



LEADERSHIP

Premier's Awards
for outstanding VCE
achievements.



DRAMA

House Drama
Festival an absolute
curtain-raiser.



COMMUNITY

Our Winter Sleepout
for homeless
charities.



EVENTS

An enlightening
week of Multicultural
activities.

mac.rob news



DATES/EVENTS

Monday 15 July

First day term three

Wednesday 24 July

Year 9 Mission To Mars Day

Wednesday 24 July

Winter Concert, 7pm

Thursday 25 July

Year 11 Regeneration Day

Friday 26 July

Pallas Photo Day

Monday 5 August

Movie Night at Mac.Rob
and Trivia Night at MHS

Tuesday 6 August

Parents Association Meeting, 7pm

Wednesday 7 August

Dr Meath Portrait Unveiling

Sunday 11 – Wednesday 14 August

Adelaide Exchange

Thursday 15 August

Staff professional learning –
students early finish

Friday 16 August

Staff professional learning –
student free day

Wednesday 21– Saturday 24 August

Combined school play

Tuesday 27 August

Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews

Friday 30 August

Year 10 House Cup



Welcoming winter

Each week I meet with Chelsea and Sinali, our school captains, to plan for the week ahead and check in about matters on which we are working together. With winter upon us, and the term nearly over, we have started planning for 2020, a reminder that our year really is flying by!

In such a vibrant and active community as Mac.Rob, there is always something to do, plan or enact, so time appears to pass quickly; in their final year, our Year 12 students know this better than anyone. It is one of the reasons that we encourage our Year 12s to keep involved in the school's extra-curricular opportunities even when they are busy with study, for the memories they make now will be those they hold on to, long after they move to the next phase of their education. This sentiment is reinforced every time I meet a Palladian and hear their stories of the events that shaped them during their time at our school.

As ever, this month those opportunities have been in abundance. *Intercultural Week*, run by our SRC, highlighted the joy and fortune we have to be a truly diverse community, and the productions created for House Drama showcased the way our students unite, collaborate and lift each other to set a standard that is impressive. We have welcomed our French and German exchange students into our community, and in

turn, dispatched our Japanese exchange students to Shinwa High School to experience the rich culture, history and life of our Japanese host sisters.

Despite the winter chill, our parents came out in force to support our *Parents' Association Barbecue*, held on Sunday June 16. Parents welcomed the opportunity to visit the school, meet our staff and hear from our student leaders about the activities and programs that run at Mac.Rob. Our *'Winter Sleepout'* staff and students also braved the cold to raise awareness about youth homelessness, an issue that affects a growing number in the Melbourne community.

Winter also heralded our annual Year 9 entrance examinations, with thousands of students applying for entry into the four select entry schools. This continued interest in selective education only reinforces the importance of the provision of schooling for students who are highly able, and we are delighted to see that interest strengthen each year. Watching the students pour into the Royal Exhibition Hall was quite something to behold, and we will look forward to welcoming our next cohort of Mac.Robbiens into our ranks later this year.

The end of term is almost upon us. Grab some reading from our LRC, get cosy by the fire, and enjoy a safe, relaxing and warm winter break!

Anne Stout
Principal



2020 Entrance examinations

The Year 9 – 2020 entrance examination was held on Saturday 15 June at the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton. Over 3,600 students sat the examination at the REB for entry to one of the four academic selective entry schools in Melbourne; The Mac. Robertson Girls' High School, Melbourne High School, Nossal High School (Berwick) and Suzanne Cory High School (Werribee). The Year 10 & 11 2020 examination was held at the school on Friday 7 June.

We wish every applicant all the best for a bright and happy future, regardless of where they study next year.



Half way there!

Hey Mac.Rob,

We are now nearing the conclusion of term two and semester two – the halfway point of the year! This is great for some students (closer to school holidays!) but not so great for our Year 12s because exams are just around the corner. Ultimately, we are extremely proud of all our fellow students who have made it this far into the year, doing their best and making the most out of the opportunities they are given.

