Melville Matters
Issue 48 November/December 2014

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Welcome to the last edition of Melville Matters for 2014. It seems like yesterday that I sat down to write my first article for 2014, but I suspect that the fact that Melville is such an exciting and busy place explains why time just seems to fly by and we are at the end of yet another year of school.

It has been another wonderful year at Melville starting with the announcement of the tremendous ATAR results from 2013 (including four amazing students in the elite 99 Club) and continued with an outstanding NAPLAN performance by our Year 9 students. This was followed by worthy achievements in a range of other academic areas such as the Australian Mathematics Competition, the National Chemistry Quiz, Book in a Day, Numero and of course awards galore in the visual and performing arts and in the sporting domain.

Just one of many highlights for me was the ongoing success of our Year 8 to 10 debating teams who performed very well across every category (see article on page 5). It was always a treat to watch our teams excitedly ‘suiting up’ in the front office under the watchful supervision of Mr Robert Delves and Mrs Elaine Vardy. Old fashioned as it may sound, learning how to properly wear a jacket and tie, how to shake hands and to look adults in the eye while holding a polite conversation are as important now as they ever were and we take every opportunity to make sure our students learn and practice these essential social skills. A special well done to the Year 8 team (pictured front cover) who won their age group category and a big thank you to Mr Delves for his efforts in not only running the Melville team but also organising the whole competition. Mr Delves will be on leave in 2015 and we are fortunate to have Mrs Rhian Biclough, together with Mr Heath Adams taking over the teams as managers.

On the subject of recent successes, I can now confirm the details of the toilet upgrade project at Melville SHS, recently announced in a ministerial press release. The scoping study has costed the project at $2m with about $900k being committed in financial year 2014/15 (Phase 1) and the balance of $1.1m (Phase 2) being spent in financial year 2015/16 – subject of course to funding! In Phase 1 we hope to get the main upstairs and downstairs student toilet blocks in the middle school quadrangle renovated to modern standards as well as the upstairs staff toilets. In Phase 2 the male and female gym toilets and change rooms will be renovated and a new staff toilet block will be built (but remember Phase 2 is subject to the vagaries of the state budget so might not happen). Whether or not phase 2 occurs, I am very excited about getting toilets worthy of your children and our staff.

Semester 2 reports have been posted home to Year 11s and Years 8 to 10 reports will be sent on or about Tuesday 16 December. Having read through quite a few reports at the time of writing, it is pleasing to note so many successful students. There are however a small number who will be (or should be) disappointed with their results. In almost every case this is the consequence of a lack of application; and/or not completing their assignment work; and/or not attending school regularly. If your child has underachieved in their results for 2014, please have a look at the percentage attendance figure shown on the last page of the report above my signature block. If the attendance is less than 90%, not only is your child attending school less regularly than their mates but they are also placing themselves at risk of underachieving. While the overall attendance pattern at Melville SHS is better than state average (in fact our attendance rate is 90%), there are still a significant number of students who are not regularly in class. Success at school and attendance go hand-in-hand, so please look at what you can do as a parent to get your child to school for an average of...
at least 90% of the year in 2015. I promise you that their performance will improve if they attend and complete their work.

After feedback from parents and staff and indeed students, in the 2015-17 School Business Plan we will be implementing a series of whole school strategies targeting effective Study Skills (Target 1.5.1). The target will be achieved when we consider students have been successfully prepared for the completion of course assessments, ATAR exams and other externally set tasks. Mr George Tills, who will be the Deputy Principal in charge of our middle school learning and teaching program (Years 7 to 9), will lead the implementation of this school priority. A copy of the 2015-17 School Plan will be available to our community in early 2015.

Finally, on behalf of our students and indeed the wider community, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at Melville for their outstanding efforts throughout 2014. The school has achieved many, many outstanding successes while providing a comprehensive world class education to all of our students from Years 8 to 12.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming our first-ever Year 7 cohort next year and we anticipate a student population of over 1,300 with around 12 more staff. Sadly we had to turn away over 300 students, as I believe we have reached maximum capacity without a significant additional building program.

