Teenagers and Reading

Every parent and teacher wants their children to be engaged readers. The benefits of developing concrete reading habits, particularly through teen years, are boundless. It allows them to:

- **See the world.**
- Get **free advice** with many novels featuring teenage characters that have problems and pressures similar to those your teenage may be dealing with.
- Share and see how others have **found solutions to problems**.
- Gain **academic benefits** of vocabulary enhancement, confidence in speaking and improved writing skills.
- Broaden their **imagination**.
- **Escape** noise, tension, or boredom by escaping into a book.

However, in recent times, there has been ongoing discussion about a rapid decline in the amount of teenagers who are reading regularly. Some lay blame on the digital revolution with students losing engagement with traditional methods as a result of the constant bombardment of fast paced movies, video games, the internet and social media. Regardless of the reason, teachers and parents must continue to encourage active reading in whatever form that may take, traditional or digital.

Here are some ideas parents can share with your children to re-connect them to reading.

- **Decide what they are in the mood for.** High adventure? Romance? Perhaps you enjoyed a recent movie or TV miniseries; chances are it was based on a book you'd enjoy also.
- **Encourage them to ask around.** Ask friends, a favourite teacher, or your coach to suggest books they enjoyed.
- **Check out the library.** It won’t cost you anything, and the choices are virtually unlimited. The Robert Townson Library has a great selection for students to choose from.
- **Don’t judge a book by its cover.** What you see on the cover is not necessarily what you get. Read the short reviews printed inside a dust jacket, or skim the first chapter to find out what a book is really about.
- **Try a few pages.** If the books not for you, put it aside and try another, until you find a winner.
- **Read at your own pace.** Reading isn’t a contest. So what if you read slowly or skip words here and there? If you’re interested, you’ll read to the end, and that’s what counts. And you’ll probably find yourself picking up speed along the way.

The top 20 best sellers for Teen and Young Adults are accessible at: 

Parent-Teacher Night

*Due to some technological problems and the Year 12 Trial Examinations, the Parent/Teacher Night will be held in Term 3, Week 3 on Tuesday 29th July,**
This term has seen the commencement of the first of the new teachers I spoke of in our last newsletter. Mrs Al Haider has replaced Mr Poole, Mrs Sheringham will join us in the next few weeks in our new position of Head Teacher engagement and Ms Davies is our new permanent English teacher. We are also currently in the position of filling the vacancy for Head Teacher Mathematics, school counsellor and a physics teacher. I hope these new staff will be ready to start at the beginning of term 3.

I would like to also congratulate Mr Robert Tillack who has just been elected as our new school P&C president. Along with our long term hard working other P&C members Christine Wright (Deputy), Sonya Prangell (Treasurer), I am positive they will have a very successful year. I would encourage any community members to attend our meetings on the second Wednesday of the month of any school week in our teacher’s common room. Further I would like to thank our outgoing P&C President – Mrs Karen Costello. Mrs Costello was like an extra member of our administrative and support staff. Not only did she effectively run our P&C for several years and represent us in the wider P&C community but she could be found here at school running around picking up buses for excursions, fitting and organising jackets for seniors, writing multiple grants and managing various projects around the school. Her legacy will been seen in our school for years to come in the building projects she oversaw, the staff she has helped to employ and the changes she has helped to make. Thank you from the community of Robert Townson.

I continue to update you on the progress of our new school administration and management system – LMBR. Sadly it continues to not be a smooth introduction. Currently it is causing delays in the production of our school reports as class lists remain inaccurate resulting in delays to the production of class reports. We still anticipate completing the reports on time but the shorter term and delays in manually fixing any report issues means that more time is spend on production then ensuring a quality report is produced. Accordingly should you not be happy with the accuracy of any aspect of your child’s report please report this to the head teacher of the subject concerned or the appropriate year advisor.

The recent loss of Ms Carter form the English department and our school community is still an open wound to many. We continue to do what we can to assist everyone in moving forward. For many that burden will take a long time. This has also placed a great burden on the English staff in trying to ensure continuity for all of her students especially year 12. Staff are doing their best to produce a meaningful half yearly report for all of her classes but I know it cannot be as detailed as Ms Carter could have produced. If you are unhappy with an English report please contact Mrs Douglas who will review it.

