



The University High School SCHOOL NEWS

Number 5 August 2003

TERROR RESPONSE DAY

Amy Firth, Year 11

In reaction to current world events in relation to terrorism and security, a 'Terror response day' was organized to discuss Australia's response to Terrorism. On the 27th of May at Brunswick Secondary College, schools from around Victoria attended, including Mr Marchant's year 11 Politics class, in order to listen to speakers, participate in group discussion and activities, and to present their findings and ideas to the rest of the forum. The three speakers (including a representative from the Greens and the Ethnic communities Council) were generally critical of the proposed Counter-terrorism Bill. Issues raised included the promotion of fear in Australia and compromising individual rights and freedoms for the sake of security. A representative from the government defense

department was unfortunately unable to attend.

Students of different schools were mixed into smaller groups in order to discuss the issues raised, brainstorm ideas and suggest changes to be made in regard to Australia's current response to terrorism.

Many University High students later presented group findings in the auditorium.

We were particularly impressed with the catering provided (including chocolate cake, sausage rolls, wraps and doughnuts).

Overall the day was an opportunity to increase awareness of the implications of terrorism worldwide and to stimulate thought into possible solutions for the future.

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IMPORTANT CHANGE OF DATE

Parents are advised that the previously advertised date for the VCE parent/teacher interviews was incorrect. The correct details are as follows:

VCE PARENT /TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thursday 14th August 2003

3:30 - 5:30 pm
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Year 7 - 10 Interviews will take place on Monday 4th August

THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms Bronwyn Valente

Welcome to Term 3. This is usually a very busy term with major events and planning for 2004.

Please consider the year 10 curriculum proposal published in the *News* and forward comments. This has been developed after lengthy discussion within the staff, surveys of students and curriculum committee deliberations.

For this term note the parent/teacher interview dates for both years 7 - 10 and VCE. I encourage all families to attend the 'Hot Mikado'. It promises to be another excellent production.

The Council has met twice since the last *News* and items that have been discussed include a privacy policy regarding use of student personal information. A copy of this is available on request and will be placed on the web. The changes in the legislation have also brought some changes of practice in regards to students seeking counselling from the Education Department Guidance Officers. Students of secondary school age may now self-refer without parent/guardian permission. The

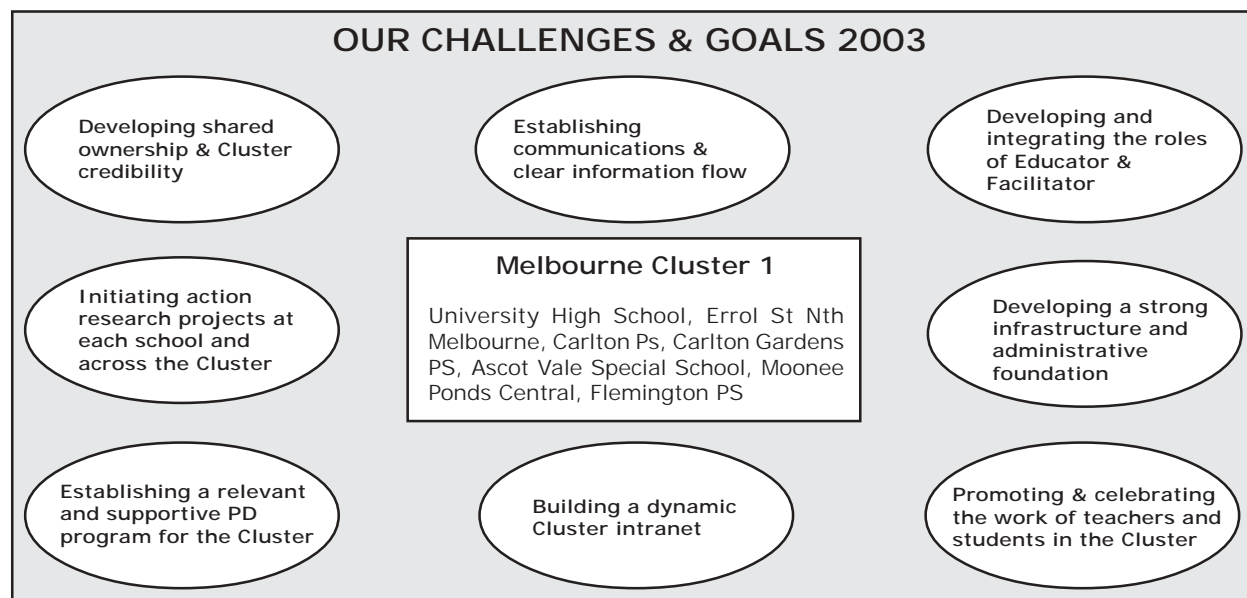
practice of the sub-schools is to encourage students to include their parents in such decisions.

