



**SPORTS REPORT**  
Adelaide Exchange has begun! Race around Australia pg12



**CHANGE THE WORLD**  
It's possible! Discover what you can do to help. pg4



**LEADING THE WAY**  
Mac.Rob leaders and their passions. pg 5 and 6



**MUSICAL GENIUS**  
Year 9s create their own original instruments pg 14

# mac.rob news



## DATES/EVENTS

**Friday 26 June**

Last day of term two (2pm finish)

**Monday 13 July**

First day of term three

**Friday 31 July**

Pallas photo day 1

**Monday 3 to Friday 7 August**

Intercultural Week

**Monday 17 to Wednesday 19 August**

Mac.Rob vs Adelaide High School Virtual Exchange

**Friday 28 August**

Pallas photo day 2

**Thursday 3 September**

Mac.Rob and MHS combined concert

**Thursday 10, Friday 11 and Saturday 12 September**

Combined Play - MHS Memorial Hall

**Thursday 17 September**

Spring Concert 7-10pm

**VCE latest update:**

**Wednesday 9 September**

GAT (General Achievement Test)

**Tuesday 10 November - Tuesday 1 December**

VCE examinations

## Embracing Change

### Principal's address

What a semester we have had! We've ended the first half of the year where we began, together again...whoever would have thought such a simple thing would feel like such an achievement! These past few months have presented some challenging and exciting times for us all and as we move into our holiday break, I'll be reflecting on all that we have learnt and accomplished.

I hope that we have come to appreciate the special role that schools play in keeping communities together, and that we've been reminded that nothing is more important than the relationships we share with those who we love and care for. Many of us will have realised we are far more agile than we knew, that we can adapt, be flexible and pivot to meet the needs of our families, friends, neighbours, students and colleagues when faced with new situations. We've been able to

question what we hold onto, and what really matters, when we are faced with choices that we otherwise might not have made, and we are learning that if you embrace change, rather than fight it, you give yourself the energy to meet your challenges with positivity and determination.

At Mac.Rob, I'm pleased that we are continuing to build on our experience, and are taking the time to explore new ways of teaching and learning; our pilot blended learning program will be an opportunity for us to consider what good teaching and learning can look like into our future and the possible benefits this may bring to our students' experience of learning at our school.

With the VCE amendments and examination dates now published, our senior students know what the rest of the year holds and we are able to make plans to ensure our VCE students are well prepared and supported. We have prioritised milestone events for our Year 12 students, such as the Year 12 Formal and Valedictory, to ensure that our graduating students have the opportunity to celebrate together at the end of what will have been a remarkable year in their education. We are also now restructuring our school calendar to incorporate the re-introduction of some of our whole school events and activities as restrictions ease, including our first Music concert for the year...it has been a long wait for our musicians but I know it will be well worth it!

As we head into the winter break, I thank all of our community for the support you have shown over this term, and I wish our staff and students a fantastic, relaxing holiday...I'm sure we would all agree, they have certainly earned it!

Happy holidays, Mac.Rob!

Anne Stout, Principal



## Thank you mugs!

To all our staff, we say thank you! Appreciative messages from the students have been reproduced onto mugs for all our staff as a thank you for their dedication and hard work during the first semester of 2020.

Each time they take a sip from their cup they will be reminded of how appreciated they truly are!



## Captains' update

Hello Mac.Robbians.

It is incredible to think we are at the end of our second term, the midpoint of what has already been an interesting year, to say the least.

The unexpected challenges of Term 2, a predominant one being online school as a safety precaution for COVID-19, reformulated our expectations of daily life. Throughout this time, adversity tested us in a number of dimensions. Yet, the fortitude displayed by our community allowed us to emerge with hopefulness and optimism for the year ahead, united by the common threads of adaptability, leadership, friendship, perseverance, and compassion.

We would like to congratulate and thank all Mac.Robbians, and their supporters, for their ongoing efforts during the term, one which will certainly be remembered. We wish to thank you for adapting to the new circumstances with ease, flexibility and positivity, demonstrating great strength and resilience.

On Tuesday the 9th of June, we were delighted to welcome back Years 9 and 10 to school. Year 12 leaders and staff had a bright and early start to the day, greeting students with music, chocolates, streamers and smiles. Our overpass connecting the Kingsway and Lakeside buildings, was covered in flowers, decorated to celebrate the return of the students, with a quote from Disney's Mulan, 'the flower that blooms in adversity is the rarest and most beautiful of all'. It was so lovely to hear the school filled with laughter and conversation.

