. Without their unselfish contributions the day would not have been as successful as it was.



Congratulations to our Conservatorium Concert Performers!



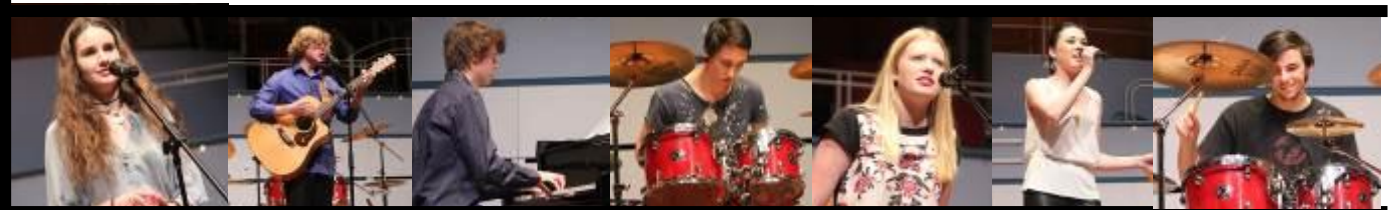
Last Friday evening, many of our Year 11 and Year 12 music students performed HSC Performance Assessment pieces, with our Year 12 musicians using the concert as an excellent opportunity to prepare for the upcoming HSC Practical Examinations to be held in a few weeks time. The Conservatorium of Music Concert Hall is an excellent performance venue and this concert is certainly a highlight of the music calendar for the year.

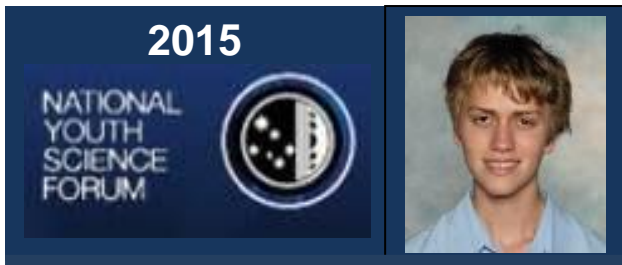
Congratulations to the following students who rose to the challenge of a live audience and a concert hall stage for their fine performances.



Year 12 – Soo An, Lochlan Hunt, Patrick O'Loughlen, Nadene Budden, Taylor Marchant, Mitchell Clarke, Sophie Dunn, Hayden Hemsley and Anna Howard

Year 11 – Clare Brennan, Christian Shilling, Mitchell Bourke, Shania Smith, Nicholas Price, Abigail Woods and William McGeachie





Christopher Mather has been selected to attend the January National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) 2015 Program.

The NYSF program consists of a mix of scientific, formal, personal development and social activities. These range from laboratory visits to sports evenings and from a bush dance to group dynamics.

The program is run by students from the previous year's NYSF, who have been planning and improving the forum over the course of the previous year. Speakers at various forums, debates, seminars and other activities come from outside the science forum, or have been students many years ago. During the NYSF the students stay on campus at The Australian National University's (ANU) Burgmann College in Canberra. A series of seminars are run during the second week of the forum. The NYSF serves as a bridge between the science taught at schools and the world of science research and its application in our world.

It is a time to be around other people who are passionate about science. Engaging in the program is a tangible way of showing the students some of the career pathways they might consider. One of the biggest insights from the program is an introduction to the many fascinating fields of science.



Mr P Brown
Science Coordinator



Our 2014 season concluded at Newcastle Court with a narrow defeat in a criminal trial against Gosford High School. Prosecuting a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm, we were able to establish a strong body of evidence from witnesses **Madeline Best** and **Corin Ayliff**. Barristers, **Jessie Smith** and **Lauren Freemantle** expertly argued complex points of law, capably advised by Solicitor **Alex Rendina**. Order in the Court was maintained by Court Officer **Maxine Beh**. In a very close contest we were able to secure the conviction of the accused, but unfortunately we

narrowly lost the points 223-219 and were eliminated from the competition.

Congratulations to all who took part over the season and thanks for making it such an enjoyable experience. Thanks also to our coach and ex-student Mr Bryce Morrison.

