



MELVILLE MATTERS 83

MELVILLE
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

APRIL/MAY 2019



Year 10 Lightning Carnival

CONFIDENT INNOVATIVE SUCCESSFUL

CONTENTS

From the Principal	3
Science	7
Scitech Excursion	7
Aviation	9
Mathematics	9
English	9
Arts and Technologies	11
Visual Arts	11
Music in Focus	11
Year 10 Web Grok Competition	12
Applied Information Technology	12
Emergency Cadets	13
On Tour	13
Quiet Lion	13
Health and Physical Education	14
Interschool Volleyball WIN	14
Health Studies Breakfast	14
State Team Representative	14
Year 8 Lightning Carnival	14
IEC Sport	15
Year 7 - 8 Reward Movie Night	15
RISE	15



Photos by:
Kate Main
Sidone Race
Georgia Williamson
Nikala Cunningham

www.melville.wa.edu.au
6274 1300
melville.shs@education.wa.edu.au

GROUP PHOTOS FOR SALE

If you are interested in buying a group photo the website and shoot key are below. Group photos were taken of Aviation, GDM, Gifted and Talented, Student Council, ACE or MLP students.

Website: ios.academyphoto.com.au
Shoot Key: XCR78NWK

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the third edition of Melville Matters for 2019. Accompanying this edition is a copy of our 2018 Annual School Report. While it has been on our website for a few months now, it is intended that every member of the Melville community (parents and staff) should receive a copy and take the opportunity to at least skim read it. As the School Board chair Mr Paul Richards and I state in the introduction, while it seems like a long time ago now, 2018 was an outstanding year for Melville SHS. The headline academic data showed that in addition to outstanding WACE and ATAR results, national and state wide standardised testing of our Year 7 and 9 students exceeded state, so called 'like school' and Australian averages in NAPLAN testing.

Furthermore, the results from Years 7 to 9 proved one of the best in Australia. This point has been acknowledged in a recent letter from the Minister of Education, the Hon. Sue Ellery, who wrote to congratulate the school on being identified by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority for demonstrating substantial NAPLAN improvements from Years 7 to 9 which exceeded both the national average and improvements by schools with similar ICSEA levels. The My School web-site shows this information if you would like to review it yourself.

The introduction to the Annual Report also highlights the numerous successes of our school and, if nothing else, I urge you to read this 'executive summary'. Initial feedback from parents and community members attending the School Board meeting, where the annual report was tabled and accepted, commented that the production values of the Annual Report continue to be superb. These views were supported at a subsequent P&C meeting. Parents at both meetings also told me how proud they are to have their child associated with a school that is doing so well. This is always great for a principal to hear.

However, as an organisation we can never rest on our laurels. To achieve the best outcomes for our students, your children, we work hard at sustaining a culture of self-reflection and continual improvement. To accomplish this there is clearly a need to analyse and respond to data and the achievement of the targets contained in the School Business Plan 2018-20. We of course conduct this analysis on a daily basis, something we will demonstrate to an external review team from the Department of Education who will visit the school on Wednesday 29 May 2019. The results of this visit will be published on our website as soon as they are available after the visit.

Term 2, just like the rest, is always very busy. By the time you read this online NAPLAN testing will have occurred in weeks 3 and 4 for almost 500 Years 7 and 9 students (see separate article in this edition of Melville Matters addressing the connectivity issues experienced across Australia during day 1 of the NAPLAN testing) and Years 11 and 12 exams will have taken place in weeks 5 and 6. Finally, Years 8 and 10 exams will occur in week 7. These exams will be followed up in the last week of this term with the electronic distribution of semester 1 reports via Connect - so please make sure that your email address is correct and that you have a Connect logon. As per normal there will be a student free parent/teacher meeting opportunity between 9am-6pm on Tuesday 23 July (week one of term 3). Naturally there will be much more to follow on this nearer the date.

ANZAC Day Assembly





Gifted and Talented Computer Information Technology Masterclass Years 7 and 8



Looking to the future, subject selection books for 2020 Year 11 students (currently in Year 10) will be distributed in week 8 and a parent briefing will be held on the Thursday 27 June (6.00 to 7.30pm). If your child is in Year 10 (and therefore will be in Year 11 in 2020) it is important that you attend this briefing. Our view is that the 'Pathways' we introduced a few years ago, which have been refined every year since, have been highly successful and they will continue to be the basis for course (subject) selection. This said, there have been some very recent changes to WACE eligibility which allow for the option of a third pathway option for students in Year 11 and 12 (see following).