Student uniform was a joy to see in term one but as expected when the cold weather comes the variations in interpretation of uniform is astounding. Please remember that tracksuit pants, hoodies, coloured tops are NOT part of the uniform and there are fleecy tops, spray jackets and jumpers available to keep students warm. We have a policy that says if a child is not in school uniform they cannot represent the school. This includes: excursions, sporting events, and performances that take them out of school (even mandatory ones). Parents have made comments to me such as: the track suit pants are grey or the hoodie is maroon however if we were to take students out of the school dressed like this we could not easily identify them and their safety would be at risk. Further, schools are about preparing students for the world of work and if these students were in employment and they chose to not wear the correct clothing they would not remain in employment very long. I am happy to discuss this with you should you contact me at school.

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

I sincerely hope that students that all students gave of their best in the half year exams. We are running formal examinations for years 7 – 10 in the hall as practice for the requirements students must meet in senior years. Students have been given clear instructions on behaviour, time management and preparedness in an effort to improve their educational outcomes.

Year 11 are now coming to appreciate the standard of work required for a successful HSC and must continue to meet these standards. I must congratulate year 12 for their fundraising for mental health awareness by car washes and cupcake sales (this Deputy Principal may have eaten a number of these! Shontelle and Manal – good work!)

I expect that students will be on their best academic path as reports are being written and parent teacher night is early next year.

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

My thanks to Ms James for doing my job during my absence in Term 1 this year. Parents, students and staff have remarked upon the tremendous help they received from Ms James during this time.

Term 2 is a short yet busy term. Students will be completing half yearly exams this term while staff will be preparing reports for parents. Our VATT program (Volunteer and Trainee Tradies) resumes this term with students completing environmental projects in the areas of Building and Construction & Landscaping. This program prepares students for the trades, with many of our former team members having gained trades apprenticeships.

There are a number of Pre-Employment TAFE courses on offer for next semester, including Signage, Construction, Tiling, Painting and Decorating etc. Most of the information sessions occur during the last week of this term and students must attend these if they wish to be considered for enrolment. These courses are not free and some are quite costly to attend. However they do run for 18 weeks and 20 hours per week or about two and a half days per week. Students must be 15 years of age minimum and we can do a co-enrolment for school and TAFE.

There are a number of five day “taster” courses for TAFE that come up during the semester. I post details of these courses on the noticeboard outside my room and in the daily notices. These are usually free for school students and once again there are information sessions to attend (sometimes at night).

Mrs K. Chapman
Deputy Principal
**SENIOR LEADERS REPORT**

At the end of last term a fundraising initiative was conducted to help raise funds for the Melanoma Institute of Australia. Students were able to purchase food from a school barbeque prepared by the senior leaders. Bookmarks and information booklets were distributed giving students information on the detection and prevention of skin cancer. Some students took the opportunity to participate in purchasing a cardboard ‘sun’ to help create an artwork that will raise awareness of the dangers of skin cancer. This event successfully raised $262.81 for the charity. Well done to all the senior leaders involved in the organization of the event.

Two exciting events occurred this term. Our senior leaders and the SRC were very busy organizing the Talent Quest for 2014. In weeks 5 and 6 students had the opportunity to audition for the event. We were looking for any dancers, singers, musicians, bands or performers in the school willing to participate. Prizes were awarded to all the acts. The Talent Quest this year was held on Wednesday Week 8. Students were asked to bring a gold coin donation. All proceeds went towards a school project that will benefit all students while at Robert Townson High.

In week 9 of this term a camp to Teen Ranch was held for all SRC members and year 11 students who have undergone initial leadership training to become senior leaders in 2014-2015. This camp provided a great opportunity for these students to experience some fantastic outdoor team building and leadership workshops. Photos of this event are sure to be in the next newsletter!

Senior Leader Co-ordinator  
Mr Kapitanow
This newsletter is, for the first time produced by the new editorial team. Led by Mrs Hogan the team aim to produce a newsletter with all the news about what’s happening at RTHS.

Top Row: Matthew Bezett, Rebekah DeMatos, Mrs Hogan, Issam Merhi
Bottom Row: Brittany Harrison, Rasmine Giles, Evee Clark, Frank Ling
**Debating:** Robert Townson High School has three teams competing in debating competitions. One team has already competed in two of three rounds. This group is made up of four of our year 11 seniors, Bailey Dymitriw, Luke Blayden, Caitlin Ramondetta and Emilia Bulloch. These seniors had never debated together before but have been successful in two out of the three rounds that they have completed.

Our second team of debaters all come from year 9, Joshua Virgona, Logan Neilsen, Zach Fullgrabe and Molly Malone. This group have been debating together since year 7 and have so far lost their first round. We wish our juniors luck for their next two rounds.

