



ENVIRONMENT

Mac.Rob marches
in world-wide
global strike



LEADERSHIP

Facts about Tax
video wins at ATO
competition



PERFORMANCE

Our flutes and strings
wow the warriors at
NGV Party



EVENTS

Year 12s lose the
uniform for their
last day

mac.rob news

DATES/EVENTS

Sun 10 Nov

PA Woolworths' Fundraiser BBQ

Thurs 14 Nov

Information Night for 2020 Year 9s

Sat 23 Nov

Parents' Association Trivia Night

Wed 27 Nov

Peru Trip & German Exchange Depart

Thu 28 Nov

French Exchange Departs

Fri 29 Nov

Final 2019 classes for Years 10 & 11

Mon 2 – Tues 3 Dec

2020 VCE Orientation Program and
Second-hand Uniform Sale drop-offs

Tue 3 Dec

Photo Day current Years 9, 10 & 11

Wed 4 Dec

Year 9 Leadership Symposium at MHS

Wed 4 – Fri 6 Dec

Year 10 Phillip Island Camp

Fri 6 Dec

Final day of classes Year 9

Mon 9 – Fri 13 Dec

Year 10 Work Experience and
Year 9 Battle of the Forms

Wed 11 Dec

2020 Year 9 Orientation

Sat 14 Dec

Second-hand Uniform Sale

Tues 17 Dec

Final Assembly – Last Day of School



Gateway to the future

'The IB (International Baccalaureate)...(is) a really powerful example of how to raise standards and encourage people to dig deep into their personal resources, with international recognition, but also in a way that encourages personal creativity, self sufficiency and initiative' **Sir Ken Robinson, 2015**

As our Year 12 students prepare to leave us, I am reminded of the great responsibility educators have in preparing our students for life beyond school. More than ever before, our digitally integrated students have futures ahead that promise to be vastly different from the generations that preceded them, and many will move into careers across the world that we have yet to name or imagine. How do we adequately prepare our students for such fluid, dynamic and international futures?

Ensuring that we provide an education that is broad and rich in content, holistic in approach and grounded within a global perspective is an

excellent starting point. To this end, I am proud to announce that this month we are submitting the first stage of our application to become an International Baccalaureate World School.

The IB is an international education program, run in over 6,800 schools across the globe. The Diploma, run in Years 11 and 12, encourages students to be independent thinkers, creative problem solvers, global citizens and ethical community members and has a focus on personalized learning through inquiry; you will see why it sounds like a perfect fit for Mac.Rob!

Highly regarded by universities both here and abroad, the IB Diploma offers a level of academic challenge that will suit our highly able student cohort. It will require our students to take risks, engage in activities and service outside the classroom, collaborate with peers, and to be resilient as they pursue answers to complex problems. Students who undertake the IB will select six subjects from a range of disciplines, as well as the Core program, made up of three components; Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay. Each of these components relies on students adopting an interdisciplinary approach to learning, and connecting with their community and peers in meaningful ways to develop ideas and thinking. At its heart, the IB focuses on learning how to learn, emphasizing the significance of being learners first, and learners of content second. Understanding how to gain knowledge, develop skills and apply successful practices to new problems will not only help our students bridge the gap between school and university, but also prepare them to confidently face the unimagined opportunities that lie further ahead in their lives. I'm delighted to be leading the school in this new, exciting direction.

Of course, the IB Diploma is just one of the options for Mac.Rob students. We will continue to offer and excel in the VCE, and for many students the VCE pathway will be the right option for them. As we move forward, students will be guided as to the best path for each student, and detailed information about the IB will be provided to parents. Full implementation of the program is still two years away, but I look forward to updating you on our progress as we advance through the application process.

October also heralds exam season and, sadly, the inevitable farewells to our Year 12s. Valedictory Night, on October 28, was a chance to celebrate with our students and wish them well for the next chapter of their lives, but our sadness is also our joy, for we know they are well prepared and full of enthusiasm for what comes next. Our glorious Year 12s – we salute you!

Finally, a reminder that we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, November 26 for our newly titled '*Presentation Night*'. With input from staff and students, what was formerly Speech Night has been re-named to better reflect the aim and intent of our evening; to 'present' to our school community our students' achievements, creativity and highlights from 2019. This year you will see our evening focus directly onto our students, as we showcase more of their skills, talents and efforts from all areas of our program; from school productions, to hits taken from our House events and hosted, for the first time, entirely by our student leaders.

I look forward to seeing you all on November 26 for Presentation Night 2019!

Anne Stout, Principal

Captains' update

Hey Mac.Rob,

This year has flown by so fast that we can't believe that this is our last newsletter article! 2019 has truly been a year of ups and downs with moments where we've triumphed and moments which have thrown us a bit off course. Despite the setbacks, as a school we have always adapted, grown and triumphed.



The main event we had the privilege to run this year was Mac.Rob Week. Now usually when we plan for events like these, we leave room for error but to our surprise, the whole week went by without a single mishap! We have to thank our form captains for their elaborate planning and dedication when it came to running the events throughout the week. We couldn't have done it without them so thank you to our Form Captain Family! Also a quick shoutout to Ms Dean who has been looking out for us the entire year; we could not be more grateful to have her by our side every step of the way.

This year, we've held a series of challenges for our forms to compete in. Challenges which have required cooperation and teamwork within each form. These included making a Form Board, the 'Make your Letter' challenge, the 'GIV Hampers for Homeless' competition, in coordination with the GIV portfolio and the Enviro Parade, in coordination with the Environment Portfolio.

