



LEADERSHIP

UN Assembly –
UNbelievably
fascinating!



ENVIRONMENT

Our school gardens
get a new face-lift.



MUSIC

Winter Concert
A fabulous night at
the Recital Centre.



SPORTS

Adelaide Exchange.
Worth crossing the
border for!

mac.rob news



DATES/EVENTS

Tuesday 3 September

Parents Association Meeting

Monday 2 – Friday 6 September

Mac.Rob Week

Wednesday 4 September

Whole School Fun Run

Wednesday 11 September

Palladians Dinner

Thursday 12 September

RUOK? Day

Thursday 19 September

Spring Concert (music) 6.30pm in hall

Friday 20 September

House Lipsynching in Hall

Monday 7 October

First day of Term 4

Monday 7 October

Palladians Meeting

Thursday 17 October

Clementine Ford LRC Author talk

Friday 18 October

Palladians BBQ for Year 12s

Friday 18 October

Parents Association Thank You
Morning Tea for Staff

Monday 21 October

Last day of classes Year 12

Monday 28 October

Valedictory 2019



The art of active learning

*'Do the best you can until you know better.
Then do better.'* **Maya Angelou**

At the beginning of this term the school underwent its four yearly review, a significant process looking back at the school's goals and achievements over the past four years. This is an independent process which examines what the school has been doing, and how the community – parents, staff and students – feel the school is progressing.

The review is a thorough process, involving conversations with parents, students and staff, examination of the school's data sets, classroom observations, and consideration of MacRob's previous strategic plan and the targets set for improvement four years ago.

Our review highlighted some of the key strengths of our school, including our focus on student leadership, voice and agency, and our continued focus on academic excellence. Our reviewers also highlighted some excellent teaching and learning occurring across the school.



We have much to be proud of. However, like all good organisations, we must not rest on our laurels but strive to continually improve and ensure we are at the forefront of great educational practice. Our review has helped us identify some areas for improvement and these will form the basis of our next strategic plan, driving our thinking, planning and actions moving forward.

Our immediate focus will be on developing a consistent approach to excellent teaching and learning. This means having an agreed understanding of, and a shared language around, what great teaching and learning looks like, and how this is implemented within the school to ensure excellent teaching in all classes, every day. We have already begun this work; our staff are engaged in classroom observations across the school so we can better understand our students' experiences and share some of the practices that we know lead to high engagement. Our curriculum team are researching and planning a new instructional model for teaching and learning, which will be implemented next year in January, 2020. Our wellbeing team is reviewing our support processes, so that we can better incorporate these into our day to day work, building stronger teacher-student relationships.

While our teachers will be focusing on their teaching expertise, we will also be asking our students to improve their *learning* expertise. This means becoming active agents in their own learning; participating in class discussions, asking questions, seeking help when unsure and speaking up when they have ideas or insights to share. It also means seeking and accepting challenge, working collaboratively with others who offer different perspectives, being prepared to think deeply, and taking risks in the way they approach learning.

Good learning is not passive; in fact, when done properly, great learning is really hard work!

I am proud of our students. They continue to lead and support each other with drive, enthusiasm and passion, and can be relied upon to be diligent, compassionate and caring towards others. These qualities are at the heart of the Mac.Rob, and best reflect what really matters in a school. I am also proud of our teachers, who work hard to deliver the very best for our students. They strive to improve, and care deeply about the students they teach and the subjects they engage with. They continue to reflect on and develop their own skills, and have a genuine desire to support our students to be the best they can be.

As educational practice continues to develop and change, so we need to change with it. We look forward to the challenge that lies ahead as we strive to do *better*.

Anne Stout
Principal



Captains' update

Hey Mac.Rob community,

We hope you have had a great past two months!

We are moving closer towards the end of the year although there are still many great events and activities yet to come. Since the start of the year, our Form Captain family have been working with us to organise our annual *Mac.Rob Week* occurring at the start of September in celebration of our school and its community. This year, our annual *Fun Run*, which the Sport Portfolio and House Captains are coordinating, is being held in Mac.Rob week with Palladians being invited to come along for the first time. Our theme for the week is '*Throwbacks*' where we travel back in time, to the creation of Mac.Rob, and celebrate different aspects of our community. Our Form Captains are holding fun activities every day and we have planned a special birthday themed party on the Friday 6 September to celebrate Sir MacPherson Robertson's 160th Birthday!



In July, we had the honour of sitting in and participating in *Mac.Rob's School Review*, which occurs every four years. This review is mandatory in every Government School by the Victorian Department of Education and it was very insightful to take part in the Review as student representatives. Looking behind the scenes, it was amazing to see the hard work and dedication that goes towards making our time here at Mac.Rob as enjoyable and rewarding as it can be. It was a chance to look back at our successes and also brainstorm ways we can move forward in the future.

