



The University High School SCHOOL NEWS

Number 3 June 2004

STARWATCH – AN OCCASIONAL COLUMN.

Rod Watson

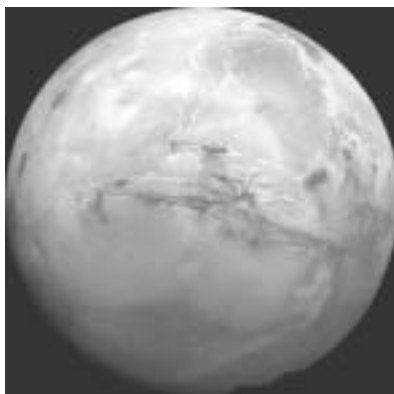
The planet Venus will provide interesting viewing over the next few weeks. Venus can be observed as a very bright object low in the north-western sky just after Sunset. If you care to observe Venus through binoculars, it will be seen as a thin crescent shape, not unlike a crescent Moon. Venus will disappear from the evening sky in late May and will rapidly appear in the north-east in the morning sky in about mid-June. Again, the crescent shape can be seen through binoculars.

Between these two appearances, a rare event, a transit of Venus across the face of the Sun, will occur on 8 June. The previous transit was on 6 December 1882 and the next two will be on 6 June 2012 and 11 December 2117. A transit of Venus occurs when the planet crosses the face of the Sun. It is similar to an eclipse of the Sun which occurs when the Moon passes across the Sun's face; however, the disc of Venus is much smaller than that of the Moon. The reason why a transit does not occur every time Venus passes between the Sun and Earth is that its orbit is inclined to the ecliptic, the path of the Sun across the sky.

Captain James Cook observed the transit of 3 June 1769 when he travelled to Tahiti on the Endeavour on his first voyage of discovery. He also observed a transit of Mercury from New Zealand on 9 November 1769. Following this, he "discovered" the east coast of Australia.

The June transit will commence at 15.08 but will be better observed after 15.25. When Venus has first fully covered the solar disc [around 15.26], there will be a "black drop effect" where the planet's trailing edge seems to hang onto the solar limb; this effect will last for a short time and has never been fully explained. The Sun will set before the end of the transit [in Victoria].

Observation of the transit may be made by pinhole projection: the rays of the Sun pass through a pinhole in a sheet of paper onto a flat sheet of cardboard. Alternatively, an aluminium coated Mylar filter [obtainable from a dedicated telescope dealer] may be placed over binoculars or telescope on the end facing the Sun, making sure that it is securely attached. Looking at or even glancing at the Sun at any time can cause serious eye damage or blindness.



The planet Jupiter can be seen to the north after Sunset. Its four largest moons: Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto can be seen clearly through binoculars.

Finally, Mercury can be seen in WNW sky after Sunset from early July until mid-August. It will be a yellow colour and will pass by number of bright stars.

Good luck with your watching but take good care of your eyes.

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A VISIT FROM AN ALMOST-MARTIAN

Lani Perlesz Year 12

Space exploration has been the topic of much talk within the English department and between the year 12 English students during the past month.

Friday 23rd of April, before our English SAC on issues began, we were lucky enough to be given the chance to listen to the President of The Mars Society of Australia, Mr Guy Murphy, who spoke to us about the reasons why Australia should become involved in exploring Mars.

Mr Murphy outlined the scientific, economic, political and inspirational benefits of space exploration. One of the most interesting parts of his presentation was being shown visual images of the surface and moons of Mars from the space satellites and from the current Mars rovers; Opportunity and Spirit. It was exciting to see Mars' ancient landscapes and the visual evidence of it once holding water.

I was about to argue against space exploration in my SAC; however, after hearing Mr. Murphy speak, he gave me a chance to open up my eyes and thoughts about the issue enough to change my mind.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

May

Friday 14: School Photographs, Years 7 - 10

Check the school website for the latest update on the full year calendar: www.unihigh.vic.edu.au

June

Thursday 3: Mid Year Concert, 7:30pm

Friday 7: VCE Units 1 & 3 examinations begin

Wednesday 9: Pupil-free day - Staff professional development
VCE General Achievement Test (GAT)

Monday 14: Queen's Birthday Holiday

Thursday 17: Year 7 Sports day

Friday 18: Pupil-free day - Report writing.

Monday 21: Year 10 Work Experience week begins
VCE units 2 & 4 commence

Tuesday 22: Year 8 Sports day

Friday 25: Last day of Term Two, 2:30pm dismissal.

SCHOOL NEWS PUBLICATION DATES

Your copy of School News should arrive in your letter box on or around the following dates:

Term Two:	May 18	June 21
Term Three:	August 9	September 13
Term Four:	November 1	December 6

The deadline for contributions for the next edition is: Tuesday June 16

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The UHS Parents' Association meets in the school staff common room at 7:30 pm. All parents are welcome.

