



The University High School SCHOOL NEWS

Number 6 September 2004

SNOW CAMP

Ruthie Hambling 9C1

Early Sunday morning, forty excited and sleepy kids climbed onto a bus ready for a long, six-hour drive. Destination? Mt



Hotham. We stopped once for a nutritious lunch at Macca's and arrived at the lodge on time, ready for our week at the snow.

Each day consisted of us waking at six forty-five, having breakfast at seven, and then - armed with sunscreen and chocolate - heading for the slopes for our lessons, that started at nine. At ten thirty, we would meet for our first break, and then ski or snowboard in groups until our long-awaited lunch. Afterwards, we again enjoyed more skiing and snowboarding until we headed home on the shuttle bus. In the afternoons we would lounge about until dinner; playing pool and Foosball or relaxing in the spa, until we eventually go to bed, exhausted, at ten-thirty.

Highlights of the week?

On Wednesday night we went night skiing; amid watching



people attempt our custom made jump (which I wasn't game enough to try), and fending off flying snowballs - it snowed! After skiing ten hours that day, we were all glad to go back to the lodge and I slept better that night than any other.

Throughout the week we had one concussion, one broken wrist, a pulled ligament and lots of bruises and sore muscles. From everyone, I'd like to thank the teachers who helped us off our backsides - countless numbers of times. The whole experience was great fun and I strongly recommend it to everyone!

ROTARY ADVENTURE IN CITIZENSHIP 2004

Bernard Fitzgerald

From Saturday 7th of August to Saturday 14th of August I participated in the Rotary Adventure in Citizenship 2004 program, which took place in Australia's capital city of Canberra. The aim of the program is to raise awareness about the privileges that come with Australian citizenship, and to educate the 47 young delegates who attended the program about the working of Australian Parliamentary Democracy. Students from all over Australia attended, with a total of six from Melbourne. All delegates were 'billeted' out to generous Rotary families, who organized the travel arrangements for the delegates to get to and from Parliament House every day.

Throughout the week many opportunities were given to the delegates to share their views of Australia's past, present and future. A mock bill debate, a mock senate enquiry and even a mock election (I was head of the Nationals) were held to give the delegates first hand

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experience of the 'checks and balances' process of Australian democracy; some delegates were also permitted to watch 'question time' in the House of Representatives. Other delegates got the opportunity to observe the Senate debating the Free Trade Agreement with the USA. Whilst watching this I found myself quite amused by the last One Nation senator, holding a federal seat in parliament, rave about his electorate. At least he had a go.

We also visited the Australian War Memorial; met with several parliamentarians; were given rather un-inspirational 'inspirational' speeches; and even went bowling!

My week in Canberra was very memorable and I advise anybody who wants to represent University High School at Rotary Adventure in Citizenship programs in the future, to take an interest in politics and in the working of parliament.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

September

- Monday 6 Year 7 Sports Day
- Thursday 9 Year 7-10 Parent Teacher interviews
- Tuesday 14 Year 8 Sports Day
- Wednesday 15 5:00pm Bulding and grounds meeting
6:15pm Finance Meeting
7:30 School Council
- Thursday 16 7-10 End of term Assembly
- Friday 17 End of term, early dismissal 2:30pm

October

- Monday 4 Term 4 begins
- Wednesday 6 Final date for Essence Photographic Competition
- Sunday 24 Musical Breakfast
- Wednesday 27 Year 12 Valedictory Assembly

November

- Tuesday 2 Melbourne Cup Day holiday
- Monday 15-21 School Art Exhibition begins
- Tuesday 30-
Friday 3(Dec) Year 8 Adventure Camp

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

SCHOOL NEWS PUBLICATION DATES

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

Term Three: September 13
Term Four: November 1 December 6

The deadline for contributions for the next edition is: Tuesday

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 October 11
 Monday November 8

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 September 15

ACTING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms. Rosalind Betson

Congratulations to all students and staff involved in the production of the Musical "Fiddler on the Roof". The three performance nights were extremely well attended with the Friday finale a wonderful success for all involved. We look forward to next year's production.

Book Week was also another successful Library production. Student posters were exhibited, the delights of wider reading highlighted and the staff morning tea gave people a chance to appreciate the work of students in the library. Despite the difficult Book quiz a few staff managed to have almost perfect scores.

LOTE Week took place from the 9th to 18th August. For French there were Crêpe Stalls, French Films for each class and a performance for Year 7 & 8C3 by Ced le Meledo - with puppets, guitar and an accordion. Year 7 also had a "snail" race on the oval. Year 12 had a performance by James Cannon who has visited the school before. All of this was a great success. Years 8, 9 and 10 went to see the Impressionist Exhibition at the State Gallery of Victoria. Indonesian had Satay stalls and an Indonesian lunch for staff and students.

German students went to the Cuckoo Restaurant in the Dandenongs and saw German classic films in the Performance Centre. All languages had displays in the Library. With Latin we watched Rome in the 1st Century AD and a dramatised reading of "the Siege of Troy". Jenny Tarr dressed as a Roman Matron and had a Roman feast, for year 12.

Science Week was the 16th to 20th August. There was a successful science week quiz and space videos were shown at lunchtime as part of an extensive program. Trips to the

museum, with one of our students winning a public speaking competition and other various excursions.