We would once again like to congratulate winning forms: 9G, 10C, 11B, 12I and thank them for their enthusiasm and dedication this year.

We began the lengthy selection of next year's school leaders quite early in the year. Thank you so much to everyone who applied; we hope everyone who tried out was able to learn something throughout the application process. We are very excited to announce that our new school captains for 2020 are **Michaela McMahon** and **Aishah Brockhoff**. We are excited for them and wish them all the best for next year!

In conclusion, we thank every member of the Mac.Rob community for making Mac.Rob what it is: a home for students to thrive, grow and learn. Although this chapter of our Mac.Rob lives is coming to a close, we know that we will stay involved and we hope that you will continue to as well. We look forward to seeing you all at Presentation Night!

Thank you, **Chelsea** and **Sinali**



Global Strike for Climate Change

'Our house is on fire. We will not just stand aside and watch'

Greta Thunberg

Protesters across the globe waved placards and chanted slogans on Friday 20 September in what could be the biggest demonstration on anthropogenic global warming ever. Worldwide, 4 million people took to the streets, demanding that action be taken for the safety of our planet. Of these, 350,000 were in Australia, demonstrating in all eight capital cities as well as 104 other locations. The largest protest in Australia was in Melbourne, with a massive 100,000 people, young and old, gathering outside the Old Treasury Building, stopping traffic and marching in solidarity. Macrobians were right in the thick of the throng, with our teachers backing us like a strong tailwind all the way!

Friday's demonstration dwarfed the previous global climate strike phenomenon. Even politicians walked alongside students and workplaces let their staff attend the strike. As we marched through the streets people leaned out of restaurants and workplaces, cheering us on with their support.

We are proud that Mac.Rob stood up and was counted. Being part of the strike helped us to realise that we are not alone at all - in our passion for change, in our desire to take action and be heard we can have a hand in your future. With the threat of climate change approaching ever nearer, it is imperative that we take a stance.

We need your support! Please join us at the next march against climate change in 2020. The more of us there are, the harder it is for our politicians to ignore our beliefs and ever growing presence.

Natalia Kelly-Gerreyn 11



Colours Awards – Round 2

In August, recipients of Round 2 Colours were presented with their awards at School Assembly. Congratulations to the following recipients on their sustained achievement, leadership, commitment, and effort in their respective portfolios.

DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

– Half Colours

Hannah Bachelard
Areeba Massood
Lorraine Luo
Sophia AO
Shatakshi Taing

DRAMA

– Half Colours

Olivia Brouwer
Jade Dover

ENVIRONMENT

– Half Colours

Zoe O'Connor
Joyce Que
Imandie Ambegodo

ENVIRONMENT

– Full Colours

Rose Cindric
Isabelle Lim

LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL SERVICE

– Half Colours

Carol Meng
Lucy Brignall

LEADERSHIP AND SCHOOL SERVICE

– Full Colours

Avia Sanders
Kamalinee Kamalakaran

MUSIC

– Half Colours

Nikita Parate
Margaret Tang
Jacqui Green
Olivia Zheng

SOCIAL SERVICE

– Half Colours

Megan Grove
Tina Do

SOCIAL SERVICE

– Full Colours

Justina Jin
Jennifer Nguyen

SPORT

– Full Colours

Rahdika Tennakoon-Kumarasan
Lia Evangelides





Tax Winnings!

Earlier this term Kousitha Sivayogan and Sharanaa Jayaroopan both from 10A along with some helpful friends created a helpful video explaining tax to young people which they entered into the 'Tax, Super and You Competition' run by the Australian Taxation Office.

There were 14 videos submitted by students from across Australia and Kousitha and Sharanaa's video 'The Facts About Tax (Inspired by the Fresh Prince)' won 3rd place overall and also won the People's Choice Category! For the win they received a prize of \$400, plus \$600 for their school or community.

Have a look at their winning clever, fun and informative video on Vimeo by [clicking here](#).

Goethe the Great!

On Wednesday the 21st of August we headed to Melbourne University for an afternoon of competition, reciting German poetry! Each of us had memorised a poem and practised pronunciation with our German language teacher Frau Hohmann. It was a great learning experience as we immersed ourselves into analysing and learning about the different meanings, expressions, poets and philosophers.

We had an enjoyable and successful day bringing home some wins! Congratulations to Jacqui Green for achieving 1st Place and Ellen Walker for 3rd Place, both in year 11, and Anita Yang from year 10 for gaining 2nd Place.

Maggie Li, Tara Lake and Jennifer Chin from year 11 and Yogita Anand and Naomi Yong from year 10 also participated and presented very well.

By **Naomi Yong** 10D



Turning Japanese

Congratulations to Catherine Liu, Year 11, who won 1st Prize in the High School Senior Division at the recent 50th Anniversary Australian Japanese Language Speech Contest Finals held in Sydney in early October. To reach the Australian Finals, Catherine first won the state finals at Melbourne University in September where more than 30 finalists competed in Senior Divisions.

To reach the Australian Finals, participants must demonstrate excellence in both language and public speaking and Catherine had been working on her speech with her Japanese teachers for most lunch times during the last 12 months. Such dedication and hard work saw her win the National title and received airline tickets to Japan, Japan railway passes and accommodation courtesy of Japan Airlines, JTB, Japan Tour.

Congratulations on your notable achievement; have a wonderful and well-deserved trip, Catherine!



おめでとう!