Typically between 45 to 60% (depending on the cohort) of Melville students will study an ATAR pathway which leads directly to university entrance, while also completing the requirements of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). Certificate pathways are also selected by between 45 to 60% of our students who see themselves as TAFE or employment bound. Certificate pathway students are required to select from a series of fixed pathway options based on General (as opposed to ATAR) WACE courses (subjects). Critically, this pathway includes at least one (and often more) Certificate course. This practice of offering an ATAR or Certificate pathway has proven very successful, providing our students with a set of courses targeted at viable, meaningful career pathways that position them to gain university and/or TAFE entrance, while also maximising their chances to satisfy WACE requirements.

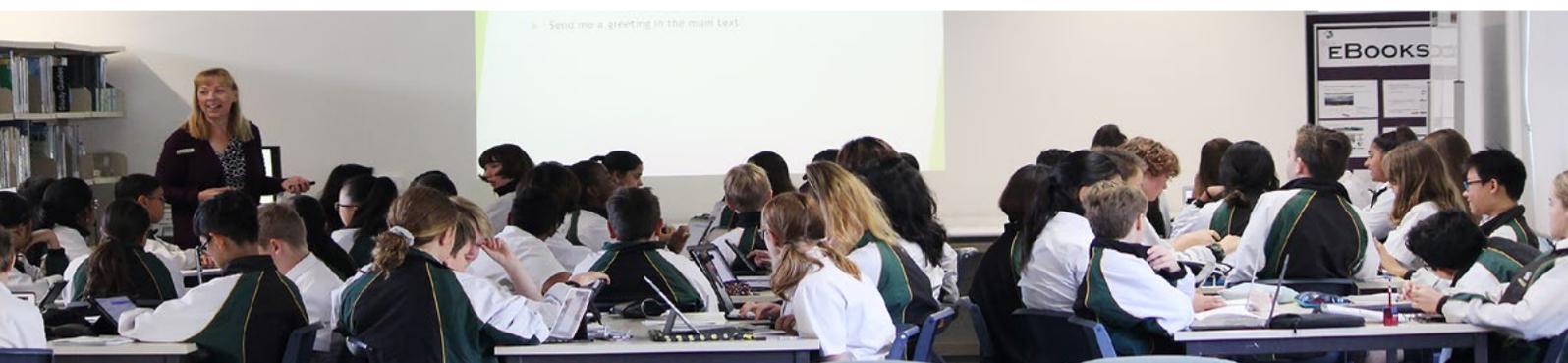
Changes to the WACE for students commencing Year 11 in 2020 provide a potential third pathway for students to achieve their WACE, via five or more General courses. This additional pathway removes the need for students to enrol in VET (or Certificate) courses that, in theory, may not suit their post school requirements. As this edition of Melville Matters goes to press we don't believe the Education Department has been able to provide enough of the detailed information needed for us to prudently recommend this third pathway and for 2020 we will only offer the two pathways that we have so successfully delivered over the past 4 to 5 years. This means that parents and students will be asked to decide between an ATAR or a Certificate pathway, at least until the second order consequences of taking a pathway entirely made up of General courses (i.e. general courses with NO Certificate embedded) is made clearer to us.

Finally, we are increasingly aware as a society and a school that our children are exposed to many more pressures in life than we typically were at the same age. For some children an ATAR pathway can prove to be excessively stressful with the undeniable pressures associated with exams, class rankings and deadline-driven critical work completion dates that they will absolutely need to manage. The good news is that universities have recognised that getting an ATAR should not be the only way to gain tertiary entrance and a range of alternative university pathways are now available (such as our Certificate/General Course combination pathway outlined briefly above). Please feel free to explore some of these alternative university entrance options with Mr George Tills (VET and Transitions Manager) who will be available throughout the parent/teacher meeting day on Tuesday 23 July and at the parent briefing on Thursday 27 June and who is of course available any time by phone or email.

As always,

Kind Regards

Phillip White, AM, RFD, BA, Grad Dip Ed, MEd (MAN), psc
PRINCIPAL





Year 7 Digital Technologies Visit to Scitech



NAPLAN 2019 UPDATE

By the time you read this NAPLAN will be over for 2019. You may recall that in 2019 for the first time, Melville, along with almost all other schools in WA and across Australia were required to conduct the five (5) NAPLAN tests online (i.e. using computers). Unfortunately, while the testing generally went very well at Melville, many schools across Australia (remember NAPLAN is a nationwide standardised testing program for all students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9) had significant connectivity issues that were not of their own (the school's) making. These issues (and we had some at Melville as well) were largely on the first day of testing - which happened to be WRITING in our case for Year 7, although there were still issues across Australia on the second day as well. The impact on some schools and for some students was so bad that ACARA (the national testing body) offered all students who were affected by the connectivity issues the opportunity to re-sit the writing test with 'pen and paper' (i.e. NOT online).

