



SWIMMING

House Swimming
Carnival pg9



LEADERSHIP

International
Women's Day
breakfast pg4



RIDE 2 SCHOOL

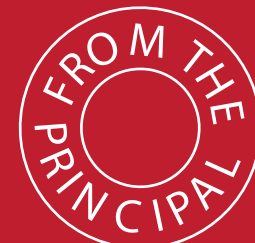
Take in the fresh air -
ride or walk to school
from the station pg13



GIVING

Helping others is
good for the soul
pg15

mac.rob news



DATES/EVENTS

Tuesday 3 March

Mac.Rob Parents' Association Meet and
Greet BBQ

Friday 6 March

Ride 2 School Day

Monday 9 March

Labour Day Holiday

Wednesday 11 March

Information Night for Prospective
Students and Parents

Thurs 12 - Fri 13 March

Grand Prix student free days

Wednesday 25 March

House Chorals

Friday 27 March

Final Day of Term 1 Early Finish 1.40pm

Tuesday 14 April

Term 2 Commences

Sun 19 - Tues 21 April

Duke of Ed camp

Thursday 23 April

Model UN Conference

Friday 24 April

Palladians Symposium

Thursday 30 April

Parent Student Teacher Interviews



Welcome to 2020!

Welcome to 2020! As always, the beginning of the school year has been jam-packed... but that is just the way we like it! We've started 2020 with an additional two classes of Year 9 students and, thanks to the tremendous work of our facilities team, six new classrooms, cleverly 'found' spaces that we have re-purposed and renovated to great effect. Rehearsals for our musical 'Legally Blonde' are already underway and, as you will read later in the newsletter, our first whole school event – swimming carnival at MSAC – was a terrific success.

This year we are renewing our emphasis on community and relationships, for we know these sit at the heart of great learning and teaching. The importance of community and care for each other has, of course, been at the forefront of our minds over the summer, as we have watched an extreme bushfire season take hold of our country, so it is fitting that we start our year thinking of others and with a commitment to help others firmly in our minds.

It was no surprise to me that our students returned with a fierce determination to support the bushfire-hit communities, and they have hit the ground running, beginning with the launch of our bushfire fundraising appeal. As a school, we have set the target to fundraise \$20,000 for Wildlife Victoria by the end of term three, playing our part in ensuring Victoria's native animals are supported to recover from the devastation. I'm proud to say that even before school resumed, both students and staff were contacting me to discuss what we could do together to support those affected by the fires, and our student leaders have begun this initiative with energy and purpose. When working together in the service of others, not only do we support those in need, we strengthen our relationships and remember to appreciate all that we have.

We're also continuing to look for ways to engage everyone in our community with what's happening at Mac.Rob, so alongside our Facebook and Instagram feeds we've launched 'MacRob in a Week', a weekly video update where the school captains and I share some of what is happening at the school. This video is designed to be an informal message for our students, staff and parents, and I've been delighted to hear from many parents who are enjoying seeing all that our students and staff are up to!

At Mac.Rob, we're fortunate to be supported not just by our students and families but also by our alumnae association the Palladians, and the Mac.Rob Foundation. In celebrating our Mac.Rob community, this month we hosted our inaugural International Women's Day breakfast, at which we were inspired to hear three highly successful female leaders talk about their work, their motivation to lead and their ideas for the future. Our students were enthralled as they listened to each of our guests and I know their messages will stay with our students as they travel through the year.

As the new school year unfolds, I look forward to even more learning together, laughing together and caring for each other. Welcome to 2020!

Anne Stout, Principal





Captains' update



We hope you are settling smoothly into the year and feeling excited for the year ahead. To the new members of our community - staff and students, we trust that you are making friends and feeling welcomed and supported at Mac.Rob and from us, welcome!