Something special to us this year is seeing the final products of form challenges, in which forms participate in mini challenges throughout the year, bolstering a bit of both friendly competition and collaboration. Our first one this year was the annual *Form Board Competition* and we, along with many others, were blown away with the creativity and work put into these boards. We hope you enjoy viewing some of these creations below.

June, like most months at Mac.Rob, has been a month full of activities, fun and learning. We hope you enjoy perusing the newsletter and seeing what our students have been up to.

Wishing everyone the best, and happy holidays,

Chelsea and Sinali



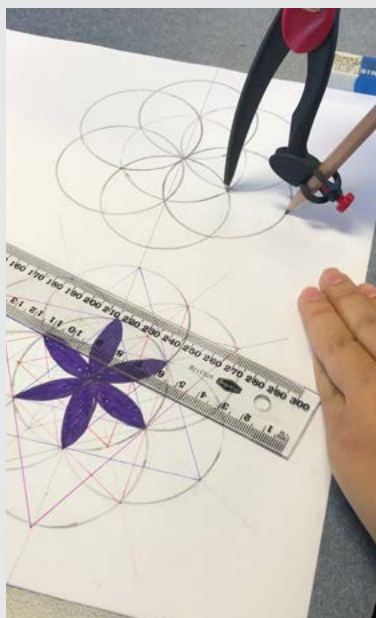
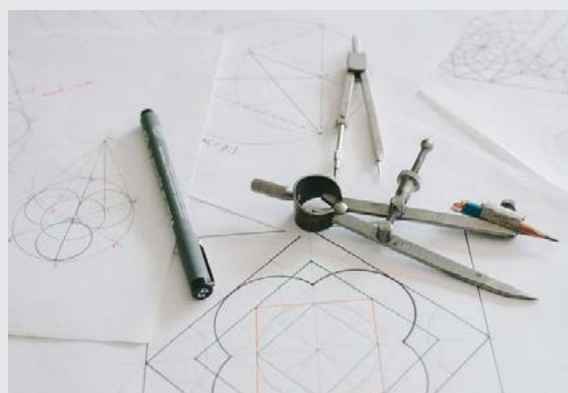
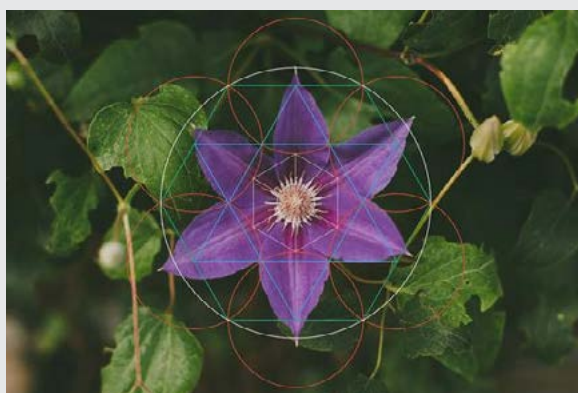
Geometry incursion with Nabeel Khan

On Tuesday 4 June Melbourne based artist Nabeel Khan visited a Year 10 Mac.Rob mathematics class and worked with the students on the history and construction of geometrical patterns in different cultures as well as nature.

Nabeel draws heavily from islamic pattern designs, as well as traditional esoteric cultures and is passionate about students seeing geometry through these themes.

The students constructed intricate designs using a pencil, a ruler and a set of compasses.

The timing of this event during Intercultural Week was perfect, allowing us to see the connections between geometry and religion, culture, philosophy, nature and art.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Yu Ling (Elaine) Cheung (12F), who was selected by Australian Science Innovations to represent Australia in the International Biology Olympiad, which will be held in Hungary between 14–24 July 2019. This extraordinary academic opportunity follows Elaine's score of High Distinction in the 2018 National Biology Olympiad.



Premier's Awards recognising outstanding VCE achievement

On the morning of Monday June 3rd 10 Mac.Rob students were acknowledged for their outstanding work in the VCE at the *VCE Premier's Awards* at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The Deputy Premier & Education Minister, James Merlino, presented students with '*Premier's Awards*'. These awards recognise students who are the top performers in their subjects.