Transition of students in Year 10 going to Year 11 has commenced with an attendance of approximately 200 at the Year 10 VCE Parent Information Evening. The VCE team led by Kevin Campbell, after a welcome by the Acting Principal, outlined the process that students will go through in selecting their VCE subjects and the framework of the Certificate itself.

Angela Moylan the Work Education Co-ordinator gave an overview of tertiary course prerequisites and the ENTER score. The team also highlighted the need for a commitment from students, the need for self discipline, motivation and engagement, as students enter their final two year of schooling. Students are supported and guided by the VCE team and have the advantage of being taught by talented and committed teachers.

Students proceeding from Year 11 to Year 12 have made an initial subject selection which is being processed. They also received counselling and guidance from staff and the VCE team.

Congratulations to Mark Norrish of Year 8 for winning the Junior Section of the Melbourne University Mathematics Competition. Mark also won the Sir Thomas Cherry Prize - a book award.

It is hoped that there will be a good attendance at the 7-10 Parent Teacher Interviews that go from 3.30-4.30 p.m. and then 5.30 - 6.50 p.m. on September 9th. The Parents Association will be available to provide tea and coffee for parents during the tea break in the Performance Centre. The Year 11 Health class in conjunction with the school

ISDES group will present small vignettes to focus upon aspects of the Drug Education and Support Program, also in the Performance Centre.

Ms Bronwyn Valente the Principal of University High School will continue in her role as Acting Senior Education Officer with the Western Metropolitan Region until mid November.

SUBJECT CHOICES FOR 2005

Anne Miles
Acting Curriculum
Coordinator.

Presently the Year 10 students are choosing subjects for their VCE Course. The students need to consult a range of teachers before they submit their choices to the sub school. This ensures that students have made choices that are realistic and meet the requirements for their intended studies after school.

At the beginning of Term 4, all students in Year 7-9 will receive their Curriculum Handbook for 2005. This will be handed out at meetings in the first two weeks. There are a number of choices for subjects for these year levels. The choices will be explained at the meeting. Parents are encouraged to discuss the choices with their students prior to the students submitting the form to the sub school.

Year 9 students will need to submit their forms by October 20th.

Year 8 students will need to submit their forms by October 25th.

Year 7 students will need to submit their forms by October 27th.

If parents have further inquiries about subject selection after they have received the handbook, please feel free to contact me at the school on 93472022.

BRYCE VCE
Mr K. Campbell
Head of VCE

It is a very busy time for all VCE students with Year 12 students finishing many SACS and completing their courses. Students are to be congratulated for their endeavour and dedication to their work. Year 11 students will also be busy with many assessments.

A letter will be sent home early in term 4 with details about the Year 12 Valedictory Assembly to which all parents are invited and the requirements that we place on Year 12 students' as they are finishing school.

We encourage all students to be positive in their studies and seek help from their teacher or co-ordinator if they have any difficulty in completing the tables that are set. A few minutes of extra exploration can often make the difference.

EXAMS AND TIMETABLE FOR THE END OF THE YEAR.

Many parents have inquired about timelines for the end of the year.

Year 12 Exams

Each student will be given an individual timetable in the middle of September. Please check all venues carefully.

LOTE Oral

October 4th – 31st

Performance Exams

October 4th – 31st

Written Exams

October 29th

English

November 19th

Year 11 Exams

November 8th – 19th

Year 11 Re-enrolment:

Friday 29th November

YEAR 12 VALEDICTORY ASSEMBLY

All parents of Year 12 students are invited to our annual Valedictory Assembly on Wednesday 27th of October at 7:30pm in the Sharman Hall. Details will be given nearer the date.

CSIRO STUDENT RESEARCH SCHEME
Kevin Tan Year 11

Work undertaken:

My research program took place from the 28th June to the 1st July. A total of twenty eight and a half hours was spent in the laboratory, observing and participating in different activities relating to "Sensory Neuroscience".

28th June

I spent the morning becoming acquainted with my workplace and the scientists with whom I would be working. As I was allocated to work with a fellow student researcher for the four days, we were shown how to run an EOG, an Electrooculogram, which could measure eye movement, so we could run the tests on ourselves. After a run each, the results were collected, and the data was interpreted.

29th June

The morning was spent testing, and being tested, on an EEG. This measured the electrical brain activity when subjected to different smells. We were shown how computers were used to successfully facilitate this experiment, and were ourselves hooked up to many electrodes. The afternoon was spent participating in numerous bio/neuro/psychophysiological activities that were organised for a group of high academic achievers in VCE Psychology.

Activities included:

- * GSR
- * Doppler Blood Flow
- * EMG
- * Laser tissue perfusion
- * ECG
- * Mirror Writing
- * Pulse Oximeter
- * Reaction Timing

30th June

The morning was spent in the Physics lab, where we were exposed to the different applications of optical fibres, including that in the hospital and medical field. We were also shown highly developed machines, one of them, which monitored blood sugar levels with regards to Diabetes. The

afternoon was spent using microscopes, and the applications they had with the Sensory Neuroscience area. I also spent the day being routinely tested on the Optalert test, which examined fatigue in relation to eye alert. A pair of infrared glasses were worn to test that.