The Buildings and Grounds committee has spent time discussing the Hall upgrade and it is hoped all planned work will be complete for the musical. The air conditioning of the second floor of the North Wing is the next major project.

The GTAC building continues to be constructed within the timelines.

The newly formed Parent Participation working party has commenced work and is gathering information on current practices at University High School and other schools.

The Innovations and Excellence team made a presentation to Council outlining the aims of the project and progress to date. A brief summary of the project goals and description of the first project is set out below.



The first project:

In the Middle ... In Melbourne ... In 2003 The Block Arcade September 15-28th

Teachers from the seven schools have been meeting to ensure that this project is successful. There has been a terrific spirit of cooperation and sharing which will hopefully lead to some long-term links between Art Departments.

The teachers have agreed to have a PD session at Uni High early next month to share their ideas and practices.

Our word/photo exhibition will be held in the last week of term and the first week of the holidays. This will be a real opportunity to launch the middle years project within our communities. A great chance for parents and students to become involved; an opportunity and focus for city excursions. More details will be published during the term.

WORKING PARTY REPORT

This month, the season finale...

REPORT FOR CHARTER PRIORITY TWO...

IMPROVED STAFF SUPPORT.

Ms R Betson & Ms S D'Adamo

A full diagnostic staff survey was conducted at the end of 2001. Results were lower than previous years in the areas of Goal Congruence, Staff Morale and Professional Interaction. It was decided that an analysis was required of current communication channels within the school. A series of draft communication policy statements and recommendations were compiled for consultation. A policy was written and accepted by the staff. It will go to School Council as part of a UHS Policy Handbook.

The Whole-School Professional Development Plan was supported and implemented through the funding of external in-services and workshops, internal faculty-based PD opportunities, the In-house PD Program and two student-free PD/Curriculum days. Areas of focus included: the Middle Years, Multiple Intelligences, Student Welfare, Information Technology and Communication Skills and the implementation of the new Charter.

In 2002, four staff members participated in a Teacher-Mentor Pilot Program run by the Faculty of Education at Monash University. The aim of the program was to facilitate the introduction and establishment of formal Mentoring Programs within schools, as this will be mandated by the government in 2005. Mentor and mentoree handbooks were produced by the UHS Mentoring Core Group, a Mentoring Co-ordinator has been appointed, and a Mentoring program will be trialled in 2003.

The Professional Development policy Core Group was established in 2002, with the aim of updating the UHS PD Policy, to bring it in line with current Charter goals and priorities. A draft policy was published for staff consultation and subsequently ratified by the Curriculum Committee. It will be included in the UHS Policy Handbook.

Westside Arts 2003



Tuesday August 26

7.30pm – 10.30pm

Melbourne Concert Hall

Come and see...

Over 1000 students from Western Metropolitan Region schools in a spectacular performing arts event.

Tickets available from July 1
Ticketmaster 7 Phone 1300 136 166
www.ticketmaster7.com

Adults	\$17.50
Students	\$12
Family	\$40

THE HOTTEST SHOW IN TOWN...

Sarah Zeleznikow and
Duncan Campbell, Year 11

In about a week's time, the community of The University High School will be treated to an extravaganza of tap dancing, a really tight jazz band and gospel singing like we've never heard before. **Hot Mikado** is going to be performed from Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th August, and will entertain, surprise and shock. This is a new musical where Gilbert and Sullivan meets Manhattan Transfer (with a bit of gospel and blues thrown in for good measure).