In closing I would like to wish each of you a very merry Christmas and a safe, prosperous and happy New Year. 2015 promises to be another very exciting year so until then, please have a great break.

Kind Regards
Phillip White AM, RFD, BA, Grad Dip Ed, MEd (Man)
Principal

2014 AVIATION AWARDS

The annual Melville SHS Aviation Awards night was held in week 7 and was once again a reflection of the fantastic achievements of its’ students, Teacher-in-Charge, Mr Randall Brink and the MASC Parent group. Nearly 200 students and parents attended.

Thanks must go to MASC, the Melville Parents group that does so much to assist the Aviation Centre with organisational skills and fundraising efforts. They have also contributed toward the $1000 scholarships awarded to two students to help towards their flying costs.

50 odd students starting the course next year were invited to the awards. Two students going into Year 7 and 8 were awarded scholarships of $500. Below and pictured are the award winners in each category:

**Best Academic Result**
- Year 8 Joshua Lu
- Year 9 Scott Morgan
- Year 10 Harsh Sharma
- Year 11 Sanjeev Sai
- Year 12 Phillip Hawkins

**Most Improved**
- Year 8 Sean Piper
- Year 9 Georgia Field
- Year 10 Lochlan Reid
- Year 11 Aaron Read
- Year 12 Wei Khang Wong

**Leadership Award**
- Year 8 Charles Morley-Wong
- Year 9 James Hall
- Year 10 Jayden Gossage
- Year 11 Marko Bradonjic
- Year 12 Simon Raj Singh

**Melville SHS $500 Scholarship**
- Year 7 Crest Flanders
- Year 7 Ian Hu
- Year 8 Abhi Saini
- Year 8 Lakindu De Silva

**$1000 MASC Scholarship**
- Year 10 Alistair Lovelock
- Year 11 Sanjeev Sai

**Dux of 2014**
- Year 12 Phillip Hawkins
Cake or Death was the imaginative name decided by some of the girls involved with the build of #27, our second car for 2014. This car was built by a small group of around 10 students in after-school sessions throughout the year. Working around four hours a week after school, this group of students constructed a 'narrow body' designed car with a 26” 500W motor.

#27 was the fastest car in the event, setting pole position in the second ‘senior’ event and leading for around three quarters of the race before our rear wheel started throwing spokes due to cornering too fast! We ended up setting the fastest race lap, and finishing sixth overall and second in class, as well as claiming second place in the ECU Engineering Awards for the best designed and built vehicle.

Overall the team had a fantastic result with two podium finishes, two of the extra awards and of course having the fastest car! The kids on the day were: Kiara Francisco, Alethia Bone, Elayna Studley, Darcy Harry, Campbell Marley and Connor Deaville. Plus the following worked on the car throughout the year but could not make the race: Sarah Cocken, Tom Murray, Jackson Brocx, Michael Martyr and Owen Stanley.

A special thank you to our sponsor, Scarboro Toyota, and in particular to Mr Mike Cocken, Dealer Principal, for their ongoing support of our eV Challenge program. Also a massive thank you to Lindsay Marley, Campbell’s dad, for his massive help with the team on race day and the lead-up to the event. Without your help, we would not have had the success we enjoyed.

We’re already planning for 2015!

Mr Clayton Woolcock
Design and Technology Teacher
A WELL DELIVERED DEBATE

Do you think that schools should be discouraged from setting homework? Every school student throughout history has probably entertained that delicious thought more than once. Our Year 9 team was obliged to argue the negative case on this topic in the first round of our 2014 debating competition. They obviously did their homework well on this occasion because they prevailed against a strong John Curtin team. Very encouraging news for homework-setters everywhere and a very encouraging start to the debating season for our Year 9s.

The Year 9 Team has developed steadily over the debating season. We have recruited new team members during the year and we hope this enthusiasm will continue. Roles have been rotated and everyone has developed to become skilled debaters! The members were Thomas Archibald, Cian Butler, Sam Emans, Theresa Tedeschi, Sriharsha Devapally and Ashley Wilson.