1st July

This day was spent wrapping up the activities. We were given an eye test, as well as a smell test. In the smell test, we were subjected to sniffing sticks of different concentrations, ultimately used to check for our noses' Threshold, Screening, Discrimination, and Identification abilities.

My Impressions:

During the four days I spent with the researchers, I was shown many aspects of researching. Indeed, I realised the many joys and interests of research, but I was also truthfully illustrated to the downside of research, which can be, at times, somewhat tedious. Overall, however, I was very much impressed by the research undertaken by the scientists I worked with, and the experience has indeed opened me up to many other fields of science I had previously been unaware of.

My presentation to my peers:

My presentation to my peers was very much a success. Many of my friends, after having heard of the activities I had undertaken, told me that they wished they had participated. Some of them pulled me aside later on simply to find out more about the activities I had undertaken, and even asked me to briefly explain the science involved in the tests. Overall, I would say that there were quite a few students who showed keen interest in the activities I had done.

Suggestions:

No, overall, I thought that the experience was tremendous. I wouldn't change anything about it. Perhaps it could be more publicised so as to increase student awareness. I found that some of my friends hadn't heard about it.

Q Musical Breakfast

*Sunday October 24
M.S. Sharman Hall*

9:30am – 11:30am

Tickets:

Family (2 adults 2 children)

\$45

Adults

\$15

Concession

\$10

(all prices GST inclusive)

SCIENCE NEWS

Justine Hamilton

On Tuesday 17 August - during science week - I went with a group of year 9 students to the museum, to cheer on Tara Macaulay who had been selected as a finalist in *Talking up Science 2004* run by the CSIRO and the museum.

She had chosen as her topic "The war of water" and went on stage to speak fluently and with confidence.

After listening to the 5 finalists the judges deliberated and Tara was chosen as overall winner, due to the range and depth of scientific information that she included. She won \$150 for herself and \$150 for the science department; well-done Tara.

At school the winner of the Science Week Quiz was Aleks Misev of 7S3. The questions were challenging and it was an impressive achievement that

Alex answered 90% of the questions correctly.

During August, September and October, students in Year 11 and one student from Year 9 are sitting the qualifying exams for the Science Olympiads. They have spent time before school, lunchtimes and after school preparing and are sitting the exams on Wednesday afternoons. It is to their credit that they have the commitment and interest to involve themselves in this program.

Students participating are: Kevin Tan; Katrina Qin; Tra-My Nguyen; Linda Al Ibrahim; Selina Leung; Lucy Liu; Emily O'Donnell; Xiu Xian Chia; Katherine Clarke; Emma Leitinger; Christopher Loo; Laurence Cremean; Leon Di Stefano; Supun Ambepitiya; Andrew Ma; David Jennens; Tian Xu; Lisa Tescher; and Ryma Terbah.

DEBATING YEARS 7 & 8

J. Unger

Rebuttal can be very difficult to master in debating. A speaker has to note the points of a member of the opposing team and quickly devise arguments against them. A minute later the speaker is in front of the audience, attempting to fluently deliver this rebuttal. This is why the performance of our Year 7 and 8 debaters was so outstanding in their first round at Melbourne Grammar on Wednesday September 2nd; they all succeeded in this task of rebuttal when for many, it was their first debate.

The week before all our teams completed a training session, where the subtleties of the rules were revealed. Useful hints on how to allocate arguments and the main qualities adjudicators looked for were utilized by our students in the following week of preparation for the topic 'That school sport should be compulsory'.

Thanks to the teachers, students and parents who struggled through peak hour traffic to support our junior debaters, and special thanks to Ms Paxinos and Ms Hughes for organizing debating this year.

SENIOR DEBATING

David Jennens Year 11

Over the past year University High School has put forward many teams in each of the four debating grades. The only opponents in our district are Melbourne Girls, MacRobinson Girls and Melbourne High so the competition is fairly

difficult and each school gets to put forward many teams. Unfortunately of all the teams we put forward only one got into the final, even then it was only from an appeal.

Originally, the team that made it lost to Melbourne High in a fight for the finals position. Many in the audience felt that the adjudicator had made the wrong decision and some decided to lodge an appeal. Surprisingly the appeal was upheld and Uni High's B Grade team found themselves thrust into the finals; they found out with only a week to go. Luckily the topic was a secret one so no preparation was needed.

One hour before the debate began the topic was given out it was: That the Olympics have lost their meaning. The teams then spent an hour preparing their arguments and getting ready to debate.

During the debate it seemed pretty close between the two teams until Ivanhoe's last speaker stood up. She spoke brilliantly and fluently and tipped the balance toward Ivanhoe, not surprisingly, the adjudicator agreed. Ivanhoe Girls won by 6 points and their last debater got best speaker. No one in the audience disagreed about this particular decision.