On Wednesday 16th July, a cast of eighty-three students and five teachers (including the illustrious Ms. Cassidy, better known to most as Lauren) set off on two separate buses for Bacchus Marsh. After arriving at camp and giving the cabins a quick once over, we were thrown straight into intensive rehearsals where we learnt to dance in a semi-oriental fashion (a big achievement for most) while singing with robust enthusiasm. The infectious enthusiasm was not always confined to the rehearsal hall, but was evident in an infamous sing-along late on Thursday night.

After two solid days of rehearsals we put the show together, running it from the overture to the finale, and the results were certainly amazing. If this run-through was anything to go by, in two weeks time, The University High School will surely be faced with one of the most exciting, jazzy, sassy and sensational musicals ever.

Thank you very much to all principals and chorus for such an amazing effort over camp, and to the teachers (Mr. Coles, Mrs. Coles, Ms. Verberne, Mr. Dorn and Ms. Cassidy) who worked tirelessly to perfect our craft. Make sure you get your tickets for the hottest show in town!!!

VET MUSIC STUDENTS

Ms Kerry Svalbe

Syn FM Representatives, Colin Thompson and Sina Goodrich, visited UHS VET Music students recently. They discussed the way in which radio stations are run and how students can develop their skills in order to follow a career in radio announcing.

They showed the class how software can be used to edit soundtracks or music. The program they used was called Soundforge, which is basically wave editing software.

The students gained an understanding of most aspects of the radio announcing industry.

THE CHAMBER SINGERS

Ms Norma Schlicht

The Chamber Singers were privileged to have a Choral Masterclass with Holly Matheson. Holly is a graduate of Otago University (NZ) and is in Melbourne to complete a Masters degree in conducting at Melbourne University. She is currently the Director of the Tudor Choristers and the Victoria Youth Symphony Orchestra. Holly also tutors conducting and musical techniques for undergraduates at Melbourne University.

EDITORIAL

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

A few days ago, I received a copy of the minutes of a recent PA meeting. Too long to include here and, as minutes often are, a bit tricky to follow for those of us who were not at the meeting. But one item did catch my eye - discussion of the School's Centenary, which takes place in 2010. It seems like only yesterday..!

I expect that I will have left the business before then, but some of you may have kids in the pipeline who will be in the fortunate position of participating in the celebrations, and it's good to see there are those among us with the foresight to look down the track a bit.

The Parents' Association has been active on a number of fronts in recent times and this sort of long-term vision is a great way for parents to be involved in maintaining the aura and mystique that makes Uni High different.

So why not think about getting involved. As a parent, you are entitled to, and you're welcome to attend any of their meetings. And it's free!

GV

YEAR 10 AT UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL IN 2004

We are planning to trial a slightly new Year 10 structure next year. Specific details will all become available when the 7 - 10 Handbook is distributed in September, but at this early stage we want to keep you informed and answer any questions or concerns you may have.

How and why did the need for this new structure arise?

In earlier editions of this newsletter we have given you details of work done by the Year 10 Working Party established last year. A summary of their work and the Curriculum Committee's response is as follows:

1. 'Problems' Identified by the Triennial Review and Year 10 Review

There appears to be some 'prima facie' evidence, in general, amongst year 10 students of:

- 1.1 increased absence rates compared with year 9 and VCE years
- 1.2 lower motivation/ some degree of boredom/ some degree of decreased engagement, and general 'easing off'.

The extent to which the perceived 'problems' are felt by year 10 students is a matter for debate. In making decisions about the future curriculum and structures for Year 10, the Curriculum Committee should be mindful that we do not have strong evidence of the extent to which year 10 students share the views about Year 10 at this school as summarized above.

Teacher responses are varied from 'a need for radical change' to 'only minor adjustments are required'.

2. Possible Causes of the 'Problems'

The Year 10 Review Working Party, student surveys and staff responses from the pupil-free day suggest the following as possible causes of the 'problems' as listed above:

- Restrictive elective choices available to year 10 students
- Year 10 students do not have a sufficiently wide access to VCE studies.
- The compulsory requirement for the study of the 7 KLAs (except Technology) is too restrictive.
- There is insufficient rigor, and lack of preparation for VCE/ skill development/ preparation for exams.
- There is insufficient community/ co-curricular focus.
- The teaching approaches in some studies are too teacher-centred.

