



The University High School

SCHOOL NEWS

Number 4 June 2002

THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms Bronwyn Valente

SCHOOL COUNCIL

At the May Council meeting Mr Ken Cunningham reported on the recent triennial review of the school.

He reported he had reviewed the previous three years of progress against the DE&T guidelines and found that:

- the VCE results, particularly in 2001, were outstanding and superior to schools in the like group.
- the diversity of students and the wide variety of programs offered, including co-curricular activities for all students, were a great strength.
- the desire for many more students to seek enrolment than places available was testament to the community regard for the school.
- the sub-school structure was very successful and that parents' perception of the school has improved significantly over the three years. This was supported by the student survey.
- the areas identified for further development related to the drop in the staff opinion survey in 2001, and the increase in absences at year 10.

He concluded that the school has achieved outstanding results in every regard over the past three years.

In response to this report, Council and staff are currently working on the goals and priorities for the coming three years. A summary of the areas is included in this edition of *School News*. Please seek clarification or give comments to a member of Council, Dr R Benson or me.

At the same Council meeting the Parents' Association gave a presentation in relation to a proposal to organise a SEARCH conference with a view to improving parent participation.

The Council also considered issues relating to GTAC, facilities development and dispersal of funds.

GTAC

More detailed floor plans are now prepared and are currently on view in the library. Elevations and external design are still being considered. It is hoped these will be available early in June. If you are interested in looking at these and commenting, please check the web site where the most recent news will be posted (www.unihigh.vic.edu.au/GTAC/gtac.htm).

Council endorsed a proposal to include in the GTAC building a classroom, which will be for use on a daily basis by VCE students. Access will be from the second floor of the South wing. This will relieve pressure on classroom space in other areas of the school and enable the development of computer pods and other computer resources to be made more easily available to students.

MINISTER'S VISIT

The Minister for Education, the Hon L Kosky, M.P. visited the school during education week. She visited the GTAC lab and saw the program in operation as well as meeting the SRC from University High. The members of the SRC were delighted by the Minister's interest in their views regarding what makes a good school, and they have been invited to prepare a detailed response for her.

Continued page 3...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

- Thursday 6: Mid-year Concert.
Monday 10: Queen's Birthday.
Tuesday 11: VCE Unit 1 & 3 examinations begin.
Thursday 13: General Achievement Test (GAT), year 12.
Student-free day; report writing.
Monday 24: Year 10 (& Year 9 AP) Work Experience begins.
Friday 28: Term Two ends: 2:30pm dismissal.

July

- Monday 15: Term Three commences.
Wednesday 17: Music Rehearsal Camp begins. (Note change of date from previously advertised)
Monday 22: Years 7 - 10 reports issued.
Editor's Birthday.
Tuesday 23: VCE Parent/Teacher interviews.
Thursday 25: Australian National Chemistry Quiz.
Tuesday 30: Australian Mathematics Competition.

August

- Monday 5: Years 7 - 10 Parent/Teacher interviews.
Tuesday 6: AIM English.
Wednesday 7: AIM Mathematics.
School Musical Opening Night.
Sunday 18: Mt Hotham Snow Camp departs.

SCHOOL NEWS PUBLICATION DATES

- Term 3: August 2 September 6
Term 4: October 25 November 29

For contribution deadlines, count back
9 days from publication dates.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The PA meets in the school staffroom on the 4th Monday of each month.
All parents are welcome to attend. The next meetings are:

- Monday 24 June, 7:00pm
Monday 22 July, 7:00pm
Monday 26 August, 7:00pm

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday 19 June, 7:30pm
Wednesday 17 July, 7:30pm
Wednesday 21 August, 7:30pm



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AN OVERVIEW.

The U.H.S. Parents' Association meets monthly at the School. Membership is open to all U.H.S. parents, and you are warmly encouraged to be a part of this association, which involves itself in school activities ranging from discussions about policy and directions, through to fundraising, with a bit of socialising thrown in.

Over recent years we have had input into a number of areas, including discussion about languages taught at the school (the Latin / LOTE debate), consideration of the School's Camps Policy, and being part of the discussion and consultation process regarding the G.T.A.C. building project. Many matters of policy arise within a school setting, and a Parents' Association is a legitimate and constructive participant in consultation and debate.

