On Thursday 30th May, Channel 7 sports journalist Jim Wilson visited Robert Townson High School to speak to the SRC, senior leaders and students interested in media careers. This was an opportunity for students to meet Wilson and learn from his media experiences.

Wilson talked to students about his current job as the nightly sports reporter on Channel 7, his past media experiences, personal life and all of the places he has visited. He encouraged us to follow our dreams and do what we love.

Wilson also had advice for students who want to take the same career path as him—work hard and be passionate.

Students asked many questions related to his career and sport. Before he left, Wilson commented that he was impressed with our sporting knowledge and the excellent questions we had asked.

Afterwards, students were invited to stay around to meet Wilson and have their photo taken with him. It was a great opportunity and a valuable experience for all students involved.

Jim Wilson is an Australian sports journalist who was a reporter during the 2012 London Olympics for the Seven Network and is currently the sports presenter on Seven News. Wilson is married to newsreader, Chris Bath who previously visited our school in 2011.

By Elise Jones
Year 9
Principal’s Message

Schools and current Government Funding
Many of you are probably aware of the range of complex terms being used in the media to describe changes to the way school will or may operate. This includes: LMBR, Gonski, National Partnerships to name a view. I have tried to keep you informed about LMBR in past newsletters however we still only know what they expect of the program not how it will affect schools. To date the impact has been minimal. I expect to be able to tell you more next semester. Gonski funding is a "big deal" in education however at this stage its future depends on political players.

Just a few weeks ago we were given some positive news. We are a school which has never received any long-term National Partnership funding. This is because our students achieve literacy and numeracy results in NAPLAN testing above other many needy schools. Because of this lack of past funding and as many of our students still achieve results below the state year group, our school has received funding for one year to assist year 7 and 8 students. Our staff will be working on ways to improve their results with a focus on literacy over the next 12 months. As the program take shape I will keep you informed of our progress.

Internet usage at school
As I've mentioned before the DER program has ended. To supplement the work teachers have undertaken over the last few years I have purchased laptop trolleys and placed them in every block. One of the negative aspects technology is that at some times during the day our computer network infrastructure slows down due to the heavy demands being placed upon it. I recently contacted the Department and spoke about our needs for improving our schools "bandwidth". The department sent out a consultant to examine our needs. Very rapidly he determined that our problem was not bandwidth but inappropriate usage. Many of our students are accessing social media sites which they are not supposed to have access to (Youtube, Facebook etc). Two ways in which this may occur are: students sharing an adult/Tafe account illegally or they may have found a site which will allow them to get around the Department blocks. Irrespective of how they're doing it, I will remind students that such access is against school rules and the contract that the year 10,11 and 12 students’ signed. After they have been told I will automatically disable any student’s account accessing any social media. I expect a large number of students will be affected. It takes very little time to disable account however much more to re-enable it (weeks). I have no doubt that students will say somebody is illegally using their account username and password. That is why I will give them 24 hours in which to reset their passwords. After that time they will be responsible.

School uniform
It is heartening to see that so many of our students are wearing the correct winter uniform. I continue to remind them that track suits of any form are not part of it. We have slacks and pants to cover our legs and jerseys jumpers and blazers to cover our top. Despite this a noticeable number of students are wearing tracksuit pants and "hoodies" in our school colours. It is interesting to watch these students in the playground.

What I find is students commonly out of uniform gather together in groups of like-minded individuals, frequently they are late to class and can be seen slapping each other in some type of group bonding activity between class. Please do not believe comments such as “they all do it”. Friendship groups will often dress alike and (mis)behave alike so that they fit in. Business employers tell us that they will frequently look for uniform compliance comments when deciding between applicants.

NAPLAN and Parent Teacher Night
Congratulations to all parents and guardians of children in years 7 and 9. With very few exceptions all students conduct themselves mutually and with due diligence during the unpleasant four days of testing.