Along with discussing transformations and improvements to the school, we have been considering possible alternatives to the name '*Speech Night*', so that it better represents the evening that brings our community together. With student and staff input, we are hoping to find a name that reflects the celebratory atmosphere as we commemorate the talents we have here at our school. Similarly, we have also been discussing updating of the school values, so that these are more actionable, 'liveable' and connected to what we want our community to be.

These ideas are still works in progress, and we have been reaching out to students, teachers, and parents via open forums and brainstorming sessions to ensure that the final choices reflect the values of our entire community.

Our students and our leadership teams have been very busy in these last two months. We hope you enjoy reading about their ventures and events in the following pages.

Wishing you all the best,

Chelsea and Sinali

Gifted Outreach Camp

At the start of this year, 28 Year 10 students from Mac.Rob and Melbourne High were given the fantastic opportunity to take part in a program called 'Gifted Outreach', where secondary students mentor primary school students identified as academically advanced.

We met our mentees briefly back in April and until the camp in late June, we communicated with them through an innovative site called Stile, an online educational platform. This is where the students complete lessons such as maths brain teasers and scientific experiments, and where we, as mentors, review their work, give feedback and provide motivation to the students participating.

In late June, we attended a camp in the city with the primary school students through the 'Gifted Outreach' program. On the camp, the group travelled around the city visiting places together such as National Gallery of Victoria and the Melbourne Aquarium.

The camp was an extremely enjoyable experience for both mentees and mentors where we were able to establish strong relationships, and we look forward to working with them for the remainder of this program! Being a part of the Gifted Outreach Program is a rewarding experience and we heartily recommend it to current Year 9s to participate in it next year.

By **Tanishqa Mathur** 10B, **Chen Li** 10B, **Meghana Marur** 10F



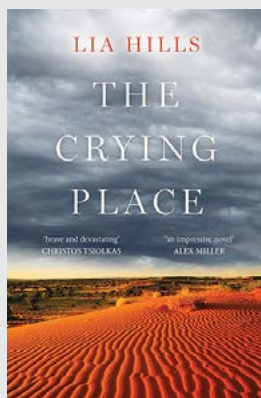
Author Visit from Lia Mills

'Great creative moments come out of mistakes' Lia Hills.

Accomplished author, Lia Hills, visited the LRC in August and spoke generously about her fascinating writing process for her latest book *'The Crying Place'*, which was long listed for the prestigious Miles Franklin Literary award last year. The book discusses the concepts of home, country, indigenous culture, landscape, loss and friendship.

Lia explained her use of speech to text technology to write the draft while on a road trip in the outback for 3 weeks. The most fascinating part was when a bower bird call was picked up by her microphone and the computer started typing, 'Push, push, push', thus giving her the answer to the part of the story she was trying to write. It certainly was a fascinating, stimulating and moving conversation.

The best advice she gave the young audience was to **take risks, trust yourself and trust your writing.**



Feedback from our students:

'Lia's use of artificial intelligence was interesting, more than the convenience aspect. Fascinating that it picked up the ambient noises and translation of those into words.'

Kameron Lai

'I liked the use of voice recording, I hand write a lot, as I find I can get words out quicker than typing but I'll definitely look into using voice to text in the future.' **Hannah Xie**

Lia's books are available in the LRC for loan.

[Lia Hills website](#)

NEED A GOOD BOOK TO ESCAPE INTO?

LRC Mac.Rob have a wide selection of critically acclaimed fiction, biography and non-fiction you will want to read. Our [LRC catalogue](#) is a great tool for finding these books. Just search '**Booker**', '**Pulitzer**', '**Stella Prize**' or '**Women's Prize**' in the search box on this link to see our whole range of long and shortlisted titles, past and present.

Our collection is not all Young Adult fiction and essential VCE textbooks! Clicking on '**New Resources**' in the Quick Lists drop-down will show you all of the latest additions to our collection.



Heart Warming Winter Concert

The students of music at Mac.Rob and Melbourne High collaborated to put on a spectacular performance at the 2019 Combined Winter Concert held at the Melbourne Recital Centre on the 24th of July. The students worked very hard at rehearsals with determination and dedication to put together the following ensembles, all high quality performances with sophisticated repertoire and refined musicianship:

- Mac.Rob Chorale
- Mac.Rob Chamber Voices
- Mac.Rob Stage Band
- Mac.Rob Symphony Orchestra
- Mac.Rob Symphonic Winds

An exciting aspect was observing the process of the lead up to Winter Concert and watching the growth of every student who performed that night. From the first rehearsal when the ensembles were all attempting to sight read their pieces to the final polished performance of unbelievably high quality. Thank you and congratulations to the musical students and staff for providing such an entertaining evening in such an inspiring venue.

Everyone is invited to our final concert for the year: **Spring Concert** on Thursday 19 September, 6.30 Mac.Rob Hall.

Christina Ni and **Hannah Chin**, Music Leaders

Congratulations to The Symphonic Wind Band

The Symphonic Wind Band performed at the Melbourne Bands Festival Monday Aug 19. They shone very brightly to achieve a Platinum Award, a remarkable achievement by the students who have worked very hard for this result. Congratulations and thank you to the students and music teachers for their fine work!