Next Meetings: Monday June 7
Monday August 9

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

The UHS School Council meets in the school staff common room on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Next Meetings: Wednesday May 19
Wednesday June 16

THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms Bronwyn Valente

SCHOOL COUNCIL

At the first meeting of the recently elected Council Mr Lester Townsend was nominated for a second term as President and Mr Russell Grigg as Vice President. If any parent wishes to raise issues with them or any Council member, please contact the school.

The School Council continues with Education and Planning, Finance, Buildings and Grounds, Sub-Committees and the Parent Participation working party. If any parent would like to join one of these groups, please contact myself.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Thanks from the Council and school community to the P.A. for their excellent organisation and fund raising efforts with the second-hand book sale. The funds raised from 2003/2 sales will be used to support a number of initiatives in the school. Funds will be used for a new piano, new curtains for the music department and support for hospitality costs for the Welcome to New Parents and the VCE valedictory assembly.

A process for supporting small grants for Curriculum and Co-curriculum initiatives by the P.A. is being developed in consolidation with the Council.

The support of this group of parents is appreciated and parents are encouraged to attend meetings. (Dates published in the Calender).

SCHOOL EVENTS

A number of events are in place for term two, parent teacher interviews were well attended and the weather was relatively kind for the Athletics Sports.

The mid-year concert on the 3rd of June is one of the highlights of the school musical calendar, and rehearsals are progressing.

The school web page is now being updated regularly with coming events and school calendar. I encourage you to log on and check events.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the 2003 year VCE students who have received Premier Awards.

Ting Chen Chemistry and Mathematics (2 awards)
Narelle Mundy Community Services (VET)
Chi Zhu Information Technology (VET)
Mathew Durie VCE Top Achiever

Congratulations also to year 12 student **Alisa Sedghifar** who has received a Silver Award for Biology and a Bronze Award for Chemistry in the Rio Tinto Australian Science Olympiad Victorian Examination. This is an outstanding achievement.

ANNUAL REPORT

The 2003 annual report detailing all data regarding student results, parent surveys, student absence and distinctions and reports of the Charter priorities is posted on the school web for your information. Please direct any question to Ms Betson.

GTAC

The GTAC building is completed and grounds work is being completed. The program has commenced and to date there has been 250 students per week who have attended the Centre.

An official opening by Minister Kosky is planned for July and tours will be available on the open afternoon of June 2nd.

LOCAL SUCCESS IN NATIONWIDE STUDENT RESEARCH SCHEME.

University High School together with CSIRO Education.

University High School is committed to providing the very best opportunities for their students and is proud to announce the selection of their students, Kevin Tan and Tim Bromley for the 2004 Student Research Scheme (SRS).

The students were selected from over 300 statewide applicants and will gain invaluable experience working with a scientist as part of a current research venture.

As well as being the largest employer of scientists in Australia, CSIRO is one of the most respected worldwide science organizations. Drawing on the benefits of this, the CSIRO SRS allows senior secondary students 'real life' research experiences at leading Australian scientific institutions. SRS is in its eighth year of operation in Victoria. This year, the scheme involves over 100 students working with scientists from 35 different research departments across the state.

These talented students explore career options and the importance of Australian scientific research is emphasized to the wider community.

EAST TIMOR APPEAL.

Monica Chetty, Indonesian Teacher.

An appeal is being sent out to the school community for donations of school equipment for students in East Timor. This appeal is for stationary and everyday equipment such as pencils, coloured pencils, rulers, pencil cases, pens exercise books, maths equipment etc.

Please send donations, via your child, to Ms Chetty. For further enquiries please contact 9347 2022.

MUSIC PERFORMANCES

Ms Katie Harley & Ms Carolyn Grace

On March 16th our VCE music student My Hong Pham was invited to sing at the launch International Week's "Business and Education Leadership Forum". This Department of Education & Training event was held at the Windsor Hotel and the Minister for Education & Training Lynne Kosky, launched her paper "Global Pathways - International Education for Victoria".

My Hong sang a traditional unaccompanied Vietnamese folk song *Calm Chim Bao* (A Bird tells) where she wowed the audience with her high fast vocal gymnastics and lovely voice. Many people congratulated her including the Minister, Professor Kwong Lee Dow and Chinese Consulate officials and she was in much demand for photo opportunities! My Hong, Ms Harley & Mrs Svalbe then enjoyed a sumptuous three-course lunch. Congratulations to My Hong for her wonderful performance.