Robert Townson’s third group of debaters have yet to complete their first round so we wish Rasmine Giles, Robert Rogers, Ebony Hooper and Sharya Narayan. Good luck in their upcoming three rounds.

Congratulations to our public speaking winners: Senior Champion Cameron Rodgers (year 12), and our junior champion Jordan Smajlagic (year 9).
I’d like to welcome back Ms. Nicole Koleda from her well-earned leave and wish Mr. James Dawson all the best as he departs us on leave until next term. Both teachers make a valuable contribution to the mathematics classroom as well as our school community in general.

Students in Years 7-10 have been sitting their half-yearly examinations over the past few weeks. It has been disappointing to see some students though turning up to these exams without the required equipment: namely a pen and a calculator. This equipment is not only essential when undertaking exams but is a must for every single lesson they attend in this subject area. A mobile phone is not an acceptable substitute for a calculator either as it cannot perform the majority of functions that a calculator can.

Students in Year 12 will be undertaking their trial HSC examinations straight after the July school holidays. In preparation for these exams it is important that students are up-to-date with their work in class and are engaged in regular, meaningful revision at home. Teachers are available if extra assistance or help is required to ensure students achieve their best in these exams.

Michael Clulow
HT Mathematics (relieving)

Live Captioning in the classrooms

At the beginning of Term 2, the NSW Department of Education & Communities offered live captioning services for the Year 8, 9 and 11 HIU students. This is an opportunity for our deaf and hard of hearing students to have access to the classroom curriculum, using technology. The use of the captioning enhances their academic work and increases their confidence and motivation to learn whilst participating in the classroom.

How does the live captioning work? The teacher in the classroom wears a microphone and when the teacher speaks, it is relayed over the internet to the remote captioner. The captioner would respeak what the teacher says into a caption software that promptly changes into text. The captioned text would be conveyed through the internet to the student’s laptop in the classroom.

The captioning has made me feel more connected with my teacher and I am learning lot more than before. I am now able to ask many questions and if I forget what my teacher has said before, I can re-check the texts. I feel more motivated and confident to be involved in my class”

Mondine, Year 9.
Ensure the school office has all up to date medical and contact details for your child/ward. It is so important that we can contact parents/carers in an emergency.

**Changes to our Support Personnel**
Congratulations to Mrs Griffiths who is HT literacy for the remainder of 2014. A new Learning and Support teacher will be with us for 2014 – welcome to Mrs Diana Kelly

**School Immunisation Program for Year 7 & 9 students**
Ensure your child/ward receives all vaccines. All doses must be administered for the vaccines to work. The remaining date for immunisations is:

18/11/14   HPV (Yr 7) + Varicella (Yr 7) + HPV (Yr 9 boys only)

**Drug, Alcohol and Resilience Education (DARE)**
*DARE* is a series of workshops designed to increase the resilience of young people in order to reduce and prevent their alcohol and other drug use. The workshops involve a range of activities for young people to develop alcohol and other drug knowledge as well as resilience skills.

Years 9 and 10 will be participating in a series of 4 weekly workshops conducted by Karen and Lauren from Youth Solutions. Students will have received an information sheet (see also on our website)

Participants will cover the following topics:
- an introduction to alcohol and other drugs
- an introduction to mental health and wellbeing
- the links between alcohol and other drugs and mental health
- increasing resilience
- communication and expectations
- getting help and accessing support services

Participants will gain knowledge in:
- the effects of alcohol and other drugs
- healthy and effective communication
- helpful reactions and coping strategies

Participants will develop skills in:
- looking after their mental health and wellbeing
- increasing their resilience
- safe decision making

For any further information, contact me at school or Karen Yuen (Program Officer – Youth and Community)
karen@youthsolutions.com.au  4628 2319 or 0423 572 998

Mrs Sally Willmott
Head Teacher Welfare
Eye dissection was one of the practical the year 9 students get to do in the energy and waves topic. The students need to cut open a sheep’s eye and get to see the different parts of the eye.

The year 12 biology students used play dough to model the mitosis process. In the picture below the students were making the chromosomes.
A number of interesting projects are currently under construction by year 12 students as part of their major works for the Higher Schools Certificate in Industrial Technology. There are two electric guitars, a rocking horse, desks, stools, cabinets and a number of tables with the students making pleasing progress and displaying excellent practical skills.

The 3D printer is being used extensively by students at all levels. Stage 4 classes have designed key tags whilst stage 6 students in Design and Technology classes have designed individual USB lighting systems that are then printed using this very clever technology.