Even though only one team made it to the finals it was a great effort from all involved. It was both fun and challenging, worth trying at least once in your life. We would also like to thank all those people who bravely stepped in to fill up teams and replace missing speakers; they performed admirably.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Roslyn Jackman

Year 11 and 12 International Studies students went to the Nova Cinemas on 3rd August to see controversial filmmaker Michael Moore's latest documentary, *Fahrenheit 9/11*. After winning the prestigious Palm D'Or prize at the Cannes Film Festival, the film finally reached a global audience after being suppressed for some time by film distributors in America. The honesty of the content and the validity of Moore's opinions on George W. Bush and his administration's foreign policy have been hotly debated in various spheres, and we decided to bring this debate into our classroom. Here are some Year 11 responses to the film:

Abbie Couchman

Coming out of *Fahrenheit 9/11* I felt very sad, and a little brain washed. Images of a bombed out Iraq, and innocent civilians (often children) with horrific injuries, were awful. The story of a woman who had lost her son at war was tragic.

Was it wrong with Michael Moore to use that absolute grief in a movie of political prejudice?

In the example of the woman who has lost her son, I guess what is important was Moore's actual intention. Some claimed it was a tactical tearjerker. Yes, it was a tearjerker, but certainly not just a sob story; it was more complex than that. He tapped into the average person's reasoning of war, and why it is that level headed women actually encourage their children to join military forces.

What I really found wrong, and unnecessary, was Moore's one-sided portrayal of Iraq before and after the war. Pictures of children flying kites fail to portray Iraq as it was before the war. Selecting happy images here and there, and then contrasting them with images that made me feel sick, was unnecessary, and I think, damaging to the tone of the movie. It would have been

more insightful, also respectful to the intelligence of the audience, to present a less blatantly biased (and even ignorant) a view.

But that's Moore's style. To say that the movie needed to present arguments with a less biased view would be to state the obvious.

So *Fahrenheit 9/11* was propaganda, it was also interesting, entertaining and confronting. It brought some worthy ideas and issues into the public arena, and Moore should be congratulated for being game enough to give rise to some much-needed debate!

Luke Dodemaide

Hippies and socialists have always liked a little bit of a whinge, as has Michael Moore. But just like faded jeans and trucker hats, 'Bush bashing' seems to be the new fashionable thing to do. Even those who knew little or nothing about politics are graduating to instant experts faster than you can say 'Bush is an idiot'.

Whether or not you agree with the war in Iraq, you can not deny the majority of views Michael Moore presents to us in his new movie 'Fahrenheit 9/11' are drastically and overly critical.

One of the main points of the film, the key reason why millions of Americans should be convinced to tick John Kerry's box come ballot time, is purely based around George Bush's proud golf swing and the brief lay off he took from the world's most demanding job a couple of years ago.

After seeing how evil Bush was depicted, I was surprised he didn't laugh like Dr. Evil when told America was under attack in the classroom scene.

Moore fires more shots at Bush than were shot in Iraq, but John Kerry's presidential campaign may just be the ultimate causality.

Danny Clayton-Chubb

Michael Moore's latest pseudo-documentary is a bloated, biased, anti-American, manipulative film. Selective film footage (a small child running happily with a kite... in pre war Iraq), George Bush taken out of context and made to look stupid ("watch my drive!" After an obviously impromptu press conference on a gold course) leads the viewer to establish a very anti-war, anti-US Administration viewpoint - without even realizing that they are being manipulated.

But is everything Moore said even true? No, the US wasn't the only member of the aptly named 'Coalition of the willing' that has troops in Iraq. His view of Iraq before the war led the viewer to think of it as a Utopia. Sunni and Shiite groups aren't merging to create another huge war. Michael Moore implied that all of this was actually happening.

The overlong documentary uses no real evidence to convince viewers of Moore's extremist point of view. It is a fairly enjoyable film that presents an alternative viewpoint, but it is impossible to discern true fact from fiction. Is it balanced and informative? This is Michael Moore... of course not.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS COMPETITION 2004 A. Donoghue

Students from University High School achieved some impressive results in the competition. The students were required to solve complex problems over a 2-3 hour time limit.

In the Senior Division, Ray Komatsu received an Outstanding Award; Tian Xu and Jasmine Zhu received Certificate of Merit awards.

YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY PROGRAM, 2004

Rory Brown

The Youth in Philanthropy Program was conceived by the well-known charity organization, the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund, in the hopes of engaging high school students from around Melbourne to participate in charity work, and to raise awareness of charities in the community.

As the school had participated successfully in the program before, the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund asked the school to take part again this year, along with eight other high schools across the city.

Each school forms a group of students, most around four to eight strong, which is assigned three charities that they must research and visit.

In this way the students are able to learn about the daily operations of the charities, the way they are run and the types of assistance they provide.

Each group also receives help and advice from one of the Fund's members, in our case Mr Terry McDonald, the chairman of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund's grants committee, and they are allocated \$15 000, and are required to make a recommendation as to how the money should be spent in relation to their three charities. This year the University High School group consisted of Helen Mason, Alain Hart, Tiffany Tiong and myself, all from year 11, and

In the Junior Division, Mark Norrish received First Prize; Harry Jennens and Timothy Loh received Outstanding Awards; Stefan Genat, Joshua Weberruss and Shirley Wong received Certificate of Merit awards.

Congratulations to all who entered this demanding competition.



we were assigned the Church of All Nations, Melbourne City Mission and EPIC, an early education program for children with mental disabilities.