Lastly, at the end of last year we had to rapidly change student report writing software. Though we were happy with the company we were using we could not obtain assurances that they would be available to support us in the next assessment period. Accordingly we moved to another popular company and I am sorry to say we continue to have issues. These issues increase the amount of time needed to complete reports due to various time-consuming administrative problems. Our teachers are working diligently to ensure that you receive your student’s reports in a timely fashion before the end of term so that you can make an informed choice about what to say to your teachers on parent teacher night.
Please note if you find anything in the report that you disagree with, reported it to our school front office staff and we will examine the issue and rectified it as soon as possible, this process should only take days not weeks. Reminder that parent teacher night is week 1 on the first day back next term for students.

Warren Parkes
Principal
Deputy Principal’s Message (Yr 7, 9, 11)

Half yearly exams are currently being completed and reports will be written and distributed by end of term. As this is a shorter 9 week term we will have our Parent Teacher interviews on the first Tuesday in term 3, 16th July. Please check with students for booking sheets that will be distributed towards the end of this term.

A number Year 10 students are currently completing TAFE courses as part of the expanded curriculum offered by Robert Townson High. Any future courses will be clearly advertised. Please note that students attending TAFE must still complete any work required by their usual courses.

Year 12 must now be fully emerged in HSC preparation. I suggest social network sites be limited as HSC results depend on quality revision which takes time.

I am encouraged that staff are advising parents that many year 8 students are performing well. I expect those students who are letting themselves down to “lift their game”.

Mr Morrow

Deputy Principal’s Message (Yr 8, 10, 12)

Welcome back to Term 2. This term is one full of tests and exams like NAPLAN and half yearly assessments for all students. For parents this means that students should be doing a lot of revision and preparation for exams at home. No excuses for not having any homework or study to be completed!

Students in Years 9, 10 & 11 have been completing TAFE courses part time while remaining at school. This gives them the opportunity to sample the courses and decide whether TAFE might be a training option for them when they eventually leave school. We are grateful to Macquarie Fields and Padstow TAFE for their continuing support of our students. Other courses available to students (when they are 15 years old) include Hospitality training through Café Horizons at Cabramatta where participants can achieve competencies towards a Certificate 11 in Hospitality one day per week and then go on to complete further qualifications at TAFE. If you are interested, please see me for further information.

Year 9 Work Education students are preparing their resumes or CV’s during this term. They are also completing the Work Readiness course so that they can complete Work Experience in their area of choice. Work experience provides students with an opportunity to work in an area of their own choice and experience the everyday realities of working: the need to be punctual, to communicate and engage with other people and be responsible for working independently and as a team member.

Year 11 students are adjusting well to the challenges of multiple assessment tasks across subject areas. Year 7 students have settled into the routine of high school and appear to be enjoying the change from primary school. Year 9 students are continuing their academic progress after their half yearly assessments. Keep up the good work!

Mrs Chapman
The Student Representative Council (SRC) at Robert Townson High school has always strived to be active within the school and the local community.

So far this year, our SRC students attended the **CAMDEN YOUTH FORUM**. Here our students had the opportunity to discuss and address many mental health issues faced by young people with local politicians and community leaders. Our students have also been an active member of the **Liverpool and Ingleburn INTERSCHOOLS SRC Group**. This provided our students with the opportunity to interact with students from a range of neighbouring schools to discuss ideas and build leadership skills. Four of our 11 students were also lucky enough to attend the University of Wollongong Elevate program. This program was an interactive and inspiring day for our senior students.

The SRC has always had a strong passion for fundraising and charities. Just recently, the SRC organised the **STUART HOUSE BBQ and RAFFLE**. This event was a huge hit, with all money raised going toward the Stuart House organisation to help disadvantaged kids.

Working towards the future, the SRC alongside the Senior Leaders, are underway planning the School **TALENT QUEST** which is to be held Week 8, Term 2.