The P.A. is also a communication channel, assisting in the exchange of information and ideas between parents and the School's administration. A representative usually attends School Council meetings and reports back to the Parents' Association on Council matters. Often the Principal, Council President, or others from Council attend our meetings to discuss matters, clarify points, and listen to the points of view expressed by parents.

We are at present considering changes to the P.A.'s Financial and Donations Policy. A draft has been prepared and will be discussed further at our next meeting. Recent end-of-year book sales (our major fund-raiser) have raised between \$5000 and \$7000 annually for the School.

It is the intention of the current P.A. to not only inform the parent community of our areas of interest and activities, but also to encourage and invite all parents to become involved with this part of the U.H.S. school community. As well as having a great deal of affection for the School, the parents of Uni. High students possess a wealth of skills, knowledge, resources and interests.

Once again we invite and encourage you to attend the upcoming meeting of the U.H.S. Parents' Association.

Next Meeting: Monday June 24th, in the Staff Common Room, North Building at 7 pm.

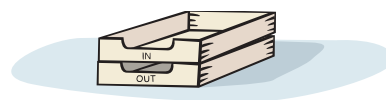
(Note: Meetings are held monthly, on a Monday evening. Check the School Newsletter for details.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT.

This year's A.G.M. saw the retirement of Lou Benincasa, Anita Hannaford and George Hawkins from the executive. Ann Sharp had resigned during the period of the previous executive. All served the Association with great commitment, competence and energy in various capacities over a number of years. Their considerable contributions to the well-being of the School are warmly acknowledged.

At the A.G.M. the following parents were elected to positions on the executive: Richard Evans, Gaye Champion, and Michael Hamel-Green. (All can be contacted via the School Office).

Article prepared by the U.H.S. Parents' Association Executive.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

...From page 1

CONGRATULATIONS

In my last report, I congratulated students who had received a VCE Premier's award. I would like to congratulate a number of past students who were successful in gaining Dean's awards in the Faculty of Science at Melbourne University.

The Dean's prize is determined on academic merit:

Bachelor of Bio medical Science (First year):

Carolyn De Graf.

Bachelor of Science/ Engineering (Second year):

Robert Marshall

Bachelor of Science/ Law (Third year):

Rebecca Campbell

Bachelor of Science (Honours):

James Ryall

SCHOOL EVENTS

VCE students are moving towards exams and timetables have been posted to all families.

At the time of writing, the Mid-year Concert promises to be another terrific evening of music, given the work underway by students and teachers.

BREAK DANCING CLUB

Ms Kim Patterson

This club began this year after Lachlan Preece and Rory Christensen starred in the Rock Eisteddfod last year (and put in some fine performances on the dance floor at the Year 12 Formal). These two, with the assistance of Mark Chong, Quang Mai and other guest tutors, have been running the break dancing workshops twice a week all year. The club runs every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime in the Gym and has been very well attended. The PE staff have the pleasure of overseeing the workshops and have been extremely impressed by the way in which these guys have planned and taught a diverse group of students, all of whom hang off every word from their tutors. Admittedly, we are a little jealous of their teaching status with the group! This is a fantastic opportunity for all interested students (and staff), so those who haven't yet got involved might like to call in on one of these days and check it out. By the way, a big, big thank you to Lachlan, Rory, Mark and Quang for their commitment to this positive lunchtime activity.

BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS - A YEAR 7 PROGRAM

Ms Kim Patterson, Equal Opportunity Co-Coordinator

During this term, all year 7 students will be involved in a half-day program that considers the issues of emotional health such as friendships, cooperative learning and practice, communication, and conflict resolution. Each sub-school will run a program specifically designed to meet the needs of their students. Students will be engaged in a range of activities designed to:

- help them understand themselves a little more.
- give them an understanding of their rights and responsibilities.
- highlight the importance of understanding the rights of other students and teachers.
- enhance their social interactions at school.

HISTORY AT UHS

A REVELATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS, ARTEFACTS, ESSAYS AND VERY HARD WORK!!!