Mr A Stone
HSIE Coordinator



Preliminary Geography Excursion

On Tuesday, 29 July Preliminary Year Geography students completed fieldwork at Port Stephens as part of the natural resources topic. Students visited an oyster farm at Lemon Tree Passage and learned about the environmental threats to oyster farming in the estuary as well as the economic and social issues associated with this activity.

Students then visited the NSW Fisheries Institute at Taylors Beach and learned about a number of research projects aimed at supporting sustainable aquaculture and wild fisheries.

Thanks to Ms Bell-Griffin and Br Patrick who accompanied the group and to Ms Rees who helped organize the day.

Mr A Stone
HSIE Coordinator



L to R: Sam Maguire, Lachlan Pasquale, Claire Griffiths, Matthew Blore, Adam Ortolani, Thomas Sparksman, Jock Stone



Trent Curry



Ayden Moffatt



Noah Regan



Liam Spruce

Metals & Engineering / Construction



YEAR 11 VET WORK PLACEMENT 2014

It has been a busy Term 3 for Year 11 VET students. From Week 2 to Week 6, 185 students undertook Work Placement in a range of diverse industry sectors, including Business Services, Entertainment, Construction, Hospitality, Metal and Engineering and Retail. Structured workplace learning and work exposure provides multiple benefits for students, including

improving engagement, providing an understanding of the vocational pathways available, encouraging the development of employability skills and improving literacy and numeracy skills. Employers offered a range of industry activities that suit their resources and their business and provided students with the opportunity to work towards gaining specific industry competencies. For example learning how to work in a team and interact with customers, learning about products and services, ‘bumping in’ or ‘bumping out’ for the show, recording and editing sound using analogue or digital equipment, select, operate and maintain a range of office equipment to complete tasks, using hand and power tools and applying principles of workplace, health and safety. Student comments were very positive and encouraging. Some of these included:

“... I had a fantastic week ... I learn’t so much and was able to make the connection between what I learnt in the classroom and what happens at work...”

“...I met some very nice people who were extremely helpful.... nothing was any trouble for them....”

“... I was able to see what was involved in setting up for an Art Show ..”

“... I was offered a part-time job.... how lucky am I ?”

“...I was offered an apprenticeship as a plumber... this was my goal when I enrolled in the Construction course at school...”

Business Services



Amara McHugh-Shahani



Makoi Makuer



Jessica D’Arcy

Hospitality



L-R - Isabella Johnson, Colleen Maloney, Erica Owen, Amany Nasser, Eliza Beletich, Yazmin Marsh and Tayla Stoger



CONGRATULATIONS!
Kouat Noi (Year 11)

Kouat was a member of the AUSTRALIAN U/17 BASKETBALL team that won the Silver Medal at the FIBA World Championships in Dubai in August. The Aussies played ‘out of their skin’ to secure a spot in the final against USA and on the way defeated two

powerhouses of World Basketball – Greece and Spain. In a gutsy performance from the young Australian team, they threw everything at the undefeated Americans, clawing back a double digit deficit on countless occasions but going down to the powerful USA team 99-92.

Kouat had a productive week playing significant minutes in each of the games played. In the final Kouat contributed **13 points, five rebounds, one assist and one steal** in the loss to the USA. Kouat is hoping that with his diverse skill, great touch around the rim, variety of moves to get to the rack, his quickness to blow by opposing big-men and his performances at these championships will help pave the way to a scholarship to an American College when he completes Year 12 in 2015.



Myles was selected to play for the NSW All Schools team after a strong performance for the NSW CCC team in July. The team participated in the School Sport Australian All Schools Championships in Townsville from 16th- 22nd August. The NSW team escaped with an 86-

78 win in the **Semi-Final** against Queensland White. Myles lit it up with **26 points on 12 of 19 shooting from the field**. The NSW team struggled in a physical final losing 83-67 to the only undefeated team of the tournament Queensland Maroon. Myles contributed eight points and 5 rebounds. His performance across the week saw him being selected in the Australian All Tournament Team. The boys will travel to California where they will test their skills against some American teams later this year. Myles, like Kouat, would also like to pursue a career in Basketball in America when he finishes school and will be working to impress College coaches in the next 17 months.