*Mrs Griffiths and the SRC Team*

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**Senior Leadership Team**

Our senior leaders and the SRC have been very busy working on the organization of a school talent quest. In weeks 4 and 5 this term students across the school will be given the opportunity to audition for the event. So far we have interest from dancers, bands and singers from Year 7 all the way through to Year 12 students. This year’s talent quest will be run Friday Week 8 (21st June). Prizes will be awarded to all the performers. All students will be asked to make a gold coin donation for the event. All proceeds will be going back into a school project to be enjoyed by all students while at Robert Townson High. Good luck to all the performers!

Year 11 students who intend to run as senior leaders will also be given the opportunity very soon to attend a leadership camp at Teen Ranch on 27-28 June (Thursday and Friday Week 9). Meetings regarding this event will occur over the next couple of weeks. Stay tuned prospective senior leaders!

*Mr Kapitanow and the Senior Leadership Team*

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**2013 Public Speaking Competition**

Many congratulations to our champion public speakers who competed in the Junior and Senior finals at the end of Term 1.

In the Junior division, our champion was Jordan Smajlagic of Year 8 and in the senior division, our champion was Aalia Sipos of Year 12.

It’s quite an ask for any student to speak confidently in front of a large and unfamiliar audience, so it’s a mark of their self-confidence – not to say bravery! - that they do it so well. Fabulous work from all the participants. Thank you also to the P&C Association for their continued support.
“Playing Beatie Bow” by Ruth Park

Playing Beatie Bow by Ruth Park is an imaginative and intriguing story about a girl who ventures back in time to the late nineteenth century and has to live the Victorian lifestyle. The novel can be slow-paced at times but, once you start reading it, there is no way you can put it down.

The story moves at a slow pace but has unexpected twists along the way. Abigail Kirk watches a scary game played by children called ‘Beatie Bow’, when she sees a girl standing all alone and decides to follow her. Suddenly she gets taken back in time with the little girl and has to live with the Bow family. The era she travels back to is so different yet strangely familiar to what she’s used to. The description of Mr Bow’s drunken actions brings authenticity to how people lived in the Rocks at that time.

The characters, although sometimes hard to relate to, have a specific feature about them that shows their strengths and weaknesses. The main character, Abigail, is a very smart, yet stubborn, teenager who sticks up for herself. She is a typical Australian girl who didn’t stand out in any way until the time travel. On the other hand, Beatie Bow is a young and vulnerable girl who is scared of her own powers. Park has depicted the inequality of power between men and women in the nineteenth century perfectly.

The story is set in the late twentieth century, then travels back to the 1800’s at the Rocks. Park has described the harshness of the Rocks well to a point where the reader feels like they have actually been there. The realness of the housing and community in the Rocks gives a sense of accuracy to this fiction novel.

Playing Beatie Bow is an overall interesting read that keeps the reader thinking, ‘What is about to happen next?’ Park’s writing style is very mature so this book would be recommended for ages thirteen to eighteen. Overall, a wonderful read.

Reviewer: Ashley O’Loughlan (8S)

The Mathematics staff would like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff member, Mr Michael Clulow who joins us from Campbelltown Performing Arts High School. Head Teacher Mr Gehrke also left our school at the end of Term 1 and we wish him all the best at his new school.

Our wonderful P&C have subsidised the cost of Mathletics for our school. This online learning resource aims to engage and motivate students with interactive activities that are available for use at home at any time.

This resource is available to our students for a small fee of $5 payable to the front office (if purchased online in a private capacity the cost incurred will be $90). Students simply need to show their receipt to their classroom teacher who will then issue a user name and password.

Mathematics and Driving

Year 11 General Mathematics students are currently working on a module “Mathematics and Driving”. In order to make the mathematics more relevant to real life, the students will be required to research the costs involved in owning, maintaining and running an actual existing car (e.g. the family car). Students will investigate such items such as registration, insurance, servicing and fuel costs. They will also investigate safe driving issues including reaction times, stopping distances and blood alcohol levels.