3. Curriculum Committee's Response

After consideration of the issues and advice from staff on the 18/6/03 the Curriculum Committee agreed that:

- 3.1 Any change(s) to structure will be incremental with stage 1 in 2004
- 3.2 Wider elective choice for 2004/05 will be given
- 3.3 Strategies for varying the teaching pedagogy and practice will be encouraged.
- 3.4 The support structures and pastoral arrangements for Year 10 be evaluated and a range of options investigated.

WHAT IS THIS NEW STRUCTURE?

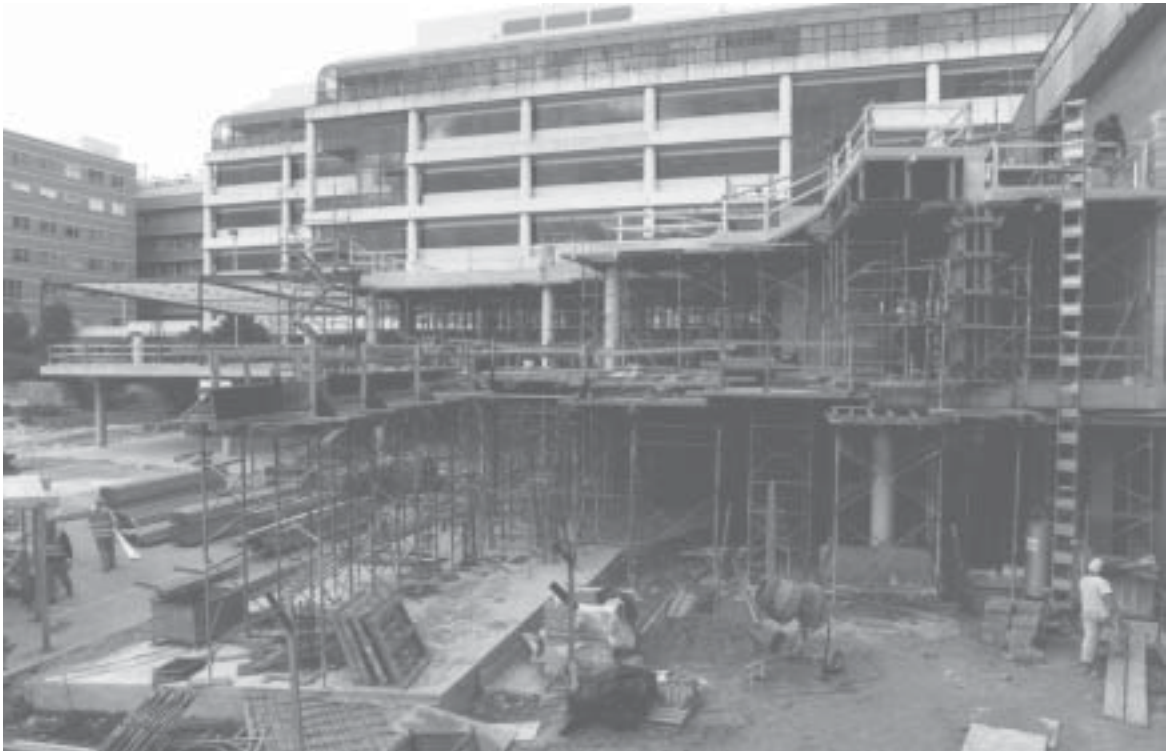
On the 23rd July, 2003, the Curriculum Committee agreed to trial a new structure for Year 10 in 2004 whereby:

- Core subjects done by all students remain the same (English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Health/Physical Education).
- Current elective subjects, of which students must choose three, be opened up for free choice instead of guided choice as in the past (Art, Drama, Music, French, German, Indonesian, Latin, Information Technology, Literature and Creative Writing, Technology Studies, Social Economic Studies, a VCE subject).
- Some new elective subjects will be developed and added to the choice.
- Units involving new teaching and learning strategies will be developed for all subjects, be they core or elective.

WHERE TO NOW?

