



# Lighthouse

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**Volume 30 Number 12**

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Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Friends of SFX

At the beginning of this year the Australian Government established a committee to review the national curriculum. The Review conducted by Professor Kenneth Wiltshire AO and Dr Kevin Donnelly was directed to consider the “robustness, independence and balance of the Australian Curriculum”. Last Sunday the Final Report from that review process was released.

Usually reports on education attract considerable controversy as groups in society argue from differing perspectives. Over the years there has been great passionate debate about the purpose and direction of education. Surprisingly, however, this report seems to have gained widespread support.

This Review involved a considerable consultation process. Apparently over 1500 submissions were received from across Australia. As a result of this widespread discussion a robust report has been delivered that has offered 30 recommendations to the Australian Government.

One central finding from the Report was that the Australian curriculum is “over-crowded” in that it contained too much content, especially in the early years. Accordingly, teachers are being required to cover large amounts of content at the expense of developing other skills and values.

Other central findings from the Review, as reveal by the media, have included:

- A more explicit focus on literacy and numeracy in the early years of primary school;
- A greater focus on phonics when teaching reading and literature;
- A greater focus on western civilisation and Australia's Judeo-Christian heritage in the history curriculum;
- A more rigorous mathematics curriculum;
- Four of the "general capabilities" – critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, ethical understanding and intercultural understanding –should no longer be taught across the whole curriculum.
- More emphasis on morals, values and spirituality;
- There should be a renewed focus on monitoring students' progress;
- More research should be undertaken into different methods of teaching, with the results to inform future evaluations of the curriculum; and,
- The curriculum should be reviewed every five years.

Perhaps the greatest value from this whole review process is that it has provided an important opportunity to reflect, analyse and offer recommendations on education in Australia. It is of critical importance that the substance and delivery of the curriculum is continually reviewed. The world is constantly changing and therefore education must also change and evolve. However, it is also vital that the valued core elements are maintained and enhanced.

Br Robert Sutton, fms  
Principal

# Thank you!



OUR LADY'S HOME  
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September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Yr 12 Dominic House Co-Ordinator  
St Francis Xavier's College  
286 Parkway Avenue  
Hamilton NSW 2303

To the Students of Dominic House

Dear Students,

Thank you for your cheque of \$913.35 which we received today. That is a great deal of money and would have taken much effort to raise. I am delighted that you should remember the work of The Brown Sisters once again.

We find at the moment that the people we help are requesting more & more food vouchers. They are struggling to make their pensions and allowances stretch that little bit further. This money you have so generously donated to us will contribute to the purchase of more vouchers – so thank you!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best in your upcoming exams and please know that you are remembered in our prayers.

I thank you, once again, for your most generous donation and wish you God's blessing.

Yours sincerely,

Sr Margaret Mary Birgan OLN



Spring  
Food  
Appeal

## College St Vincent de Paul Society *Spring Food Appeal*

That time of the year is just about here - the annual St Vincent De Paul Spring Food Appeal! From Monday, 20 October to Monday, 27 October 2014 we will be accepting canned foods and other non-perishable food items during Tutor Group time. These will make up boxes of goods which will then be delivered to the House of Hospitality at Broadmeadow, as well as the St Vincent De Paul Society food banks for Merewether Beach and Waratah. Each year our Spring Food Appeal assists hundreds of needy people throughout Newcastle. All donations will be greatly appreciated, so open your pantries to see how you can lend a hand to those in need this spring!

Lara Fuller



## NEWS

Mr Tony Stone  
HSIE Coordinator



## BUSINESS Studies

Congratulations to the following students on their excellent results:

### Distinction

Jack Bailey, Alexander Strong, Ashleigh Moylan, Jasmin Blanch, Ian Chaplin, Benjamin Davies, Connor Graham

### Credit

Laura Carroll, Jake McNamara, Joel Oliver, Jake Sheekey, Lachlan Franks, Lauren Fuller, Courtney Ibbertson, Monique Roddenby, Isaiah Kavanagh, Gabrielle Lyth, Lachlan Watson, Jacquelyn Baita, Courtney Edstein-Boyes, Jack Spence

## ECONOMICS

Congratulations to the following students on their excellent results in this state wide competition:

### Distinction

Conagh Kelly & James Ruwald

### Credit

Steven Allen, Connor Ballinger, Henry Connolly, Hayden Jones, Victoria Parr



To all the Year 11 Hospitality students who assisted in the preparation and service of food for the recent TAS HSC display on Wednesday, 8 October 2014.