The Church of All Nations, which we visited first, is a small church in Carlton, and they provide food aid, basic shelter and help establish long-term accommodation and employment for homeless people, newly arrived refugees and others in need in their immediate area.

The church maintains a small recreational area for people to use in the day, and most of their funding is provided by larger church charities and their own congregation, as well as some government funding.

Due to the obvious importance of such work, we decided that the church should be a high priority, and recommended that they receive \$5500 from the fund.

The next charity we were assigned was by far the largest, Melbourne City Mission, who are this year celebrating their 150th anniversary.

Melbourne City Mission are very well known throughout Melbourne and are responsible for many organising many high-profile fund raising events like the 'winter sleep out'.

City Mission were applying for the grant specifically for a

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY STUDENT MATHS OLYMPICS

University High School had two teams competing in the Melbourne University Student Maths Olympics on Discovery Day. The team comprising of : Ray Komatsu; Wang Chung Wei; Tian Xu; Jasmine Zhu; and Han Gan Lian, came second overall.

Congratulations to both teams who were extremely competitive against a broad spectrum of schools from throughout Melbourne.

program to provide temporary accommodation to homeless youths, which would teach them independence and home management skills.

After a great deal of consideration, we decided that Melbourne City Mission's request was a lower priority than the other two charities because their program was only going to be able to help about ten people at a time, and their request of \$8500 was going to be very difficult to meet, in light of the needs of the other two. We also felt that City Mission's high profile and considerable government funding would make it easier for them to secure funds elsewhere, as opposed to the two smaller charities. In the end we recommended they receive \$4000.

The final charity on our list was EPIC, which is a specialised school for intellectually disabled children.

EPIC is funded by fees and donations from parents, and their program revolves largely around teaching children basic feeding and communication skills. EPIC also plays an important role in tracking their student's progress through the mainstream education system, and providing any further assistance that may be required later on.

Their request was specifically based upon the need for a new range of tools to teach younger children how to perform the act of drinking safely, and new materials for their speech therapy program.

As they provide a life-changing service, and they take the extra step of looking out for their students all through their education, we felt that EPIC was a high priority for the Fund, and recommended that they receive \$5500.

The conclusion we drew from our experience in the Youth in Philanthropy program was that all charities deserve help, but those in greatest need should become our first priority.

LOTE WEEK 2004

Ms S. Singh

We can now officially say (because it's all over and we've had a bit of a rest) that LOTE Week was once again a roaring success. There are great tales to be told about the Snail Races, Ced Le Méledo, the Indonesian lunch, the 'Crêpe' Man, German movies and excursion to The Cuckoo restaurant, the Chocolate Mousse competition (bigger and glitzier than ever), James Cannon, guitarist and singer of French ballads, and so on and so forth. Anyone remotely within cooee of Uni High was, and could have been, involved in a LOTE Week activity. I hope you enjoy reading the reports below of a few of the highlights of the week.

BERITA INDONESIA (INDONESIAN NEWS)

Ms Monica Chetty

One Indonesian activity of LOTE Week was the Warrung Satay. A satay stall was set up so that all students had the opportunity to taste authentic Indonesian satay. The students also did some activities on Olympiad 2004. One of the highlights of LOTE Week is the catered Indonesian lunch. All students of Bahasa Indonesia and the staff of University High School enjoyed a delicious makanan Indonesia. The Year 9 students are currently participating in Indonesian dance lessons as part of LOTE Week activities. The school has engaged a Sudanese dance instructor in order to give students an opportunity to participate in a cultural activity. This series of lessons will culminate in a 'mini dance performance'.

JAMES CANNON SINGER/GUITARIST

Jack Grant

Yr 12 French student

During LOTE Week the Year 12 French students were temporarily alleviated from the horrors of their studies and treated to a performance of some well-known French songs by Melbourne University tutor, James Cannon.

What was great about his performance was that many of the songs had similar concerns to the themes studied in our *étude approfondie* – a detailed study, through which the class looks at France, and French and Australian cultures, focusing on a particular aspect to study in detail. Our class studies *les étrangers* – outsiders. We study the problems facing French and Australian societies in dealing with people who are different, not accepted and often ostracised. James performed (among 6 others), *Salut Manouche*, a song that talks about gypsies and the *HLMs* (like commission flats). The song uses a lot of French *argot* – slang – which is common in songs; however, these terms can also be completely foreign to a student of French grammar. This *argot* is used frequently in one of the three texts VCE French students study in detail – so to have many of the words explained was certainly beneficial to enhance our

understanding of that text, as well as the song.

What was so great about James was that he explained each song before he sang it so that we really understood where the singer was coming from and what the reactions from the society were at that time. According to James, listening to French songs and mouthing the words is a really good way to enhance your pronunciation skills. I think that we all really enjoyed the performance – the escape – and I would like to thank James and everyone involved for making it possible for us.

LATIN

Mrs J. Stary

Year 7 and 9 Latin students took part in several special activities: they worked on projects to do with famous Romans, Roman emperors and Roman deities; watched episodes of the serial 'Rome in the 1st Century'; performed dramatised readings of parts of The Iliad (specially adapted) and began writing a play, to be performed later in the year.