NSW ALL SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

Best of luck to the team!

Both Kouat and Myles will ‘suit up’ for the College Basketball Team that will participate in the *Senior NSW Champion Schools Tournament* to be held at the Central Coast on Monday, 8 September. The tournament will consist of the winning senior teams from each of the sector school tournaments held during the year, including CHS, CCC and Independent schools. The winning team will earn

the right to play in the Championship division at the Australian All Schools Tournament to be held in Canberra from 1st-5th December 2014. Other team members include **Kaman Bol, Ben Kingham, Viko Puliueva, Michael Sheridan, Reece Browning, Dhiu Noi, John Brockenshire, Nic Honeyands and Makoi Makuer**

Mr Robert Sheridan,
Basketball Manager



Julie McLoughlin
Careers Coordinator
julie.mcloughlin@mn.catholic.edu.au

Week 8

- ✚ Mrs Mac will be running sessions on Scholarships at Newcastle University
- ✚ The last of the First Aid courses.

Week 9

- ✚ Don't forget if you have paid for the RSA you will be here both afternoons to complete the course (3:15 pm – 6:15 pm)
- ✚ Also running is an information sessions on TAFE applications for 2015



Young Filmmakers Workshop Metro Screen, Paddington

Create a short film for TropJr, one of the largest short film festivals for youth in the world and potentially kick start a creative career in filmmaking. Each student will have the chance to write, act, shoot, light, direct, edit, add a sound track and produce a TropJr short film project. Early Bird Discount book by Friday, 5 September and save \$50. Course dates Wednesday, 24 September – Friday, 26 September 10am-5pm.

<http://metroscreen.nsw.edu.au/course/YOUTROJNR>



Camp

Applications opened on 5 August 2014. The camp will run 12-16 January 2015. Girls who will be in Year 11 or Year 12 in 2015 and who excel in science and maths are encouraged to

attend. For more information see

engineering.unsw.edu.au/wiec

or contact the UNSW Women in Engineering Manager, Alex Bannigan on (02) 9385 7458 or a.bannigan@unsw.edu.au.

Last chance to do First Aid Friday, 5 September!

This could be a requirement for future employment or you just feel you should have this qualification before you leave school. See Mrs

Mac for a note. **The cost is \$70 for the day.**

A great competitive price!



Vantage Automotive

Apply now for the Apprenticeship Program for car manufacturers across Australia including Land Rover, Jaguar, Volkswagon, Subaru, Volvo, Mazda, Renault and Audi. Go to www.vantageautomotive.com and the apply now section, select a dealer you would be happy to work with, fill out the online application, attach a resume and cover letter, and complete a short online assessment.



Certificate II in Tourism (11556)

Special offer for school students

Enrol in the Certificate II Tourism for just \$267.00

This qualification is a pathway to continue to Certificate III and Diploma courses. This course also includes food and beverage service units on the Wednesday, a terrific skill to have!

This course will run Monday 10th November for five (5) weeks, till December 10th.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays 9.00am till 2.30pm.

Contact; Felicity Fragar

Acting Head Teacher – Tourism and Events

T: 02 4969 9541

E: felicity.fragar2@tafe.nsw.edu.au



UP COMING DEFENCE FORCE SESSIONS

- ❖ Thursday, 4 September 6pm – Navy Officer
- ❖ Wednesday, 10 September 6pm – Health
- ❖ Thursday, 11 September 6pm – Trades
- ❖ Tuesday, 16 September 6pm – Air Combat Officer and Joint Battlefield Airspace Controller
- ❖ Thursday, 17 September 6pm – Defence Careers (Navy, Army & Air Force) General Information Session

**The session below will be held at Adamstown
Army Reserve Depot
Tuesday, 9 September 6:30pm**

If you wish to attend an information session, please email cptnewcastle@dfr.com.au or call 02 4974 5427