Five of our VCE Music students performed for Professor's Kwong Lee Dow's farewell from VCAA to the position of Vice Chancellor at The University of Melbourne. The Flute Quartet, Sun Maneesuan, Ivy Del Rosario, Emma Leitinger, and Nina Morrison, directed and supported by Ms Carolyn Grace played a delightful selection of music. After the speeches of the evening My Hong Pham performed a beautiful song. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by guests, students and their teachers. Congratulations to the students for performing so professionally.

PHILOSOPHY

Jeff Kinsman

Year 11 Philosophy involves an examination of ethics (How should we act?), epistemology (How do we know things?), metaphysics (What is existence?) and methods of philosophical inquiry. In Semester Two, the course focuses on the application of philosophy to life, including the issues of abortion, artificial intelligence, friendship, terrorism, religion and bioethics.

A PHILOSOPHICAL BEGINNING

Max Riess Yr.11

The very first question ever posed to a Uni High philosophy class was: Why did you choose to study philosophy? I could understand the teachers' intrigue because most of us knew next to nothing about the new subject. I have to admit, I was interested in the replies of my fellow students because looking around the room revealed that we certainly were an interesting group.

After hearing a few responses, a definite theme was developing. It seemed a lot of students chose the subject partly from an interest that was lurking somewhere at the back of their brains. At this point, I began to worry about what the year would be like, being in a class like this and studying a subject where discussion is the main learning tool.

To my ever-increasing surprise and delight, however, many students who I thought would not contribute began to speak their minds. Even more exciting was when I noticed that some students even impressed themselves with their own depth of thinking.

I have enjoyed philosophy very much this first semester, and I would recommend it to anyone.

WORK EXPERIENCE

A Moylan

A reminder to parents of Year 10 students that the work experience program will run during the week June 21-25.

As a result of recent changes to the Education (Workplace Learning) Act, any student who did not have a placement booked and all necessary paperwork completed by April 19, must complete a new program in Occupational Health and Safety. The program will include a general module to introduce important facts about occupational health and safety laws and common hazards, and industry modules that contain more detailed information on the main hazards specific to ten industry areas.

Students will receive awards when they successfully complete the relevant modules. The awards recognise their basic understanding of occupational health and safety information and can be kept in their personal portfolio. Students will not be allowed to commence work experience until they have completed the general and the industry module relevant to the work experience they wish to undertake.

The students concerned have all been notified. The OHS program will be conducted after school in the Library Resource Centre on the following dates:

Lesson 1	Monday	May 3
Lesson 2	Thursday	May 6
Lesson 3	Monday	May 10
Lesson 4	Monday	May 17
Lesson 5	Thursday	May 20
General Module Test	Monday	May 24
Industry Module Test	Thursday	June 3

NB - The tests must be completed under test conditions and must be supervised.

DEBATING

M. Paxinos and P. Hughes.

We are now well into the Senior Inter School Debating Competition for 2004 with debaters participating in the third round on Monday 3rd of May. This year, with thirteen teams involved, students have continued to take a very organized, independent approach as they have prepared quite demanding topics. It has been a pleasure to see the teamwork developing in each group as students have co-operated with and supported team-mates.

As a result of this hard work, there has been some very impressive debating, with most teams managing to win at least one round or more. A Grade 1, B Grade 2 and 4, D Grade 1 and 3, are all holding equal second position on their respective ladders.

Debating is a great learning and confidence building experience for all involved. We look forward to the remaining two rounds on Thursday 17th June and Monday 26th July and encourage parents and friends to see our debaters in action at Melbourne High School.

2004 NATIONAL SCHOOLS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

Stephanie Cheligoy Yr. 12

On the 24th of March, Mr. Marchant, Simon Coles and I met at the airport with around 25 other Victorian delegates and flew to Canberra. We were off to participate in the 2004 National Schools Constitutional Convention.

Around 120 students from all around Australia participated in the convention and it was fantastic to meet other students from such a variety of backgrounds. The topic of the convention was "Senate reform: house of review or house of obstruction?" Although to many it may not sound like the most interesting topic; with 120 students all wanting to have a say and many knowledgeable speakers who were able to give us plenty of insight into the intricacies of the topic, debate and conflicting opinions were rife!

During the convention, not only did we get to meet other interested students, but also, many adults who were happy to share their knowledge and experience with us and not just on the area of Senate reform. Deputy Prime Minister; John Anderson, Young Australian of the Year; Hugh Evans, Senator Natasha Stott Despoja, The Hon Paul Calvert, The Governor General and even Kelvin Thompson (for those who live in the seat of Wills) all talked to us and discussed a range of topics: from the cynicism of the Australian public towards Politicians, to the Third World.

Personally, although the whole convention was fantastic, I would have to say my favourite aspect was meeting so many young people that were interested in; and passionate about, not only what is going on in Australian Federal Politics, but also what is happening in the rest of the world.