Term three will no doubt be a dynamic term full of fun and new learning opportunities. COVID-19 has shown us the importance of adaptability and creativity. In light of the circumstances, we hope to see the return of our special house events such as House Chorals and Lip Synching, which are undoubted highlights of the school year. We also look forward to participating in the race around Australia competition in place of the annual Adelaide Exchange, and other celebrations such as Intercultural Week and Mac. Rob Week.

As we prepare to enjoy the winter holidays, we ask you to find an opportunity to reward yourself with a real rest. Reading for the pleasure of it, a spontaneous adventure in mother nature, or some time in front of a fire toasting marshmallows would be a lovely place to start.

Have a wonderful break, we look forward to seeing you in Term 3.

Michaela and Aishah.



Bennett's Tree Kangaroo



Carnaby's Black Cockatoo



Koala

## Can MacRobbians Change the World?

In our class, How to Change the World in Year 10, we are looking at global issues, protesting methods and how to successfully run campaigns.

Australia has a wide variety of beautiful species such as the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Bennet's tree kangaroo, the koala and more. These animals are all at high risk of extinction due to many factors in Australia and in all, 964 plants and 286 animals are under high threat from deforestation alone.

Deforestation can also have a huge impact on the health of soil and water. Without trees to anchor fertile soil, erosion occurs which then ends up sweeping soil into rivers, choking them. In Australia the sediment and pesticide pollution from soil is further threatening the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

Deforestation also contributes to climate change as trees play an important role in our ecosystem, absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen. Through deforestation, not only has the number of trees performing this task decreased, but carbon stored inside the tree is released when burnt. Forests all around the world have been significantly decreased by deforestation over recent years, and will continue with rising agricultural demands.

**YES!** As MacRobbians, there are many ways we can help reduce the amount of deforestation!

1. Use less paper, recycle whenever possible and print only when needed, double sided.
2. At the supermarkets, avoid products containing palm oil, which is often produced from the destruction of Orangutans habitat.
3. Eat less meat or give vegetarianism a go, as livestock is a primary cause of the destruction of forests for grazing areas and feed for cattle.
4. If you have access to a garden or open space, plant a tree yourself!

Remember even a small actions make an big impact :) Discover more ways to help change the world here: [Plant](#) and [Trees](#)

**Diya Dasgupta and Lenya Ball-Vant 10HCW**



# Leading the way in 2020!

Messages from the balance of our leaders following part one in our March edition.

All our captains and leaders have been working hard, and succeeding, to build Mac.Rob Spirit over Term 2.

## **Sharon + Meghana - SRC**

Hey! We're Meghana and Sharon— two friendly Macrobbians who are committed to listening and taking on board the concerns, suggestions and ideas of our student body. By fixing our physical environment, creating reform in the classroom, throwing fun events, assembly Q&As and more, our SRC family is committed to making MacRob a community where everyone feels comfortable and happy. SRC is FIRED UP for 2020... are you READY TO GO?!

## **Bella + Senalee - FAM Friends at Mac.Rob**

"We exist to build a positive and inclusive environment to support current and future Macrobbians." Our mission statement to abide by for the year and our number one priority going into online learning to ensure that students, still felt connected to the school. FAM has been focused on creating a support network for students as we know how important it is to stay connected at every stage.

## **Genny + Vy - Debating and Public Speaking**

This year, DPS' main goal is to increase participation in our portfolio. We believe that debating and public speaking is something everyone can participate in, and we want to encourage everyone to express their opinions and what's important to them in a productive, articulate way! We hope we can take advantage of a bad situation this year to open up new ways for everyone to get involved!

## **Nikita + Devshi - Music Captains**

Hey, we are Devshi and Nikita - MacRob's 2020 Music Captains! Our focus for this year is to extend the music community to the whole school and hopefully beyond. We'd like to continue to carry the magical legacy of music in Mac.Rob, and make this year the best it can be!

## **Lexi + Vic - Sport Captains**

Hi! We're Vic and Lexi - your 2020 Sport Captains! This year we're super excited to help run all the sporting events, carnivals, student vs teacher competitions and most of all- Adelaide Exchange! We are hoping to see high sporting involvement across the school and for the fierce competition and high spirits to continue on throughout the year.