There has been a large and energetic group of Year 8s grappling with topics such as It doesn’t matter what the neighbours think and Slow is better than fast. The team only lost one debate and won the trophy in the final round! The members (pictured top right) were Isobel Stanley, Rico Lee, Jesse Dart, Rachel Crook-Rogers Royden Elliott (our resident comedian) and Kiana Ralph (absent) Maria Ambrose (absent).

Harsh Sharma, Andrew Haworth and Ali Lee Noah were part of the winning Year 8 team in 2012 and have continued their enthusiasm through to Year 10. This year Tara Ivanisevic, Jane Song and Paul Omodumbi have joined them. They have all debated with great skill in what has been a very high standard Year 10 competition. This joyful and enthusiastic team won some - lost some, including a successful defence of the negative in We should not pursue happiness.

ART HAS DOUBLE PERSPECTIVE

The Perspectives exhibition is held at the Art Gallery of Western Australia every year and features the work of the best and the brightest Year 12 Art students in WA. Melville SHS had two students; Madeleine Waller and Jeaselyn Guintu selected to display their work in this prestigious event. Below is a description of the work by the students and the art is pictured left.

Rejection; a binary discourse by Jeaselyn Guintu
Multimedia and work - 560x760mm
Rejection; a binary discourse is a multimedia installation work addressing questions on themes of cultural identity and stereotypes. Drawing on personal experience I respond to the preconceptions and assumptions people make about one’s culture based on their constraints, beliefs and values.

People with ethnic backgrounds often face misconceptions from the mainstream and as a result are considered as strange, invalid and inferior. In my search I look for a sense of belonging, validating my contribution to my community, embracing my heritage and not losing sight of who I am.

The Indignation (Part 1), The Ecstasy (Part 2) by Madeleine Waller
We are forever changing people. We are always moving, always learning, always experiencing, always feeling. Our emotions are what dictate us. We may have outside influences and impacts, but how we react and how we think for ourselves is what makes us who we are.

We four debating teachers want to argue the affirmative for a final topic: Working with these students is always a happy pursuit.

Mr Rob Delves, Ms Rhian Bilclough, Mr Richard Slade and Mr Heath Adams
My artworks are reflections of my own personal emotions. They may not be aesthetically beautiful, but they are truthful and representations of me, but also of the human condition. The human condition is unequivocal and yet beautiful. It is raw, it is everything. They are two contrasting images of strong emotions that I myself have felt; as I am sure countless people before me have felt. My pieces explore these visceral emotions of turmoil and untarnished joy as reflections of myself as an artist, but also of the human population. It is a promotion of individuality, of love, of hatred, of emotion.

PICA Excursion
In week 8 Melville SHS Year12 and selected Year 10 Arts students (pictured top) were given the opportunity to visit the exhibition True Self - David Rosetzky Selected Works, showing at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Art (PICA). David Rosetzky is one of Australia’s finest video artists and creates intensely beautiful lens-based works exploring identity, subjectivity and relationships and regularly collaborates with professionals from the fields of theatre, dance, film and sound.

After a quick look at the exhibition students were then taken upstairs to participate in a Spark_Lab Workshop run by local artist Rebecca Orchard. In response to the David Rosetzky exhibition Miss Orchard led students through contemporary ideas of identity, subjectivity and relationship. Students then developed a series of works using photo/magazine collage techniques, as well as drawing media including watercolour, felt tip marker, biro and pencil. These artworks emphasised the design principles through appropriation, arrangement, cropping and re-photographing. The students enjoyed the opportunity; most saying it was great to have a longer period of time to get involved with creating art.

Thanks to Ms Mellissa McCarthy and Ms Jenna Antoniolli for organising and attending the excursion.

SPORTS ROUND UP
Australian School Athletics Competition
In week 8 talented Melville athletes travelled to Adelaide to compete in the National Schools Knockout, Tack and Field Final. The competition was tough, with the best schools in the country competing for the championship. Team Melville finished 12th with many of the students smashing their personal best times on the day. All the action can be seen on the Melville Senior High School Physical Education Department Facebook page. Well done to the following students: James Hall (Personal best in 800m and 400m), James Gallaugher, Ethan Rowe (Personal best in 200m and 300m), Cameron Foley (Personal best in 100m), Connor Deaville (Personal Best in 800m), Jarrad Gianatti and Paul Grayson.