There have been some excellent reports from industry employers about RTHS student at work placement for VET subjects.

**Issues in TAS classes that parents need to be aware of:**

- Due to the practical nature of TAS classes, students need to ensure that they wear sturdy, enclosed footwear. Canvas shoes are not appropriate.
- Due to the dangerous nature of machines, students must have long hair restrained (tied back, pinned etc) at all times in practical rooms. If a machine is being used, then a hair net must be worn.

*Long hair is extremely dangerous around machines and must be restrained*

Fees for consumable materials need to be finalised. The TAS faculty is required to purchase materials for student use. These include food, timber, textile materials and hardware items. Students who selected elective courses did so upon the understanding that course fees covered the purchase of consumable materials and it is compulsory. Students who have not finalised this requirement will not be able to engage in future practical work. The alternative is that students can supply their own materials if they wish. If financial assistance is needed in this matter, parents can approach the Principal for consideration.
EX-ROBERT TOWNSON STUDENTS- TAKING VISUAL ARTS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Feras Shaheen, a RTHS graduate of 2010, has taken his visual arts to the next level. After leaving school he went straight to university (UWS), using his passion and knowledge of visual arts as a straight path for him. Feras is currently studying a Bachelor of Design (visual communication) at the University of Western Sydney.

Feras said that Robert Townson’s Art Department didn’t just help him with art but also helped him to be creative with dance and writing. Feras also said the school gave him confidence when creating things and the work he did in class at RTHS gave him an indication that it is a career path and not just a hobby.

Feras’s plans for the future include a job in preferably graphic design in the city, and to also continue interest in his dancing hobby. Feras gave us a few wise words saying to always to keep faith in yourself and remember that individual work can get you further and give you more experience than asking a teacher ever would.

Mariah Calman a graduate of 2009 is currently working as a casual art teacher. She is also working for Campbelltown Art Gallery, running numerous youth programs through the gallery, as well as being an artist/illustrator/photographer.

Mariah had started her track to University once she had left school, studying Art Education at the College of Fine Arts and Education (COFA). Mariah said that Robert Townson’s Art Department and the help of Mr Morrow had made a major impact on her and helped her be selected as a scholarship student. She added that the art teachers are incomparable to any others. Mariah has many of plans for the future including taking on a dream job of hers becoming an art therapist, which is a use of art through rehabilitation.

Mariah also said there are so many positives of art, it’s a very expressive subject for people with creative minds. It is also a subject where not only the practical is interesting but the theory has a very interesting history about it. Mariah is a positive outlook on students still at school and has definitely taken her visual arts to the next level.

Interview and story by Rebekah De Matos (Year 10)
Another busy term has almost passed in the library. We have added many new books to the collection, both in fiction and non-fiction. The variety means that any student in the school who wants to find something to read for the holidays should look first in the school library. The collection of non-fiction is growing and I have been putting a focus on books for the new Australian Curriculum when buying for this area.

There is a time limit on borrowing and students who don’t return on time will be issued with an overdue notice. Once an overdue notice is issued the books are ALREADY OVERDUE and should be returned immediately. All books are stamped with the due date when borrowed and should be returned by that date.

August sees the announcement of the Children’s Book Council Book of the Year. There are several different categories and the shortlist of finalists in each category has already been announced. We always purchase all the shortlisted books in the Older Readers category as well as a variety from the other categories.

Nominations for Book of the Year: Older Readers.

![Book Covers]  
- **Wildlife** by Fiona Wood  
- **The First Third** by Will Kostakis  
- **The Sky So Heavy** by Claire Zorn  
- **The Incredible Here and Now** by Felicity Carter  
- **Life in Outer Space** by Melissa Keil  
- **Fairytales for Wilde Girls**
Aboriginal Education

On Friday 23rd May, seventeen ATSI students and Mr Bannura attended the West Tigers School to Work Education Forum in the Jacaranda Room at Wests Leagues in Leumeah. The day was about linking students in Years 10, 11, and 12 to post school options. The forum was organised by KARI, the West Tigers and the NRL. Workshops and information sessions were held by TAFE, NSW Police Force, Emergency Services, Apprenticeship and Training organisations, Australian Defence Forces and a variety of Universities and associated Aboriginal Employment agencies. The whole day including morning and afternoon tea and a very big lunch was free. All students who went and participated received a free ticket to the West Tigers V Brisbane Broncos game on the following Saturday at Campbelltown Stadium.