# House Captains for 2020



## **Nhi + Trisha - Oreads Captains**

This year we are honoured to be the 2020 Oreads House Co-Captains. Our number one goal for this year is to make House fun and enjoyable for everyone. House events are one of the best ways to generate friendships across all year levels and we hope that by the end of the year more people become friends with other year levels in the wider Mac.Rob community. Making Oreads feel like one big family is something we are striving to do and hopefully over the year, people see House not as another co-curricular activity but as a welcoming community.



## **Angela + Yehara - Naiads Captains**

HOO HA HA! We're Yehara Perera and Angela Dang better known as Yeri Peri and Angle Dangle. We're your 2020 Naiads House Captains! We want to encourage house spirit at the school through organising engaging house events. Especially with Ms Rona's world tour, we are working extra hard to boost morale! Let's go and have fun with Naiads House in 2020, make new friends! Woo!



## **Sarah + Gemma - Nereids Captains**

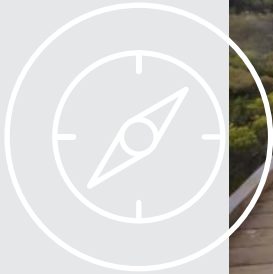
We're your Nereids co-captains for 2020! We firmly believe in making House a happy and healthy space for everyone, so don't ever be afraid to approach us about anything. Apart from the welcoming atmosphere that Nereids has to offer, house events are also a major part of life at MacRob that we think everyone should be a part of. We urge you all to take advantage of every single opportunity that comes your way to get the full MacRob Experience. Please don't hesitate to get involved and broaden your horizons...we'll be right there beside you!



## **Erica + Orly - Dryads Captains**

Hello! Our names are Erica and Orly and we are so excited to be this year's Dryads House Captains. Our love for our forest saplings has truly blossomed over the past 4 years which we now try to express via our email, instagram and socially distant hallway interactions! Bring on 2020!





## Exploring Places, People and Pockets

In exciting news, Year 12 student, Sonia Truong, year 12F, has been selected for the Australian Team for the 2020 International Geography Olympiad (iGeo). The Olympiad was to be held in August in Istanbul in Turkey, however, due to the COVID19 restrictions, the Olympiad will not run in this year.

The top performing students in the Australian Geography Competition are invited to participate in the annual Geography's Big Week Out, a six day event which focuses on fieldwork, spatial technologies and analytical skills. Sonia participated in this event last December, along with 15 other Year 11 students from across Australia, which was held in a little pocket of Kangaroo Island, South Australia. The camp involved a series of activities requiring students to apply their geographical skills in a range of investigative, collaborative and fieldwork activities in the beautiful environment of Kangaroo Island.

Arising from this event, Sonia was one of four students selected to represent Australia in the International Geography Olympiad in Turkey.

The Australian Geography Competition is a joint initiative of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Australian Geography Teachers' Association for Australian, and is open to all secondary school students in Australia. The competition is a challenging test of students' ability, assessing their geographical knowledge and also their geographic skills. It aims to encourage student interest in Geography and to reward student excellence.

On behalf of the school community, congratulations Sonia, an amazing achievement!





# Home is where the heART is!

## Photography Year 9

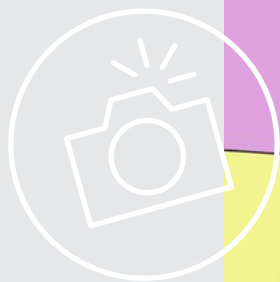
For this 'Home' series, we were tasked to colour an image that symbolised what home meant to us. The tools I used included my phone camera, a mini stool to help me with high angle shots and my computer.

We studied Gordon Bennett's artworks, which I found to be incredibly inspiring, especially 'Interiors (red chairs)', as they were simplistic in terms of the lines and objects but effective, which is what I wanted to achieve in this project. His colour schemes were also a point of interest as they used the same tones, either bright or dull, and really captured the essence of home.

I really liked the image of 'Interiors (red chairs)', because the colours popped and drew you further into the image. This inspired me to focus on taking pictures of my kitchen and dining room from different angles and it also inspired me to do a more abstract colour scheme.

By using Adobe Capture to turn it into a vector image, I then used various tools on Adobe Photoshop to manipulate the image. The tools included cutout filter, lasso, magic wand and the polygonal lasso. The 'paint bucket' tool was very useful in adding colour to big areas and that is what I used. The 'eyedropper' tool was very helpful to keep the same colour in various parts of the image, which made the image harmonious.