On 23rd July, 2003, School Council discussed this new trial proposal and will work with the school community to ensure that the best interests of all our students are catered for. Should you have any questions or comments at this early stage, please feel free to contact the Curriculum Coordinator, Dr Ric Benson, on 9347 2002 or benisonr@unihigh.vic.edu.au

GTAC HOUSE CONTINUES TO GROW



ACHIEVEMENT IMPROVEMENT MONITOR (AIM)

Year 7 Statewide Testing Program

This will occur at UHS on Tuesday, 12th August and Wednesday, 13th August. It is the third time our students have been involved in this program which provides confidential information for parents on the progress of their child in English and Mathematics. The testing involves:

Mathematics short answer questions - 45 minutes

Mathematics extended answer questions - 40 minutes

English short answer questions - 45 minutes

English extended answer questions - 40 minutes

Should you require any more information, please feel free to contact R. Benson (Curriculum Co-ordinator) or R. Betson (Assistant Principal) on 9347-2022.

OPEN DAYS 2003

July 15	Box Hill Rotary Careers Expo, Box Hill Town Hall, 10am-7pm
August 2	Monash University (Gippsland, Parkville, Peninsula campuses) University of Melbourne (Burnley campus)
August 3	Monash University (Berwick, Caulfield, Clayton campuses) Latrobe University (Bendigo campus)
August 10	RMIT Victoria University William Angliss Institute Deakin University (Melbourne (Burwood campus)) Box Hill Institute of TAFE
August 13	NMIT Expo
August 16	Holmesglen TAFE (Chadstone)
August 17	Charles Sturt University (Albury) Photography Studies College University of Melbourne (Parkville campus) Victorian College of the Arts Deakin University (Geelong campus) Latrobe University (Albury-Wodonga, Mt Buller) Australian Catholic University (Fitzroy campus)
August 24	Latrobe University (Bundoora campus) Australian Catholic University (Ballarat campus)
August 31	Swinburne University University of Melbourne (Creswick campus)

VET HOSPITALITY

Ms A Moylan

Pictured here and on page 1 are some of our VCE VET Hospitality students gaining valuable practical experience.

In June, Units 3 and 4 students organised a dinner that was held at Georgio's Restaurant in Armadale, while Units 1 and 2 students organised a cocktail party for family and friends at which they prepared and served all food and drinks.

SCIENCE NEWS

Ms J Hamilton

The Australasian Schools Science Competition results were recently received and University High students achieved impressive results. Of the 149 students who participated 23 students were awarded Certificates of High Distinctions, 62 Certificates of Distinction, 36 Certificates of Credit and 28 Certificates of Participation. The highest UHS result for each year level were achieved by Stefan Genat, Lev Gutkin and Henry Jennens in Year 7, Simon Wu and Andrew Ebert in Year 8, David Jennens and Leon DiStephano in Year 9, Andrew Ma and Kevin Tan in Year 10, Wang Chun Wei and Tian Xu in Year 11 and Minh Phuc Le in Year 12. Congratulations to all students who entered the competition, in particular David Jennens who has been awarded a medal for scoring the highest mark in his year level in Victoria. Many thanks to Mr. R. Kneale for organizing this competition.

Top 5 things to do in **National Science Week**, August 16-24.

1. Participate in the competitions and lunchtime activities organized by science staff during the week.
2. Tune into science specials on ABC TV and radio.
3. Scroll through www.scienceweek.info.au and find out what is happening in your local area.
4. Everyone can get involved in the Wager on the Weather - a national competition where you forecast the weather around Australia and compete against the experts on TV, radio and at the Bureau of Meteorology.
5. Turn up at science centres, museums and libraries for science week events.

Check the science notice board for details on extension activities such as the **Earthwatch Institute Student Challenge Program 2003**. This program involves Year 10 or 11 students applying to work with research scientists on either Kangaroo Island or in the Wollemi and Barrington National Parks in NSW in the Christmas holidays for 6 days. Teams of 8 students from around Australia will be selected. The cost for the 2003 program is \$1100 so fund-raising would need to occur. Go to <http://www.earthwatch.org> for details.

Details on the Siemens Science Experience are on the science noticeboard and can be read online at www.scienceexperience.com.au. This is an excellent program for students entering Year 10 in 2004.

UHS REP IN CANBERRA

Mr G Marchant,
Student Leadership

Congratulations to Jessica Bradley of Year 11 who has been selected as the UHS representative for the Melbourne Rotary Trip to Canberra.

Jessica will be leaving for Canberra on Saturday 16th August for a week of activities relating to Student Leadership and the Australian political system.