More Japanese success

Two of our students are in for accolades for success in learning the Japanese language by representing Mac.Rob and competing in the Victorian State Final of the Kake International Japanese Language Speech Contest. On 31 August, the Annual Senior Speech Contest was held with Julia Licup from year 11F receiving 2nd prize and Hajeong (Joanne) LEE from 10B earning 3rd prize for their mastery of the Japanese language. Please congratulate Julia and Joanne when you see them.

おめでとう **Julia** and **Joanne**!

おいしいランチ

Oishi ranchi – Delicious lunch!

On 18 September, a group of year 10 Mac.Rob Japanese language students went on an excursion to restaurant Fuji Tei where we enjoyed some insanely delicious food!

We loved both the beauty and Japanese authenticity of the restaurant and practised our Japanese language skills to order our lunch. We engaged in some friendly talk while eating and interacted with the waiters with the best Japanese we could manage.

The traditional food we were served was so appetising we will remember it for a long time to come.

After lunch, we moved to the restaurant garden to rest. Surrounded by beautiful trees, and traditionally raked pebble gardens, most of us forgot we were in Melbourne for a second and imagined that we were in Japan.

ありがとうございました

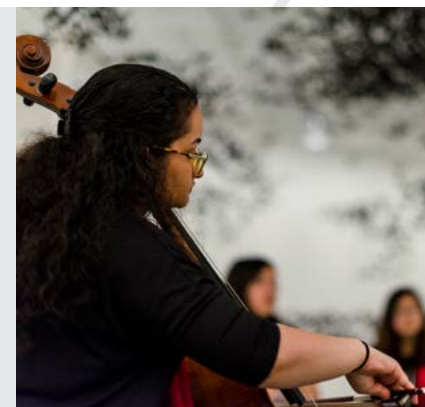
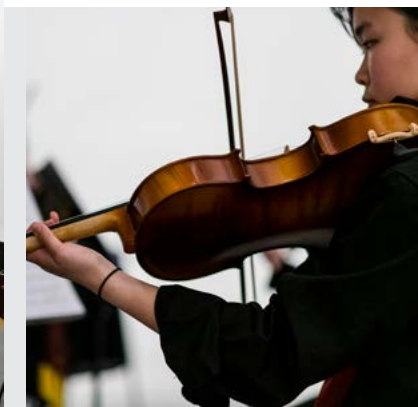
Arigatogozaimashita for an unforgettable experience.

Parnika Mahajan (10F)



Language

Go to: [International Year of Indigenous Languages](#) for a superb short history of 'Runasimi: The People's Language'



Photos: Eugene Hyland

NGV Teens Party Performance

On the 21st of September, the Flute Ensemble and String Quartet were invited by the National Gallery of Victoria to perform at the 'Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of Immortality and Cai Guo Qiang' exhibition for the Teens Art Party night. Both ensembles performed a wide selection of prepared repertoire which included both classical and contemporary musical pieces. The recital was set up in a hall that displayed an artistic representation of a murmuration of birds which hung from the ceiling and the music could be heard throughout the entire exhibition.

This performance was an amazing opportunity which allowed the Mac.Rob musicians to showcase their talents and the repertoire that they have been preparing for the past year. Students not only gained experience of performing in a larger venue, they also enjoyed time with their peers, having been invited to participate in the 'Teens Art Party' following their performance. This gave the Mac.Rob students a chance to socialise with other teens and participate in activities such as art competitions and a dance party

Kylie Wang

Kodály Choral Festival

Congratulations to Mac.Rob Chamber Voices for their performance of 'Gorgeous Girls' and 'She Walks in Beauty' at the Kodály Choral Festival held at Scotch College.

The Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia Incorporated (also known as Kodály Australia) is an organisation of people committed to music for everyone.



Jessica Nguy on piano.

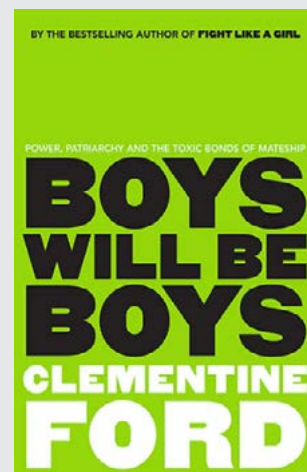
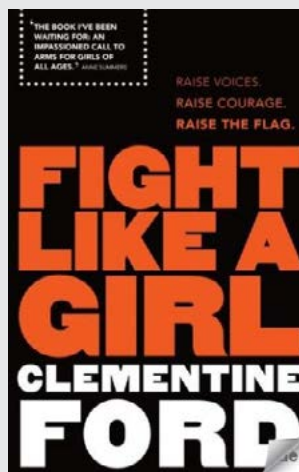


Full Kodály Choir.

That's Debatable!

Each year the Debaters Association of Victoria hold competitions for schools across Victoria. The speaker with the highest average score in each grade across all 20 regions is awarded a Competition Swannie Award. The following students have won a Swannie, recognising them as the best debaters in our region: Matthew Conley-Evans, Avia Sanders, Diemmy Pham, Jessica Oon, Elisa Scholast and Evonne Lu.

Elisa and Evonne have also been recognised as part of the Top 10 Speakers for the Senior British Parliamentary Competition, which is an amazing achievement given they are only in year 9!



Fight Like a Girl!

The final author in this year's 'LRC Author Talks Series' for 2019 was Clementine Ford. Clementine is the author of two books about feminism, *Fight Like A Girl* and *Boys Will Be Boys*, and is regularly sought after for her views on gender inequality by TV programs such as *The Project* and *The Drum*.