Our theme for 2020 is 'Shape your Story'. This theme will guide our selection of guest speakers for 2020, and most importantly, what they have to say. This theme will challenge each Mac.Robbian as an individual and serve as inspiration to dream bigger and achieve greater. However, as personal as it is, it is heavily grounded in interpersonal development as well, and we hope that throughout the year it will change how you can view yourself, each other and, even if only slightly, the way you view the world around us.

As Captains, we have a clear vision as to what we will bring to our roles for 2020, and to us it is important that we share this with you. Through our interactions with the Mac.Rob community, we have seen firsthand that everyone has a story. Our school is a place of celebration for over 1,000 wonderful young women whose families originate from many countries around the world, and out of this diversity comes an abundance of experiences that shape who we are so much more than our academic achievements alone. Our shared experiences, creating our cultural identities, and personal experiences which form us individually, are incredibly varied. From our adventures and successes to moments that have really challenged us, each is an axiom for understanding, self-reflection and learning with and from one another.

A heartfelt story coming from a place of compassion and vulnerability is one of the most beautiful ways to share and be recognised. This year, we will be creating safe spaces for story-sharing to take place beginning in Term 2. Through sharing stories, we, with the other student leaders, hope to provide platforms to build genuine relationships that will go far beyond our years at the school. Building bridges within our Mac.Rob community, between year levels, with staff, students and parents, is a priority for us as leaders as we aim to bring our beautiful, empowered and diverse community together.

We are so excited to be embarking on this journey with you through 2020, trusting that together, we will shape Mac.Rob's story.

Michaela McMahon and Aishah Brockhoff

International Women's Day breakfast



Anna and Kylie on flute.



Marianna, Claire Spencer AM, Michaela, Aishah, Cathy Mihalopoulos, Amy and Julia Cornwell McKean

Celebrations for International Women's Day have already begun here at Mac.Rob. Our inaugural Mac.Rob International Womens' Day breakfast held recently was an exciting, friendly and inspiring event. We felt very fortunate to have guest speaker Claire Spencer AM, CEO of Arts Centre Melbourne, share her story with us. Claire spoke of having no real plan for her career as a school leaver, she advised us to do what inspires us, that we gain new skills through new experiences and above all, be your own master. "Your school motto MASTERY OF SELF really resonates with me, particularly in its words of wisdom encouraging "responsibility to oneself and others".

Claire also shared her advice for being a good leader, which was listening to others, having empathy and above all, being our authentic selves. She acknowledged the power of the impact of giving, which we at Mac.Rob strive to do in our actions within our immediate and wider communities.

When asked what her leadership style was, Claire impressed upon the audience that her style was being Claire Spencer. This was echoed by our panellist, Professor Cathy Mihalopoulos, who said, "the best leadership style is to be yourself, not a work persona". Our third panellist, Dr Julia Cornwell McKean, was similarly driven by authenticity, saying to have the confidence to "rewrite your story".



Climate Summit with Mark Butler MP

On February 17, along with six other students, I attended an event called the Climate Summit, located at Albert Park College. This entailed a Q & A with the Hon. Mark Butler federal shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy. I found it quite intriguing, not only due to my passion for the environment, but also because it was interesting to see what the government was doing to help, and their ambitious plans for the future. Previously I wasn't that well educated on politics, especially surrounding plans on environmental issues, so for me, it was certainly a valuable excursion.

Hayley Brunton (9D)

The Climate Summit gave me a deeper insight to the global problem of climate change facing our current generation. It was great to see a lot of students participate in the event, engaging with the discussion and raising interesting and important questions pertaining to our environment. The afternoon was captivating and provided me with knowledge about what the leaders of our country are doing to address climate change in order to ensure a more sustainable future.

Thulani Mananduwa Arachchige (12E)

We were given the wonderful opportunity to go to Albert Park College and meet Labor Party member Mark Butler. He answered questions and gave information on the state of the environment and how political parties are working to improve it. This was a great opportunity to understand more deeply on how our community is responding to climate change and how we can help.