GERMAN

Mr. C. Ritter

All German classes got to participate in LOTE Week. Year 10 classes saw the Zoo in a new light on the Tuesday, in German, that is. Das Elefant is easy enough, but try and work out what ein Schnabeltier is in a hurry! (it's a platypus). Wednesday had a Wild West theme. What's that got to do with German, I hear you ask? Plenty, when you realise that all German children are raised on Cowboy and Indian books by German author Karl May. The Year 8s saw a recent spoof of these books, *The Shoe of Manitu* by German director/comedian Michael 'Bully' Herbig: the most successful German movie of all time!

Thursday was the highlight of the week: lunch with entertainment at The Cuckoo restaurant at Olinda. The spectacle of a teacher yodelling was a highlight, as was the food – as much as you could eat! Friday was more serious: the Year 12s venturing to Monash University for the annual Goethe Poetry Competition. While not reaching the heights of last year (Nicola Dunn won First Prize), Elisse Buchlak made it to the final. "Eine gemütliche Woche" was had by all.



LIBRARY NEWS – CELEBRATING READING AND WRITING

Rob Castles & Kate Marquard

We are delighted to announce that two of our students have won awards for their reviews.

Kevin Tan of Year 11 won The Age/CBC Young Reviewer of the Year (ROTY award) with his review of *Abyssinia* by Ursula Dubosarsky. With the award came \$500 of book vouchers for Kevin and \$1000 for the school library.

Cordelia Rice of 9C1 was one of 10 winners in the "150 years 150 books 150 words" competition run by the Australian Centre for Youth Literature and The Age at the State Library. Cordelia read her review at the awards event on September 1st at Storey Hall, RMIT. She was presented with books; enjoyed a celebratory lunch with Mrs. Terry Bracks, several authors and the ACYL; participated in a writing workshop with Adam Ford; and took a behind the scenes tour of the State Library.

Read the 2 reviews and come and borrow the books from the library; don't forget to borrow your holiday reading!

150 YEARS 150 BOOKS 150 WORDS Cordelia Rice 9C1

One hundred and fifty books, one hundred and fifty words and one massive tidal wave poised to wipe out all but one. The colours mix and blur until slowly one comes into focus: Picnic at Hanging Rock. Suddenly you are surrounded by gum trees and looming rock on a hot summers day. White cotton chemise skirts and the crunch of carriage wheels on gravel. Botticelli beauties waft silently over knee-high grass and disappear. Never to be seen again...

The scene is set and the plot twists wildly leaving you feeling as if you have sat in the sun too long and someone has just doused you with icy cold water. This is why this book should be saved. It makes you think and imagine and dream. It makes you wonder and exclaim. It will keep you awake at night. It makes you feel alive.

MELBOURNE WRITERS' FESTIVAL

L. Phelan

English Faculty

Congratulations to Year 12 UHS student Aaron Orzech. Aaron's "Driftwood" was published in *Inscape 10*. *Inscape* is an annual collection of some of the most accomplished and exciting fiction and poetry written by Victorian secondary students and is launched each year as part of the Melbourne Writers' Festival.

On Friday 27th August well-known writer and Chair of the Literature Board of the Australia Council, Peter Goldsworthy, spoke to an appreciative crowd in The Bagging Room at the Malthouse on the pleasures of meeting a new generation of writers and presented *Inscape's* 2004 awards. Aaron was then invited to read his piece aloud. Well done, Aaron.

KEVIN TAN YEAR 11

A gripping psychological thriller would indeed inadequately describe *Abyssinia*, the latest novel by Ursula Dubosarsky. Set amidst a co-existence of two parallel worlds, the compelling novel captivates readers in an enchanting tale of childhood innocence, constantly prompting readers to question the sense of reality and truth.

Lost, confused and unable to recall much of her past, Sarah awakes to find herself in a peculiar house with rather strange inhabitants. An apprehensive boy, Gus, talks of venturing to a mysterious land called *Abyssinia*, apparently to retrieve his lost sister. His house is notably crammed with furniture and toys, among which stands an eerie dollhouse that seems to be linked to another world. Add to this a mysterious, blind father and a hypnotised mother who has been rendered lifeless, leaving Sarah in a dilemma as to what to do or why she was even there.

Meanwhile, in another world, two inseparable sisters, Grace and Mary living in *Abyssinia*, often play with their doll set, which similarly appears to be connected to Sarah's world. What secrets do the dollhouses conceal? What is it with the dolls?

This highly descriptive, mind teasing novel eloquently raises questions on the validity of one's reality and certainly disproves many hypotheses readers undoubtedly make along the way. Bound on a mesmerizing journey of painful self-realisation, readers are indeed treated to a tale of not one, but two, disturbing realities, both of which seem to be somehow linked by a mysterious dollhouse.

Abyssinia truly is a beautifully paced novel based on childhood thoughts and perceptions. Indeed, it does become rather puzzling at times, but satisfying nevertheless. It is a definite 'must read' for those seeking a complex and intriguing novel that will leave you guessing right until the very end. Perhaps then you'll even question your own reality.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION REPORT

David Gurr, President.