Your professionalism and dedication was greatly appreciated.

Mrs Nicolee Hodges  
Food Technology/Hospitality Teacher



## Operation Drop In: Helping Surfers in PNG

Students and staff at SFX are being encouraged this month to donate an unwanted surfboard, legrope, wetsuits, wax, board shorts, ding repair kits .....virtually anything “surf related” to an initiative being promoted by Jill Emberson on 1233 ABC Radio called “Operation Drop In”.

This initiative aims to help support a fledgling surfing movement in PNG that is changing lives. Anything that is “surf-related” is being packed into a freight container that will be shipped to the Surfing Association of Papua New Guinea (SAPNG) who will then distribute the resources to communities in need.

A donated surfboard is an amazing gift and it doesn't go to one particular person, but is shared by all children from the villages engaged in surfing. It is vital equipment for PNG surf clubs which are a great source of activity and empowerment in remote coastal communities.

SFX has a long and prestigious history in surfing and proudly boasts hosting the longest continuous school based surfing competition in Australia. The College celebrated 40 years of the SFX Show Holiday Surf Competition in 2013. The College also won the Australian Team surfing title in 2013. So with such an alliance with the sport of surfing it would be wonderful if students, staff and family and friends of SFX could support this very

worthwhile cause. Paul Dan (Sport Co-ordinator) is the contact person at the College. Feel free to email him at [paul.dan@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:paul.dan@mn.catholic.edu.au) if you have any questions on Operation Drop-In.

In conjunction with this initiative there is a fund raising charity screening of the feature film “SPLINTERS”, a multi-award winning documentary about the evolution of surfing in the remote village of Vanimo. This film will be screened at Tower Cinemas on Wednesday 22 October, 2014.

View the link below to see how Operation Drop In is being implemented by SAPNG and give generously! This is a great chance to “GIVE BACK” to our closest island neighbour.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rn2tTEPByFo>



Women dressed in traditional PNG clothing from the Surfing Association of PNG  
(Supplied: Andrew Able)



*Julie McLoughlin*

Careers Coordinator

[julie.mcloughlin@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:julie.mcloughlin@mn.catholic.edu.au)

## Welcome to Year 12



When the students arrive for their first Term of Year 12, for many there is a definite shift in their focus and commitment. If this is NOT the case maybe you would like to come and talk about your future direction?? Or maybe you are on track but need some help to research how best to reach your goals.

Mrs Mac is available all day, every day for advice and guidance. *(After the Year 10 Interviews are over!!)* All you need to do is put your name down on the booking sheet outside her office.

### School Portal

This week you will find

- ❖ The latest part time and full time employment opportunities over the past 3 weeks.
- ❖ There is some Christmas part time work advertised.

### TAX File Number...

#### Do you have one??

Everyone must have a Tax File Number (TFN) without it you cannot apply to University; cannot apply for help with TAFE fees; cannot receive a Tax return on the tax you have paid; cannot receive benefits from the Government. Mrs Mac has these simple applications and they can be picked up from her office. They will be sent ONCE during the term, around week 6. After this you will need to wait until next year.

## 5 Science Jobs that will have an impact on the world!!

### Ecologist

Ecologists study the relationships between animals, plants, people and their physical surroundings. What qualifications do I need? The minimum qualification is firstly a degree in a biological or environmental subject such as ecology, conservation biology, environmental biology, environmental management or marine biology. Many employers look for postgraduate qualifications. Experience as a research assistant or a conservation project volunteer may also be advantageous.

### Hydrologist

Hydrologists monitor, manage and conserve the earth's freshwater resources. They also monitor and analyse rainfall. What qualifications do I need? Most hydrologists hold a degree in a relevant subject, such as geography, environmental science, civil engineering or mathematics. The diploma in environmental and land-based studies may be relevant. Most hydrologists also have a postgraduate qualification.