Sports report

Softball State Runners Up!

Despite the cold and wet weather, Mac.Rob's Intermediate Softball team had a great day out at the State Championships. The team played a high level of softball with excellent pitching from Ina, catching from Chloe and even a couple of home runs! The teamwork in the field was outstanding, with many great catches and a double play.



Convincing wins in their pool (6–5, 11–4 and 14–0) earned the team a place in the State Final and at the end of the day, they were crowned runners up!

The girls are to be commended on their efforts not only at the State Championships, but throughout the year, training enthusiastically each week since February and it has been a pleasure to witness the development of their skills and friendship. This team embodies true Mac.Rob spirit and represented the school with fantastic sportsmanship.

Congratulations to Ina, Shalana, Chloe, Elaine, Helen, Emma, Talisa, Darcy, Amie, Annie, Amber and Lauren!

State senior table tennis

As Adelaide Exchange was wrapping up, the senior table tennis team was competing at MSAC at the 2019 State Schools Championship.

After winning the first matches in our pool as well as the semi final, the tension was high as we approached the final against Bayside Tennis School. They had just demolished their opponents in the semi final, however fortunately, we fought our best and won 6–0 to defend our senior state title for the fifth year running. The Mac.Rob team consisted of was Ellen Walker 11G, Adhithi Subramanian 12C; Bianca Denisenko 12G, Alice Ho 12E.

Ellen Walker



Badminton

Both the following teams had great wins at the state finals recently:
Senior Badminton – *State Champions*
Intermediate Badminton – *State Runners up*

School Sport Victoria have shared with us the highlights video from the Senior State Badminton, watch here where our team features prominently – <https://youtu.be/uj9RxXyxiVw>

Well done on a fabulous effort team!





Home Ground Advantage!

Adelaide Exchange

'Adelaide Exchange 2019' was a huge 4 day event, involving 17 sports, with the biggest ever Mac.Rob team of 110 students hosting 79 Adelaide High School students. The longest running school exchange program in Australia, since 1913, Mac.Rob has taken part in the 'Adelaide Exchange', named the 'Mac.Robertson Exchange' in Adelaide.

The exchange is both a social and sporting occasion. There are competitions in the following sports: Badminton, Basketball, Chess, Cross Country, Debating, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rowing, Soccer, Softball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Theatre Sports and Volleyball.

With Mac.Rob sport captains Lia and Radhika capably leading our team, the athleticism of both body and brain of both teams made the sports exciting to watch with large numbers of students turning out to watch. The volleyball and netball had the gym and mezzanine packed with students, cheering for every point until they lost their voices. Hockey was extremely fun to watch, with a dominant Mac.Rob team and plenty of cheering from the side-lines. The basketball match especially was extremely close up until the last quarter, making it very exciting to watch. The debate, held in the hall, was on the hot topic of *'mobile phones should be banned in Victorian schools'* which provided us much to ponder and think about.

It was fun to watch the players giving their all during the AFL matches, diving into the large puddles on the oval for the ball and coming out literally covered in mud as Adelaide won the football convincingly 49-14. However it was Mac.Rob won overall, 9 sports to Adelaide's 6, bringing the Prefects Cup back to Melbourne. Congratulations to the MVPs of each team!

Win or lose, the friendly rivalry between the Adelaide and Mac.Rob teams made for excellent matches, and honesty, composure and care with morale building and making of friendships a strong feature of these games.

Thank you to all the supporters, the captains, the participants and teachers, especially Ms Lionello, who literally took one for the team, we hope you are feeling much better and Mr Jeremy Appleton, Sports Co-ordinator from Adelaide High School.

Finally, our thanks go to the Adelaide High School for being such gracious sports and for helping make the exchange so enjoyable for all.



Exciting Spring for Mac.Rob gardens!

The Keen Green Beans Club recently collaborated with the Environment Committee to expand the school's existing veggie patch, grow a native garden and establish other sustainable practises in the Mac.Rob garden to promote environmental awareness within the school community through tangible actions.

Students to be more actively engaged in sustainability has been identified as a Victorian curriculum priority under the Melbourne Declaration. The new plantings will allow students to recognise the importance of locally grown food, provide a more solid foundation for the school's endorsement of sustainability in the future and directly assist with reducing our carbon footprint at MacRob.

A worm farm and compost bin have been established to reduce the school's organic waste from landfill and minimise the use of artificial fertilisers. The native garden includes a Gymea Lily, Kangaroo Paw and various other native species to support local native bees' biodiversity and to recognise the importance of Australia's native species. Fruit trees have been planted including a bay tree, kaffir lime, two olive trees and a passionfruit vine, along with a Wollemi Pine tree, one of the world's rarest plants, all are adjacent to the BBQ area.

This initiative was funded by a combination of a Parents' Association grant, SRC grants plus a \$500 Mini Grant I was awarded from Jane Goodall's Institute Australia in their annual competition to use on the project. The expansion of the edible gardens at Mac.Rob will continue to educate generations of young women in the future on sustainability to protect our planet, thank you all for supporting this initiative!