Ms N Koleda
HT Mathematics (Relieving)
ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

In the last week term one RTHS celebrated one of the most significant national occasions by observing a minute’s silence for ANZAC Day. As a result of ANZAC Day falling in the holidays, the staff and students of RTHS celebrated this important day early with the help of Mr. Kapitanow, (head teacher HSIE) who served as Master of Ceremonies and our school captains, Jacob Marquardt and Tayla Kuru, who each played important speaking roles. In addition to our speakers, the school was lucky to have William Johnson and Keira Cusbert in full military cadet uniforms who played important ceremonial roles in the lowering the flag to half-mast for observation of the Last Post, a minute’s silence and Reveille. All staff and students at RTHS recognise the significance of remembering ANZAC Day as was exemplified by the sombre and reflective atmosphere during the ceremony.

Being officially named ANZAC Day in 1916, this day marks the yearly anniversary of Australia’s entry into the First World War, landing the shores of Gallipoli on the 25th of April, 1915. Since then it has become a national day of commemoration for the 60,000 Australians who died in that terrible war and all conflicts Australian troops have been involved in since. The day is associated with dawn vigils, marches, memorials and reunions for returned servicemen. We at RTHS always remember ANZAC Day with an annual celebration of our own, where we recite the immortal words of the ‘Ode of Remembrance’ by Lawrence Binyon.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them. Lest We Forget

Mr A Olm
History Teacher

Above: William Johnson (Yr 11) and Keira Cusbert (Yr 9) who helped to lead our school ceremony.
ART EXPRESS EXHIBITION

2012 HSC Visual Arts student Zain Kruyer with Mr Heap at the opening of ArtExpress at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, featuring Zain’s HSC artwork.

ArtExpress is a Board of Studies and Department of Education and Training touring exhibition which recognises exemplary artworks created by students for their Higher School Certificate Examination in Visual Arts. These are displayed in a series of exhibitions that take place in 2013 including this exhibition at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre from 3 May to 23 June.

For a full list of Metropolitan and Regional Exhibition dates and to find out more about the exhibition, visit: http://artexpress.artsunit.nsw.edu.au

For more information, visit: http://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au/artexpress/

Mrs D James
Head Teacher Creative & Performing Arts

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS EXCURSION

Year 9 and 10 Drama students went on an excursion to the Sydney Theatre this term to watch One Man, Two Guvnors, a British play by Richard Bean. One Man Two Guvnors is an English adaptation of Servant of Two Masters and is a comedy by the Venetian playwright Carlo Goldoni.

It was a great production, full of laughs and everyone enjoyed themselves. We particularly liked the physical comedy and the interaction between the actors and the audience.

We look forward to the next Theatre excursion we have later in the year.

By Jasmine Haddad
2013 DOBELL DRAWING SCHOOL

In the April school holidays, year 11 students Gloria Bisson and Geraldine Borland completed a one week drawing workshop at the National Art School in Darlinghurst. In its sixteenth year, only 75 year 11 students from NSW government school were selected by the Department of Education and training to participate. This program is generously sponsored by the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation and is designed to provide visual art education opportunities for secondary school students in NSW, with the aim of broadening students’ perceptions of the art world and in building their confidence to create artworks.

Mrs D James
Head Teacher CAPA

SRC Fundraising Barbecue

The SRC Barbecue held this Term was a success, with many students who proudly represent RTHS turning up to socialise and raise funds for Stewart House. All money raised will be donated towards the foundation who supports kids in need.

Within the first five minutes middle quad was packed like seagulls to a chip at the seaside. The line-up for the sausage sizzle kept going until they all sold out. It was a positive fundraising event and the SRC would like to thank the school community for their support.

By Nathan Rolander (Yr 9) & Ra’ees Kruyer (Yr 9)
A range of different sporting teams continue to represent our school in Zone sport competition.

P&C Members, Principal Warren Parkes and students with MP Chris Patterson and Federal MP Kent Johns. RTHS received a grant of $37706 from the local government for an outdoor learning area.