Our AEW, Lesley Marks, was successful in securing a full time job with the DEC at the conclusion of Term 1. She began her roles as an ACLO (Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer) at the beginning of Term 2. Best of luck to Lesley in her new role. She will be missed by the staff and students (especially our ATSI mob) at Robert Townson High.

Congratulations to Kelly Stewart (Yr12), Emma Costello (Yr11) and Montana Wink (Yr11) who were successful in securing KARI scholarships for learning in 2014. The scholarships also have a leadership and mentoring component, and the girls have been attending regular sessions.

Year 11 and 12 ATSI students can access external tuition through the Norta Norta program. The program funds 3 hours of tuition per week in the students selected subject(s). Many of our current seniors have accessed this tuition to assist learning.

Student Representative Council Report

Environment Leadership Camp

In week 1 of term 2 on the 29th of April until the 2nd of May Robert Townson High School had two SRC representatives, Olyvia Milligan (year8) and Tiana Hoban (year7) take part in an Environment Leadership Camp which was located in Wooglemai. Students participated in workshops and activities that helped build their leadership and teamwork skills.

Talent Quest

Each year Robert Townson High School hosts a talent quest in the school hall. This year the talent quest will be held on Wednesday 18th June. This Talent Quest is to showcase the superb talent of students at the school. The performances can range from singing to dancing, from drama to the students’ own culture dances. The talent quest is also to help raise money for the school to benefit the students and the school as a whole.
HSIE Faculty ANZAC Day Report

In the first week term two 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, Khalid Al-Najjar and Shamieka Dubois, who each played important speaking roles. In addition to our speakers, the school was lucky to have Billie Johnson, Keira Cusbert and Patrick Shiner 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

By Adam Olm
History Teacher
On the 16th of May Robert Townson High School held a Biggest Morning Tea. The Biggest Morning Tea is an initiative of the Cancer Council. Robert Townson High School holds one annually and this year we raised over $2,000 for the Cancer Council.

Some of the teachers were asked what they thought about the school holding a Biggest Morning Tea.

Mr Bannuna said “I think it’s a great the school is getting involved in the Biggest Morning Tea. It’s great to see the staff get involved.”

Mrs Griffiths had this to say, “It’s a fantastic initiative which brings the community together for a great cause.”

Thanks to the SASS staff who organise and supply the Biggest Morning Tea, and to all who contribute to this worthwhile fundraiser.

By Brittany Harrison.

PDHPE

During Term 2, PE units focus on moving to music. Each stage of education has a different focus:

Year 9 and 10 – Invasion games
Year 7 and 8 – Games with balls

Health units in Term 3 are:

Year 7 – All About Me
Year 8 – Eating Right
Year 9 – Sexuality
Year 10 – Challenges and Relationships

Our Year 12 classes are on the way to completing their HSC and the application and effort of most students has been very pleasing. However, all students need to develop an appropriate study timetable (and use it) and practice answering questions from previous HSC papers.

Our Year 12 Sports Coaching classes are involved in work placement. The Year 11 Sports Coaching class did a very professional job in assisting in the organisation and operation of the recent cross country carnival.
CONGRATULATIONS
A big congratulations to William Mapapalangi of Year 10. William has been selected for the NSWCHS Rugby League team. A future NRL star in the making!

CROSS COUNTRY 2014
The school’s annual cross country carnival was held over two days on Wednesday 21/5/14 and Thursday 22/5/14.
Age champions were –

12 years – Khalil Khatel and Jorjha Woodward
13 years – Isaac Greig-Williams and Tiarna Vongthonthip
14 years – Khaleel Clarke and Bonnie Kuru
15 years – Ali Al Najjar and Rachel Weinert
16 years – Lachlan Besgrove and Sophie Kuru
17 years – Brad Wright and Jessica Fryer
18 years – Jordan Martin To’o and Jessica Mavroidis
# Sport Organiser’s Report