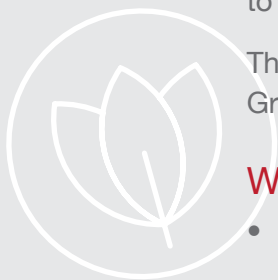
The ongoing maintenance of these productive gardens will be carried out by the Keen Green Beans Club members.

We need your help!

- To help remove the grass roots from the cleared land behind the library so that plants can be put in the ground to take advantage of the coming spring growth, see you there any lunchtime.
- Donations of tools and gardening equipment will be greatly appreciated.

Alisa Truong and I returned to school last Saturday to collect donated wooden pallets and carried wood on public transport across the city to gather the materials required to build new planter boxes, THAT'S KEEN! Join our club for fresh air fun in the gardens!

Chenxin Tu





Enviro Parade

On the last day of term 2, Mac.Rob held the annual enviro parade to finish off the semester. This year, I was chosen to model for my class 10B. For some reason I didn't feel nervous about walking in front of the entire school, I was actually kind of excited.

It was really interesting to see how working together on the enviro parade brought our class together; it made working on the project really fun as we divided roles among the people in our class to work on each part of the outfit in teams. We chose Met Gala to be our theme, and after researching what the celebrities wore to the Met Gala, discussed how we could recreate the look with the materials we had on hand. We decided to focus on the 2018's theme 'heavenly bodies, fashion and the catholic imagination' because let's be real, no theme will ever top that!

A lot of brainstorming and discussion went into the design. The headpiece would be inspired by SZA's headpiece from Met Gala that year, and the make-up look I designed was inspired by runway makeup from Jean Paul Gaultier in 2007 which also served as major inspiration for 2018's Met Gala. We reused clothes and materials that we all brought from home and made it so that I could wear it and take it off easily every time we worked on it. The dress took a lot of time during recess and lunch and even some late nights.

I rushed to do my eye make-up in the bathroom five minutes before I was supposed to be prepping in the theatre. All the other models were supportive and interested in all the themes and concepts. Walking on the runway was really fun and would highly recommend it! In the end, we didn't win, but my whole form was still really proud of each other and all the effort that went into designing a look to wear on the runway.

The parade is about showcasing just how creative everyone at Mac.Rob can be, a day to appreciate artistic vision and help the environment at the same time.

J Lee 10B

Congratulations to the winner of the *Enviro Parade 2019*
Pahanmie Koku Hennedige and 10C

GIVing to others

GIV club has had another exciting few months. We've continued our work with the Fitzroy Reading Club and the Smith Family's *student2student* program of the past term. On Sunday 27 July, twenty Mac.Rob students volunteered at Run Melbourne, a fund raising event that inspires Melbournians to raise funds for charities while spreading the passion of running.

Our next worthwhile community activity is aimed at positively impacting the pressing issue of homelessness around Melbourne:

Hampers for Homeless in partnership with the Salvation Army

Dates: 1 August – 10 September

Bring: Sanitary items; non-perishable food; clothing; toiletries; blankets

Students, help your form collect the most hamper items. There will be prizes for the most points, so see your form captains for details.

Let's see if we can better 2018 Hampers for Homeless collection!

Thank you to the following local business sponsors for their continued support!

A big thank you to Acai Brothers Port Melbourne and Prahran; Betty's Burgers; Holey Moley Mini Golf; Lord of the Fries; Sephora; Strike Bowling and Hoyts Cinemas.

GIV Team



Celebrating Promising Young Scientists

The 30th International Biology Olympiad was hosted during July in the beautiful city of Szeged, Hungary. After two rigorous weeks of lab training and lectures at the Science Olympiad Summer School, four students were selected into the Australian Biology Team – Felix, Gaia, Helen, and I.



Accompanied by Dr Julie Cooke and Dr Juliey Beckman, both from ANU, our team arrived in Szeged where we were able to rest for four days whilst recovering from our jetlag before the Olympiad began. We enjoyed visits to some of Europe's most distinguished landmarks including Buda Castle, the Ersztagom Basillica, and the St Matthias Church, all breath-taking in their architectural design, religious value, and history. From our peaceful boat cruise to Slovakia along the Danube River, to the quaint street shops of Szentendre, to the solemn ambience of the Dohány Street Synagogue, we marvelled at the rich tapestry of Hungary's art, culture and history.

NEWSFLASH!

Shortly after writing this article, Elaine won a bronze medal at the Biology Olympiad in Hungary. Congratulations Elaine!

The Opening Ceremony in Szeged was breath taking. The Hungarian Olympiad Committee welcomed all 78 competitor countries with a spectacular display of culture.

The Hungarian Olympiad Committee had prepared stimulating practical and theoretical exams. Using state-of-the-art equipment, such as gel-electrophoresis machines fitted with UV spectroscopy, the papers challenged our understanding of biology and time-management skills.