Rumaisa Azam (10A)





Mac.Rob Student Leaders 2020

In the March newsletter our portfolio leaders will outline their plans and goals for 2020.

School Captain Michaela McMahon
School Vice-Captain Aishah Brockhoff

SRC President Meghana Jonnalagadda
SRC Vice-President Sharon Taing

Social Service Co-Captain Tina Dong
Social Service Co-Captain Hannah Senior

Debating and Public Speaking Co-Captain
Genny Khuu

Debating and Public Speaking Co-Captain
Vy Tran

Music Co-Captain Nikita Parate
Music Co-Captain Devshi Janakantha

Sport Co-Captain Victoria Growden
Sport Co-Captain Lexi McConkey

Environment Co-Captain Chenxin Tu
Environment Co-Captain Elizabeth Kim

ICT Co-Captain Nethmi Wanigasekara
ICT Co-Captain Amy Tjea

Drama Co-Captain Marianna Simonetto
Drama Co-Captain Bek Larratt

FAM Co-Captain Isabella Ta
FAM Co-Captain Senalee Yapa Udawela

GIV Leader Shreya Gupta
GIV Leader Jasmine Liew

Pallas Editor Nina Miriyagalla
Pallas Editor Evangeline Flair

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Dryads House Co-Captain Orly Golod
Dryads House Co-Captain Erica Chour

Naiads House Co-Captain Angela Dang
Naiads House Co-Captain Yehara Perera

Nereids House Co-Captain Sarah Deng
Nereids House Co-Captain Gemma Truong

Oreads House Co-Captain Nhi Nguyen
Oreads House Co-Captain Trisha Tan

Mum, I ate my homework!

The Year 10 Biology class was given the task of creating a physical model representing an animal or plant cell. They used a variety of materials - lollies, pavlova, play dough and flowers to name a few, to come up with creatively diverse representations of the inner workings of a cell. What an interesting, fun and delicious way to learn about cells!



Insect Pie on the Menu?

Kameron Lai (Oreads captain 2019) was selected to present at the Top Talks event on Friday 14 February at the Conversation Quarter at State Library Victoria as part of the VCE Season of Excellence. This is an incredible achievement with only four students across the state being selected.

Top Talks is part of the VCE Season of Excellence 2020 which also includes Top Designs, Top Arts, Top Screen, Top Class and Top Acts.

Presenting at Top Talks involves delivering her 7 to 10-minute Extended Investigation oral presentation on her research topic: Promoting Entomophagy Amidst a "Climate Crisis": *What are the most influential factors in promoting a more sustainable insect-based diet in young Australians?*





Big Data Challenge

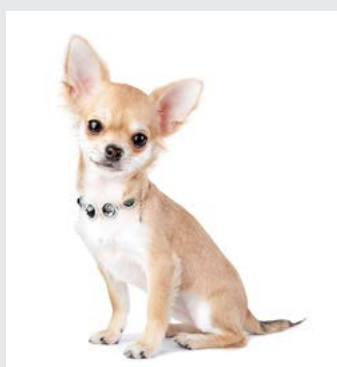
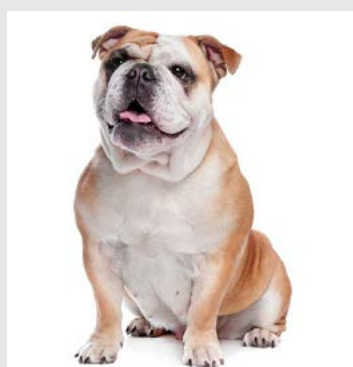
Friday, 21 Feb was a day packed with fun, new friends and challenge. In Monash University's annual Big Data Challenge, 10 Macrobbians visited the Clayton campus to consider Australia's future through the lens of business analytics and actuarial science. The challenge was run by the Monash Business School in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and Faculty of IT.

Some attended the Business Analytics workshop, where we worked in teams with other schools coding and generating a report detailing Australia's carbon footprint from quantitative data. Other Macrobbians attended the Actuarial Science workshop, where they weighed up a number of factors to determine whether the cost of car insurance was fair to young drivers.