If the abundance of enthusiasm is any indication, I believe the youth of Australia – Australia's future – will be able to achieve great things.

A WEB OF STORIES.

P. Hughes and M. Paxinos
English co-ordinators

The 'Writer in Residence' program, funded by the Arts Council of Victoria, began in Week 3 of this term. Kirsty Murray, well-known author of adolescent fiction and non-fiction books, will be working with year 7 students in their English classes once a week during the month of May.

The students have read *Market Blues*; set at the Victoria Market, and will use this as inspiration for their own story writing. With each year 7 class, Kirsty will lead a series of workshops during which students will work through the process of creating a finished piece of writing. The intention is that students draw on their own experiences or those of people they know.

We ask parents to ensure the success of the program by supporting students at home and ensuring that students complete sets tasks so that they are equipped to get the most out of the workshops.

The finished work is to be published in booklet form as *A Web of Stories*. At the launch of *A Web of Stories*, which will take place later in the year, a number of students will read or perform their stories to an audience of parents and other interested members of the community.

The Year 7 students have responded enthusiastically to the introductory workshop and we, along with all year 7 teachers, are looking forward to reading the wonderful stories that our very talented students produce.

UHS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Suzie Hafey, Interschool-sport co-ordinator

On Friday 30th April our dedicated and talented students braved the cold weather to attend the annual UHS Athletics Carnival. The competition in some events was very strong, and great performances were demonstrated by all those who took part. The competition between sub-schools was also very close. Chapman narrowly won the competition, followed closely by Sharman and Brookes. Well done Chapman! A team of approximately 80 students will now go on to compete in the Section C Competition at Epping. Thank you to all staff and students who helped out at the school carnival. A special thanks goes to the VCE PE students who did a great job helping with many events.

TERM ONE SPORTS & EVENTS

There were many teams who represented Uni High at the end of Term One in the District Round Robins. Some teams played very well against some tough competition. Victors of the District Competition were:

Year 8 Girls Cricket (& Metro Final winners)
Year 8 Girls Tennis
Yr 8 Boys Baseball
Year 7 Boys Cricket
Year 7 Boys Volleyball

Girls cricket will have to wait until November 4th to test their skills. Unfortunately the Tennis, Softball and Baseball competitions were washed out and the teams involved will also have to wait until term 4 to compete.

SPORTS STARS

Congratulations to Ellen Healy 7C2, Liam Culbertson 9C2 and Steven Healy 9C2 on their recent performances in Kayaking. All 3 represented Victoria in the Australian Kayaking Championships that took place over the Easter long weekend - Ellen in TK1 Singles and K2 Doubles, Liam in K1 Singles and K2 Doubles, and Steven in TK1 Singles. This trio also put in a great performance at the recent National Australian Championships. Results were:

Liam: 3rd in Doubles and 4th in Singles in the U16 category.

Steven: 8th in Singles in the U16 category.

Ellen: 4th in Doubles and 5th in Singles in the U14 category.

Keep up the good work guys.

Congratulations to Georgia Moore of Year 12, who was recently in the Czech Republic representing Australia at the Womens World Ice Hockey Championships. Georgia had a great tournament and played very well. The competition was very tough. Good luck with your next challenge Georgia.

Well done to Dean Burrows of 8C2. Dean was crowned one of the top 5 optimist sailors at the International Optimist Dinghy Australian Championships. He has secured an invitation to the World Sailing Championships to be held in Ecuador. Fantastic effort Dean, good luck with the International Competition.

If you are doing well in your sport outside of school, don't forget to come up to the PE office and tell us how you're going!

The following are reports from some of the term one competitions:

NORTHERN ZONE SWIMMING – FRIDAY 12 MARCH

Mr Kneale

22 students from The University High School made it to the Northern Zone Swimming Finals in Term One. They faced some very tough competition from schools such as Montmorency, Eltham and Melbourne High. Everyone worked hard and almost all got ribbons. The Junior Girls came third overall. A particular mention goes to Florence Ng who got a first, second and a third. Florence went on to compete at the State Final at MSAC on Thursday 1st March. She came away with a silver medal in the Butterfly. Fantastic effort Florence!

SENIOR GIRLS TENNIS

Kim Patterson

The following girls represented UHS in the District competition at Royal Park on Friday 18th March: - Katherine Attwood, Courtney Webb, Amelia Hrouda and Bernice Valenzuela. The four individuals played well in their singles and teamed up for their doubles matches against Melbourne Girls College and MacRob Girls High. Although the MacRob team were clear winners at the end of the day our girls gave them a good run for their money and they had an enjoyable day out of the school. As the convenor on the day it was a pleasure to spend it with such competitive, yet friendly, players from each of the schools.