We are immensely proud of our students who received these accolades, and also of their teachers, who work incredibly hard to support their students.

Special Congratulations goes to Mac.Rob 2018 Dux – Angela Ran. Angela received three awards in total, including the *Top All-Round VCE High Achiever*, which is awarded to students who receive a study score of 46 in at least five VCE subjects.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF MAC.ROB'S PREMIER'S AWARDS RECIPIENTS!

Angela Ran – *Top All-Round VCE High Achiever*, as well as subject awards for English (EAL) and Physics

Elaine Cheung – Biology

Arsheeya Rattan – Further Mathematics

Alyssa Ng – Indonesian Second Language

Gemma Howard – Literature

Kira De Boer – Literature

Upeksha Galappaththie – Literature

Aayushi Khillan – Psychology

Megan Farquharson – Psychology

Nhat Linh Vo – Vietnamese

Colours Recipients

Congratulations to our Round 1, 2019 Colours recipients who were awarded their certificates and ribbons at this week's whole school assembly. Colours are awarded to students who have shown exceptional leadership, commitment, achievement, initiative, and sustained contribution to the school's co-curricular and leadership portfolios. In addition, Colours also recognises the awardees' high standard of personal behaviour, their sense of school spirit and their positive influence over other students. Well done to all of our recipients.

DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

– Full Colours

Matthew Conley-Evans
Zofia Witkowski-Balke

DEBATING AN PUBLIC SPEAKING

– Half Colours

Sanika Shorey
Vy Tran
Samidha Singh

DRAMA – Full Colours

Nina Cohen
Sarah Zijlstra

DRAMA – Half Colours

Marianna Simonetto
Carrie Churchwood
Rebecca Geary

ENVIRONMENT – Half Colours

Rose Cindric
Isabelle Lim

LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL SERVICE

– Full Colours

Isabelle Lim
Chelsea Troung
Sinali Ratanyake
Izza Zahid
Lavra Nanayarakkara
Abiyamy Kuriakose
Adhithi Subramanian
Bianca Denisenko
Michelle Dang

Jenny Tran

Kameron Lai
Khue Le

LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL SERVICE

– Half Colours

Aisha Brockoff
Samantha Yee
Avia Sanders
Kamalinee Kamalakaran
Ella Crowley
Meghanna Jonalaggada
Elizabeth Skoetsovo

MUSIC – Full Colours

Hannah Chin
Christina Ni

MUSIC – Half Colours

Arya Prabha
Helene Nguyen
Jessica Wang

SOCIAL SERVICE – Full Colours

Chitra Malik
Lakni Weerasekera
Vinuthi Wijeweera

SOCIAL SERVICE – Half Colours

Justina Jin

STAGE CREW – Full Colours

Cindy Nguyen
Mary Kitsoulis



Real Drama Queens!

The Sixty-Eighth Annual House Drama Festival was an outstanding night of entertainment and thought-provoking theatre. Dedicated students from all four Houses presented a wide variety of plays based on the theme of *'The Protest'*.

Under the guidance of their hard-working House Captains, the writer/directors explored an eclectic mix of genres from jet-black comedy (Nereids) to absurdist whodunnit (Naiads).

The winners on the night included Yenuli Binaya Amarasinghe, awarded best actor for the role of 'Nick' in Dryads' play, and Diya Sengupta and Ananya Shaw who won Best Directors and Best Play for Nereids. However, the real winners were the audience who were treated to such engaging performances! It was simply thrilling to be a part of it.

Special mention should go to the dedicated technical crew who support all Houses under the guidance of Stage Managers Cindy Nguyen and Mary Kitsoulis. As an extra treat, the Grand Final of House Theatresports also took place, with Dryads victorious.

For your own enjoyment and edification make sure you attend any or all of the performing arts events here at Mac.Rob!



KEEN GREEN BEAN!

Congratulations to Chenxin Tu who this month won a grant of \$500 from Jane Goodall Institute for her work in raising awareness and promoting sustainability at MacRob. Chenxin plans to use the money to support the *Keen Green Beans* club in expanding and maintaining their current work at the school, and we look forward to seeing her green efforts come to fruition! Well done, Chenxin!