We listened to a panel of current students and those working in the industry speaking of their experiences as a student, and their journey up until now. We returned with a win in both challenges and gained valuable insight as to what a future career in STEM could look like!

Sharon Taing 12D

Wanted: Two dogs for Legally Blonde show



'Bruiser and Rufus' lead dog auditions, no previous acting experience required!

Rehearsals for 'Legally Blonde The Musical' are currently in full swing, but we still need to cast two 'lead' characters: 'Bruiser - The Chihuahua' and 'Rufus - The British Bulldog'. If there is anyone in the Macrobb community who could help the production team out, by providing one of these dogs (as well as a trainer/keeper) to attend rehearsals and performances,

we would be eternally grateful.

Pay rate: Your pooch would gain **instant fame** and be surrounded by **unconditional love** and lots of **doggy treats**.

Please contact Mr Wegner via email weg@macrob.vic.edu.au if you can help out. Ideally the breed of the dogs should be Chihuahua and British Bulldog, but this could be adapted to any 'tiny' dog and 'large' dog.

Don't forget to put the dates of the musical into your diary: May 21st to 23rd 2020

Sports Report

House Swimming Carnival

One of the most anticipated events in the MacRob calendar, the annual House Swimming Carnival was held on 26 February with the House Teams all hotly contesting the trophy. The first twilight carnival was a great success, with the sun coming out in the afternoon making for a lovely day. House spirit was high with many creative costumes for the “decades” themed house parade.

With many students competed in the various swimming events, there were excellent performances to be witnessed. The addition of dry-land novelties added another dimension to the event, with students joining in to earn extra house points in small games. As always, the novelty pony, noodle and mat races provided many laughs and a great end to the day.

Results for the day:

1st - Naiads - 284 points

2nd - Dryads - 282 points

3rd - Nereids - 271 points

4th - Oreads - 269 points



Congratulations to Naiads for winning the swimming carnival this year! Congratulations also to our age group champions:

14 years - Jessica Cai

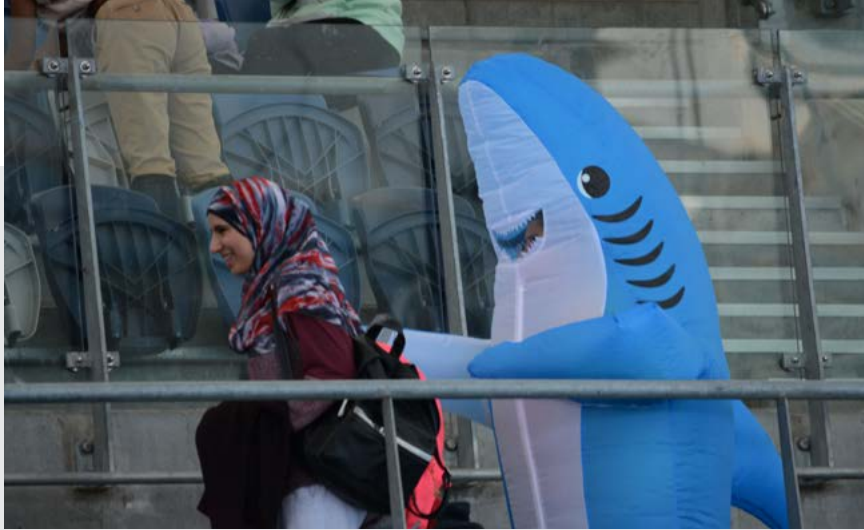
15 years - Sienna Shepherd

16 years - Bessie Nguyen

17 years- Emma Zhong

18-20 years - Jamie Tonelli





In other sports news...

Senior Sports Day

On Friday the 14 February our Senior Sport Teams represented MacRob in the Beachside Summer Sport Competition where Mac.Rob was represented in Tennis, Softball, Volleyball and Lawn Bowls. All students showed great sportsmanship and excellent teamwork skills. It was a very successful day for Mac.Rob with many softball, tennis and cricket progressing to the next round.