## Aaditri Bahn Year 9



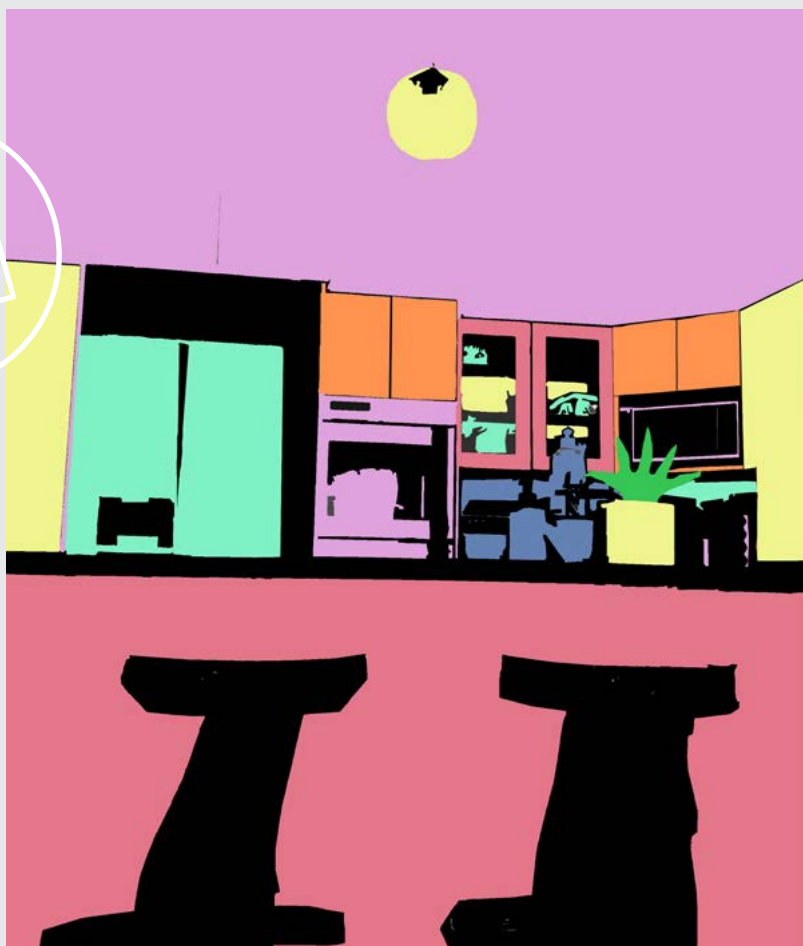
### What's on at Mac.Rob?

Subscribe to our social media pages and streaming service to get insights and news of what's happening at Mac.Rob!

Instagram [@macrobgbs](#)

Facebook [@MacRobertsonHS](#)

YouTube [@Mac.Rob YouTube](#)





# Home is where the heART is!

Photography Year 9 *continued*



Natasha Lee



Bethany Tamaray



Shasha Osianto



Chanuri Hewagama



Sinali Ratnayake '19



Caitlin Fleming '17



Ann Baby '17

## Palladians - where are they now?

Hello! We are Sinali, Caitlin and Ann and are a members of the Palladian Association School Liaison Committee. Our main priority is to ensure that the Palladians Association works closely with the school leaders to design initiatives that will bring value to current Mac.Robbians.

Become a Palladians member and stay connected! Click on the link below to join.

It is extremely encouraging to see so many current students sign up for their Palladians membership. We truly believe that the Mac.Rob community benefits greatly when students become members for life before they graduate. Traditionally, we would formally present the Palladians badges to new student members at a whole school assembly but instead, students will receive theirs in the mail this year.

The Palladians committee is also working very closely with the school to ensure we continue to support the students during our new reality. The Year 10 Junior Leadership Program, which is a joint program with Melbourne High School alumni, will continue online. The remaining three sessions will be conducted via Microsoft Teams and we will celebrate the end of the program with a fun virtual presentation night.

Also working closely with the career office, we are developing a database for Year 10 students looking for work experience and are excited to be developing a series of podcasts in lieu of our well-received career symposium. Watch for further information in regards to this in the near future, so keep an eye out!

Visit this link <https://palladians.com/#membership> or email our President, Sally Ng, at [president@palladians.macrob.vic.edu.au](mailto:president@palladians.macrob.vic.edu.au) if there is anything else you'd like to know.