My two-week stay in Hungary has also allowed me to form memories friendships with people globally, from countries including Canada, China, USA, Denmark, Sweden, South Africa, amongst others. Connecting with such inspiring, and like-minded people has strengthened my desire travel overseas, whether through pursuing post-graduate studies abroad or doing an exchange program.

The International Biology Olympiad has been a wonderful experience and I will certainly cherish the precious friendships, memories, and insights for years to come.

Köszönöm – **Elaine Cheung**

Next year the International Biology Olympiad will be held in Nagasaki, Japan.

Big Science Competition 2019

Thirty seven students from Years 9 and 10 attempted the 2019 Big Science Competition which looks at their abilities in biology, physics, chemistry and earth science. Out of these students, six received a high distinction and a number received a distinction or credit.

High distinction: Sharnali Barua (10)	Joyce Xin-Tian Hung (10)
Pranissa Bhasin (10)	Lenya Ball-Vant (9)
Gila Bloch (10)	Shreshtha Siwach (9)

Congratulations to all students who competed. We can't wait to update you in September.

Konichi-wow!

Japan Cultural exchange

The 2019 Japanese Exchange with Shinwa Girls' High School featured 12 Mac.Rob students currently studying VCE Japanese Unit 1/2 students and their respective billets from Shinwa Girls' High School.

For three weeks in June/July, twelve students studying Units 1 and 2 Japanese, along with Ms Alcock and Sawaki-sensei, visited Japan on an exchange with our sister school, Shinwa Girls' High School where we received a warm welcome from the principal and the whole school.

Attending school in Japan, not only enabled us to practise speaking Japanese but also allowed us to experience the daily life of Japan. With our Japanese Year 10 peers, we participated in many after school clubs, volleyball, karate and orchestra clubs among others.

During two weeks of homestay, we had many interesting experiences including visiting Osaka Castle, Nara Park, going shopping at Sannomiya, making takoyaki and eating Kobe beef. It was an enormous pleasure to make long-lasting memories with our host sisters and have an opportunity to widen our knowledge of Japan and their culture.

by **Madeline Thanh-Vy Duong**



Hosting Japanese students at Mac.Rob

On Saturday July 27, just three weeks after the Mac.Rob students' return from Japan, the excitement of the exchange was reinstated when the Shinwa students arrived in Melbourne and were warmly welcomed to by their billets.

The Shinwa girls had the opportunity to experience life as an Australian high school student for two weeks. Every day, students attended their respective host sisters' classes at Mac.Rob. Additionally, all Japanese Unit 1 and 2 classes were used by Mac.Rob students to host fun activities such as cooking, sports and art to give an understanding of the differences between Japanese and Australian high schools and culture.

Outside school, Mac.Rob and Shinwa host sisters explored Melbourne and surrounds, this included visits to the State Library of Victoria, the National Gallery of Victoria Mornington Peninsula Hot Springs and Hosier Lane as well as much bubble tea consumption!

The exchange was a special experience and many memories made, we sincerely thank Shinwa Girls' High School, Mr Sawaki, Mr Yokoyama and all those involved in the exchange for such an incredible and successful program this year.



Women in Philanthropy

On the 18th of July, Sarah and I, Aishah, attended the [Melbourne Women's Fund Awards](#) dinner hosted by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation. The evening was filled with insightful conversations with remarkable women; both those supporting the charities and those involved in the charities' programs. We discussed everything from philanthropy, VCE and leading change within our community to feminism today, and the importance of having strong, female-based institutions, such as MacRob, to enable the young women of today to grow into the leaders of tomorrow.

The purpose of the evening was to choose one charity in one of the two categories to receive the Nurturing Grant worth \$30,000, and the Signature Grant worth \$80,000. Having researched each charity, we thought we knew who we wished to be given the grants however each charity was incredibly deserving, and as clichéd as it may sound, all the charities present truly were winners through the work they do each and every day.

The successful grant recipients on the evening were:

[The SCARF Community Organisation](#) received the Nurturing Grant. SCARF delivers an in-industry, immersive hospitality training program to 18-28 year olds facing barriers in securing work; and especially those seeking asylum or, from a refugee or migrant background.

[The Lighthouse Foundation](#) was awarded the Signature Grant, a family, and 24/7 physical and emotional support. The grant they received will go specifically towards funding the operation of one of their safehouses, a secure place to call home, which has been specifically designed for homeless young women and girls who have been subject to, or are at risk of early or forced marriages.

In addition, a new grant, the Spark! Grant was presented by the Argo Foundation worth \$15,000; all up an impressive \$95,000 of grants in total.

The opportunity to speak with such altruistic people working together to help change lives and for causes greater than themselves, was an especially heartwarming and inspiring experience. We at Mac.Rob hope to build relationships with many of the charities within our respective committees to support the work of such valuable organisations.

We would like to thank Jules McLean for sponsoring our attendance, the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Melbourne Women's Fund and Ms Stout for nominating us to attend such a special, insightful evening.