Two important functions of the Parents' Association are helping the school community through fundraising and the financial support of programs. Our major fundraising event is the annual book sale, which will occur again in November. As always we are looking for parents to be involved in the running of this activity; offers of help can be made to Jennifer Mansfield who will pass your details to the coordinator. Email: jenniem@planet.net.au

The money raised from the book sale is made available to the school community through our Small Grants Program. This year, we have allocated money to the following projects:

- Purchase of a backstage communication system for the Drama Department
- Support for the publication of Web of Stories, a collection of stories written by Year 7 students as part of the Artist in Residence program.
- Support towards the purchase of Music Wing Curtains.
- Support towards the purchase of a new piano for the Music Faculty.
- Contribution to support the hospitality costs associated with the New Parent and Valedictory evenings.
- Sponsoring of the Year 12 Drama Award.

Information on the Small Grants Program can be obtained from David Gurr (email: d.gurr@unimelb.edu.au) Applications are accepted at any time and considered at the next available meeting.

At the parent/teacher meetings you may like to chat to members of the PA as we generally help out in providing tea/coffee in the Performing Arts Centre during the afternoon and evening. Often during the afternoon break the school organises presentations. At the most recent meetings, we were stimulated and informed by presentations related to the successful drug education program run by the school.

AUSTRALIAN VICTORY IN NEW ZEALAND

By Ryma Terbah Yr. 11

On the 4th June, seven Australian teammates and I eagerly boarded the QANTAS flight that would take us to New Zealand to take on the Kiwi's in the annual Trans Tasman Petanque Championship. (Petanque is the French version of bocce, played with smaller metal balls, generally on a gravel surface.)

After a three-hour flight into Wellington, and a further two-hour drive through the winding roads of the Rimutaka Mountain Ranges, we finally arrived at our destination of Masterton. We were greeted at the town hall by the mayor of Masterton in a traditional Maori ceremony, which included Maori songs, and of course, the Haka.

The first day of the championship dawned and we drove to the indoor grounds, where we immediately huddled



around the fires in a bid to escape the 6°C temperature and icy wind outside. After the completion of the opening ceremony and the taking of the team photos, we came down to the serious end of the competition. The score was fairly close the whole way, but at the end of the first day we had a small but convincing lead. The next day, although we were leading, we knew that we could not afford to let out guard down. The Kiwi's came out fighting hard, knowing they had a lot of ground to make up if they were to win the trophy. But we were up to the challenge, fighting equally hard, knowing that we had to at least match a win for a win to hold on. At the end of the championship, the Kiwi's had played well, but could not match our determination and fighting spirit. Our hard work and training had paid off, with Australia winning the trophy for 2004.

The New Zealanders showed a great spirit and we all had a great time, forming strong bonds of friendship with our trans-Tasman neighbours. Defeat on their home soil has made the Kiwi's even more determined to win the trophy back next year in Sydney.



*The Drug Awareness Program (ISDES),
and Year 11 Health and Human Development students
at
The University High School
cordially invite
you
to attend interactive vignettes
on
"Issues in the 21st Century"*

These Year 11 students are giving their time and effort both as part of their YCE work ethic and as active members of the UHS community. They anticipate and look forward to your input and participation!

*Do PLEASE come and join us,
Thursday, 9th September, 4:30 to 5:30pm
At the year 7-10 parent teacher night*

*Have a coffee or tea, kindly donated by the UHS Parents Association, in the Performance Centre.
Enjoy the work and be proud of our new Global citizens...your children and...UHS students!!*

END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES 2004

Amanda Watson

The End of Year Activities for all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will take place between Monday 13 and Thursday 16 December 2004.

Students will have a choice of full day and half-day activities. Students must return their completed selection and permission forms to the box in their sub-school by Friday 10 September. No payment is required on this day. An invoice will be prepared for each student, listing the selected activities and total cost and will be posted home in October.

Payment will take place between Monday 26 October and Friday 12 November at the General Office.

Please remember that as all activities have been pre-booked no refunds will be given.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The Essence Team

The annual UHS-Essence Photographic Competition is on again. After some doubt as to whether Essence would be published this year, we can now confirm that it will, and consequently, the photo competition is on too.

But the catch – you haven't got much time! Entries will close on the first Wednesday of term 4 – that's October 6th – so you'll need to get into action straight away.

The rules for the competition and all you need to know regarding the different categories of entry are available on the entry form. You will need a separate entry form for each photograph you enter. Entry forms are available from the General Office or from Mr Viney in room 306, or can be downloaded from the school website at:
www.unihigh.vic.edu.au/photocomp.htm

UHS 'OLD BOYS' FOOTBALL CLUB

Greg Catterall
Secretary

At the end of the home and away rounds UHS Old Boys football club 1st XVIII finished 4th and Reserves 3rd in D3 VAFA competition.

Last weekend both teams played St Johns Old Boys in the second semi final. The 1st XVIII held a small lead at half time and looked in a good position to continue through the finals. After kicking against the wind in the 3rd quarter we set about reducing St Johns lead and fell 5pts short.

The Reserves led all day until 2 minutes to go when a goal to St Johns gave them a 5-point lead. Our Under 19 side finished the season with one win and we look forward to many UHS students joining the side in 2005.

Pre season for 2005 will start in January. The VAFA is an amateur competition but is a high standard and professionally run.