Clementine started by talking about the realities of domestic abuse and violence against women in Australia. Studies show that on average one woman is killed every week by a man in Australia, often by a current or former partner.

Clementine shared examples of the abuse she had received online since becoming a feminist activist, and shared her experience and opinion on managing such attacks, focusing not on the comments but on exposing the underlying issues or the people making them. The students had a lot of questions for Clementine and appreciated the opportunity to speak openly with her. Hopefully we can have Clementine back for another LRC talk; in the meantime, the Broadside feminist ideas festival is being held in November this year, which 25 Mac.Rob students will be attending.



Premiers' Reading Challenge

During this year's LRC 2019 Premiers' Reading Challenge, PRC, Year 9 students at Mac.Rob collectively read 3,234 books and wrote 554 book reviews which are now available to read in the LRC catalogue.

This year, the change in emphasis from quantity to quality proved to be a remarkable success, with the quality, range and diversity of the responses to books students read were excellent.

The challenge this year was won by 9C, led by PRC Captain Natasha Poon. As their prize, 9C attended a whole day excursion to the School Program at the Melbourne Writers Festival. An inaugural '*Literary Wall*' was curated by the PRC captains in the foyer of the LRC which made visible to the wider Mac.Rob community, the critical thinking and creativity the challenge produced.

Congratulations to all Year 9 students, PRC captains, Year 9 English and Form teachers for their combined effort in this year's challenge.



Yale Young Global Scholars

Recently, I was grateful to have been selected to participate in the Yale Young Global Scholars program visiting Beijing. The session I attended was called '*Asia in the 21st Century*' where I got to listen to many different speakers from a range of different backgrounds.

The two weeks were packed with a range of lectures, seminars and workshops, all relating to growth in Asia, one of the fastest growing regions in the world today. The part I enjoyed most about the program was that it was interdisciplinary and focused equally on both the sciences and humanities. We heard lectures from the Founder of the Beijing Good Food Fund speaking about food security and sustainability, followed by the Director of International Affairs at Yale talking about Cybersecurity and US-China relations.

One thing unique to this program in Beijing was that we had the opportunity to visit many tourist attractions in Beijing and explore the city during our free time.

I had so much fun climbing the Great Wall, attempting to haggle with shop keepers and singing karaoke. However, I believe the best thing about my YYGS experience was making new friends from all across the world. Through meeting people from so many different countries, talking to them and sharing ideas and experiences together, I was able to learn much about different cultures and what life is like in a different country. My two weeks at YYGS were definitely some of my most memorable experiences ever and I have learnt so much. I highly encourage everyone to apply!

Trisha Tan

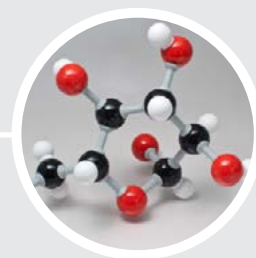


Playing Games with Maths

Our mathematics abilities were tested on September 4 as we competed in the Year 10 Maths Games Day at Trinity Grammar School. It was a great and challenging day, however we had fun solving complex problems, playing individual games against students from other schools and the highlight of the day, the relay race with numbers instead of runners!

It was great to work as a team, get to know each other better and meet like-minded students representing schools from all over Melbourne. Congratulations to Caulfield Grammar School for taking home the trophy!

Kurea Adrian, Michelle Tan, Emily Ung and Emma Zhong



Molecules, Molymods and Me

Analytical techniques were the focus of an excursion to RMIT in September for Unit 3 & 4 Mac.Rob Chemistry classes which are used qualitatively and quantitatively to describe the structure of an organic compound. We were greeted on arrival by professor Jeff Hughes at RMIT. We were shown into a spacious lab where the professor introduced us to our four RMIT supervisors, Lisa, Hayden, Anthony, and Manuela, after which we were split into four groups for the activities in the rotation. My group started with Lisa, a PhD student with whom we explored the structure and reactions of esters, compounds that give off a characteristic smell, and are created by reacting an alcohol and a carboxylic acid together.

After discussing chemistry and playing with the molymods (those little objects used to create a physical representation for the structure of a molecule), our group moved on to investigate how to read and analyse Infra-Red Spectra. Infra-Red spectra can be used to determine the functional groups in a compound and thus allow us to draw its structure. Then we moved onto the H¹NMR which allows us to find the type of chemical environments the Hydrogens of a Hydrocarbon are in, as well as splitting patterns which can help determine the type of atoms in the neighbouring environments.

The final rotation was observing how the Mass Spectrometer produces graphs based on the substance placed in the machine. We found the excursion was quite insightful and helped with consolidating and applying our knowledge practically to what we had learned at school. We hope to remember all this and more in our Chemistry exam!

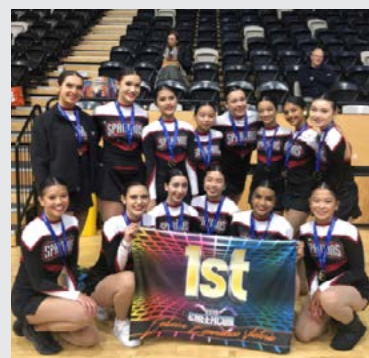
Thank you to RMIT for providing this invaluable experience.

Snehithaa Kodavaluru 12C

Sports Report

Jumping for joy!