Sarah Deng and Aishah Brockhoff

Jacinda Ardern address

‘Why Does Good Government Matter?’

On the 18th of July, New Zealand Prime Minister Ms Jacinda Ardern gave a speech at Melbourne Town Hall entitled ‘*Why does good government matter?*’, an address hosted by the ANZSOG. Twenty fortunate year 12 Mac.Rob students had the opportunity to attend. The Prime Minister gave an inspiring speech discussing her ideas for what constituted a good government, which was then followed by a Q&A hosted by ABC journalist, Virginia Trioli.

PM Ardern’s presentation focussed on a variety of topics including her government’s measures that prioritised the wellbeing of New Zealand citizens, and the growing distrust with politics in an increasingly uncertain environment. She referred to wellbeing as an important measurement of ‘prosperity’ and explained her government’s budgetary measures which aimed to improve mental health services and mental health outcomes for the New Zealand people. She also talked about the fact that there must be greater trust in politics by both the citizens of the country and by the government itself. In this time of growing uncertainty, people must be open about their failures in order to build solidarity as a community. At the end of the address, Virginia Trioli invited PM Ardern to stay on stage for a short Q&A session where questions were sent in by the audience. The topics ranged from the different styles of leadership to her interaction with Donald Trump after the Christchurch massacre.

The night was an invaluable experience for the Mac.Rob students who attended, and a memorable evening. It was truly inspiring to hear from a world leader who expressed such wisdom and compassion, and is someone that we, as young leaders, look up to as a role model. We’re very grateful of the opportunity to attend ‘The Ardern Address’ and would like to thank VASSP, Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals, for making our visit possible.

Angela Lou and Chitra Malik Yr 12



Experiencing the United Nations

Rotary National Model United Nations Assembly, Canberra

During the weekend on the 16-19 of August, Areeba Masood (11A) and I were fortunate enough to have placed second in a district rotary Model United Nations Assembly competition and were sponsored to compete in Canberra for the national round.

We were both thankful and excited for the opportunity, especially since we got a rich, diverse and controversial country like China that had a lot of interesting stances on today's politics. I definitely learnt a lot from researching and discussing with various teachers. Global politics has blossomed into a passion of mine, as well as Areeba's, due to the phenomenal opportunity of this competition and open discussion aspect.

In Canberra, we made many friends and lovely acquaintances who were all well-versed in their respective country they were representing. I definitely broadened my understanding and perspective on multiple topics of the world from discussing with the fellow competitors.

Another fantastic opportunity we were given was that we were able to debate in the Legislative Assembly at Old Parliament House, seated in the very chambers in which past legislation and events such as the broadcasting of the moon landing had taken place. We also attended a formal dinner at the Australian National University where an Australian diplomat who worked in Afghanistan talked to us about his experience and influenced us to look at trying to find solutions to a world crisis.

We were given this opportunity thanks to the generosity of the Rotary District 9800, who organised a local event with participants from many schools around Melbourne, and who sponsored the cost of our trip to Canberra for the national competition.

Overall, the whole experience was wonderful and Areeba and I are extremely grateful for all the opportunities. We will definitely keep this moment in our hearts and also use it as a means to look into other career options and interests.



United Nations comes to Mac.Rob

On Tuesday the 20th of August, the Mac.Rob debating and public speaking committee and a shortlisted committee of students of all year levels organised a Model United Nations Assembly at Mac.Rob. We hosted multiple schools such as Wesley, Scotch College, Melbourne High and Melbourne Girls' Grammar. It was an action packed day with students

role-playing as delegates from various countries and debating with one another about various issues from fake media and journalistic freedoms to the South China Sea dispute.

It was great to see young people getting involved with global politics and heavy issues of the world. We held a problem-solving rotation activity where students role-played as World leaders and Generals to solve certain crises of the world such as the Trade War between America and China to the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan.

Students enjoyed both participating in and organising the engaging event.

Vy Tran 11C

Berthe Mouchette Poetry Recitation

This year all the Year 9 and 10 girls studying French presented themselves for the Alliance Française poetry competition on the 14th May. Congratulations to the following girls who have made it into the finals which took place at the Alliance Française in St Kilda on Sunday the 25th August. See next newsletter for results!

Year 9 (15 Finalists)

Juliana Chandrasekara, Melita Innocent, Ayra Junaidi, Jieh Ni Koh, Valerie Yu Qian Llin, Diemmy Pham, Nethaki Rupasinghe, Lahari Sanka, Jessica Fang Ting Tan, Chelsea Tran, Semiha Ulubasoglu, Elisha Joy Volovsky, Nimandee Wickramaratne, Ruth Wu, Yuxuan Zhao.

Year 10 (15 Finalists)

Malak Ababneh, Oshadi Bandara, Gila Bloch, Lauren Cheah, Amie Dao, Vithara Gunawardena, Viduni Indrapala, Sharanaa Jayaroopan, Zahreen Morshed, Simra Rahman, Danielle Shamis, Caitlyn Vaz, Angela Vo, Yundi Ye and Phoebe Zhang.