Mr C O'Neill & Ms C-L Seeger-Snowden

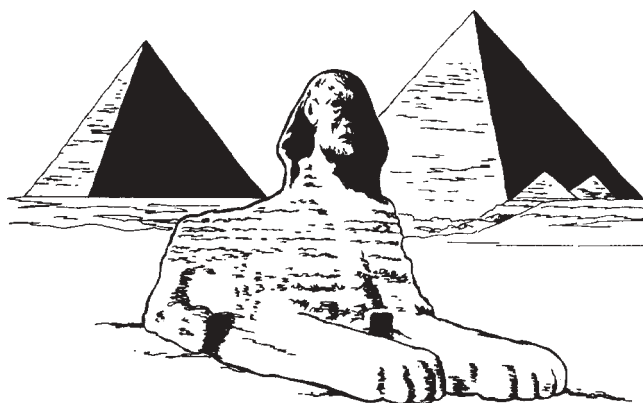
The first week of June has been designated History Week at UHS. While a number of activities were organized for both staff and students, the History Faculty would like to extend a warm invitation to all parents to come and view the work that will continue to be on display in the school library for the next week or two.

Students from years 7 to 11 have worked very hard to produce a most interesting, informative and colourful display of artefacts from Egypt (authentic and hand-made), essays and stories, books of crosswords and essays on Australia's role in Asia, and some very attractive and interesting board games. The historical eras studied stretch from Middle Eastern Studies to today and our year 11 International Studies students' poster on Globalisation!

All students need to have their work recognised and appreciated; the most appreciative of their laborious activities is YOU, their parents. Come and see the bountiful fruits of *your labours*...and be as proud of the results as we are!

We look forward to seeing you in our library, but please remember to register your arrival at the school office...and enjoy!

PS. Remember to sign our visitors' book and include your positive comments.



OPEN DAYS CALENDAR 2002

Aug 1	Chisholm TAFE (Frankston) 9.30 - 2.30pm
Aug 3	Monash University (Gippsland, Parkville, Peninsula) University of Melbourne (Burnley)
Aug 4	Australian Catholic University (Ballarat) Latrobe Uni (Bendigo) Monash Uni (Clayton, Caulfield, Berwick) Uni of Ballarat
Aug 11	Deakin Uni (Warrnambool) RMIT (all campuses) Uni of Melbourne (Dookie) Latrobe Uni (Mildura, Shepparton) Victoria Uni (Footscray) Sunraysia TAFE
Aug 14	Northern Melbourne TAFE
Aug 15	Chisholm TAFE (Dandenong)
Aug 17	Holmesglen TAFE (Chadstone and Waverley)
Aug 18	Australian Catholic Uni (Melbourne) Box Hill TAFE Deakin Uni (Burwood) Charles Sturt Uni (Albury/Wodonga) Latrobe Uni (Albury/Wodonga, Mt Buller) Uni of Melbourne (Melbourne, Vic College of the Arts)
Aug 25	Deakin Uni (Geelong and Waterfront) Latrobe Uni (Bundoora) Swinburne Uni Uni of Melbourne (Glenormiston)
Aug 31	Holmesglen TAFE (Moorabbin)

NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

Nominate a Teacher

Our school has been invited to submit nominations for the National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA). This is our opportunity to acknowledge our outstanding teachers, to show our appreciation for their efforts, and give them a well deserved pat on the back. Nominated teachers receive a congratulatory Certificate of Nomination and become candidates for Regional and National Awards and professional development grants and bequests for their schools.

Nomination forms can be downloaded or completed online at www.neita.com. Forms are also available through the school office or by phoning freecall 1800 624 487.

Nominations can be submitted by School and Student Councils, school parent organizations, individual parents, and secondary students.

CONGRATULATIONS MICHELLE LAWRENCE

Michelle Lawrence of Year 12 has recently been selected for a full scholarship to the United World Colleges - Canada Campus. The United World Colleges are a group of ten related International Schools, with locations throughout the world, and dedicated to promoting international understanding through education. Students from 16 to 19 years of age come from all corners of the world to live and study together, and to learn about each other in an environment that fosters peace, cooperation, and personal challenge.

UWC students are chosen on merit, regardless of race, creed, colour, background or financial ability. The UWC aim is to select outstanding young people from diverse national and social backgrounds. Nelson Mandela is the President of the UWC International Council.