The Mac.Rob Spartans Cheerleading team have recently competed in two competitions. Their dedicated approach to training throughout the year paid off with the team being awarded first place at both the CheerCon Competition and the Australian All Star Cheerleading Federation State Championships. A stellar performance at the State Championships saw them not only awarded as state champions in the High School Pom category, but also being crowned the best overall high school team, an incredible achievement! Congratulations!



A great run for athletics

Athletics teams at Mac.Rob have had a great run in the competitions this season. A large group of students enjoyed competing in intermittent sunshine at the Beachside Athletics Carnival recently with all competitors running, jumping and throwing to the best of their abilities. A successful meet saw 19 Mac.Rob students winning their events and progressing to the next round with a speedy Krish Rajavel successfully setting a new division record in the 16 years old division for the 400m race for first place!

The Mac.Rob Region Athletics team was very successful at the meet held at Casey Fields Regional Athletics Centre, despite the less than ideal weather and congratulations go to the following students on receiving medals in their events:

Abby Howes 3rd 800m, Grace Wang 3rd Javelin, Carly Senior 3rd 100m and 200m, Dilanka Samaranayake 2nd in the Triple Jump and Krish Rajavel an impressive 1st in the 400m. In the 17 years relay team – Nelie Bogoda, Norah Chao, Tara Lake, Dilanka Samaranayake placed 2nd.

A special mention to Krish Rajavel of 10D, who qualified for the State Athletics Championships, held at Lakeside Stadium, in the 16 years 400m with a blistering time of 1.01.92 after a stellar race, placing second in the state – a phenomenal effort!





A golden experience

What an exciting and inspiring experience it was to share a room decorated with green and gold with a handful of Olympians and over 100 senior students in early September at the Olympic Change Maker Forum. As nominees of this award, Katrina Yang, year 12, and I attended the state forum, which recognises students who demonstrate the Olympic Spirit through leadership and driving positive change in their communities.

'Change', the 2019 theme, was prominent throughout interviews with Olympians Annabelle Smith, Koti Ngawati, Greta Small, and Sean Wroe, and we considered ways we can drive change in our own communities while addressing the challenges we may face. A highlight was definitely participating in an enlightening keynote discussion with Steve Hooker, as was holding his Olympic gold medal! (Yes, they are heavy!) By the end of the day we had been inspired to follow our passions and never be afraid to ask for help. We are grateful to have been nominated for this award and have had the opportunity to attend the state forum and meet so many motivating Olympians, students and leaders. What a golden experience!

Tara Lake 11G

Running for fun!

The annual House Fun Run was a great success again this year! Blessed with beautiful sunshine, students and staff took to Albert Park Lake in a friendly competition of walking around the perimeter of the lake. The lake was surrounded by a sea of red, blue, green and purple with many creative outfits designed for the occasion. With music and laughter filling the air, many participants walked around the lake with their friends to earn house points, showing their competitive house spirits! Serious runners sprinted around the lake at a great pace, with our winner Abby Howes completing the 5km course in a time of 20.05 minutes, closely followed by Lexi McConkey and Kavya Balaji.

Thank you to the House Captains and Sport Rep team for their efforts in making the day great fun!

Rowing

An enthusiastic and healthy group of seven Mac.Rob students attended the Indoor Rowing State Championships on Friday October 11 at Melbourne Girls' College. The day started with an introduction from Champion world record holder, Josh Dunkley-Smith, as he shared his achievements and expertise with the participants.

The Macrobians worked as a well-practised team during the relay event, as they swiftly strapped in and out of the ergometer machines after completing a speedy 500 metres each. With some students participating with minimal experience, and others with many kilometres under their belts, the day was a wonderful coming together of many rowing teams from schools around the state. A huge congratulations to our medal winners, Talisa Yang, placing 2nd in the 500m and 1000m events, and Jamie Tonelli, placing 1st in the 2000m and 500m and 2nd place in the 1000m event.

Alyssa Hampson

'Giving it a go'

INDEPENDENT SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS

Taekwondo

Recently I started taekwondo and has really opened my eyes to the world of fitness, discipline, and taking care of yourself and your body. Since I began, I have competed in two state level competitions, recently winning gold for 'pairs' at a national level, which was very gratifying and confidence building.

I encourage anyone to take up a sport, any sport that you think you'd like and be persistent. Engaging with taekwondo has made me realise that sport can be very rewarding when you persist, dedicate yourself and have a supportive environment.

Joanne Ngo

Netball

Receiving a letter from Netball Victoria recently saying that I had been talent identified was very exciting! Talent identification is where talent scouts visit championship tournaments to watch the players and note down any players they think have potential to go further in the sport. As part of this process I was offered to try out for a position at the Netball Victoria Talent Academy which I did in October. If I'm successful, the academy would then train me to trial for the Under 17's Victorian team.

I'm yet to hear how I went with the trial for the Netball Academy; all the girls were really good and tall too, so I'm not going to get my hopes up! I'm just really grateful to have received the opportunity to trial for the academy!

Dehansa Herath Mudiyanse

Table Tennis

Chermaine Quah recently represented Australia at the 2019 ITTF-Oceania Junior Championships held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga in August 2019 where she did very well in the Under 15 field winning all her individual matches without dropping a single set. Chermaine won a total of 3 gold medals in the Cadet Girls Singles, Cadet Girls Teams and Cadet Girls Doubles, a silver medal in the Cadet Mixed Doubles and a position in the Oceania team for the 2019 World Cadet Challenge.

