From the Principal

Minister Visit

As outlined in last week’s newsletter, Randwick Boys High is an active participant in White Ribbon Day. This week, our school was visited by The Minister for Citizenship and Communities, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Assistant Minister for Education, the Hon. Victor Dominello, Mr Bruce Notley-Smith and our School Director Ms Sue Shelley, regarding the White Ribbon Day program.

A group of our students had the privilege and the opportunity to be involved in a round table discussion and activity raising awareness of respectful relationships, violence against women, promoting gender equity, healthy relationships with the Minister and invited guests. Students were also involved in a wrist band design competition, the winner picked by the Minister and Mr Notley-Smith. The winning design will be manufactured and used next year to raise funds for White Ribbon Day.

Year 6 Orientation Day

We were delighted to welcome Year 6 students who will form our Year 7 on Wednesday for a day of orientation to high school. Year 6 met their Year Adviser, Mr George and some of our student leaders. They had the opportunity to look around the school and to ask questions about next year.

On Wednesday evening, parents of Year 6 attended a meeting at school to learn something of the school, the wonderful range of programs we have on offer to support young men in their journey to adulthood and to ask questions. Despite the inhospitable weather, I was impressed by the number of parents in attendance and thank them for their commitment to the school and their choice of a Public School for their sons’ education. I would like to welcome both students and parents to the Randwick Boys’ High School community.
Another year of success

Week 10
Monday 08 December Homework Centre 3:30 - 5:00pm
Tuesday 09 December Yr 8 History Excursion, Maritime Museum, all day
Yrs 9-11 CAPA Excursion, Museum of Cont Art/Art Gallery NSW, all day
Thursday 11 December Jamberoo Excursion, House Competition Winners (Spartans), all day
Homework Centre 3:30 - 5:00pm
Friday 12 December Presentation Day

School’s Junior Debating Tournament

On Friday 21st of November Randwick Boys High School entered two teams into the University of Sydney’s Junior Debating Tournament. Ruben Samer, Ethan Chalk, Daniel Grace, Pavlo Cotis, Hugh Williams Veron Singh and Ben Mobbs did Randwick Boys proud. They were pitted against elite independent and selective schools from all over Sydney such as Normanhurst Boys and Loreto Kirribilli.

They demonstrated confidence, articulation and an awareness of the opposing teams as they progressed through the three rounds of the challenging round robin competition.

Ben Mobbs, Ethan Lee Chalk and Veron Singh secured an impressive win in the second round. Aside from competing against some of the most established debating teams in the tournament, the boys also gained invaluable advice and skills from the experienced adjudicators and debating coaches that oversaw every debate.

The boys should be proud of their performance and excited for their futures in the debating arena. We would like to thank Ms Rosie Mobbs again for coaching and supporting the current debating team.

P Warren
Head Teacher English

Changes to sport supervision in 2015

Recently, Mr Duncombe advised the community of changes that are required to the supervision of sport from 2015. At the time, he indicated that he was pursuing with the Department’s Legal Services Directorate, questions around students being dismissed from the sporting venues at the end of sport on Wednesday.

The advice received is that, with parent consent, students may be dismissed from venues at the end of sport and do not then need to be escorted back to school. The Legal Services Directorate has authorised a letter written by Mr Duncombe for this purpose.

Copies of this letter have been posted home to each parent or caregiver for them to consider consenting to their son’s dismissal from their sporting venues on Wednesday afternoons. These letters were posted on 21/11/14.

If you consent to the arrangement in the letter, please sign it and have your son return it to the Administration Office before the end of term. When consent is not given, students will be supervised on the return to school and dismissed from school after Wednesday sport. The letter is attached at the back of this newsletter.

O Sofo
Relieving Principal
Sydney Symphony Orchestra excursion part 4

Sci-Fi Classics was the 5th and final concert of the year which I attended, on the 12th of September. I have always been a sci-fi fan, but this was something else. I find that the conductor chooses the way he/she will compose him/herself based on the audience;

Hear it, Feel It had a serious undertone which felt like a classroom, whereas this concert was the complete opposite. In Hear It, Feel It, the audience was mainly made up of students, and thus had that educational momentum most commonly observed in university lectures. So naturally, with an audience which appreciates humour and blatantly obvious references to mainstream sci-fi tropes, you have the “funny guy” on the spotlight.