Autumn Concert

Many thanks to the Instrumental Music students and staff for an excellent *Autumn Concert!* Themed on the movies, it was a great success. The performance was warmly received by the audience, and the popcorn and hot chocolate added to the ambiance of the night. Congratulations and thanks to the Music Captains, Christina Ni and Hannah Chin, and the Concert Managers, Kye-Ann Cheong and Nikita Parate.

We can't wait for the *Winter Concert* on July 24th.

Chamber Voices on the radio

On Thursday 9th of May, Mac.Rob's Chamber Voices had the exciting chance to perform at the 3MBS Radio Station with our conductor Ms Joanna Patocs. The students prepared two pieces of music for this event which we thoroughly enjoyed performing.

The first piece we performed was the New Orleans song, Iko Iko, written by Barbara Anne Hawkins, Joan Marie Johnson, Rosa Lee Hawkins, (known as *The Dixie Cups*) and James Crawford. This piece was upbeat and fun, especially because of the body percussion involved! We had wonderful solos from Dehansa Herath and Kye-Ann Cheong and were accompanied by Margaret Tang.

The second piece we performed was *Place by the River* composed by Eddie Perfect and arranged by Kate Saddler, both local musicians. Chloe Tang sang a beautiful solo and Jessica Nguy accompanied her on piano.

We'd like to thank 3MBS Radio Station for giving us this amazing opportunity as well as those who listened in to support us!



Victorian School Music Festival

Chamber Music Ensemble

On June 3rd, Mac.Rob Chamber Strings participated at the Victorian School Music Festival 2019 (VSMF) in the Hawthorn Arts Centre and received a Gold Certificate for their performance in the Senior Strings Division!

Competing with many schools from across Victoria, the students performed two pieces for the Festival: *Gypsy Fire*, one of the Festival's set pieces, and Elgar's *Serenade for Strings*.

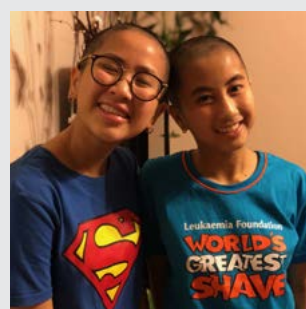
Receiving insightful and helpful feedback from the adjudicators will certainly help in advance the level of Mac.Rob's Chamber Music. The success has been a great boost to students' confidence in performing music, and showed that consistent hard work in rehearsals does pay off! The event was incredibly satisfying for our students; well done to all involved!

World's Greatest Shave

Hi, I'm Thao!

On the 18th and 19th of June, my sister and I shaved and donated all of our hair to the Leukaemia Foundation. Many have asked us "*why shave off all that beautiful hair?!*" At first, we just wanted to donate our hair for those who would appreciate it a lot more than we do. This idea led to us thinking, "*why not shave it all off as well?!*".

Our original goal was \$350, however together with my sister (who shaved her hair at home), we raised \$2500! We are so grateful for all the support received from our friends and family and to every single person who donated, watched and cheered us on. Thank you to the Mac. Rob community and all who supported us during this amazing, unforgettable time.





Winter Sleepout

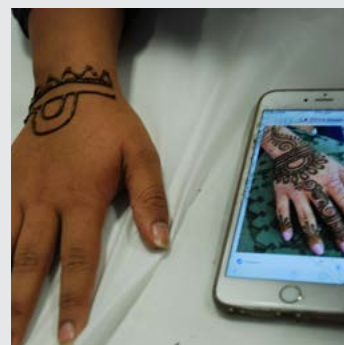
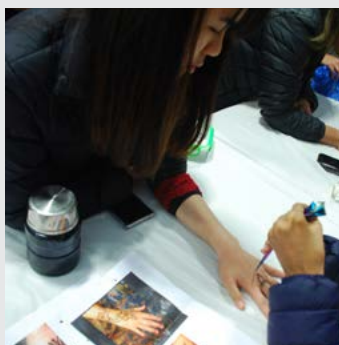
On Friday June 21, Social Service held the annual Winter Sleepout, where around 100 students and teachers stayed over at MacRob to experience something close to what many Australians experience every night; homelessness. We were lucky enough to meet and listen to the founder of the Lighthouse Foundation, Susan Barton and her colleague Michelle Chummun, who are advocates for fighting youth homelessness. Susan's deep, emotional story really connected with us and some tears were shed particularly about her community work in Sri Lanka. She encouraged us to participate in any way we could to change the surprising statistics about youth homelessness in Australia.