As the winner of the Cadet Singles, Chermaine was awarded a scholarship worth AU\$1,000 to support her on-going table tennis development.

Representing Team Oceania at the 2019 ITTF World Cadet Challenge (which is the premiere event on the junior table tennis calendar), Chermaine travels to Wladyslawowo, Poland in the last week of October 2019. We will have results in the December newsletter.





Perusing Peru

Over one year ago, 24 excited Mac.Rob students signed up to travel to Peru for three weeks with Antipodeans Educational Travel in late November 2019. As part of the experience, the students organise most of the trip and take on responsibilities such as budgeting, booking accommodation, and arranging transport whilst in Peru.

A key reason for the trip is a five day community project in Peru, this will include volunteering in rural communities by helping to refurbish a school to enable local students to attend school and to help improve the living standards of the local community in various ways. To facilitate this community project and maximise the impact of the project, the team set a goal of raising over \$8000 AUD to contribute to resources for which our fundraising efforts here in Australia over the past year have included such things as Footy Fever Day, a dinner for the Adelaide Exchange, raffles of major prizes and a student Trivia event.

The students will also enjoy a 4-day trek through mountainous terrain, visiting many of Peru's towns and being fully immersed in the Peruvian culture while being accompanied by teachers Ms Pride, Mr Crowe, Ms Griffin and Mr Sawaki.

These three weeks in Peru will no doubt be life-changing for the students, many of whom have worked hard this year with part-time jobs to fund the entire trip themselves with a variety of jobs, from tutoring and making/selling hundreds of scrunchies, working in cafes and coaching gymnastics. We look forward to sharing our stories, photos and memories with you when we return from Peru.

We would like to thank the Mac.Rob community for all your help, encouragement and support in fundraising events to enable us to travel to Peru, and also the support from the following companies who donated items.

Michaela McMahon

DID YOU KNOW?

*Guinea pig (cuy)
is a traditional
delicacy in Peru.
(This one comes
pre-garnished!)*



Thankyou to our sponsors!

We thank the following companies for generously donating their products to include in hampers for the raffle fundraiser for the Peru trip:



Let's go Clubbing!

Let's dance!

Do you have a passion for dancing? If you do, Mac.Rob's Multi-cultural Dance Club (MCDC), is for you! It's a great club to join if you like moving to the beat and have a passion for dance. You will learn many routines, make friendships and keep fit while you are enjoying yourself.

Our club leaders, Hannah, Hayley, Christine, Anna, Joanne and Chau, welcome all students and are willing to try new dances if you have any to share and show us your talents. Beginners are also very welcome; it's amazing to see how quickly beginners can master dance moves and shake it with the best of them! We occasionally perform at the undercroft during lunchtimes to show what we have learnt throughout the year.



Dance Club meets every Thursday lunchtimes at the gym or in L214, we'd love to see you. Check out our Instagram page [@macrobmultidance](https://www.instagram.com/macrobmultidance)

Crunch and munch for lunch – Keen Green Beans Club

'If you go down to the woods (Mac.Rob veggie patch) today, you're sure to get a surprise!'

Freshly grown produce is available from the garden to add a crunch to your lunch.

Rescued and cleaned plastic takeaway containers are available at the patch for you to take home fresh veggies. Just rinse the containers and return for reuse. *Bon appétite!*

Recent feedback from staff eating lettuce from the Mac.Rob garden:

'Delicious and fresh' – Ms Stout, **'I feel healthy just looking at it!'** – Lena Berias.

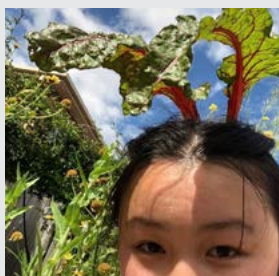
Our beautiful
Norfolk Island Pine
is loving its new home!
Thank you to Ms Arnott,
Mr Francis and
Mr Wilkins for donating
funds to enable us
to purchase it.

New members and volunteers are very welcome to help at the patch each lunchtime. It's good for the soul and a wonderful way to stay calm. Thank you to the MHS boys who helped clean out the shed, they were rewarded by pretty Mac.Rob roses. We recently harvested some bok choy seeds to replant and keep the cycle of life turning.

Donations of tools and gardening equipment are still greatly needed – they don't need to be new, even better if they are repurposed.

Spring Garden Tips from the Keen Green Beans club:

1. Put crushed egg shells around your plants to stop little critters eating them before you.
2. Save the seeds from winter vegetables to plant next autumn.
3. Pick a flower in the Mac.Rob garden and give it to your favourite teacher.

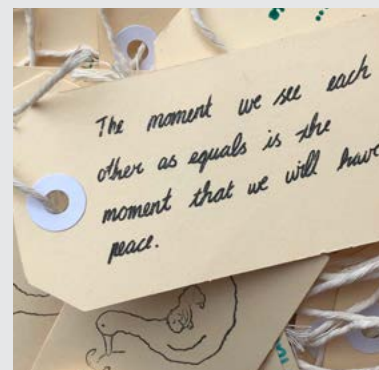


Photos: Chenxin Tu

Peace is all around us

Interact Club at Mac.Rob helped celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace on Saturday 21 September by placing cute little tags on the glass walkway rails, which are Michael Leunig's Peace Duck tags symbolising peace!

Students and teachers contributed to the positive thoughts by writing messages of peace, hope and love onto the tags and tying them to the rails. Peace is all around us, pause to listen.