Guy Noble, the conductor, deserves mention and credit for not only his absurd conducting methods, but the ability to make people laugh in what would have otherwise been quite a majestic and foreboding atmosphere. Making references to Star Wars Episode 7 with a Disney influence, seamless and well-practiced impersonations of Mickey Mouse and Yoda and dressing up in 3 different costumes were all a part of the routine.

At that concert, I saw 2 new things: As Mr Noble returned from the interval, he was dressed up as Brains from Thunderbirds. Now, this would have been it in a typical practical joke, but Noble decided to take it a step further by acting like him. He waltzed onto the platform, took a bow whilst carelessly leaning on the support frame, and conducted as if he hadn’t a single care in the world. Our “conductor” was wearing pyjamas and had a silly grin on his face all the way through, and professionalism was really fighting a losing battle as he began to move his buttocks in sync to his baton in a mellow part of the piece which reminded me of A Space Odyssey. He might as well have conducted with a toothbrush. The second was… well, after an on-stage costume change from Thunderbirds to Star Trek, Mr Noble decided to leave his pants around his ankles after having difficulty removing them. You only get to see something like this once every blue moon.

From a musical perspective, the difference between sci-fi and film music becomes hard to distinguish, as most of it seems to fall under that large category of music. Most, if not all themes and structural motifs are identical and resemble film music. However, there is a certain association that I make with a sci-fi film and its score, and by evoking those memories through music is an experience which makes a significant difference to how it is absorbed from a listener’s perspective. Scores from films included were Star Trek: Next Gen, X-Men United, Alien, 2001 – A Space Odyssey, E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, Batman (the new one), Thunderbirds, The Day the Earth Stood Still, Doctor Who, Lost in Space, Inception, Avatar and Star Wars (Leia’s Theme, Duel of the Fates and The Opening Theme).

Support for Higher School Certificate Examinations

Information for Students and Parents

The Board of Studies has a program to help students with practical support in their Higher School Certificate examinations. This practical support, known as provisions, assists students to read examination questions and to write their answers. Provisions include rest breaks and extra time. The use of any provision is not written on the student’s results. Students may need provisions for:

- A permanent condition, such as diabetes or a reading/writing difficulty.
- A temporary condition, such as a broken arm.
- An intermittent condition, such as anxiety or back pain when sitting for long periods.

It is not embarrassing to apply for or use provisions. More than 5000 HSC students apply for provisions each year. Provisions help students to show the markers what they know and can do.

To apply for provisions, the school submits an online application to the Board of Studies. This application tells us which provisions the student is requesting and includes recent evidence. Evidence may include medical reports, reading results, spelling results, writing samples and teacher comments.

Much of the evidence can be collected by the school, but the parents’ role is welcome and needed. Parents help by talking with the school, describing the student’s needs, and providing the school with medical or other reports.

Applications for provisions should be submitted by the school
to the Board of Studies by the end of Term 1. Late applications are accepted for an emergency, such as a broken arm, until the time of the examinations.

Once the Board of Studies has made a decision about which provisions are approved or declined, a decision letter is provided to the school. The school will provide the student with a copy of the letter.

If you or the school are not satisfied with the Board’s decision, it is possible for the school to lodge an appeal. Appeals must state why the Board’s decision is unsuitable and must include new evidence to support the appeal.

If you think that you or your son may require support in completing the Higher School Certificate examinations, please discuss the matter with the Year Adviser, Ms Pappin, School Counsellor, Ms Di Piero, or Learning and Support Teacher, Mr Burke.

Mr Burke
Learning Support Team

Year 9 Geography Excursion

On Tuesday the 2nd of December 32 students travelled to Kamay Botany Bay National Park in Kurnell for a field trip. Students were afforded the opportunity to apply Geography skills learnt in the classroom in the natural environment.

The day began with a bush walk through the National Park where the boys were educated on how the Indigenous Australians once lived and survived in the area. They learnt what plants and animals they would use for survival, and how they use the land in a sustainable manner to last for future generations.

Students were briefed on the Environmental issues of the area and human impacts. Rangers discussed the various management strategies that have been implemented to ensure the area remains fit for human enjoyment for generations to come.

All in all the day was a great learning experience for the boys! They thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to apply their skills in the natural environment and develop their knowledge of the Botany Bay region in the field.