## Cross Country 2014

The results are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 12  | 1. Khalil Khatel  
  2. Ayush Kumar | 1. Jorjha Woodward  
  2. Eevee Clark  
  3. Danielle El-Esber  
  4. Emily Raymond  
  5. Savannah Tewhaiti-Holmes |
| 13  | 1. Isaac Greig-Williams  
  2. Chadi El-Esber  
  3. Bradley Wilshaw  
  4. Luka Boboc  
  5. Ryan Francisco  
  6. Ryan Gulliksen  
  7. Tiara Fasia  
  8. Abdullah Dennawi  
  Reserves: Jacob Lee  
  Bradie Hourigan | 1. Tiarna Vongthongthip  
  2. Vaoita Sene  
  3. Cindy Marshall  
  4. Micayla Caldwell  
  5. Lauren Kenrick  
  6. Sakeena Nguyen  
  7. Rana Abdo  
  8. Shanika Sharma  
  Reserve: Madison Grant  
  Rebecca Cubis |
| 14  | 1. Khaleel Clarke-Bazzi  
  2. Zac Fullgrabe  
  3. Cody Fensom  
  4. Anees Davids  
  5. William Louis  
  6. David Adeyemi  
  7. Ismail El Omar  
  8. Lachlan Walters  
  Reserves: Mitchell Valher  
  Robert Rodgers | 1. Bonnie Kuru  
  2. Sarah Johnson  
  3. Taylor Ropata  
  4. Jamie Hayes  
  5. Chloe Lloyd  
  6. Jaime Gregson  
  7. Alyssa Odell  
  8. Hope Swanepoel  
  Reserve: Ashley Booker |
| 15  | 1. Ali Al-Najjar  
  2. Zac Caruana  
  3. Luke Scott  
  4. Jason Podina  
  5. Jarrod Adams  
  6. Josh Virgona  
  7. Luke Martino  
  8. Isaac Clarke  
  Simon Edwards  
  Reserves: Simon Edwards  
  Jayden Howards | 1. Rachel Weinert  
  2. Rachelle Allen  
  3. Keira Lambe  
  4. Siobhan Burchall  
  5. Zena Alnimer  
  6. Jessica Tilkack  
  7. Rachel Cubis  
  8. Madison Bobic  
  Reserve: Renee Evans  
  Keira Cusbert |
| 16  | 1. Lachlan Besgrove  
  2. Kenny McGuinness  
  3. Jonathon Greig-Williams  
  4. Adam Sandles  
  5. Sean Senescal  
  6. Abraham Kanj  
  7. Jacob Finocchiaro  
  8. Blake Travers  
  Boys | 1. Sophie Kuru  
  2. Taylor Middleton  
  3. Emily Gregson  
  4. Natalie Fink  
  5. Brittany Harrison |
| 17  | 1. Brad Wright  
  2. Liam Ryan  
  3. Cameron Wright  
  4. Hassen Elkodor  
  5. Allan Haddad | 1. Jess Fryer |
| 18  | 1. Jordan Martin-Too  
  2. Drew Dudley  
  3. Mitchel Brooker  
  2. Hannah Bowman |
**Year 10**

Fifty Year 10 students attended the University of Western Sydney in April as part of the STEPS program. This helped them gain an understanding of University life and the various career opportunities that are available.

To date about 15 students have organised their work experience placements for the mandatory work experience week 4 to 8 August 2014. I know of another dozen students awaiting confirmation from organisations such as Defence Dept, Campbelltown Council and Hospital. I cannot stress enough how important it is to get this organised ASAP as the better local opportunities fill quickly. Just remember to encourage your child to choose employment areas they have the most interest in.

Subject selection for students returning to do their HSC is an important consideration. For those that aspire to attend university the ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) has traditionally been used as a benchmark. However, Universities have discovered that suitable subject selection and consistent good performances are better indictors of successfully completing specific courses. Thus it is crucial that these students undertake a worthwhile work experience placement and chose subjects that will give them good foundations for their University life.

Students that are returning in 2015 and have vocational aspirations that do not involve university studies – I will have TAFE TVET handbook available in July. This will give some students a start-up into some areas of employment such as animal studies and flight attendant.

For those students that are looking for employment after their year 10 studies – TAFE NSW are offering pre-employment programs in areas such as carpentry, bricklaying, painting and decorating, furniture making, shopfitting, laboratory skills, tiling, signage, plumbing, landscaping and horticulture. These are comprehensive programs with commitments up to 20 hrs per week for up to 18 weeks duration. They commence in July. I have a list and handouts for students in the careers office with details of compulsory information sessions between the 23 June and 25 June 2014. Students wishing to participate must be highly motivated.

**Year 11**

At the moment of typing I have 44 Year 11 students that have registered to attend the University of Western Sydney Open day on Wednesday 4 June. This is an opportunity for students to learn about University opportunities and expectations. Although online application close on the 29 May – I strongly recommend that students do this ASAP as they have to nominate specific lectures and the more popular one fill quickly. The day is catered for students that are committed to a university pathway or those that are interested in the opportunities that they provide. The event is also free of charge and lunch is supplied.