She will be joined by students from around Australia who will be billeted almost exclusively with Rotary families. The program is conducted while Federal Parliament is sitting, which will enable the students to further appreciate Australia's great democratic traditions in operation. We wish Jessica all the best.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Entries close at the end of Term Three

Cash Prizes

Competition Rules and Entry Forms available from Room 306 or the General Office

Sponsored by



www.mcmanusarchitects.com.au

Whoops!

Miscalculated with the publication date for the next edition of *School News*. Because I'll be schussing down the slopes of Mt Hotham (trying to keep track of 40 adrenalin-pumped would-be Jean-Claude Killys) in mid August, I've had to delay publication of edition 6 by a week. Hopefully it will be in your letterboxes by Friday 5th September or thereabouts.

Contributors will need to make sure discs are in my pigeon hole or emails in my in-box by Monday 25th August at the latest.

Be thinking of you. Not!

GV

LOTE AT UHS

Ms Snjezana Singh, Head of LOTE

As the excitement of LOTE Week (18 – 22 August) builds up, I am prompted to consider the activities and events LOTE students and staff have engaged in so far this year and, indeed, what still lies in store.

Apart from the stimulating and challenging activities that take place on a daily basis in individual classrooms, students have taken part in:

- the annual Alliance Française poetry competition for Years 7 – 10. The VCE competition will be held in August. All French students participate in this (the number reaches in the hundreds!), and you no doubt would have heard about it at home. As this newsletter goes to print, we still await notification of the finalists.

- a film excursion to Astérix et Obélix for a group of students from Years 7 – 12, accompanied by Mrs Ritter and Mrs Stary, at The George Cinema in St.Kilda.

- exam preparation sessions for Year 12 students, run by the various subject associations. The students will continue to be assisted in this way as the exams approach, with somewhat more urgency, I imagine!

Our sister-school exchange program with Graf-Münster-Gymnasium in Bayreuth, Germany, is in its eighth year. In Term 1 we hosted 5 students from GMG and sent over 5 of our students in Term 2. They are due to return to Australia as this goes to press. Very shortly this term, we will be advertising for expressions of interest for the 2004 exchange. If your child is studying German in Years 9 or 10 this year, he/she is eligible to make an application.

Those are just a few of the things that have happened so far. The following events are scheduled for the weeks prior to LOTE Week:

- Year 9 Indonesian students will be going to Dallas Brookes Hall for Indonesian Day, then to Nelayan Restaurant in the City for lunch, on 25th July.

- Years 10, 11 and 12 Indonesian students are participating in a writing competition sponsored by the Indonesian Consulate, The University of Melbourne and VILTA (the Indonesian language association).

- Years 11 and 12 Indonesian students will be preparing for their detailed study and then going off to dinner with their teacher, Mrs Luste.

- Years 8 and 9 German students will be going to The University of Melbourne for the Goethe Poetry Competition on the 25th July.

- Year 7 French students will be attending the annual Café Français on the 23rd July, and will be ably served by a selection of Year 10 waiters and waitresses, also students of French.

- Years 8 and 9 German students will be going to Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School for the AGTV (Association of German Teacher's of Victoria) poetry competition on the 30th July.

LOTE Week itself promises to be the highlight of the LOTE year, though we'll be struggling to beat some of the activities mentioned above. As in previous years, we hope to involve as many students and staff in the events. Some features of the week include:

- the 'crêpe man', Robert Garric, on the Monday of LOTE week, cooking crêpes in the Breezeway all day for everyone to purchase. Students need to come armed with pocketfuls of yellow coins for this delicious and authentic French repast. Start saving now!

- an Indonesian lunch for staff and students of Indonesian, no doubt with musical entertainment provided by the students, as in previous years.

- a chocolate mousse competition for all French students to enter, if they wish. Of course, only the chocolatiest, smoothest, yummiest, most beautifully presented mousse can possibly win (the odd Eiffel Tower or two have been known to make an appearance on top of a mousse). Recipes are available upon request.

- a fashion parade. Last year's parade included toga-clad Roman citizens and Indonesian farmers. Who knows what lies ahead for this year?

- a number of German students will be going to The Cuckoo Restaurant in the Dandenongs to experience some fine German cuisine and be entertained in true German style.