Félicitation et bonne continuation! *See next newsletter for results!*



2020-2021 VCE Information Evening

VCE Parent Information session for the 2021 graduating class was held at school on Tuesday 30th August where parents and students attended to hear about policies, procedures and information for their upcoming VCE course selection.

Representatives from both Senior and Middle School explained the broad range of options available to students and the theme of 'follow your passions' was strongly conveyed throughout the evening.

Year 11 students Michaela McMahon and Kylie Wei were excellent ambassadors of the school, sharing their own journey and decision-making processes that led to the subject choices for VCE. The presentation slides were made available for all parents of year 10 students on the night and can be found on Compass newsfeed. Thank you to all those that attended.

'Bench to Bedside' – updates in cancer research

On the 18th of July, seven year 10 students attended the High School Cancer Symposium held at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research along with a number of other schools. The theme of the event was 'Bench to Bedside' - how research regarding treatment and medication can be used to more effectively and less invasively manage cancer in patients.

Krishni Rajasingam-Roshan, Danielle Shamis, Caitlyn Vaz, Renny Fang, Amie Dao, Bethany Milford and Parnika Mahajan attended two lectures, one from a researcher who is also a breast cancer doctor, and the other a medical researcher. Both speakers shared their research into specific cancer cells and how 'killer-T cells' (cancer cells or damaged cells) may potentially be able to rid an area of cancer if introduced to the body. The researchers' passion and determination in conducting trials and seeking observations was inspirational and really enlightened us to the world of cancer medical research.

After the lectures we were taken on a tour of the laboratories and saw the work currently being undertaken. The high-tech equipment and fridges containing millions of cancer samples were intriguing. After speaking to a range of researchers about their exploration, passions and pathways, we had the opportunity to engage with breast cancer and prostate cancer survivors. These people living with cancer talked to us about their experiences and gave us an insight into the challenges to both themselves and their families, especially the physical and psychological exhaustion of treatment.

Finishing up with two more informative lectures, we walked out of the theatre as students far more aware of the scientific reality of cancer and knowledge of how important and fascinating medical research can be.

We are appreciative for this opportunity and gained so much insight into the field of medical research and in particular cancer research, which has innumerable benefits to the community, not only for the cancer patients themselves.

Krishni Rajasingam-Roshan 10H



Is there life on Mars?

On Friday 9 August, a group of year 9 students studying **Mission to Mars**, gathered in the theatre to attend a webinar with other schools and the special guest, NASA scientist and explorer of extreme environments, Dr. Darlene Lim.

Dr Lim described her journey to pursue her passions, including her childhood influences, explaining the certain challenges she encountered along the way. Dr. Lim spent time elaborating on her experiences within isolated and harsh places around the world. She did this in order to research and gain insight into the conditions on the Moon and Mars by examining similar ones here on Earth. She emphasised the fact that as a researcher she needed to expand her horizons by travelling around the world, collaborating with new people, and even immersing herself with various genres of literature.

Dr Lim advised potential 'Martians' that along with our successes, there will be many failures along the way. It's whether or not we decide to react positively by seeing failures as opportunities to learn more that determines how far we will go for our passions and what we can achieve after failing. She was a strong advocate for self-discovery as well, and urged students to be as innovative and creative as possible, reading and writing everything their hearts desire. She mentioned that she was never able to describe her dream career when she was our age of even afterwards, due to the fact that her current job was quite inconceivable in her youth. It makes us wonder, what if our dream job simply doesn't exist yet? At this point, wouldn't it be best pursuing our passions/hobbies instead of a singular career? A good question!

So, is there Life on Mars? We're still not 100% sure whether there has been or will be in the future, but the science tells us there's a fair chance that microbes might be found in some of the harsh environments on Mars and Dr Lim's research shows us a lot about human resilience in extreme circumstances. Overall, we were inspired mostly by Dr Lim's hunger for knowledge and openness to new learning opportunities.

Adriana Rahman 9E and Adeline Tia 9E



John Button Essay Writing Award

Mac.Rob student, Minseo Kim from 10F, has won the University of Melbourne's John Button School Prize that awards the best essay on a subject concerning Australia's future in either politics or policy. Minseo chose to write about ageism in the workforce with her essay titled: *'Older Workers' Rights are Human Rights: Why Australia Must Take Further Action Against Ageism in the Workplace'*. For this she has won a cash prize for herself in addition to \$2,000 for Mac.Rob and will be awarded at the Melbourne Writer's Festival on September 3rd at 6.30pm at the John Button Oration, State Library of Victoria.

Deborah Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust studies at Emory University, USA, will present the John Button Oration, titled *'In the Face of Hatred'*. Tickets are available for the event for anyone interested in attending.

Excerpt from ***Ageism in the Workforce*** by **Minseo Kim 10F**

'Age-related discrimination in the workplace takes two forms: bias during recruitment, and bias during employment, with ageist practices commonly implemented during the hiring process described as both rampant and systematic.