GIVING to Others is Rewarding

As we enter the exam season, GIV 2019 has officially come to a close. It has been an incredibly rewarding year filled with excitement, amazing participation and some seriously impactful volunteering. As a portfolio, we've tutored children, made food to sell at school to donate to charities, volunteered at various charity runs and donated to the Salvation Army as part of our Hampers for Homeless Drive for which we were very excited to be able to donate over 6 carloads of items to after each class collected food to put into hampers. Our top donating form was 11C (we held a little celebration party last Friday to thank them), but thanks to every class for giving so generously to the Hampers to Homeless.

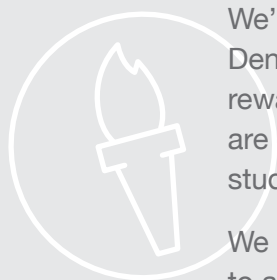
We feel incredibly fortunate to have built and fostered relationships with and volunteered at the many charity and non-for-profit organisations, and to have provided the GIV cohort with so many wonderful opportunities this year.

We'd like to thank our enthusiastic and passionate team, Samantha Yee (12B), Sarah Deng (11C), Emma Zhong (10B) and Malmi Wijesinghe (9G). GIV has been an incredibly rewarding and humbling experience and we have all learnt and grown so much and are grateful for all the support we've received from everyone. We highly recommend all students to be a part of GIV in 2020.

We have no doubt that your 2020 Leaders, Shreya Gupta and Jasmine Liew will lead GIV to another incredibly successful year.

Jennifer Nguyen and Justina Jin

GIV Leaders 2019





L-R Annie Louey,
Anne Stout, Kathy Kaplan,
Sally Capp, Anne Osborn,
Sally Ng.

Palladians 2019

As we draw closer to the end of the year, it is a time to reflect on what we as the Palladians Association have achieved in the last few months. It was fantastic to reminisce with some of our alumni at our 20/30/40 years reunion in the school hall in June and then again with the 10 year exit group in term 3. We love hearing stories about what our members, all ex students and staff from Mac.Rob, have been doing once they walk out the doors of MGHS. Some have not managed to catch up since they left school, as well as others who are still part of a tight network of friends that began during their school years.

We celebrated Mac.Rob Week in early September with hand written notes from our alumni displayed at the school, wishing the year 12s the best not only in their upcoming exams but also in their lives ahead. Our Annual Dinner at the Lyceum Club was a success with three speakers – ex-students Annie Louey and Kathy Kaplan OAM, as well as the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Sally Capp. We awarded Palladians Awards to people who have contributed ‘above and beyond’ to the ongoing success of our Association. We congratulate Margaret Webb OAM, Mona Jafari, Noela Hoffmann-Millar and Joan MacDougall on their awards and whose names will be added to the Honour Board in the lower corridor opposite the science rooms. We were able to connect with the outgoing year 12s at a BBQ at the school on the 18th October which was wonderful; thank you to everyone who came along.

We are very excited to be involved in two leadership programs in 2020 that will benefit both current and ex-students. The Junior Leadership Program, is offered to year 10 students at both Melbourne High School and Mac.Robertson Girls’ High School. We are very grateful for our alumni members who assist in running this program as speakers and contributors. A new Mentoring program will be launched by the Palladians in February, which combines a trio of women – a current VCE student, an alumnus of less than 15 years and another alumna who graduated prior to 2005. Each generation of students and alumnae has different experiences, needs and values which can be shared amongst each other and we believe this program can make a difference on many levels.

As the year 12 cohort finish up their schooling, we wish them well in their exams and their adventures outside the school gates. Remember everything that this school has taught you, so much more than that which is within the pages of your schoolbooks. We look forward to welcoming you to our Association to continue your connection with Mac.Rob into the future.

Sally Ng, President

Mac.Rob past student is first student rep on board at VCAA



Aayushi Khillan is a past Student at Mac.Rob, she was the Debating and Public Speaking Co-Captain in 2018 and is currently studying Biomedicine at Melbourne University. Here's her exciting news:

Hi Mac.Rob, I was excited to be recently officially appointed as a Board Member of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, which advises on school texts, class content and assessments for every student in the state. They appointed a young person to join the board to share the perspective and insights of the current youth and I'm please they selected me to be the first youth Board Member. It is even more special as Dr Toni Meath is currently on the board and has offered to be my mentor and guide me through this. I am so excited to be working alongside her again.

I think it is good that VCAA are becoming progressive and willing to work with the leaders of tomorrow, what better way to do that then to work with a Mac.Rob student. I'm excited to work with the board to see what tangible changes we can make to mould the education system more to the needs of our students.

Thank you to all the teachers who gave me so much support and guidance during my Mac.Rob journey, I miss you all very much and think of you often, thanks for all the great memories.

Aayushi Khillan

Read [The Age article re Aayushi's appointment to the VCAA board](#) here.



Parents Association Upcoming Events

Volunteers are required, please email Tamaris at macrobpa@macrob.vic.edu.au to sign up with your support.

Sunday 10 November Woolworths' BBQ at Camberwell, Station St Camberwell. The location is opposite the weekly Rotary Camberwell Sunday Market, further details about market can be found at camberwellsundaymarket.org. A great fundraiser! All that's needed is for sausages to be cooked on site on a supplied BBQ. Volunteers needed to help, please sign up through volunteersignup.org/Y3QXA.

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.