At Melville the connectivity issue on day 1 impacted very few students. These few were well managed by our testing staff and most students only had one short (less than a minute) interruption over the 45-minute test. They then had the time lost added to the end of the test, so that the full 45 minutes (more if special test conditions had been approved) were available.

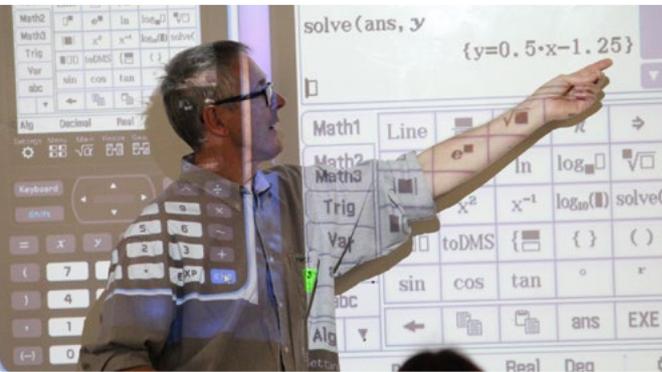
Because we managed the test well (i.e. with brisk, calm efficiency) and few (if any) students were distressed by the loss of time, I decided not to worry parents and students with a Connect message and on the second day (Year 9 Writing) there were very few interruptions at all (but there were still a few). The subsequent online tests in Reading, Language Conventions, Spelling and Numeracy all went well.

So what did we do with the option to have any student affected by the connectivity issues in "Writing" re-sit the test? After considerable discussion and on the professional advice of my Head of English and my Literacy and Numeracy Support Team Manager I decided not to simply retest the whole cohort of Years 7 and 9 students (remember we believe the connectivity issues, while wide spread, were unlikely to have had a significant impact on MOST students). Instead we offered any Years 7 and 9 parent who felt that their child may have been disadvantaged, the opportunity to have their child re-sit the test with pen and paper.

It virtually goes without saying that the national connectivity issues that ACARA were unable to manage on the first day of testing will almost certainly invalidate the usefulness of the writing data across Australia. Melville will have some students for example with a NAPLAN score based on writing on a computer while others will have a score based on writing with 'pen and paper'. This mismatch will be replicated across the whole of Australia. All of this said, I still support the use of NAPLAN (or similar standardised) testing because it does, in my view, provide very detailed data on student progress that individual teachers (as well as schools and the broader system) can analyse and then use to address learning shortfalls. It remains to be seen though how state educational authorities across Australia will see this disruption impacting on the future of NAPLAN.

Phillip White
Principal





Charlie Watson
Mathematics
Calculator Information
Sessions



MLP

Six students from Melville Learning Program went to *Try a Trade* at Thornlie TAFE for three days in week 3. The first day and a half they did brick laying where the students learnt basic skills before they built a wall. The students mastered how to mix the clay, use the right technique of spreading the clay with a trowel and how to use a leveler. The second day and a half was Painting and Decorating. The students learnt to decorate a board with different techniques of painting and measuring. They loved the hands-on work and enjoyed this experience.



AVIATION

Alumni graduate Thomas Ayoub who graduated in 2016 is now in the QANTAS Adelaide flight school for training on the Dash 8 turbo prop. He is seen here in front of his aircraft at Adelaide airport. His course should finish by the end of August this year when he will be placed somewhere in Australia as First Officer on the Dash 8.

Thomas is a great inspiration for young Aviation students aspiring to become pilots.



MATHEMATICS

In week 3, the Mathematics department once again hosted the mathematics mastermind Charlie Watson. Charlie spoke to senior school Maths students about the intricacies of their Graphics and CAS calculators so they can get the most out of their devices for upcoming exams. Pictures are left. Mr Watson has 30 years experience teaching Mathematics, has been an ATAR marker for the past 15 years and regularly runs professional development courses for teachers. He is director of WA Exam Papers, which publish trial ATAR exam papers used by nearly all WA schools.

ENGLISH

In week 2 the Year 12 ATAR English students were invited to participate in extra tuition in the form of Learning Stations. The 'stations' were established to better target the needs of students operating at a similar academic level. With the English examination just around the corner, it is important to take stock of where you are at and where you are going. Through this model, the ATAR teachers were better able to present strategies aligned to the level of the specific cohort, particularly as it pertained to the most difficult section of the exam: short answer comprehension. Additionally, students were able to engage with different teachers and their varying styles.