There are only five scholarships available to Australian students and only one to Canada.

Michelle has successfully applied and will leave UHS to begin her International Baccalaureate next semester. It is not surprising that Michelle was successful as she is strong, independent, friendly, caring and challenged. During her time at UHS she has made considerable contribution to the sport area in her involvement as a player, coach and umpire of volleyball. She has also assisted as a peer educator in Health Forums for younger students. Out of school, Michelle has taken on leadership roles within the REACH Organization.

All who know her well will miss her but this is an outstanding opportunity for Michelle and we wish her all the best. We hope she will come back to visit when she returns.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP REPORT

Mr Glenn Marchant,
Student Leadership Co-ordinator

DIALOGUE WITH THE DALAI LAMA

Year 11 Politics students were fortunate to attend this gathering on Monday 20 May along with some 9000 secondary students across Victoria and the border regions. This proved to be an invaluable experience as students heard first hand what the Dalai Lama had to say about terrorism, war, tolerance, compassion and school ('more holidays' received applause from most students). Thanks to Ms Cooper for organising this excursion.

STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE CONFERENCE

Again, Year 11 Politics students attended an all day excursion to Melbourne Girls' College where approximately 100 students from the region listened to a variety of speakers including The Rev. Tim Costello, Lindsay Tanner, ALP MHR for Melbourne, Robyn Spencer from One Nation and a panel of students who were recent arrivals from troubled regions. The day revolved around our treatment of refugees and a proposed Bill of Rights for the Australian Constitution. Students broke into groups and reported back to a full plenary session. The discussion generated during the day was outstanding and once again, our students played a key role in the debate, asking many intelligent and interesting questions. Students generally found the day to be worthwhile; Rini Krouskos said, 'It was interesting to meet a range of students from the area and to debate controversial issues with a variety of speakers.'

TRIP TO CANBERRA

Rotary is sponsoring two Year 11 students to attend a weeklong trip to Canberra in August. The week will focus on Civics and Citizenship activities and will be an exciting experience for the students attending.

The successful applicants will be announced soon.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP FORUM

Six representatives from the UHS SRC attended a series of workshops at LaTrobe University on Friday May 31. Although our SRC functions very effectively, this professional development is an important step in training our future SRC leaders and making contact with other students across the state.

SCIENCE NEWS

Ms J Hamilton

OUTSTANDING CHEMISTRY SUCCESS

With great pleasure we acknowledge the success of James Zhao in the Chemistry Olympiad. He achieved a gold award for being the top student in Victoria in the competition. From the state winners, four students are then picked to represent Australia in the International Olympiads. He was presented with his award by Candy Broad MLC, Minister for Energy and Resources at Parliament House.

Congratulations James for your remarkable achievement.

We would like to draw your attention to three opportunities coming up that are available to students.

The **Australian Student Mineral Venture** is open to students in Years 10 and 11. It is a 12-day vacation program for students who are interested in scientific disciplines and are highly motivated. There is a cost associated but sources of funding may be available. The closing date for applications is August

1. The registration brochure can be downloaded from www.ausimm.com.au/education/asmv.asp

The **Siemens Science Experience** is available to students in Year 9. See the box for details. Students who are interested in science and technology should definitely consider attending. Applications are through Rotary. Early application is advised.

The **Corroboree Frog Program** to save Australia's most endangered frog has begun and is being coordinated by zoo staff amongst others. Involvement with this program will be possible for a small group of interested students from years 7-10. It would involve activities such as research on the frog, developing a captive breeding program and developing a web page. Advise your science teacher straight away if you are interested. Students and teachers will attend a conference on July 22 at the Zoo.

See Ms. Hamilton or your science teacher if you are interested in any or all of these programs.

Heidi Lange returned safely from Greenland (not counting food poisoning and flu caught on the journey home) and is concentrating on Year 12-study, exams, more study and SACs! She spoke at a school assembly and made us all envious of her fantastic experience in Greenland. She and 9 other Victorian students spent 4 weeks at the Arctic Station on Disko Island in Greenland. An account of her adventure will be published in Essence and can be found on the intranet in the science folder.

OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS

The Siemens Science Experience is a three-day hands-on program for students who will be entering Year 10 in 2003. Thirty-three Australian universities participate in the national program and students can attend any one. Most programs are scheduled for January 2003. *The Siemens Science Experience* introduces students to the facilities available in our universities and the opportunities for later studies and careers.

Each *The Siemens Science Experience* includes a wide variety of hands-on practical activities in many branches of science, engineering and technology, together with interesting presentations by our leading scientists and engineers. Visits may also be made to other places of scientific interest.

The cost for the three-day program is \$60 (includes GST). It is possible that your local Rotary Club may financially assist some students.

The Siemens Science Experience is available at each of the following Victorian universities:

Gordon Institute of TAFE, Geelong	18-20 September 2002
Swinburne University of Technology, Hawthorn	1-3 October 2002
Monash University, Clayton	14-16 January 2003
University of Ballarat, Ballarat	14-16 January 2003
University of Melbourne, Parkville	14-16 January 2003
RMIT University, Melbourne	21-23 January 2003
Victoria University of Technology, Footscray	21-23 January 2003

Programs are also held in all other States.

Application forms are available from the Science Department and from www.scienceexperience.com.au. Early application is advised.

READING MATTERS

Mr R Castles & Ms K Marquard
Learning Resource Centre

The Australian Centre For Youth Literature at the State Library runs a program of events to enthuse children about reading. A group of our Year 7, 8 & 10 students has just attended a Bookgig with one of Australia's best-known and best-loved children's authors, Andy Griffiths.

Andy's 'Just' series, illustrated by Terry Denton and 'The Day My Bum Went Psycho' are on bestseller lists. Andy read a new story that will feature in his up-coming book, 'Just Disgusting', an hilarious account of a boy cooking a cake for his mother on Mother's Day. We were then entertained by students from the Monash University Theatre Studies course who performed a play they had adapted from 'The Day My Bum Went Psycho'. Students were able to ask questions of Andy and the performers and also buy books and have them signed.

Our next trip to the State Library will be on the 18th June for a Booktalkers session on the theme, 'Beyond the Real'. This will feature five well-known fantasy writers - Alison Croggin, Kate Forsyth, Garth Nix, Natalie Jane Prior and Michael Pryor.

The Children's Book Council of Australia has recently announced its short lists for the CBC Book Awards for 2002. An extra dimension to this year's awards for University High School is the presence of Mr Leigh Hobb's picture book, 'Horrible Harriet' in the short list. The Library has several copies of all the shortlisted books for students to read so they can make their own minds up before the judges' final decisions are announced next term.

Another terrific surprise for the Library this term was the presentation of a literacy grant to the value of \$500.00 from Readings Books in Carlton.

This is the second year that Readings have been so generous to the school library. The money has enabled us to buy some additional reference resources to which all students will have access.

SPORTS NEWS

Ms S Hafey

ATHLETICS

On Thursday May 9th University High School was represented at the section D Athletics Carnival by a team of 82 students. The students put in excellent individual and team performances, which gave UHS a deserved victory on the day. The results meant that a team of 52 UHS students progressed to the Northern Zone Metro Final, which was held the following week. Again students gave their all and achieved some fantastic results. UHS placed 7th out of the 35 competing schools on the day. Special congratulations go to the following students who won their events and now progress to the VSSSA State Athletics Championships to be held at Olympic Park on Monday October 21st:

Kate Alexander - U14 200m

Katherine Clarke - U15 100m & 200m

Hugo McNeill - U14 High Jump

Colin Osborn - U21 Hurdles

SPORTS RESULTS

UHS has recently been represented by many senior sporting teams in our district competition. Congratulations to the Senior Girls Hockey Team who had an exciting victory and now progress to the Northern Zone Finals to be held on Thursday June 27th.

UPCOMING SPORTS DATES:

Friday June 7th:

Senior Basketball

Wednesday June 12th:

Intermediate Sport Day

Thursday June 20th:

Year 8 Sport Day

Junior Girls (Yr 7,8,9) Football

Monday June 24th:

Year 7 Sport Day

Author, Andy Griffiths, signs books for year seven students Rory and Christopher

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