YEAR 8 GIRLS SOFTBALL - A TEAM

Elizabeth McMillan

On the Year 8 Sport Day, the Uni High "A Team" played games against Brunswick, Princes Hill and Melbourne Girls. The first game was very close when we one by just one run to Brunswick. The next game against Princes Hill was played well by all players and we won comfortably. The last match was a very challenging game and our opponents were a really tough side. Although we really shocked them in the first innings by our brilliant fielding then excellent batting, they bounced back and out-played us in the last 2 innings. Although we lost that decider match, everyone played extremely well on the day and it was very enjoyable. The team members were: - Freya Harvey, Jemill Cook, Camilla Burden, Jerusha Ho, Martha Martin, Phoebe Naughton, Anna Tupicoff, Yu Qing Zhang, Chloe George, and Elizabeth McMillan.

YEAR 11 HEALTH DAY

On Friday 23rd July, all year 11 students will be treated to a whole day programme covering a range of physical and mental health related issues.

Students will be able to choose from a range of workshops depending on their interests. A healthy lunch will be provided. Any parents who feel they may have something to offer or would like to be involved, please contact either Maureen Cooper, Angela Moylan or Kim Paterson.

YEAR 8 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The Uni High A Team had a good start to the District competition by defeating Brunswick SC in the first round. The next game against Fitzroy was also successful. The final against Melbourne Girls was a challenging and fiery match that ended with a very close score. Their own school crowd enthusiastically cheered both teams on with UHS girls screaming encouragement. Unfortunately, Melbourne Girls came out on top but we were not disgraced. Thank you to Ms Khoo and Ms Middleton (student teacher) for taking us out on the day.

Two other teams represented the school exceptionally well on the day. All girls are to be congratulated on their teamwork and co-operation.

YEAR 8 GIRLS CRICKET TEAM

This fine team of players have had a busy start to the sporting year having played and won at the District competition and then in the Northern Zone finals series. Along the way we have outplayed the following opposition teams – Melbourne Girls, Northcote High and Viewbank SC. The team consisting of Phoebe Naughton, Freya Harvey, Caroline Pham, Thao Nguyen, Hannah Porter, Hannah White, Amelia Martin, Martha Martin, Bithia Romero, Sophie L'Estrange, Anna Tupicoff, Chloe George, Camilla Burden and Sarah Patterson. Thank you to Mr Batters and Ms Hafey for coaching us over term 1 and for the District competition and to Mr Mills and Ms D'Adamo for taking us out for the Northern Zone matches. Thanks also to Jenna, Barney and Stefan for umpiring on the days.

YEAR 8 GIRLS SOFTBALL - B TEAM

Maddie Joyce

The Year 8 Uni High "B Team" had great fun at Melbourne Girls College on the 24th March. All 9 players were very successful on the day and worked well together as a team. Bridget and Mairead were excellent pitchers; Jessica, Ursula, Katrina and Seema were great on the bases, while Maddie and Nicky were fantastic in the field. Nicole played superbly as catcher in each of the games. Despite some losses, the day was a huge success and we all had fun. The team members were: - Nicola Bryant, Jessica McCrum, Seema Thowfeek, Ursula Webb, Katrina Williams, Bridget Barker, Nicole Blanks, Mairead Cardomone-Breen, Maddie Joyce, Billie O'Heare-Young.

Thank you to Kate Alexander and Annabel Brady-Brown who assisted Ms Patterson on the day.

ADVENTURE EN NOUVELLE CALÉDONIE.

Duncan Campbell et Sarah Zeleznikow,
Year 12.

Despite the teachers' great insistence that all students arrived at Melbourne Airport an hour early on the thirtieth of March, we managed to find ourselves three élèves down, ten minutes before take-off (and yet they reassured us that we were the best organized group yet). The plane trip was extremely eventful, with all attempts to speak in French abandoned after take-off, two hostesses notably spilling sticky drinks on half of us and with aspirations of setting a record to see how many people could fit entire hot cross buns in their mouths.

When we arrived at Aeroport de Tontouta, en Nouvelle Calédonie, it was late evening. The entire group was abandoned by the teachers on our way through customs, with one of us notably losing their customs card and attempting to navigate our way in French explaining this. We took a bus to our hotel, high spirits growing every minute, and after settling into our rooms went to forage for food. Unfortunately, our teachers were under the common misconception that teenagers only eat twice a day, and a recurring pattern started where we were deprived meals. After a few minutes of begging, Dr. Benson finally gave in and bought us hot dogs to shut us up. Our first adventure the following day occurred on Le Petit Train, a dinky little car/train that took us around the city. Much to the amusement of the locals, we waved and shouted

'Bonjour! Salut!' to everyone that we saw, striking up conversations in some rather strange places. We carted off to the supermarché (Casino) to organize another unplanned meal, and after buying out the pâté supplies, we stumbled home over our shopping bags and set up for an afternoon at the beach. That night, after weathering tropical storms and a skating demonstration in several pairs of high heels, we finally made it to 'Le Gaugin', where we had several courses of dinner all topped with a provençale sauce.