The feedback from students was overwhelming positive. As a result, the ATAR teachers are hoping to run another session in the immediate future.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

ACCESS DURING EXAMS

As upper school students prepare for exams over the next two weeks, the LRC will be available as a study space. The centre is open from 8 am to 4 pm every week day. We also have a collection of Study Guides and resources available for students to loan. Students can access past papers online, the links are in the School Diary on page 10. *Studentbox* is an online community especially for Western Australian Years 10 to 12 high school students that provides help, support, study resources and tools to help you through high school and into university:
<https://www.studentbox.com.au/>



Music In Focus
Brunch
held in Week 9



ARTS AND TECHNOLOGIES

VISUAL ARTS

In week 10, Year 11 and 12 Visual Arts General and ATAR students went on an excursion to the Perth Cultural Centre to view works in the Art Gallery of Western Australia and Perth Institute of Contemporary Art. This is an annual excursion where students are taken to PICA and AGWA where the aim is to spark curiosity, provoke discourse, inspire, discover and promote learning in meaningful ways.

This year's Perspectives exhibition held at AGWA was titled *Pulse* and featured 46 works by graduating Year 12, 2018 Visual Arts students. The selected artworks provide a window into young people's private, social and artistic concerns. Prominent themes in this year's exhibition included topics such as gender politics, environmental concerns, connections to family and cultural issues. With many students aspiring to be included in this prestigious exhibition it provides inspiration and artistic direction, driving students to reach their best potential.

Students also viewed the current PICA exhibition, *Alchemic*, an Australian Premiere of artist Cassil's exploration of hard hitting social commentary. Cassil's questions attitudes and social structures, using bodies as a form of social sculpture. The exhibition presented some confrontational and thought provoking imagery using video, photography and sculpture. Students were encouraged to engage in critical thought and to reflect on the series of complicated issues that are raised by Cassil's through this exhibition.

Overall by engaging in these exhibitions, we hope the students will be inspired to learn, challenge and communicate issues that are important to them in their art making journey.

MUSIC IN FOCUS

In week 9, Music and Dance students performed at the annual Music Brunch held on the Sunday in the junior school quadrangle. The day was perfect, and the students were outstanding. The performances showcased the results of the work and practice of the school's bands, choirs and dance groups. It was also an opportunity for students to perform in smaller groups. Thanks to the Music Support Group parents for helping with the morning tea and raffle, and the many staff who arrived early and left late to set up and pack away. Now to practice for the Variety Shows in Week 8 of this term.



Top: Art Gallery excursion



YEAR 10 WEB GROK COMPETITION

Year 10 Creative Computing students entered the 2019 Grok Competition that taught them how to build a website incrementally over five weeks. Each week they received interactive notes with the information needed to complete a web design challenge. The last week was a web design tournament where they submitted their design and voted on everyone else's design.



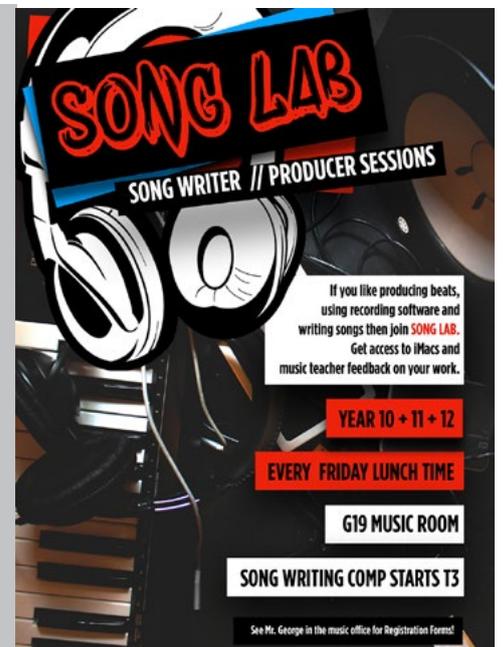
SONG LAB CLUB

Budding song writers and producers from Years 10 to 12 are encouraged to come along to the Song Lab being held at lunch time on Fridays.

Mr George can give advice on producing beats and using recording software. He is hoping in the future that the group can be introduced to people in the industry who can give hands on experience.

Macs are available with the latest software.

Next term there will be a competition to see who can write the best original song.



APPLIED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In week 2, Year 11 and 12 AIT students went to the *Big Day In* Event hosted by Murdoch University. The group listened to guest speakers from ACF, Microsoft, Adobe, Department of Human Services, WiseTech and many more. Students had the opportunity to explore the Expo tent to explore the latest in AI, VR technologies, software and programs. They could also meet delegates from different institutions that were advocating cybersecurity and the various type of job roles that could be available in the future.