### Immunologist

Immunologists study the body's immune system and how it works in combating disease. They use this knowledge to treat and control a range of diseases and disorders, such as allergies, cancer and AIDS. What qualifications do I need? Doctors specialising in immunology will have completed a medical degree and specialist training. Many other immunology posts require a degree in immunology or a related subject such as medical microbiology, genetics or biomedical science. Some jobs, especially those based in universities, need a postgraduate qualification, such as an MSc or PhD.

### Marine biologist

Marine biologists study the plants and animals that live in the world's oceans. Their studies help us predict how marine ecosystems will cope with changes such as global warming, pollution, pressure from fisheries and tourism in sensitive areas. What qualifications do I need? Entrants for research posts need a relevant degree and usually a postgraduate qualification. Some entrants take a degree in marine biology or oceanography, although it is not essential to study these subjects. It is possible to do a degree in any of the biological sciences and then go on to specialise in marine biology with a masters or PhD.

### Oceanographer

Oceanographers are scientists who study the relationship between seawater, fresh water, the polar ice caps and the atmosphere. Their research can influence industrial processes and government policy. What qualifications do I need? Entrants usually have a first degree in physics, chemistry, maths or biology, followed by a postgraduate degree in oceanography. For a first degree, applicants need maths and science subjects. Entry to a Masters Degree course is usually with a first degree in a science discipline. Almost all vacancies require a Masters degree and, increasingly, employers are now looking for a PhD.



# Organisation and Planning for Success

## Time management tips and tricks that work!



One in a series of **FREE** workshops for Senior Students (Years 11 & 12) and their parents / guardians hosted at The Place in 2014. Two workshops will be held in Term 4. Each workshop will cover a different topic. Parents / guardians are encouraged to attend.

- WHEN:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October from 7:30pm - 9pm (doors open 7pm)
- WHERE:** The Place: Charlestown Community Centre (Charlestown Square) Corner Frederick & Pearson Streets, Charlestown (entry via Frederick St)
- WHO:** Year 11 & 12 students, their parents/guardians.
- COST:** FREE. Workshops funded by NSW Dept. Family & Community Services.
- RSVP:** RSVP is essential, as workshops are limited to 70 participants. To book, please phone 4032 5500 or email: [study@theplacecharlestown.org.au](mailto:study@theplacecharlestown.org.au)



*The workshops are based on the Dept. of Education & Training's "Senior Success" program, developed by Dr Katherine McCrohon. All workshops will be presented by Dr Kate, an engaging Stage 6 teacher with over 25 years of teaching experience. Dr Kate is also a parent of 6, and has recently supported a number of her children through their HSC. She offers valuable insights for students and their families, from both a school and home perspective, on how to survive and thrive during the HSC years.*





## “Exploring the Seasons of Grief”



Embracing the Change

Honouring my Story

Living with Hope

Empowering through Choice

The Seasons for Growth small group program uses the metaphor of the changing seasons to explore the impact of change & loss on the:

- ♦ Physical
- ♦ Emotional
- ♦ Mental
- ♦ Social &
- ♦ Spiritual dimensions of our lives.

*“It is such a gentle way to explore losses and issues...I have used these skills over time to cope with different situations.”*

**Dates:** Saturday October 25 and November 1

**Venue:** Catherine McAuley Building  
Rear 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West

**Time:** 9.30am - 3.00pm (Registrations from 9.00am)

**Cost:** CSO/Parish Participants \$30

General Participants \$50

(Concessions available)

**RSVP:** 20 October, 2014 P: 4979 1355

E: [seasonsforgrowth@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:seasonsforgrowth@mn.catholic.org.au)



Seasons for Growth in the Hunter region is funded by:  
Catholic Schools Office and Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

For more information about the program please visit  
<http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/agencies-services/seasons-for-growth>

**Advanced Study Skills**

**FREE HSC Study**

**Workshop**

**Monday, 27 October &  
Monday, 17 November**

**7.30pm – 9.00pm (doors open 7pm)**

Charlestown Community Centre  
Cnr Frederick & Pearson Streets,  
Charlestown NSW 2290

**Year 11 & 12 Students  
their parents and guardians**

**RSVP is essential**

as workshops are limited to  
70 participants.

To book: email

[study@theplacecharlestown.org.au](mailto:study@theplacecharlestown.org.au)