The next day we took an unsurpassable trip to Yaté, a small village where the Kanak culture is very strongly preserved, on the opposite side of the island. Four hours on the bus dampened everybody's spirit slightly, and made a few of us tres malade. Our frustration wasn't helped by the fact that we were unknowingly taken an hour off our route to see a dam(n) wall, which was not fully appreciated by the group. Once at Yaté, we were introduced to a native meal that was called *bougna*, consisting of poulet, chauve-souris, and many different root vegetables (prompting a documentary 'Yam: un animal, un végétal ou un minéral' to be heartily discussed). After a notable attempt to climb a coconut tree, and a whimsical encounter with a dog that we named 'la petite chienne', the bus ride home was spent lamenting the fact that we didn't meet the chief with the pointy spears. Again we were deprived of dinner, and so many valiant attempts to cook two-minute noodles in the hotel kettles were made (while others bonded with the Immodium tablets thoughtfully packed by Inger's mum after our special lunch).

The next day brought a very early start and a completely different aspect of New Caledonian life. Bundling onto le 'Mary D' grand bateau, we were serenaded with traditional Tahitian songs, and after an hour's ride, we arrived at Ile Amédée. While it seemed very close to paradise, Dr. Benson thoughtfully alerted us to the presence of deadly tricot rayé (sea snakes), while also thoughtfully establishing our headquarters right in front of a nest. Bathing with Madame Bozyk was another adventure, as she valiantly instructed us in the art of *natation synchronisée*, trying to recreate an idyllic 50's movie. Lunch was an extravagant affair, with thousands of different colours and tastes to consume. Traditional dancing followed, with many of our own guest-starring in a marital dance (Caitlin) and a dance of pigs (Duncan). Lots of the Year Eleven girls lined up for photos with one of the dancers, while the more adventurous Year Twelves were taught to 'rape coconuts'. Drama mounted when Bozza and Bezza were forced to chase a particularly cunning tricot rayé out of some items of underwear, and continued their tradition of arguments that closely resembled a married couple. Many of us, inspired by our reality television fetishes, climbed the lighthouse that was featured on 'The Mole'. The boat back brought even more good times, as we experienced some particularly choppy weather



and a wave came overboard, soaking us to the core and eliciting many squeals of excitement. That night we walked to our Casino, provoking more food-related arguments and a game of cat and mouse as we tried to escape Ms Bozyk seeing our purchases. The teachers, sick of the noise the Year 12s were making, sent us to a cafe and told us to have fun.

The next morning was spent at the Tjibaou cultural center. While everyone was overcome with the richness of the New Caledonian culture, we were also overcome by fatigue, and the tour unsuccessfully ended in us collapsing on four chairs in the gallery. Minutes later, we perked up as we learnt that we were privy to an amazing experience. A nomadic tribe from Africa was greeted by the Kanaks in a ceremony of song and dance, which left many of us speechless (until we learnt the song, and adopted it as our own. You can still hear strains of it while walking the corridors). In the afternoon, we took the bus to the Place de Cocotiers, where we spent the afternoon shopping, wine and dining New-Cal style. We had dinner at the very French 'Fun Beach', where we were constantly reminded to act with pride, dignity and silence.

Sunday was a well-needed rest. We spent the day on and off the beach, with a few breaks to visit our beloved Casino. That night we trudged through another tropical storm to 'Bilboquet Plage', which Dr. Benson at first confused with 'Bilboquet Cité' and was only rectified after spending a quarter of an hour frantically map-searching. Madame Bozyk distributed some money to each of us to have a 'good time', so we all headed towards Les Trois Brasseurs (The Three Brewers), and a 'good time' was had by all.

Our designated shopping day was Monday. We woke early and took the bus to the city, and by twelve thirty it was impossible to see us through the bags of cds, paréos, soutien-gorges de cocos, fine examples of French littérature such as the 'Monsieur Men' series, le savon du chat (also from Casino), and huge amounts of French chocolat. We spent the afternoon mulling over our purchases before we put on our best clothes (including Madame Bozyk's infamous little black dress) to head to Fun Beach once more. After an extremely civilized dinner, Madame had a run in with the head-waiter that led to Dr Benson ushering us out ashamedly (and more marital arguments on the way home). We had a short meeting in Madame's hotel room in which we presented our purchases, reminisced over the 'good times', and made a little presentation to the fabulous, tolerant and very lovely teachers. That night was awash with running through corridors loudly, last minute touches on our film, attempting to cram all of our belongings into nos valises, and farewelling the very friendly French soldiers from Marseille.