For those students that are looking for employment now but have not found anything suitable – TAFE NSW are offering pre-employment programs in areas such as carpentry, bricklaying, painting and decorating, furniture making, shopfitting, laboratory skills, tiling, signage, plumbing, landscaping and horticulture. These are comprehensive programs with commitments up to 20 hours per week for up to 18 weeks duration. They commence in July. I have a list and handouts for students in the careers office with details of compulsory information sessions between the 23 June and 25 June 2014. Students wishing to participate must be highly motivated and are willing to sacrifice their HSC.

**Year 12**

During period 1 and 2 on Tuesday 17 June - the University of Wollongong and the University of Western Sydney will be presenting to students about all the opportunities available at these campuses. Areas to be covered include scholarship opportunities, leadership programs, new courses, and alternative pathways into university.
Robert Townson High School’s U/13’s Wests League Cup team played Camden High school on Thursday 12th June. Unfortunately most of the boys were too old to play, so the team was reduced to eight players! After organising with the Camden coach to have a game with 8 v 10, the boys came out firing, only being down 8-10 at half time. In the second half, both teams were trading tries, until Darren Pease scored a hat trick (2 from the kickoff), and some Issam Merhi brilliance finished the game. We ended up winning 36-24.

Well done to the whole team: Malik Moosa, Taeafato Meafua, Zac Rachid, Isaac Greig-Williams, Andrew Lui, Spencer Schuster, Darren Pease, Issam Merhi.

P.S We need more players to make a full team, see Mr Swindle if you’re interested.

Mr Child
Peer Mediation aims to reduce the incidences of bullying by providing a school environment that is positive, caring, safe and friendly. On the 7th of April 2014, a collection of Year 10 and 11 students were trained up as Peer Mediators to assist their junior peers at Robert Townson High School resolve low-level conflicts. Mediation opens up communication channels allowing the disagreeing students to discuss their problems and come to a resolution with the guidance of the mediators.

2014 Peer Mediators are:

Kimberly Betts
Lashanna Reyes
Ali Al-Najjar
Katelyn Jurd
Kirsten Silva
Jasmine Haddad
Briony Chu
Peter Nikolov
Shannon Ah-Van
Brielle Civic
Brianna Browning
Rebekah DeMatos
Brittany Hangan
Courtney Mock
Amberly Moers
Renae Connor
Jemma Mock
Ashley Childs
Emily Perkins

Ra’ees Kruyer
Levan Huynh
Brittany Harrison
Hayleigh Betts
Emily Gregson
Sophie Kuru
Thomas Durbridge
Zoe Brown
Aaron O’Brien
Lara Zugna
Joshua Galea
Tiarne Milton
Rhyanan Grant
Chloe Robinson
Tayler Russell
Maddison Foord
Sean Senescall
Stephanie Ward
Mr Riethmuller and Mr Ramos enjoy the Biggest Morning Tea

Mr Piscioneri and Ms Waden

Mr Kelava demonstrates his magic skills to Mr Piscioneri and Aneese Davids
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>14 July</td>
<td>15 Trial HSC Exams</td>
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<td>Yr 7&amp;8 Debating School library</td>
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<td>3A</td>
<td>28 PIPs due to BOS</td>
<td>29 Parent and Teacher Night</td>
<td>30 Year 10 Subject Information Session</td>
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<td>4B</td>
<td>4 August</td>
<td>5 Yr 10 Work Experience</td>
<td>6 Yr 10 Work Experience Yr12 Drama Showcase</td>
<td>7 Yr 10 Work Experience</td>
<td>8 Yr 10 Work Experience</td>
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<td>5A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 Yr 9,10&amp;11 CAPA Excursion Strictly Ballroom</td>
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<td>25 HSC Artworks due to the BOS</td>
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<td>8B</td>
<td>1 September</td>
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<td>3 Yr 10 Drama Showcase</td>
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Homework help is here!!!
and meets every Wednesday
from 3:30pm to 5:30pm

FREE TUTORS AVAILABLE
Come along for help with your
SCHOOL, TAFE or UNI assignments & projects

WHEN:    Every Wednesday
        Starting 26th of March 2014
TIME:     3:30pm to 5:30pm
LOCATION: 127 Dumaresq Street, Campbelltown

Important info:
• This group is for young people who have been in Australia
  for less than five years.
• Our meeting place has a bus stop close by and is walking
  distance from Campbelltown Train Station.
• Transport can be provided if needed.