Lawn Bowls, not just for old people!

MacRob's lawn bowlers demonstrated a remarkable improvement this year. The seniors were first to hit the green with 3 teams competing. All 3 teams won at least 1 game in round robin play with Team B making the semi finals to face off with MHS who had beaten Team C by a single shot on the last end to deny us an all MacRob semi-final.

Team B exacted sweet revenge with a comprehensive 4-0 whitewash to advance to the final against Elwood A who fielded a foursome with no less than 3 pennant bowlers. Our team put up by far the best showing of the day against this team and were within a cm of victory before going down 4-1 with our 1 shot the only shot conceded all day by Elwood. The Inters were next up with just two teams. Team A struggled early but improved to win the third of their pool games and Team B sadly lost their first 2 pool games by a single shot before a fairly comprehensive win in the derby against Albert Park College.

Well done to all of the students who played and also those who tried out on the new indoor bowls mats, your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Intermediate Tennis

"On Monday the 24th of February, our intermediate tennis team competed with other schools at Fawkner park tennis club. Both A and B teams had a really great day, and played some wonderful tennis. Unfortunately, midway through the competition, it started raining and we had to stop playing. But luckily, we had won the most sets and we are progressing through to the next round. Good job girls!"

Reimi Dobson



Inter School Sports Day

Softball

The competition started off with nerves and jitters. But throughout the day the inters team got closer and that was evident through the way they played. Overall the girls did an amazing job and played spectacularly. The final scores for the three games were: Mentone 13-0, Elwood 21-1, and Glen Ira 14-0, with Mac.Rob winning all 3 games. Congrats to the softball girls for smashing the division and wishing them all the best at regionals!

Chloe Ng 10I

More Ball Sports

Mac.Rob also had success in the other intermediate sports, winning cricket, volleyball and tennis. Our cricket team put on a dominant display all day, but were challenged by Cheltenham Secondary College, who, with some impressive bowling and great running allowed them to win by 1 run. Our tennis players shone despite being washed out early due to the rain and the volleyballer players rallied as a team, improved throughout the day and were also winners at the end of the day.

Tennis

The two Mac.Rob senior tennis teams competed in the same draw for the beachside interschool competition on the 14 February. It was an exciting (and very hot) day for all the players - especially for the year twelves participating in this competition for the final time. The A and B teams both performed exceptionally well, gaining first and second place respectively. The A team are really looking forward to the next competition!



Ride 2 School Day this Friday - Free Coffee!

On Friday the 6th of March we will celebrate Ride 2 School day. As riding the entire way to school is difficult for many of our students, we encourage students to either ride or walk from home or Flinders St/South Yarra stations.

Sports representatives and Enviro committee will line the footpaths and hand out raffle tickets to students walking to school. Students go in the draw to win a brand new bike + helmet to keep your brain safe. If anyone normally walks/rides to school or is happy to lead a group of students, or if you would like to help with breakfast, please sign up [here](#). Students and teachers are welcome to help!

Additionally, we provide a small breakfast for students upon arrival at school, this will be in the grassed area near the flag poles. It would be lovely to have staff join the students for breakfast, I have organised for yoghurt, fruit and bread to entice you!

As we registered the school early, we won a coffee cart with barista making coffee and hot chocolate to be at school from 7:30-9am, please come and get a hot drink to start your Friday morning.

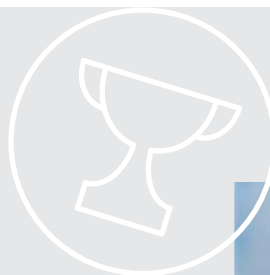
Finally, to redeem the bike prize, we need to enter a count of how our students usually travel to school. To do this, and to promote the day, Sport reps and Enviro reps will be visiting form classes on Monday 2/3 to take a quick survey of students. Apologies for any interruption this causes.