As you can see, we have a serious problem getting away from 'foodie' events. But that's the greatest pleasure in learning another language... where would we be without champagne, croissants, nasi goreng, gado gado, kuchen, und das gute deutsche Bier??? LOTE Week is intended to be a fun week, and that's exactly what we plan to have.

On a more serious note, the LOTE Faculty has been busy in other ways to ensure the best possible delivery of LOTE programs to your children. Professional development activities, both in-house and external, were attended by LOTE staff. Six teachers spent a morning on an in-house professional development session on the Middle Years curriculum. They were asked to design a unit of work spanning several weeks of class time, using Multiple Intelligences strategies and the Thinking Curriculum principles. They are trialling the units this term and will evaluate and publish them in Term 4.

Further to the Middle Years work being done by all faculties, the LOTE faculty is planning to conduct visits to primary schools later this year to see first hand how LOTE programs are conducted. Our aim in doing this is to ensure a more successful LOTE transition for students entering Year 7.

There is currently a review of VCE LOTE under way, with proposed changes to be implemented in 2005. The changes involve the delivery of the VCE syllabi at the school level and the content of the final examinations. The Department of Education and Training is presently consulting with teachers regarding these changes and UHS is involved in the consultation process.

As some of you may be aware, there was a review of LOTE provision last year. In response to the recommendations made by the review committee, school networks have been asked to develop a Network Language Plan (NLP) by the end of this year, that encompasses both primary and secondary schools. Our school is currently involved in the writing of the NLP for our network.

Very soon students in Year 7, both in the mainstream and accelerated programs, will be asked to make language choices for Year 8. For the first time ever, Indonesian will be offered to Acceleration Program students in addition to French and German. Of course, they will continue to study Latin in Year 8 as well. For mainstream students, the choice remains the same: to continue with French, or start a new language (German, Indonesian or Latin). Whatever choice is made remains compulsory until the end of Year 10. If you wish to discuss your child's LOTE choices prior to the commencement of the actual process later this term, please feel free to ring me or Mrs Rosvoll (Assistant Head of LOTE) at any time. For further information about individual languages, you can ask to speak to the following teachers:

French - Ms Singh or Mrs Rosvoll; **German** - Mrs D'Adamo or Mr Ritter;
Indonesian - Mrs Chetty or Mrs Luste; **Latin** - Mrs Foxall or Mrs Tarr.

SPORTS LEGENDS

Ms S Hafey

Congratulations to Tim Wischussen of year 12 who was picked in the Victorian Under 21 Field Hockey Squad recently. Unfortunately Tim is just an alternate for the final team, but he still has 2 years left in this age group. Best of luck for next year's squad Tim!

Georgia Moore of year 11 is currently sunning herself in Perth, lucky thing! Well she's probably not being that lazy. Georgia is competing in the National Ice Hockey Championships. Good luck to Georgia and her team, and let's hope she impresses the National team selectors!

2003 ATTITUDES TO SCHOOL SURVEY

Rosalind Betson
Assistant Principal

The Office of School Education is now providing questionnaires for the *2003 Attitudes to School Survey* for students in Years 5 – 9, as part of a Middle Years Research Project.

A contractor employed by the Department of Education and Training, NES Pearson Pty Ltd, is analysing all data for all students in the state in Years 5 – 9.

University High School has also requested that Year 10 students be surveyed, as we have in the past for the Annual Report.

If you have any queries about this survey, please check the *Frequently Asked Questions* section at <http://www.sofweb.vic.edu/standards/improve/opinsurv.htm> or ring Sue Ternan in the Student Outcomes Division on 9637 3647.

University High School includes an analysis of Students Surveys as part of its accountability process published in the Annual Report.

The outcomes of this work will be very useful to our school and the Department. This is a Middle Years Project.

Hot Mikado

Adapted and Arranged by
ROB BOWMAN

A Musical Presented By The
MUSIC FACULTY
University High School



M.S. Sharman Hall

August 6,7,8 2003
7.30 PM

Tickets available at the General Office
Ph. 9347 2022

Ticket Prices	
#Adult	\$14
#Concession	\$8
UHS Student	\$7
#*Family	\$35

*2 Adults and 2 Children
*Includes GST

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