If you would like to join this group and/or find out more about
it please contact Sherilyn Power, Youth Settlement Worker on
p: 02 4627 1188, m: 0488 000 941 or
e: sherilyn@mdsi.org.au

This group is funded by the Australian Government
Dept. of Social Services
For more information, or help filling out this form, please contact us!
Sherilyn Power
Youth Settlement Worker
Mob: 0488 000 941
Email: sherilyn@mdsi.org.au
www.facebook.com/youthatmdsi

HOMEWORK HELP CLUB: Expression of Interest Form

We will be running a Homework Help Club from our new Dumaresq Street House, 127 Dumaresq St, Campbelltown (Opposite Campbelltown Public School)

- Close to the Bus Stop on Dumaresq Street, and walking distance from Campbelltown Train Station!
- Transport is provided if needed.
- It is a time when you can get FREE HELP with your homework, or projects you are working on at school or TAFE.
- Homework Help runs on Wednesday Afternoons from 3:30pm
- For young people who have been in Australia for less than five years.

If you would like to join the Homework Help Club, please return this form to MDSI. More information? Contact Sherilyn (Youth Settlement Worker) Ph: (02) 4627 1188

FAX BACK to (02) 4628 6068, ATT: SHERILYN

Name:_________________________________________________________________________
Home Phone:_________________________ Mobile:______________________________
Email Address:________________________________________________________________
School:__________________________ Year/Grade:_________________________
Suburb I live in:_________________________________________ Date of Birth:___________
When I arrived in Australia (month/year):________________________________________
My Cultural Background:________________________________________________________
Transport needed:______________________________________________________________
The subjects you would like help with:__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
SELF-INJURY
HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS
From Seeking Solutions to Self Injury (Martin) Child & Adolescent Psychiatry 2013
Self injury is no wish to die but “to damage the outside of the body to relieve bad feelings inside”.
Self injury is relatively common – about 8% of Australians self injure.
“Supportive family & friends” protects the young person from needing to self injure.
How parents/adults can help enhance protective factors – accentuate the positives and... ensure...
* physical wellbeing, good nutrition, sleep and exercise
* secure, appropriate and safe accommodation
* physical and emotional security
* reduced or zero alcohol, tobacco or other drug use

What should I do if my child self injures...
* have your own supportive network in place as it is a tough issue to deal with
* talk openly and honestly
* try to explore why they hurt themselves, but don’t dwell on the reasons
* be understanding rather than judgemental
* be available for hugs or to talk to
* let them express their feelings, “letting off steam” is OK
* it will be uncomfortable for you, but put up with the discomfort as an adult/
parent
* offer to go with them to see a counsellor or to get help
* share the resources (see at the end of this info sheet)

Other things that may help...
* encourage rituals to replace self injury – eg. make daily positive promises, make a
  time capsule of ‘old’ self and bury it, plant a new tree to symbolise a new chapter in life,
  keep a diary, eat healthy
* Distractions – go for a walk, watch TV, talk to a friend, put off self injury for a
certain time period
* Relaxation or mindfulness exercises
* Focus on positives, focus on being in the moment
* Get help from mental health professionals

Resources...
Kids helpline 1800 551800    www.kidshelp.com.au
Lifeline (special expertise in self harm)    131114    www.lifeline.org.au
SANE Australia    1800 187263    www.sane.org
Aboriginal & Islander Community Health Service    www.aichs.org.au
ReachOut! (broad info for young people by young people) www.Reachout.com.au
Headroom (mental health info for young people) www.headroom.net.au
From 1 June 2014 your bus operator in Campbelltown and Macarthur will be Busabout

Busabout is proud to announce that from 1 June 2014, we will commence operating bus services in Metropolitan Service Contract Region 15 which includes services previously operated by Busways in Campbelltown and Macarthur.

We are planning for a smooth transfer of operation and would like to advise schools, parents and carers that no changes to school bus services will occur on the transfer of operator. We will continue to operate all existing school bus services exactly as they run now until further notice.

We will be looking to work closely with all schools to deliver the very best school bus services possible that meet the needs of students requiring school bus travel.

Safety is an important part of our service delivery standards and all our drivers are trained to specially cater for their student passengers.

We encourage schools to help us inform parents of the change in bus operator in the region and have prepared a series of banners that can be used in your newsletters and websites in the coming weeks.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us or call Transport Info on 131 500 or visit www.transportnsw.info

Look out for Busabout buses!

You will no longer see buses with the Busways logo. To ensure you don’t miss the bus, please always look for the destination sign and route number or school bus run number of all buses approaching your stop. Your service may be operating using a bus that is painted in Busabout’s company livery, the Transport for NSW blue and white livery, or a bus with all over advertising.