Mr Neill
Geography Teacher

Adry Awan – Federal Parliament House

Last Tuesday, I had the honour of joining the CEO of CanTeen Australia, Peter Orchard, COO of CanTeen Australia, Peter Allwood and CanTeen Australia’s board members at an event held at Federal Parliament House to highlight the importance and achievements of specialised cancer services for adolescents and young adults, and to ensure that these services receive the necessary funding from the Australian Federal Government over the next several years. I was also tasked with the responsibility of speaking to the senior members of the Senate and House of Representatives in attendance about the impact of a cancer diagnosis on young people. Overall, the event was a great success. The senior MP’s and Senators responded positively to my speech, and reflected on how successful CanTeen has been in providing age appropriate treatment and psychological support to young cancer patients. An official decision in regards to further funding from the Federal Government will be made in the coming months.

Thank you to the members of the RBHS community who passed on messages of support in the lead up to this event. Thank you also to Ms Harris, for not only her words of support but for all the years I had the privilege of being her student. All those lessons during Legal Studies about the Australian Government paid off!

Adry Awan
School Captain 2013

Another year of success
### Around the Grounds

**RBHS Athletes Rate Highly**

Corey Spiteri performed in the NSW Schools Championships and won a gold medal for Randwick Boys High School, fencing in Foil with 96 competitors. The competition was run over the course of 2 weeks. Corey is a year 9 student, and is currently holding the most ranking points in the state!

**Corey Spiteri**

**Under 15wws Nationals**

Year 8 student Scott Dyson has been asked to represent the U17 CHS Water Polo team, quite an honour for the 14 year old.

**Scott Dyson**

**U15’s Water Polo in action**

Coach Bladwell gave Scott the highest accolade by saying that “he is the ultimate play maker and possibly one of the best all round players in the squad”.

Scott has been a member of the RBHS Water Polo team since Year 7 and has competed in every grade and knockout competition since.

**Man of the Match Tally**

Shawya Saito has finally been removed from the top spot on the man of the match tally after some consistent weekly performances by Futsal Player Aswin Adinanto.

It will certainly be a competitive run to the end of the season with a number of athletes challenging for the top spot.

The next 2 rounds plus the finals, next year, will be unlisted rounds, so that winners can be rewarded on presentation day.
Zone Grade Finals

This will be the last round of grade sport for the year and rounds 13 and 14 will be played on the 4th and 11th of February 2015 against Normanhurst Boys’ HS and Epping Boys’ HS respectively.

At this stage these are the RBHS teams in the top 4 although there are 3 or 4 others vying for finals representation:

Cricket 15’s, Cricket 2nd, Basketball 1st, Waterpolo 2nd, Waterpolo 15, Futsal 15A, Futsal 15B, Oztag 1st, Oztag 2nd, Oztag 15 A, Oztag 15 B.

Grade Sport

It was another successful week for the ‘Wicks’ with Cricket 15s, Basketball 15s and Basketball 14’s sneaking into finals contention.

The Basketball 14s who have a hard time this year had a very positive result against Ashfield, much to the delight of Mr Halliwell.

There was more controversy in the Cricket this week with Mr Dimopoulos, the U15s cricket coach, identifying a mistake in the standings.

In round 1 RBHS defeated Homebush and consequently should have more points than what is tallied in the standings. Consequently, the ‘Wicks’ go into the top 4 and a good shot at finals.

Oztag Teams continue their dominance with all 4 teams making the Metropolitan Zone Semi Finals.

Vale Phillip Hughes

Randwick Boys’ High School offers its condolences to the family and friends of NSW and Australian cricketer Phil Hughes who tragically passed away last week.

Phillip was a student at Homebush Boys’ High School and represented the Northwest Metropolitan Zone on the cricket pitch.

He played 26 Test matches, scored 1535 runs at an average of 32.65, with a highest score of 160.

After an extraordinary start to his career, he was dropped three times by Australian selectors, but each time had fought his way back. He was on the verge of selection again when he was felled last week.
2015 Year 7 and Year 8
Book Packs

2015 Year 7,8,*9,*10 Book Packs
Available for purchase at the school office via phone, email, fax or in person from Wednesday 3rd December 2014

Year 7 $35 includes art book
Year 8,*9,*10 $30 does not include art book

The no excuses book pack

Includes teacher approved Year 7 and Year 8 exercise book requirements, includes easy clear slip on book protectors and a handful of new stationary items to start fresh 2015 with no excuses

*Year 8 Book Packs are suitable for BASIC Year 9 and Year 10 needs, students may need to purchase extra items according to their individual electives.

P&C Book Pack Contact
Adriana Skleparis
0433544449
rbhbookpack@bigpond.com

DECEMBER 2014 - JANUARY 2015
SCHOOL HOLIDAY
SHORT COURSES

HOW TO SHOOT A ZOMBIE (MOVIE)
THE REAL FILMMAKING WORKSHOP
GAME APP DESIGN // SCREEN ACTING
DIGI ANIMATION // TEENS RADIO + MORE!