After dinner, we played the 'privilege' game, which highlighted social inequality, and some of us gathered in the theatre to watch *Pursuit of Happyness* – a movie based on the true story of a single father and his son, and their struggle with homelessness. This put into perspective the hardships many people face in order to get to where they are today.

All the money that was raised by students who attended the event was donated to the Lighthouse Foundation, a charity that provides a home for homeless young people from backgrounds of long-term neglect and abuse. Any leftover food from the night was also donated to Melbourne City Mission.

The night was filled with fun and insightful activities that were aimed at opening our eyes to this devastating issue in our community. Thank you to all the staff and students who participated in this worthwhile event.

Multicultural week



Demet Divaroren author visit

As part of Multicultural week, author Demet Divaroren visited the LRC to talk about writing and multiculturalism. Demet is the editor of *Growing Up Muslim In Australia* and the author of the novel *Living on Hope Street*. With a Turkish background, Demet uses fiction as a way of unpacking cultural prejudices and stereotypes.

“Where do you come from?” is a question often asked of Demet. Whilst seemingly innocuous, this question is unsettling, for it implies that despite living in Australia since she was six months old people still see her as an outsider. She provocatively answers that she’s from Australia, to prove that whilst she may have a Turkish cultural background, she belongs here in Australia and Australians don’t necessarily have to look a certain way to be from here.

She is acutely aware of the labels that we put on ourselves and that we allow others to put on us. Because she is a Muslim, she feels many people make assumptions about how she should act or what she should look like, labels that can be destructive when they prevent us from defining ourselves in our own way. The message seemed to resonate with our students and when Demet asked “How many labels do you think you put on yourself each day?” one student answered “At least 40”. Demet encouraged the students to let go of these labels and define themselves in their own way.

Demet’s warm, collegial, demeanour was well received by students and staff alike and it was great to hear how she has used writing to promote multiculturalism.



Indonesian Consulate visit

In recent weeks both the Year 9 and Year 11 Indonesian classes have been privileged to be invited to the Consulate-General of the Republic of Indonesia in Melbourne to explore Indonesian culture through different music workshops and tasting of Indonesian cuisine at the neighbouring Garam Merica restaurant.

After a welcome from Indonesian diplomat Pak Alfons Sroyer, the Year 11 Indonesian class tried their hand at playing the angklung, while the Year 9s took part in a gamelan workshop. Angklung are bamboo instruments which are shaken to produce different notes depending on their size. With just a small amount of instruction, the Year 11 angklung orchestra, consisting of Mac.Rob and Melbourne High School students, was quickly able to produce a wonderful rendition of Waltzing Matilda, firstly as a simple melody and then also a harmony. The Year 9 class took turns playing different instruments, including a variety of different bronze metallophones and gongs played with mallets.

Gamelan is traditionally considered sacred and believed to have supernatural power, each instrument guided by spirits. In contrast to the angklung, the Year 9 students played different repeating patterns with their gamelan instruments which interwove to create elegant, shimmering tunes. Students gained insight into the collectivist nature of Indonesian culture: both the angklung and gamelan cannot be played alone and require a collective effort in order to produce a successful, harmonious result.

Mr Knock Indonesian teacher



Multicultural Dance Club

Mac.Rob Multicultural Dance Club is on every Thursday lunchtime in room L214.

Our six leaders plan fun initiatives for students to participate in every week. Our main aim of the club is to increase engagement between year levels, relax from the stress of school, and most importantly, have fun dancing!