Mr Cooke and Ms Coonan thoroughly enjoyed the trip and could not be more proud of all the students, both on and off the track.

Netball News
Congratulations to Mrs Sue Gerrard who has once again been selected as coach of the Under 16 State Netball team. The team will be travelling to Sydney. Mrs Gerrard (pictured left with Melville students) is the Senior Coach of the Specialist Netball program at the school.

Next year’s Year 7 and 8 Netball Specialist program students attended the school for a day in week 3 (pictured bottom). Uniform try-outs, practice games and get-to-know-you activities were the order of the day. Two scholarships are awarded to the best students entering the Netball program in each year and the winners for 2015 are listed on page 8.

Final House Points
Last year Cygnus took out the House trophy and the year before the winner was Gryphon. How the great can fall. The outcome was still so close in Term 4, that second and third places were undecided until...
the last event, however no one was going to take the lead from Pegasus in 2014. Pegasus House Captains Juanita Van Der Merwe and Oliver Richards are pictured right with the trophies. The final tally was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pegasus</td>
<td>9270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquila</td>
<td>8856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cygnus</td>
<td>8842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gryphon</td>
<td>8019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to all students and thanks to all staff who have made a contribution towards the House system, by whatever means. This year, Pegasus has lead the race from start to finish.

**WORLD CHALLENGE DEPARTURE**

Our intrepid World Challenge participants (pictured right) have left for Laos and Cambodia with Mrs Anni Crouch and Mrs Jo Daley. They have been fund-raising for the project and underwent an intensive training camp. The trip involves working in a country village to improve the local community. They also go on a five day trek through the Laos jungle and will be visiting the Killing Fields. The highlight will be a visit to the Angkor Wat temples. Stay tuned next year for photos and details of the adventures.

**SHADeD PLAY**

The advent of our Year 7 cohort means changes to the school outdoor areas. Landscaping the area near the basketball courts will mean a bigger area for the middle school and new shade sails have been erected in the quad for the Year 7s and 8s who will use this area in 2015 - especially for handball.

**HAVE LANGUAGE - WILL TRAVEL**

In 2015 students will be offered the opportunity to travel to China on a school tour in April to help establish a Sister School. A tour to Italy will also hopefully be happening in the April school holidays in 2016.

Melville SHS Italian language students Chris Barker (Year 11) and Zoe Spanghero (Year 10) left for Italy in week 7 for a two month Italian exchange experience. They each hosted an Italian student earlier in the year and are pictured left with Principal Mr White.

**MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD**

Melville SHS has done very well at the WA Junior Mathematics Olympiad. Students from 37 schools competed in 112 teams. Congratulations to the following students:

Team 1 - 19th
Mika Sepiaputra, Godfrey Huen, Jordan Lukan and Audric De Guzman.
Team 2 - 84th
Mathew Beck, Wai Lun Rico Lee, Sophia Sunthang and Tammy Chow.
Allies Team - 68th
Mixed team included Dylan Welsh.

**IEC SCIENCE LAVA LAMPS**

IEC Science students learnt about the density of liquids and gas by creating their own lava lamps. Using recycled plastic bottles from the school’s recycling bin, oil, food colours, water and Berocca tablets for gas, the keen scientists created a rainbow of colourful lamps. As students observed the creation of the bubbles and their movements from top to bottom inside the “lamp,” they learnt the vocabulary associated with liquid density. They learnt that oil and water do not mix as usually oil floats on top of water in a separate layer. After they added the tablet to the bottle, it reacted with the water and created bubbles of carbon dioxide gas, which rose to the surface creating a volcanic lava effect.

Julie Gordon - IEC Science
Specialist program testing for Year 6s and top ups for other years happens early in Term 1 next year. Please follow the links below if your child would like to apply for Gifted and Talented, Specialist programs (in Aviation, Graphic Design Media and Netball) and Focus programs (Academic Extension and Music in Focus).