Employers often filter out older applicants during the initial stages of recruitment without adequate consideration of their qualifications, or attempt to deter them from applying by releasing job advertisements that solicit 'innovative' or 'dynamic' applicants.'

Unveiling Dr Meath's Portrait

Mac.Rob is a school that is proud of its traditions. One such tradition is the portrait gallery you will find in the front entrance of the school, and also the school hall. The women who have led Mac.Rob continue to live on within the school, their image captured at a moment in time and framed on the walls.

On the evening of August 7th Dr Toni Meath's portrait was unveiled and added to our portrait gallery. In the spirit of supporting young women, Dr Meath chose Tsering Hannaford as her portrait artist. Tsering is currently one of the finalists of the Archibald Prize, with her painting 'Mrs Singh'. At the unveiling, Toni spoke with warmth about her love for the Mac.Rob community, and also of the way the portraits had, in their way, affected her. Toni recounted that when she arrived at Mac.Rob she would often look at the portraits of past principals and feel inspired by their legacy. They also reminded her of the wonderful community she had joined.

Portraiture is often rich with allegory and symbolism. In Dr Meath's portrait you will find, on close inspection, a bee to represent her love of community and also the gynea lily, a symbol of giftedness that Toni felt was a fitting representation of our students. If you wander the school's gardens you will find that these lilies have been planted around the school, as a tribute to the wonderful students that make up the community of Mac.Rob.



Parents Association

Would you like to enrich your daughter's experience at Mac.Rob?

Come and meet other parents at the welcoming and supportive Mac.Rob Parents Association. New members are very welcome! Contact us on macrobpa@macrob.vic.edu.au and look at Compass for upcoming meetings and events. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 3 September at Mac.Rob; we'd love to see you here.



Parents BBQ at Mac.Rob

Last term the Parents Association held a family bbq to welcome new and current parents to the school community. It was a beautiful winter's afternoon with student leaders holding a session to provide insight into their portfolios for families. As a community we value the opportunity to welcome parents, students and families into the grounds of Mac.Rob to further strengthen our commitment to an inclusive education for all of our students

Parents Association Upcoming Events

Friday 18 October - Thank You Morning Tea for Staff

Families are asked to contribute sweet and/or savoury food for morning tea as a way of showing our appreciation for the excellent teaching and care our girls receive at MacRob. Please send your sweet or savoury goodies with your daughter or bring them in yourself to help serve them with other parents and carers. Volunteers are required, please email Tamaris at macrobpa@macrob.vic.edu.au to sign up with your support.

Sunday 10 November Woolworths' BBQ

A great fundraiser! All that's needed is for sausages to be cooked on site on a supplied BBQ. Volunteers needed to help, please email Tamaris at macrobpa@macrob.vic.edu.au to register your name.

Thursday 14 November Information Night for 2020 Year 9 intake.

Join us at the school to welcome new parents, a great opportunity to sign up new parents.

Saturday 23 November MacRob Trivia Night

A night of fun, competition & humour - ideal for all the family!

Sunday 1 December Woolworths' BBQ

Yes, another opportunity to get together, have fun and sizzle to raise funds to help our girls at Mac.Rob!

Saturday 14 December Second-Hand Uniform Sale

Our best fundraiser all year! We need volunteers at the school on December 3 and 4 to sort and label the uniforms for sale.

With the money we raise, we are able to provide grants to the girls. A recent example is the grant of \$600 given to the Keen Green Beans Club to set up a native and kitchen garden on the premises of the school. Keep a look out for all that organic parsley soon to come your way!

Valuable resource for parents

The School TV digital wellbeing platform provides parents with advice for raising safe, happy and resilient young people. School TV includes videos from leading experts, fact sheets, recommended books, apps and websites, and other helpful resources. You can access this through our website link here [School TV](#)

Community Events

The much-anticipated year 10 House Cup will be held at Melbourne High School on August 30th. This is an opportunity for the students of both schools to join forces and compete for the title of House Cup Winners. Houses are joined together based on colours - Como with Nerieds, Yarra with Oreads, Forrest with Naiads and Waterloo with Dryads. This is an all-day event, and students will not attend curriculum classes on this day.

Wellbeing Chill Out Zone!

Our wellbeing area is even more peaceful and welcoming after a mini-makeover! Students, come and relax on super comfy beanbags with snuggly blankets in this quiet space,

Mindfulness and relaxation tips, plus other wellbeing related information is showing on our new television. We would love to hear from students who come across short clips that they have found helpful, so we can add them to our playlist.

Please send any suggestions to Clair at grf@macrob.vic.edu.au

If you feel like you need some time out from the noise and crowds, please come and check it out, no appointment necessary!



Got any articles
for the newsletter?
Contact Geri Barr
[Newsletteritems@
macrob.vic.edu.au](mailto:Newsletteritems@macrob.vic.edu.au)