We wish you all the best for a relaxing break.

**Caitlin, Ann and Sinali**



Year 9J Japanese class winners.



Year 10 German class winners.

## Immerse Me in Language.

**“It was fantastic! Just like being in Japan!”**

For the ImmerseMe Games, in the week 21-28 May, Mac.Robbians competed against students and schools from across Australia and New Zealand in gaining as many points as they could by completing ImmerseMe lessons over the competition week.

Using 360 degree videos, ‘ImmerseMe’ is an online language learning tool—many recorded on location in countries where each language is spoken—along with speech recognition technology to immerse students in realistic conversations; for instance, buying bread at a bakery, checking into a hotel, or even discussing social issues.

Mac.Rob French, German, Indonesian and Japanese students not only participated in, but absolutely dominated in the inaugural ImmerseMe Games. In an impressive demonstration of Mac.Rob students’ capacity to engage in learning through online environments, our school not only came first in the overall competition with an enormous 149,731 responses recorded on the site over the week, but we also had many individual students win prizes including:

Semiha Ulubasoglu for the Top Student in French and German Prize, Sophia Quach for the Top Student in Indonesian Prize, and Carmen Lau, Top Student in Japanese Prize.

97 students won Gold (1000+ points), Silver (500+ points) or Bronze (250+ points) prizes

76 students won Silver (500+ points) or Bronze (250+ points) prizes.

In our internal competition, Mac.Rob Year 9 and 10 Language classes competed to be the class in each year level with the highest average points earned over the competition. The winners, as pictured above, won a pizza lunch for the end of Term 2. We also had two outstanding runner-up Year 9 classes:

9B (French) with an average score of 591 points

9F (French) with an average score of 547 points

Congratulations to all participants and winners on your outstanding language learning efforts!



# Join the Great Race Around Australia!

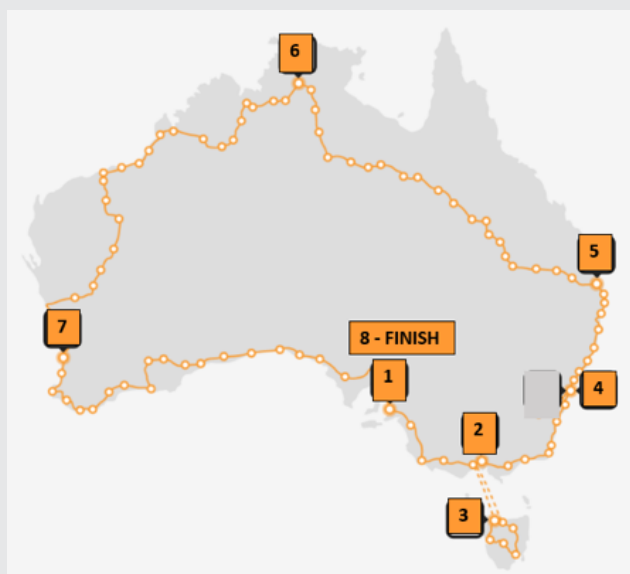
## Adelaide Exchange 2020 has begun!

Staff and students, please join us on our fun 13, 794km journey!

A highlight of the sporting calendar each year, this year the Adelaide Exchange will be a bit different. The great thing about this is that every member of the Mac.Rob community has the opportunity to be involved! While we will still celebrate the Exchange in August, in the lead up to exchange week, we have created a friendly competition with Adelaide High School to see which school can run/walk a lap of Australia first.

The Sport Captains have shared instructions with students about how to join in.

**Mac.Rob Staff**, you'll keep fit by adding your steps to our total and help us get around Australia first! See email from Emma Lionello, only 10 minutes to sign up. The distance that students and staff travel in their runs and walks will be added to a cumulative total as we strive to travel around Australia before AHS can!



### Legend

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 | START Adelaide  |
| 2 | Melbourne       |
| 3 | Burnie          |
| 4 | Sydney          |
| 5 | Brisbane        |
| 6 | Darwin          |
| 7 | Perth           |
| 8 | FINISH Adelaide |

## Follow the progress!

*Subscribe to our social media pages and streaming service to get insights and news of what's happening at Mac.Rob!*

*Instagram* [@macrobghs](#)

*Facebook* [@MacRobertsonHS](#)

*YouTube* [@Mac.Rob YouTube](#)



Mac.Rob Run Club getting the jump on Adelaide High School by running to the Bay and back.