For more details visit www.uhsobvu.com or contact Secretary Greg Catterall 9212 1528

<p style="text-align: center;">TERM 3 VACATION WORKSHOPS For Year 9, 10 & 11 Students Presented by ICS learning Group Countdown to Exams</p> <p>These popular Vacation Study Workshops are open to all students & Will be held at MLC, Kew. Monday 27 to Thursday 29 September <i>Advanced Reading Skills</i> <i>Study skills</i> <i>Essay Writing Skills</i></p> <p>Class sizes are limited. Early booking advised.</p> <p>For more information & enrolment details Contact ICS on 9818 3888 or Download from our web site www.skillscentre.com.au</p>
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PAVER UPDATE

Haydn Moyle
School Council

The School Council has attempted to contact students who left the school over the last fifteen years. Obviously a number of students have changed addresses. We have also contacted a number of Alumni via the website schoolfriends.com. Every member of the school community should have received a paver order form in the mail. Unfortunately these were not attached with the newsletter as requested, however the mailing company has agreed to meet the costs due to their error.

Response to this project has been a little disappointing so far, but we have had about 30 orders so far with more coming in each day. We need 500 orders (3000 available) to complete the project. The aim of this fundraising effort was to pave a heavily trafficked area and hopefully raise some funds to improve the School Hall facilities. We also hoped to update our Alumni records. We hope that all members of the school will support this project.

If you have not ordered your paver, you have until November 19. Remember it's tax deductible and you are supporting your school.

One of our students has ordered the first hand drawn paver. We also had an order from Dr. Alf Howard A.M. 1923, who is the last surviving member of Sir Douglas Mawson's 1929 expedition to Antarctica. He may also be the oldest surviving Alumni member. Plans are under way for a 50th reunion of the 1954 Alumni, and next year celebrates the 25th year of the Acceleration Program. We also have a list of the 1984 Alumni, if anyone is interested in organising a 20th year gathering.

If you know an ex-student or staff who may be interested in an engraved paver, or simply updating their contact details, forms are available on the school website.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF.

Simon Coles, Year 12

Monday afternoon at University High School has been a little bit quieter of late. Instead of close to a hundred students flocking to the Performance Centre with the light of purpose in their eyes, one sees dozens of students with teary-eyed smiles and looks of confusion plastered on their faces. The 2004 Musical is over, and they rest comfortably on the back of their stellar performance. This year's production of 'Fiddler on the Roof' was the most financially successful University High School Musical of all time, and in terms of pure heart and soul, would rank as one of the most gratifying for the participants.

As a musical - or rather a play with some of the greatest music ever written - Fiddler on the Roof is an emotion charged piece, requiring an enormous effort from all involved. The density of plot, however, provided the perfect vehicle for the talent of the Uni High students. It is precisely this level of achievement that has attracted such a large expression of interest to the musicals. With an onstage cast of 95, this musical has proved to be well beyond the realms of Mr. Coles' wildest dreams some 10 years ago.

Fiddler on the Roof is based in the small Russian village of Anatevka. It recounts the story

of a Russian Jew, Tevye (Simon Coles), his wife Golde (Sarah Zeleznikow) and his family of 5 daughters (Alexandra Roberts, Sophie Weiss, Jennifer Coles, Lily Gordon, and Merinda Miles). Tevye receives an offer from the town's wealthy butcher, Lazar Wolfe (Max Reiss) to marry his eldest daughter Tzeitel (Alexandra Roberts). He breaks the agreement - going against long established tradition - to allow his daughter to marry her choice, the tailor Motel (Duncan Campbell). His second eldest Hodel (Sophie Weiss) falls in love with a socialist revolutionary named Perchik (Callum McDonald), and by appealing to Tevye's emotions, they are also given his permission to marry. However, Tevye's will holds strong when his daughter Chava (Jennifer Coles) begs him to accept her marriage outside to an Orthodox Russian, Fyedka (Daniel Out), and Tevye is forced to disown her. After a lifetime in Anatevka, an edict is issued ordering all Jews to leave their homes. The final curtain falls on Tevye and his family preparing for their new life in America.

While rehearsals began in February, the casting was not completed until quite late this year. Rather than the traditional casting before the end of Term 1, the musical was not fully cast until mid Term 2 - a true indication of the immense talent pool that the musical drew this

year. The commitment shown by every student in 'Fiddler' has been absolutely marvellous and has achieved the impossible and set a generation of students into the musical groove.

Mention should be made of the departing Year 12s and their talented juggling of both academic and extracurricular activities. Simon Coles, Sarah Zeleznikow, Sophie Weiss, Tim Farhall and Duncan Campbell, with their years of combined experience, have left a mark on the musical which will not disappear soon. Whether they joined as year 7s in the Days of Little Interest as Simon and Sarah did, or exploded onto the scene like Sophie in 2003, the Year 12s have been the lifeblood of the musical.

If the principals are the lifeblood, then the chorus are certainly the heart and soul. The commitment and energy of the junior school, and particularly that of the year 7's (who showed up, bright eyed and bushy tailed to the first 'interest' session), was absolutely remarkable. Together, the full cast, crew, and orchestra created a remarkable atmosphere on three nights in mid-August. The product of this - 'Fiddler on the Roof' - added an extremely bright jewel to University High School's sparkling crown.



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