The image below centre is of Shayla Trautman and Dr Tim Kitchen, the Senior Education Consultant for Adobe.



EMERGENCY CADETS

ON TOUR

The Emergency Service Cadets went to Albany for five days on the holidays to attend the Dawn Service held at Mt Clarence. While there the group visited the National ANZAC Centre, Princess Royal Fort, Whaling Station and took a tour of Albany town with Mr Kirkby (Grandfather to our Head Boy Luke Kirkby).

QUIET LION

Melville Rotary sponsors an Emergency Cadet scholarship to attend ANZAC Day in Thailand as part of the Quiet Lion Tour and Year 10 students Xavier O'Brien and Ethan Ellis were the recipients of the award in 2019.

The focus for students was to celebrate the work done by the doctors on the railway and to perpetuate the message that "we may forgive but we will never forget" the horrific story of the Burma Thailand Railway. For 12 days the boys heard the story of the Australia PoWs, their camps and the Australian doctors who kept them alive. The tour culminated in the ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Hellfire Pass and the Memorial Service in the Cemetery at Kanchanaburi. Prisoner of War camps, the Bridge on the River Kwai, hospital sites and other areas of interest were visited as part of the tour. Descendants of ex POW and experts on the Thai Burma Railway attended the tour and provided commentaries in addition to English speaking Thai Guides.

The Quiet Lion Tours commenced in 1985 and travels to Thailand to honour Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop, all other doctors who tended the sick and all the Prisoners of War who were on the Burma Thailand Railway.

Emergency Cadets in Albany (top) and Quiet Lion Tour photos (below)



HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

INTERSCHOOL VOLLEYBALL WIN

In week 3, Melville SHS won both the girls and boys A division senior volleyball tournaments.

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

At the end of term one, the Health & Physical Education team created a resort style buffet breakfast by the pool for 34 hard working Melville Students. The Health & Physical Education Team set a goal to celebrate more of our students' individual successes in 2019. The term one theme was 'best start to the year' and each teacher chose 2 students they believed had made a great start to the year by being organised, excited to learn and working hard in term one. Congratulations to all the students who were invited and for making a great start to the academic year! The term two theme is 'top performing students'. Keep a look out for your golden ticket to our next event!

STATE TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

In May, Year 10 student Ewina Tay represented WA at the National U17 Badminton Tournament in Adelaide. The Team secured a bronze medal and are pictured bottom, Ewina is standing sixth from the left.

SPECIALIST NETBALL

Its been a busy start to Term 2, with a total of 14 teams competing in the preliminary rounds of the High School Cup Interschool Netball competition across our lower, middle and upper age groups. Congratulations to the seven teams that have been successful in making it through to the next rounds of the high school cup competition and will compete in the cross-over finals in the coming weeks.

Netball winners (top), Breakfast (middle) and Badminton team (bottom)



IEC SPORT

Students in the IEC have played in a badminton competition which culminated in the Finals in Week 3. The best doubles players from each class played off against each other in a Division A or B competition and the finals were played in front of an appreciative crowd of IEC students. The best four players had a very exciting and close game, trading point for point, before Susie and Bryan closed out the game and thus each won an IEC Badminton Doubles Champion trophy. The players in the Finals, pictured below are: Division B champions Jeff Waffer and Justin Lugay who defeated Mark Garcia and Nicos Segubiense. Also Susie Le and Bryan Wong with silver medallists Sashi Yeruva and Leyang Chen.



YEAR 7 - 8 REWARD MOVIE NIGHT

Students held in good standing last term (based on attendance, uniform and behaviour) were treated to a screening of *Boss Baby* and free popcorn. The movie was shown on a six metre inflatable screen and was held in the Lower School Quad. Approximately 90 students attended with their own food, beanbags and blankets.



VISIT TO THE ROUND HOUSE IN FREMANTLE

In week 3, twelve RISE students had an excursion to Fremantle. It was a great afternoon out and included exploring the Port, Maritime Museum, Whaling tunnel, the Round house and Bathers Beach. All students were well behaved and enjoyed the afternoon.

The group discovered that Year 10 student Mason Reveley is a long lost relative of the Round House designer Henry Wiley Reveley. The Roundhouse is the oldest public building in Western Australia. Opened in January 1831, just 18 months after settlement, it was built to hold any person convicted of a crime in the settlement and was used until 1886.

After it ceased being used as a gaol it became a police lock-up until the late 1890s, then as accommodation for the water police and lastly as a storage facility for Fremantle Ports. When threatened with demolition in the 1920s, it was saved and control went to the State Government before it was deeded to the City of Fremantle.





Year 10 Lightning Carnival