In our meetings we dance to different styles of music including: kpop; jpop; Bollywood; Spanish pop; hip hop – we're interested in all genres of music! Our leaders teach different dances to students and soon students will be able to work on their own dance routines during our meetings. Please pass this information onto anyone you know who loves to dance!



Exchanging cultures with French and German students

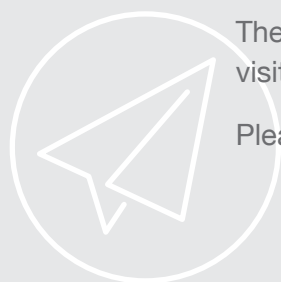
It was wonderful to see faces light up on Monday morning 17 June, as French students from our sister school in Paris, Lycée Notre Dame de Bury, met our Mac.Rob students in person. After communicating via social media for the last few months they will sit in on classes and share fun excursions with their new friends, experiencing life at Mac.Rob and creating stronger connections with our sister school.

Students from Bordeaux arrived to be with their Mac.Robbian friends on Monday 24 June and will attend classes and excursions with their host siblings over the next month.

Mac.Rob students are also hosting two exchange students from Fulda, Germany, staying with their host siblings and attending classes to enhance their English skills and experience the student life in Australia. No doubt their Mac.Rob host sisters will reciprocate the generous hospitality shown during their exchange to Fulda earlier this year.

There will be much to discuss and share during both the French and German exchange visits, building connections and enhancing global learning at Mac.Rob.

Please make them feel welcome when you see them.



Study tour to Germany

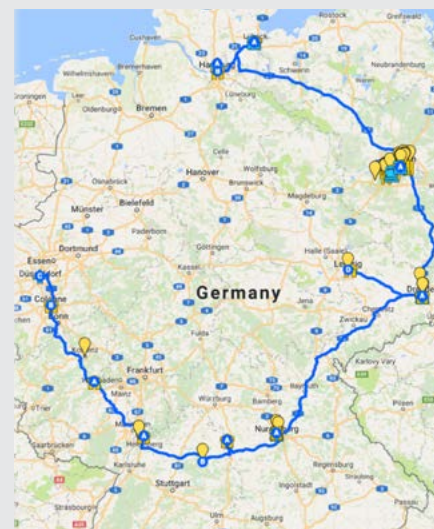
During the holidays, a group of Mac.Rob students, Frau Hohmann, Frau Trenchard-Smith and Mr Sawaki embarked on a trip around Germany. We travelled through 11 cities during an unforgettable two weeks spent immersed in a new culture and making lifelong memories.

On the trip we not only learnt about Germany's deep and rich history from tours with knowledgeable guides and visits to exquisite museums, but we were also surrounded by it. Germany's century-old buildings are not only testaments to Germany's longstanding history, but also a part of daily life with ordinary people living and working in them, intertwining the past and the present.

Experiencing German culture first hand was an experience full of colour. The invaluable pieces of art within the grand buildings were completely beyond our imagination. We not only visited the captivating country but also made our marks in various cities, capturing the experience in our hearts (and cameras, of course).

Arriving back home was bittersweet. We were glad to be back with our families but missed the spontaneity of life on the trip. In Germany, everyday was a new adventure, from exploring alleyways to trying Currywurst and ordering in German. Life was unexpected and challenging but it forced us to grow. Back home, Germany seems like a distant land, but the timeless memories and friendships we made will forever be ingrained in our minds.

Liebe Grüße, **Celina**



Mooting in Queensland

Moot: verb, raise a question for discussion

In May, Vy Tran (11C), Margaret Tang (11E) and myself, flew to Queensland to represent Mac.Rob at the Bond University National High School Mooting Competition where Vy was awarded an Honorable Mention for Advocacy.

Having the chance to take part in a mock legal trial was amazing and although we already have an interest in law and public speaking, this was something completely new.

Stepping out of my comfort zone was as thrilling as it was terrifying. To my surprise, the best part was being relentlessly questioned by the judges and formulating a response on the spot. I also really enjoyed taking apart the case and applying different precedents to come up with an argument. I'm glad to say that the experience taught me more about the legal system than anything I could've learned in a classroom. Getting a taste of advocacy and problem-solving has definitely encouraged me to pursue law in the future.