### 2016 Gifted and Talented Selected Academic Program

- **Applications Due**: 9 February 2015
- **Testing Date**: 14 March 2015
- **Top Up Testing Date**: Early to Mid March 2015 (Year 8 to 11 in 2016)

The Gifted and Talented (GAT) Selective Academic Program students are chosen through testing by the Education Department. Information on enrolment can be found on the WA Education Department website [HERE](#).

Selected students study Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences and English together as a unified group from Years 7 to 10. This model has proven to be successful in cultivating a culture of genuine teamwork, peer support, high-level motivation and encouragement.

Teachers of GAT students are specifically trained to understand characteristics of the gifted learner and know how to teach to enable such a student to manifest their talents. Years 11 and 12 remain supported as a group as they complete their ATAR exams.

### 2016 Specialist and Focus Programs

**Aviation | Graphic Design Media | Netball | Academic Extension | Music in Focus**

- **Application Open**: NOW
- **Applications Due**: 12 March 2015
- **Testing Dates**: 26 or 27 March 2015

Selection into a Specialist Program is via a school-based test and interview (plus audition for Music and folio for GDM). Application forms are found [HERE](#). There is one test for all the above programs (Netball is a trial only). Placement is for four years (Years 7-10) and is subject to maintaining specific achievement standards. There are opportunities for other age groups to be tested for top-up vacancies as they arise.

Students can study two Specialist programs (plus AEC or Gifted and Talented). Grid clashes preclude GDM and Netball being studied together and Netball and Aviation cannot be studied together.

Specialist and Focus programs are two sessions per week in Year 7 increasing to four from Year 8.

Please Note: GAT students can also study up to two Specialist programs at Melville SHS. If you are applying for GAT it is advised that you also sit the Specialist / Focus Test. There are two separate tests and students often wish to be involved in multiple courses or may get into one and not the other.
KEY STAFFING CHANGES

With the creation of a third Deputy Principal position and Mr David Combe taking Long Service Leave for the whole of next year the following are key staffing changes for the commencement of 2015:

- Deputy Principal Strategic and Operational Planning  
  – Ms Kylie Bottcher
- Deputy Principal Middle School (Years 7 to 9)  
  – Mr George Tills
- Deputy Principal Senior School (Years 10 to 12)  
  – Mr Evan Floyd
- Manager Student Services with specific oversight of Middle School (Years 7 to 9)  
  – Ms Sass Vlasich
- Deputy Manager of Student Services with specific oversight of Senior School (Years 10 to 12)  
  – Ms Sandy Olney Thurston
- VET and Transitions Manager – Ms Nicole Clune

INFORMATION HANDBOOK

Each family will receive an updated copy of the Melville SHS Information Handbook at the beginning of Term 1. This booklet is designed to provide the latest information about the school and should be stored somewhere in your household for future reference. Please try not to lose it as it will be relevant to your child’s studies for the whole of 2015. If lost, please call the school and have another one sent home. As an example the Information Handbook contains the contact details for all staff (except those appointed after the date of printing) as well as information on everything we can think of that you might need to know from ‘Absences to Session Zero classes’.

We are always working to improve the contents of the handbook and to make it more user-friendly, so if you have any suggestions for improvement please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs Kate Main HERE.

PHOTO ABOVE DEPICTS THE ACTION FROM THE WADUMBAH ABORIGINAL DANCE GROUP WHO EDUCATED STUDENT GROUPS ON LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN WEEK 4.

COURSE OUTLINES

Students will receive a Course Outline and an Assessment Program for every subject they study from their teachers on day one of 2015. If the course is one term long they should receive another one on day one of term 2 etc. To be useful, a Course Outline must provide enough detail to the student and their parent/guardian to know what topics/objectives/outcomes are being studied and when they will be studied. It must also advise when assessments are being held and what topics/objectives/outcomes are being covered. It is also a requirement that it advises students what weighting of the final mark an assessment is worth and students must know at all times what grade they are currently aiming for. In other words there must be no surprises. It is a requirement of all Course Outlines that you sight and sign them so we know you as the parent/guardian have actually seen them.