1300 065 281
open.aftrs.edu.au
AUSTRALIAN FILM TELEVISION AND RADIO SCHOOL
RCL youth holiday programme January 2015

Teen Summer Reading Challenge
15 December 2014 - 25 January 2015, everywhere and anywhere
For ages 12-18 years; Cost: FREE
Reading over the summer holidays? Why not be rewarded for it. Sign up to the Teen Summer Reading Challenge 2015 at any of our Library locations and expand your reading adventure. Entry is free! Every book you read puts you in the running to win one of many great prizes, including a GoPro!

Teen Page to Stage
Tuesday 6 January 2015, 1.00pm - 4.30pm, Bowen Library
For teens enrolled in year 7 to year 12; Cost: $5
A music theatre workshop for lovers of musicals and Stephen Sondheim’s Into the Woods. Join an experienced performer and music theatre teacher who will show you how to enhance your stage skills.

Song Writing Workshop
Thursday 8 January 2015, 1.30pm - 4.30pm, Margaret Martin Library
For teens enrolled in year 7 to year 12; Cost: FREE
Join Luke Colombo from Flick The Bean, winner of BANDSLAM 2014

RPG Marathon
Friday 16 January 2015, 10.30am - 4.00pm, Bowen Library
For ages 12-25 years; Cost: $10 for library members, $15 for non members (library membership is free)
Total noobs and experienced players are invited to an all day event with pizza for lunch. Prizes may be awarded for the best ‘Play of the Day’. Limited spaces are available in various RPG games such as: Dungeons & Dragons, Lord Of The Rings, Pathfinder, and Ravenloft.

Survival key rings and bracelets
Wednesday 21 January 2015, 2.00pm - 3.30pm, Bowen Library
For teens enrolled in year 7 to year 12; Cost: FREE
Are you obsessed with dystopian and survivor stories like The Hunger Games and The Maze Runner? Well clearly you need to be ready for the worst to happen at anytime by having your own home made paracord bracelet or keyring. Once you’ve made it you’ll never leave home without it

Randwick City Library Service will be hosting numerous events for teens during the upcoming school holidays. Included in the events programme is the annual Teen Summer Reading Challenge. One of the aims of the TSRC is to encourage students to maintain or expand their reading level over the school holidays and reward them for it. There are a number of excellent prizes to be won this year including a GoPro and gift vouchers to Kinokuniya, Dymocks and JB Hi-Fi. To sign up for the TSRC, teens will need to visit one of our three branches with their library card.
Other events will cater to the musicians, drama and craft fans. All events are suitable for the high school student age range and are low-cost or free. Please note students will need to contact book into events via the library's Eventbrite page (randwickcitylibrary.eventbrite.com) and bookings are essential.
RANDWICK BOYS’ HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT / CAREGIVER CONSENT TO DISMISS FROM SPORT (2015)

Dear Parent / Caregiver,

Randwick Boys’ High School is committed to having all students travel safely to and from sport on Wednesday afternoons. In 2015, all students leaving school to travel to sport will be directly supervised by their sport teachers. This will include travel on public transport to venues. Students will also be supervised on their return to school by their sport teachers.

The school recognises however, that for some of our students, their home might be close to a sporting venue and travelling back to school might be an unnecessary action for them at the end of sport.

To enable a student to be dismissed from a venue, the school must receive the written consent from the parent or caregiver for this to happen. Any student without his parent’s / caregiver’s consent to being dismissed from a venue will be supervised on his return to school, from where he will then be dismissed.

Parents and caregivers are asked to consider this matter and indicate what they would like the school to do in relation to their sons.

1. If you consent to your son being dismissed from sport at the venue, please sign and return the consent form below and ask your son to return it to his sport teacher.

2. If you wish your son to be supervised on the return to school, you need take no further action.

Wayne Duncombe
Principal

CONSENT FORM – DISMISSAL FROM SPORT (2015)

Name of Student: ____________________________________________

Year Group: ____________ (in 2015)

Sport: ______________________________________________________

Dear Mr Duncombe,

I consent for my son, whose name appears above, to be dismissed from his sporting venue at the end of sport each Wednesday to make his own way home. I understand that once dismissed, he will no longer be under the supervision or responsibility of the school.

__________________________________________________________
Parent / Caregiver signature

__________________________________________________________
Contact number