**Physical activity is vital
for a happy, healthy life
– that's why we make it
easier to ride a bike**



Student dedication

INDEPENDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Softball

Congratulations to Ina Carillo of 10A who has been selected to represent Mac.Rob and Victoria in the School Sport Victoria under 17 Softball team. She will compete in Western Australia in May. Well done Ina!



Dance

I've always loved to dance, having danced since I was 3 years old, but four years ago I was diagnosed with borderline hip dysplasia. The doctors told me I didn't have a chance to dance again without a hip replacement. So when my Malaysian dance teacher offered me long distance classes via whatsapp videos in April last year, I was ecstatic.

After not dancing for 3 years I was quite daunted and struggled but with my teachers help, I managed to learn the entire National Association of Teachers of Dancing (NATD) intermediate ballet and modern syllabus through sending videos back and forth. Early January this year, I flew to Malaysia for 3 weeks to complete intensive training before the annual dance exams. After a lot of sore muscles and tears, I achieved a high distinction in all 5 of my exams, earning not only the highest mark in the school but also the highest mark that can be awarded by an examiner. I don't know what my future in dance holds but I'm so excited to see where it leads me.

Sassandra Rae Year 12





GIVING to Others is Rewarding

Back in December our 2020 GIV leaders, Shreya Gupta and Jasmine Liew, led a team of 28 GIV volunteers in collaboration with South Melbourne Park Primary School volunteers and staff in their first end-of-year carnival.

Our students were involved in every aspect of the afternoon. They were all given stations and tasks including site set up, soccer ball activity, toys, lemonade fountain, food truck, fund raising, mobile disco, ticket selling and more.



The group thoroughly enjoyed the event and the leaders got their first opportunity to experience the responsibilities of leadership in preparation for 2020. The primary school was thrilled with our contribution and cemented our post-flood relationship we now share with them.

Shreya Gupta and Jasmine Liew
GIV Leaders 2020

Got articles
for the newsletter?
Email Geri
[newsletteritems@
macrob.vic.edu.au](mailto:newsletteritems@macrob.vic.edu.au)



BBQ to welcome new Mac.Rob parents

On Tuesday 3rd of March the Parents Association are hosting a BBQ for our new Year 9 parents. This BBQ is an opportunity to meet other parents and staff at Mac.Rob in a warm and relaxing atmosphere. Please feel free to bring your children. We are very much looking forward to meeting our new families and making you feel part of our community.



2020 RENEWAL Scholarship round for PREVIOUS applicants. NOW OPEN

Key dates and deadlines

Round open date: Monday 3 February 2020

Final date for application and documents: Monday 16 March 2020

Ensure the application is complete and marked as final on submission
Please submit the supporting documentation at the time of application.

Application process

Applications must be submitted by a nominator working within a government secondary school or



community service organisation: **For Mac Rob please contact Gillian Baldock SWC in K201.**

Eligibility criteria for a RENEWAL scholarship

To be eligible for nomination for a RENEWAL Western Chances scholarship, a student must meet the criteria below:

- Be a current or past Western Chances scholarship recipient
- Enrolment at a government secondary school
- Resident of Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley or Wyndham
- Demonstrate talent and motivation in a nominated pathway
- Financial need or hardship

Supporting documentation

Applicants who meet all criteria will be reviewed against supporting documentation including:

- School Report (most recent full semester)
- Attendance Report
- Information to support talent and motivation
- Proof of financial need or hardship

Other Important Information

Acceptable proof of financial hardship includes*: *Exceptional circumstances may be considered. Contact Western Chances to discuss.

Health Care Card
Pensioner Concession Card
Youth Allowance
ABSTUDY
CSEF (confirmation letter from school)

Acceptable evidence of good work habits and attendance:

School report from Semester 2, 2019 (which clearly shows work habits)
Compass, Xuno or other system attendance reports