In 2015 we also expect that ALL teachers will have placed their Course Outlines and Assessment Programs on-line for your convenience using Connect, so it is especially important that you enrol for Connect. More information and the application is HERE.

Finally, teachers will be available to answer questions, so when you get the Course Outline, if you don’t understand it, please ring, email (often easiest) or otherwise contact (e.g. through the homework diary or using Connect) the teacher concerned. This is being mentioned at the end of 2014 so you know to ask you child for the Course Outlines to read, discuss and sign. It is strongly recommended that you contact the Head of Department of any teacher who has not complied with this school requirement by the end of the first week of school (just to allow time for things to get home in school bags etc!). All Heads of Department are listed at the front of the Information Handbook.

2015 PARENTS & CITIZENS

The first P&C meeting for 2015 will be on Monday 23 February (week 4). This is a committee meeting (but new members are welcome to attend anyway!). The date of the P&C AGM is Monday 23 March (week 8). Please put both of these dates in your diary and try to attend if at all possible. The P&C meet twice a term (only once if there is no business to discuss) and if nothing else the meetings provide the opportunity to meet with the principal in a relaxed forum and tell him what a great school he has! The P&C are responsible for running the school canteen and our swimming pool and use all profits to provide
additional resources for students throughout the school. New members are always welcome and there are never enough interested parties, so grab a friend and become involved!

**2015 SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**

The School Board meets on the same night as the P&C with meetings commencing at 5.30pm and running for no more than 2 hours. There is one Board meeting designated open to the public each year and it is scheduled for Monday 8 June in 2015.

In 2015 there will be several vacancies on the School Board for so-called Community Members. School Board membership is different to the P&C where parents often attend to represent their student’s point of view (which is quite reasonable by the way). The sorts of people (and parents are people!!) we are seeking for the School Board are ideally connected to the wider Melville community (remember we have students from as far afield as Mandurah, Kelmscott, Mirrabooka and all parts in between). They may be in business, government, law, the arts, education or involved in one of our specialist programs (Aviation, Netball, Graphic Design Media, Music and Gifted and Talented) and ideally are working at a mid to senior management level.

There is a self-nomination process which is managed by the School Board chair, but I would urge any parent who is interested and thinks they can value add to the school their child is attending thorough their “work” connections and experience, to contact Mrs Elaine Vardy on 9330 0300 for a nomination form. Also if you know someone who might fit this profile, please ask them to contact the Principal or Elaine Vardy.

**IPAD FOR 2015**

In 2015 students from Years 7 to 10 at Melville Senior High School will be expected to bring their own iPad. Any model of iPad is considered acceptable for use at Melville Senior High School, from the first iPad, to the latest iPad Air and iPad mini. Your BYO iPad may be purchased from a supplier of your choice. However, it is possible to lease rather than buy an iPad from Winthrop Australia [HERE](#).

It is also recommended that the iPad your child brings to school is insured and that the Apple Care Warranty is purchased. A strong protective case should also be purchased for the iPad. Parents or students will need an iTunes account to access the Apps store as some selected apps will be required as part of the program.

**THE ATTADALE DENTAL THERAPY CLINIC**

The Attadale Dental Therapy Clinic will be closed from 18 December 2014 until 2 February 2015. For emergencies during clinic hours:

- 18/12/14 – Caralee dental therapy on 93376818
- 22/12/14 – Swanbourne dental therapy on 93840855
- 23/12/14 – 23/01/15 inclusive – Mt Henry dental clinic on 93130552
- 27/01/15 – 30/01/15 inclusive – Caralee dental clinic on 93376818

Attadale dental therapy will open Monday 2 February 2015 at 8am. For after hours emergencies please call 93253452.

**ALUMNI**

**AFL Star**

Congratulations to Jarrad Pickett (Class of 2013) who was recently chosen as AFL draft pick number four and was selected by Greater Western Sydney. The teaching staff will now have to add another favourite team to their list.

**Musical Maestros**

Former students Morgan Remaj (2013) and Casey Fitzpatrick (2012) recently performed at the WA Academy of Performing Arts classical guitar concert. They have both gained places in the music program at WAAPA and love it.