Tuesday morning was a sad affair, as we said goodbye to Michel and the hotel staff, and our friendly breakfast people at L'Astrolabe (our early morning saviors for the eight days of our conaissance). On the bus, we had an extended farewelling ceremony, centered around our beloved 'Mr. Bœuf'. After walking up the movie-style aeroplane stairs, and after bidding adieu to our wonderful adventure, we arrived in Sydney. It was a huge shock to us all to hear English spoken around us, and some of us (despite best efforts) continued to respond in French. We said goodbye to one of our group there, and upon arriving in dark, damp Melbourne, we were greeted by a swarm of family and friends.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM

By Tim Bromley and Jacinta Gibbs Yr 12

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a two-week program that we participated in throughout January this year. The NYSF selected passionate science students from around Australia, as well as Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, to come together and develop a better understanding of the scientific world.

The focus of the NYSF was to view what the scientific world had to offer from Australia and around the world. Through our visits to the Australian National University and the University of Canberra we were able to better understand the pathways that we could take during University and after we finished study. These visits provided a helpful insight in deciding what aspects of science, especially Biology, we found most interesting, enjoyable and where we could see ourselves working.

Meeting with the scientists from these labs enabled us to discuss with them what they do in their field of work, and where future research appears to be heading. It was fantastic to speak to these researchers and learn about what has led them to this point and to learn what steps we should be taking if we wanted to get into their field. We were able to talk to them and find out which aspects of their work they felt really passionate about, what really turned them on in science, and in turn this helped us to discover what we felt really strongly about and how we can be making sure we get there. Some of these world-class centres included teleportation laboratories, electron microscopes and malaria and HIV virus research laboratories.

The debates we attended were of a high standard because all the students present were fully aware, and highly interested in, the issues surrounding topics such as animals in research, genetically modified organisms,

whether we have the right to affect the course of human evolution, funding in science and who should decide where it goes.

Back at our accommodation we found that the atmosphere created by the staff was highly productive and enabled the students to communicate freely with them and with each other. As they were only one year older than us, it made us more comfortable in approaching them with difficulties, it enabled their speech's on year 12, University and the pressure of high school so much more accessible to us and therefore made the whole experience much more enjoyable. It was also helpful in that they really wanted to be there, they knew what it was like to go the NYSF as a student and they were so encouraging in their advice. Our director, manager, and organizer extraordinaire was Emeritus Professor Rodney Jory who was not only incredibly supportive but genuinely interested in meeting each and every one of us. Our mum and dad for the two weeks were the most fantastically warm, generous and kind hearted people you would ever hope to meet. They were there to fix any catastrophes, unlock your door should you lock your keys in your room, and always nearby if you needed a shoulder.

The Rotary organization played a major part in making the NYSF possible. From sponsoring the students to attend, to preparing the meals we ate when off campus, coordinating arrivals and departures at Canberra, to opening their homes to us for home hospitality where we could do our laundry and sleep. Rotarians attended the Rotary dinner and allowed the students to find out what how Rotary impacted on society, the events that they organise and the huge community spirit that is the heart of Rotary. There is a huge organisational team that has probably already started work on next years NYSF without the students even knowing that it occurs.

However, above all these opportunities we found that the students that we met were the highlight of the forum. Each of the two sessions had 142 students who were so adventurous and outgoing that it was truly infectious. You couldn't sit down while there was bush-dancing to be done. You couldn't but be swept up by the fascination of seeing new developments in physics, industrial chemistry and bioinformatics. These wonderful people stopped you from sleeping at night with the exciting escapes that had only occurred five minutes before lights out. They got you excited in the morning when you were so tired you could only think about returning to your bed. Our bonding experience with these students was enhanced through ice skating, visiting Government and Parliament house, the disco, the student run "final concert", as well as the Rotary and the Science dinner.

We'd like to thank Sandra Meek, the truly wonderful person behind the administration; Emeritus Professor Rodney Jory, who's tireless efforts continued to produce an excellent forum year after year; our Rotary clubs of Melton and Bentleigh/Moorabbin central; our parents for all their support; Ms Hamilton who told us about the program and encouraged us to try out for it; and especially to the other students who made his an unforgettable experience.

NYSF NOMINATIONS

J. Hamilton, Science Coordinator

This program is for students in Year 11 who are enjoying their science studies. Nomination forms can be obtained from your science teacher. They must be completed and returned with other requested information to your nominating Rotary Club before 15th May 2004. You can find the address of Rotary Clubs in the telephone book. There are no limits to the number of students that can apply from the school.