Avia Sanders (11C)

'Mooting' is a simulated court proceeding where student teams are presented with a legal problem which they are required to argue before a 'judge' or panel of 'judges'. It is the closest experience that a student can have to appearing in court.



Stella Intensive

Writer in Residence Program

Elena Savage, a professional writer and editor, recently spent time with Mac.Rob students, mentoring and sharing her knowledge of writing and editing. The final product, an anthology, can now be shared with the Mac.Rob community with one of the pieces selected to be included in the *Stella Newsletter*, which has a subscriber base of 4,000 people. Please find below the link to our eBook housed electronically in the Mac.Rob LRC catalogue.

Printed copies will be available in third term for circulation. The program is now in its second year and received extremely positively by all involved and we are pleased to announce this literary initiative will be offered again in 2020.

Here is an excerpt of the book forward by Elena:

"This anthology is the product of an intensive workshop conducted over a fortnight with a gifted group of Mac.Rob students. What a pleasure it was, for me, to listen these brilliant young women's stories, to laugh with them, and to help them explore new ways of writing and reading. The stories you will find in this collection are touching and spooky, funny and powerful, moody and imaginative. This anthology is a product of bravery and brilliance, and I hope readers will love it as much as I do."

Elena Savage Workshop Leader



Links: [Mac.Rob Student Writing: Stella Schools Workshop 2019](#)

The LRC eBook of the superb writing created during the recent 2019 Stella In Schools writer in residence program with Ellena Savage.

[Stella Newsletter](#)

A girl's best friend

Friday June 21 was *International Bring Your Dog to Work Day*, and Mac.Rob staff celebrated our inaugural 'dog day' in style! From greyhounds to groodles, our MacDoggians were in pet heaven and were spoilt rotten with biscuits and treats from our canine-loving Year 10s!

The positive influence of dogs in schools, hospitals and workplaces has been documented for many years, with therapy and Story Dog programs rolling out in many organisations. We were excited to welcome our furry friends to our school for the day and thank all our staff and students for their participation and support of this initiative.



Thinking about a pet for your family?

Please consider the many animals that are currently in animal shelters. Contact [RSPCA](#), [Lort Smith](#), or [Greyhound Adoption Program](#) for more information about adoption.



Into the wilds of Victoria

The year 9 Duke of Edinburgh class recently returned from an adventurous hike around Port Fairy and Warrnambool. Here are some insights from the students:

"Thankfully we were prepared for the challenging weather with our raincoats as we set up our tents in the rain at the campsite. After which, we trudged gallantly on a hike and were rewarded with beautiful views of the Wharf and the Port Fairy lighthouse, and a full rainbow that no amount of photos could capture."

"On the second day, we began with a hearty breakfast and eagerly jumped on the bus to go horse riding. Afterwards we climbed to the peak of Tower Hill where we spotted emus and a beautiful view of the extinct volcano that now is a lake. After cooking dinner, we spent the evening performing in a talent show and came to realise how many talents were in this little class of ours."

"On the final day, the class battled the elements once again with raincoats on to hurriedly packed up our camp site. We arrived in Stingray Bay in Warrnambool to see the pretty beaches and the Penguin Island. Sadly we were not permitted to see the penguins so as not to disturb them, however we learned a great deal about the area through the self guided trail."

"We were all grateful to be back home, however I can guarantee that our class became a very tight group of friends during the experience."



Sports report

Beachside Soccer

Exemplary sportswomanship and effort from Mac.Rob players was shown at the recent Interschool Beachside Soccer. The Mac.Rob team included, amongst others, two deadly strikers, an attacking midfielder and strong defenders to win the first two matches against Yavneh A (6-0) and Mentone B (3-1).

The final against Mentone A, however, was tough, and Mac.Rob were down 6-0 at halftime. Our players worked hard throughout the game and learned from their first half experience, restricting Mentone to just 3 further goals and were unlucky not to score a couple of their own.

Got any articles
for the newsletter?
Contact Geri Barr
newsletter@macrob.
vic.edu.au