Are you ready to run?

## Black Lives Matter

With the recent Black Lives Matter movement gaining momentum recently, the LRC has put together a list of books and resources available to borrow on this theme.

The more we learn, the more we can understand what others are experiencing. What better way to inform ourselves and understand what it's like to be in another person's shoes than to read first hand accounts and stories.

[Click on this link](#) to access the range of titles available at the Mac.Rob LRC.



## Enviro Cup



On the final day of Term 2, the Environment Committee held a ceremony to announce the winners of the Enviro Cup which was streamed live throughout the school. Stay tuned and check the next newsletter for all the details along with the winning videos!

Be sure to subscribe to the new Mac.Rob official YouTube Channel to enable crisp, clear streaming for our events and videos! [Click here to subscribe!](#) Tell your friends, we need 1,000 subscribers to be able to stream live!



## Adieu Madame!

After nearly two decades imparting the love of language to countless Mac.Rob students, Madame Trenchard-Smith is retiring. With her new found time, Julia is looking forward to more hiking, skiing and travelling .

Testament to her teaching passion, staff and many of her students signed her farewell book with heartfelt messages of thanks and memories, many of whom have stayed in touch.

We wish you nothing but peace, love and happiness Madame, here's hoping it is au revoir and not goodbye.



## MacDoggians Day!

Friday June 26 was 'International Bring Your Dog to Work Day', and once again MacRob staff seized the opportunity to share their furry friends with our school community!

Our MacDoggians came in all shapes and sizes...and in a range of wonderful fashion! This year our guests were greeted by Mac.Rob's resident greyhound, Sasha, looking very stylish in her own special Mac.Rob 'uniform'; a huge thank you to Bob Stewart uniform suppliers for generously donating fabric to make Sasha's coat! Thanks also go to the SRC for making doggie treats to sell, all proceeds going to the Bushfire Appeal.

The positive influence of dogs in schools, hospitals and workplaces has been documented for many years, with workplace, therapy and Story Dog programs becoming increasingly popular. If you are thinking about a pet for your own family, please consider the many animals that desperately need homes; contact RSPCA, GAP, or Lort Smith for information about adoption.



SRC reps selling doggie treats!



Top MacDoggian, Sasha, sashaying around in her new Mac.Rob uniform!





## Creative Sounds

### Let's Play!

Students in Year 9 Let's Play class did not let being away from school stop them creating music. By using commonly found items around the home, such as empty boxes, rubber bands and other found objects, the students fabricated ingenious instruments to create sound. Coming back together never sounded so sweet as the music from their very original instruments.



**Melody:** a sequence of single notes that is musically satisfying; a tune.

Click [this link](#) to witness a budding composer on her original instrument.



Vihagi JAYASINGHE with her colourful handmade guitar



Innovative handmade 'string' instrument.



## Total dedication

It takes total dedication to learn any instrument, the flute is just one of those.

Total dedication also applies to the safety of our students and staff here at Mac.Rob.

Music teacher, Claire Nicholson, is seen here teaching flute behind a safety screen, keeping both student flautist and teacher perfectly safe!

## OAM accolade for Mac.Robbian

**Mac.Rob Alumni Ms Jenny Taing**

*“My memories of being a student at Mac.Rob include the wonderful close knit community, and being encouraged by the teachers to not be afraid of showing your intellect.”*

Former Mac.Rob student Jenny Taing, 2000 alumni, received a Medal for the Order of Australia, OAM, at the Queen’s birthday honours recently, for service to the financial and investment sectors, and to the community. Jenny was a senior lawyer at the Australian Securities & Investments Commission for 10 years and is now working with top law firm HIVE Legal in Melbourne.

Jenny was a Mac.Rob Portrait Gallery recipient in 2015, and recalls her time as a student at Mac.Rob very fondly.

When interviewed for this article, Jenny spoke about her desire to give back to the community, having learned the importance of volunteering and a giving mindset from her Mac.Rob community. She also recalled being encouraged and told she could do anything she wanted with her life. This in turn gave her inner confidence which she says was instrumental in enabling her to join the board of The Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital at the young age of 29.

Contributing her skills and giving back to the community is very important to Jenny, who has held board positions on a number of boards in addition to the hospital, including Screen Australia and the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation.



Jenny Taing OAM