DRUG EDUCATION @ UHS

Ms P.Cheary

Parent-Teacher Evening.

Parents who attended the recent year 7 to 10 parent-teacher evening were able to experience some of the strategies used to deliver drug education to the students at UHS. A board in the entry foyer not only displayed a variety of posters and pamphlets but also directed parents to the resources that were available to them.

On each of the three levels, there were continuous videos relating to alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use. Each of these videos forms a component of Health Education in the school. Thank you to the various staff members who re-wound and re-started the video machines, and to K. Marquard who produced the videos.

During the break in the interviews(4.30 - 5.30), a number of year 12 students delivered an interactive presentation to parents. This programme included a number of activities from the *Creating Conversations* programme, a state government initiative that aims to enhance interactions between parents and their children. Thanks to the students, I believe that each of the many parents present gained an understanding of the importance of establishing and maintaining an open dialogue with their young people.

Many thanks to Nick Bialczak, Adam Kaminski, Abbey Kink, Jacinta Murphy, Cassie Schaefer and Gemma Sharp, ably assisted by Ms Patterson. These students not only gave of their time but

also demonstrated their commitment to the dissemination of knowledge and to the understanding of the importance of communication between parents and their children. I believe they have given a timely adolescent perspective of the role of drug education within the school.

Thank you to David Gurr, President of the Parents' Association, for his admirable distribution of refreshments and for his encouragement for all to participate in the activities.

Thank you, also, to Mrs. Betson for her participation and to Mrs. Seeger-Snowden for her varied contributions, including the "shang-hai-ing" of a variety of parents to the Performance Centre to participate in the activities.

Our Next Activity.

Our next activity is directed towards year 7 and 8 students, and their parents. This event is based upon the *Rethinking Drinking* programme that is employed in year 8 health lessons. All parents are encouraged to attend to obtain a first-hand experience of what their children are learning. The date will be advertised in the next edition of the *School News*.

School Drug Education Review.

At present, the school is undertaking a review of its *ISDES* policy; this is a triennial review that assesses the effectiveness of the *Individual School Drug Education Strategy*. A small working party is undertaking this review; their assessment will be published in the next edition of the *School News* for your comment.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

Simon Coles Yr.12

The Student Representative Council (SRC) has a long and proud history at the University High School, however, in recent years we have seen student confidence and understanding decline. There is a common misconception that the SRC is a useless institution that wields no real power, has no real interest, and is composed of maniacal fiends, prepared to do anything to prevent the general student populace from interfering with their well laid plans. This is simply not so. The Student Representative Council is a valid organization within the school, and we do have the opportunity to evoke change. We have representatives on multiple school committees (Curriculum, Building and Grounds), a representative on the School Council itself, all of these put forward the SRC's views and the concerns of the students.

On a more day-to-day level, the SRC is involved principally with hearing and addressing the concerns of the students, and the working with the various committees and the administration to bring a response to those concerns. The students may inform their representative of any concerns, ideas, and problems they have and the SRC will address it. We are not only a forum of students, we work for the students. Last year we organized several fundraisers, activities for the year seven's and participated in a Government programme regarding a Youth Affairs committee.

This year we look forward to a full an exciting programme of events. We plan to review the Student Representative Council Constitution and try to find out how we can meet your needs more effectively, set up a fundraising event for charity support, completely audit the school facilities, investigate student proposed curriculum options, and of course, try to address any problems the students may be having. However, in order to accomplish these things, we need representatives. Some school groups do not have representatives, and members of those groups don't have a say. We need student interest and support to carry on the work we have done promoting student interest and ideas. The SRC is here for the students, and by becoming a member and contributing, you are helping to make this school a better place for the students.

Mid Year Concert

M.S. Sharman Hall

Thursday June 3 at 7:30pm

Adults \$14

Concession \$8

Family* \$35

2 adults and 2 children

NORTH MELBOURNE SUSTAINABILITY STREET

A group of local sustainability conscious residents meet 7pm. every month on the 2nd Thursday (May 13, Jun 10) at the Errol Street Primary School all-purpose room.

Contact Sonya Everard on 0422756 994 or email: jetjaguar@nonwrestler.com to be placed on the distribution list for meeting notices.

Rebates for North and West Melbourne residents.

50% rebates available for purchase of compost bins, worm farms and worms.

Contact Amanda on 9329 4840 prior to purchase to organise details.

Funding, advise and rebates organised by Sustainability Street North Melbourne.

BALWYN HIGH

SCHOOL IS 50

Calling all ex-staff and Ex-students to contact Balwyn High School for a souvenir brochure.

Back to Balwyn High School Day is being held on **Saturday, 9th October.**

Phone 9819-7911 for details.

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