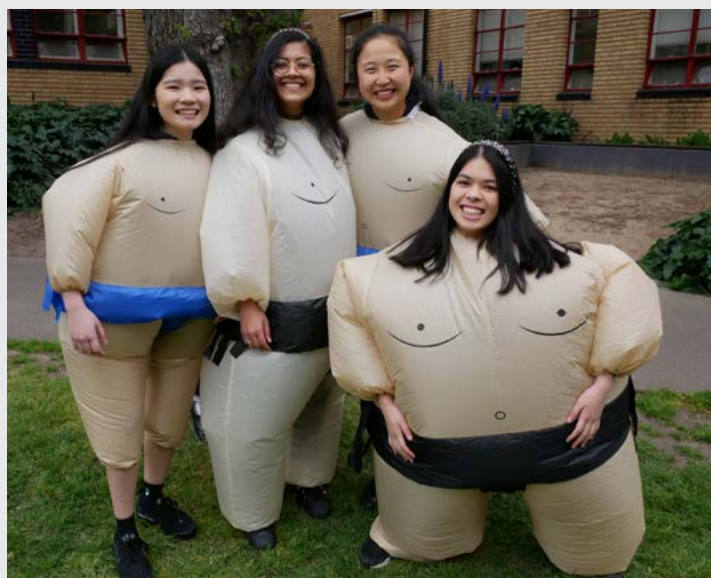
Saturday 23 November Mac.Rob Trivia Night A night of fun, competition and humour – ideal for all the family! The link for the tickets is: www.trybooking.com/BFXDR

Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 December Volunteers needed at the school to sort and label the uniforms for sale.

Saturday 14 December Second-hand Uniform Sale our best fundraiser all year! With the money we raise, we are able to provide grants to the girls.

LAST DAY
FOR
YEAR 12





Runasimi: The People's Language

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES – PERÚ

The story of the Incas would be incomplete without that of their language, Quechua. Its own name, *Runasimi*, translates to 'the people's language', which, appropriately, reflects its history as a cultural cornerstone and symbol of identity of native South Americans.

Quechua was spread all over the western side of *América del Sud* in the Incas' conquest— at its height, the empire stretched from northern Ecuador down to mid-Chile (almost 780,000 square kilometres at its peak), comprising millions of inhabitants who used it as a *lingua franca*. This usage continued during the Spanish conquest beginning in 1532 as a means of communication between indigenous people, as well as being taken advantage of by a number of Spanish missionaries to spread their messages and convert the locals.

Even this limited standing didn't last, however, as Quechua was banned from public use, along with Incan clothing, traditions and self-identification, in an attempt to quell rebelliousness after indigenous Túpac Amaru II's failed uprising in 1781.

It did experience a short-lived revival immediately following Perú's assertion of independence in 1821, but continued to decline overall. Almost five centuries of subjugation have taken their toll on the language. Ever since Francisco Pizarro and the *conquistadores* landed on the shore of the then-mighty Inca empire, their advent heralding the end of an era, Quechua and its speakers have been continuously and consciously subjugated and dismissed— *el idioma indio*, as it's often referred to, enjoys the status of 'peasant-tongue' in comparison to Spanish, the language of education, business and government.

Despite being the most widely-spoken autochthonous language worldwide, with more than 8 million speakers across South America, it took until 1975 for Perú to recognise Quechua as an official language— the first country to do so, despite it being spoken by around a fifth of Perú's population (more than four million people). 1975 was also the year of its orthographic reform, where it received its own spelling system more in-line with its phonology, instead of being approximated to Spanish equivalents.

Today, almost half a millennium since its golden age, the People's Language finds itself staring down the barrel of extinction. In an increasingly globalised world, there is no room for indigenous languages to flourish outside their rural communities— and so, Quechua is gradually slipping away.



Quechua is essentially an oral language, with a shamefully barren body of literature and few native speakers literate in their own language. Efforts to revive Quechua have been greatly hampered by this utter lack of written material, particularly regarding teaching — although guides to the language do exist, they are mostly intended for linguists rather than the average learner. Elitism and stigma also play their part in the marginalisation and diminishing status of Quechua and other native South American languages, owing to the perception of indigenous people as impoverished and uneducated (which is often the case, due to a self-perpetuating cycle of discrimination based on these same factors).

Another prohibitory factor facing potential Quechua learners is its complex and somewhat alien grammar — like other Andean languages, it's highly agglutinative (meaning it forms words by attaching multiple suffixes), and its systems of case-marking, evidentiality, derivational morphemes are intimidating to native Spanish-speakers, whose language is by comparison quite tame and simple. An (exaggerated) example of a complex Quechua sentence could be:

Much'ananayakapuchkasqakupuniñataqsunamá

which translates loosely to: So they've always been petting each other then.

The future of this intriguingly turgid language isn't completely dismal, however — there are groups dedicated to its preservation, and small victories are occasionally won. For instance, almost three years ago, the Perú's first news program fully in Quechua, titled *Nuqanchik (Us)* was broadcast across the country — a landmark achievement in the struggle to uphold the Incan language, and hopefully the first of many milestones.

Runasimi is an invaluable asset both for indigenous culture and linguistics as a whole, and the fact that it's survived up until now is in itself a powerful testament of perseverance and hope — and even if it meets same fate as countless other conquered languages, its legacy will undoubtedly live on. Plenty of words (even aspects of syntax) have found their way into Spanish, and some all the way into common English.

So, the next time you see a packet of beef jerky (*ch'arki*) at the store or a spot of guano (*wánu*) on a bench, consider the violent colonial history behind each word, and the ongoing struggle to save the ailing language of the Incas.

Tamara Quincy

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