Showcase Season
The highlight of term 4 once again promises to be our Showcase concert series. The season started last week with three nights of drama and music performances. I know the quality will again be outstanding. Congratulations to all involved. The showcase season continues for the next 4 weeks. Tickets for studio theatre shows are available online through our school website.

Seymour Centre Showcase Concerts
This year we are again taking showcase on the road with our final two concerts performed at the Seymour Centre. The Dance Showcase is on Tuesday 27 November, and the Showcase Finale (Dance, Drama and Music) on Wednesday 28 November. We would love to have full houses for both of these nights so please support this initiative. Tickets for these nights are currently on sale and must be purchased directly through the Seymour Centre box office, phone 9351 7940 or their website www.seymourcentre.com.au

Presentation Day
The Seymour Centre is also the venue for this year’s Presentation Day, to be held on Thursday 13 December. We moved to this venue in 2006 so that the whole school is able to attend as well as giving the event a more formal, “special event” quality. More information will be posted home as we get closer to the date. Again I hope to see you there.

Student leadership
Late last term our students elected our 2013 Prefect body. Congratulations to the following outstanding students: Jennifer Balcomb, Ellen Beattie, Monica Caruana, Alexandra Cook, Jaime Di Laudo, Tiarani Dixon, Tom Falkner, Dan Hodgson, Rose Johnson, Zachary Karpinellison, Angel Miu, Milan Monk, Madelaine Reid, and Zack Solomon

The Prefect body then elected our School Captains for 2013. Congratulations to Milan Monk and Alex Cook. I know that Alex and Milan will make an outstanding contribution over the next 12 months.

Our Year 9 students have also shown off their fine leadership skills at last week’s Peer Support training camp. I’d like to congratulate all the students on their commitment and we look forward to working with the selected leaders next year as they lead the program with our new Year 7 students.

Student achievements
Late last term Kate Lienert of Year 10 was a recipient of a 2012 Deadly Kids Award which celebrates indigenous students’ achievements throughout Sydney Region. Not only did Kate receive an award but she also performed at the ceremony along with Amy Johnson, Coby Smith-Carr, Maddison Paluch, and Baden Hitchcock. Congratulations to all of these students.
Baden is also featured in the book, Burbangana, which highlights the achievements of ATSI students and staff in Sydney Region. I look forward to attending the book launch next week.

This week, I received notification of an outstanding achievement from a student studying languages through the Open High School, with Katarina Hitchcox receiving third place in Modern Greek Beginners. Well done Katarina.

Finally congratulations to our all-conquering Tournament of the Minds team who after winning the NSW event, competed with great distinction at the National finals in Perth. Our talented team consisted of Hannah Newton, Miranda Rodgers, Yasmina Choichova, Nina Bayndrian, Ella Kennedy, Millie Caley, and Harrie Hogan. Special thanks goes to team coach Mimi Trifunovic whose commitment and dedication was invaluable to our success.

**Changes to Newtown Station**

Please note the information below provided by Transport for NSW regarding the upgrade of Newtown Station.

Transport for NSW would like to announce that stage one of the upgrade to Newtown Station will be open on Monday 29 October 2012, with the completion of accessibility and customer experience improvements. The Newtown Station upgrade is being delivered in two stages.

**Stage one of the Newtown Station easy access upgrade involved the delivery of significantly enhanced facilities, including:**

* new centrally located concourse with new ticket office
* new covered entry walkway from King Street to the new concourse
* refurbished heritage buildings along the entry walkways for retail use
* new lift and stairs from the concourse to the platforms, and from the entry walkway to the new Thomas Street entry
* upgraded toilet facilities, including a family accessible toilet
* upgraded retail premises in Bridge House
* new platform canopies
* improved CCTV, lighting, signage, tactile tiles and bike racks.

**How this impacts Newtown Performing Arts High School:**

This upgrade provides a new lift available for students and staff with special mobility needs. Ticket barriers have now been installed. Please be aware that students will be required to present travel passes as of Monday 29 October, however there may be a grace period of 1-2 weeks.

**Staff Changes**

Finally I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Betty Romeo, Brett Stone and Voula Georgelos who did such a wonderful job relieving in higher positions while I was on leave last term. We are very lucky to have staff of such quality.

As you may be aware, Betty Romeo will be taking maternity leave in 2013. We all wish her the best and look forward to meeting baby Romeo next year. During her absence, Nilaufar Rajwar will relieve as Deputy Principal, Adrian Shipp will relieve as Head Teacher Welfare and Zeljko Janusic will take over as Year 9 Student Adviser. Congratulations and thank you to these members of staff.

Stephen Gray
Principal
Welcome back to our final school term for 2012. Our Year 12 students successfully commenced this term with their HSC written examinations. All the students have appeared prepared and have approached each exam in a positive manner. We wish them all the very best of luck over this very important time and we are looking forward to some outstanding results over the coming weeks.

Showcase Concerts
Term 4 is traditionally very busy for our school particularly because we host our final showcase season for the year. The semester 2 Showcase season commenced in Week 4 and will continue through to Week 7. The program for this season is outstanding and I would like to recognise the commitment and professionalism of the performing arts staff, who continue to work so tirelessly at this time of year to ensure that our students have such performance opportunities. I would like to also recognise and thank our P&C who offer continued support during the showcase season and the technical crew under the leadership of David Ferguson who work behind the scenes each day and night to maintain a very professional production. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our concerts over the coming weeks. The link to trybooking.com is accessible via the school website and I encourage you all to secure your tickets early.

The Seymour Centre concerts will be held in Week 8 commencing with the Dance Showcase performance on Tuesday 27th November and will conclude with the mixed showcase finale on Wednesday 28th November. Both of these nights will be a wonderful conclusion to our performing arts calendar for the year and we would encourage you all to book your tickets early via the Seymour Centre Box Office, again the link is available on the school website.

Peer Support Leaders Camp
60 Year 9 students travelled to “The Tops” conference centre at Stanwell Tops to participate in the Peer Support Training on Monday 22nd October-Wednesday 25th October. The students were highly engaged and motivated over the three days and their behaviour was impeccable. The trainers and camp personnel both commented on how impressed they were with our students and recognised the leadership potential evident amongst the students. All the teachers who attended the camp also agreed that the quality of peer support leaders this year was outstanding. The final list of peer support leaders for 2013 has been announced and I am confident that the transition of our 2013 Year 7 students will certainly be enhanced as a result of the peer support program and the quality of the peer leaders running this program. A very big thank you must go to Nilaufer Rajwar and Jeremy Atkinson for their organisation of this initiative and to Chris Miller and Amelia Berner for attending the camp over its duration.

Year 11 transition into HSC Courses
Year 11 students have made the important transition into their HSC courses from the start of this term. All students were issued with the HSC assessment booklet and calendar for 2012/13. I would highly recommend that students and their parents become familiar with the senior assessment policy and examine the assessment schedules and requirements for each of their courses. All students are expected to be at school on time each day and remain at school until the end of the day. Many students have also selected to alter their pattern of study and have dropped down to 10 units. They are expected to be in the library during any study periods utilising their time effectively and keeping up to date with their course requirements. Permission will not be granted at this stage for students to arrive late or leave early until these routines are established and all students are engaging effectively with their Year 12 course work, demonstrating the work ethic needed and adhering to the expectations the school has for its senior students. It is also expected that Year 11 as the school leaders wear the appropriate school uniform. The term ends for Year 11 with an assessment week and it is strongly recommended that the preparation for this important week start from now, with a regular program of revision of the course content covered each lesson.

Year 11 students were issued with their end of preliminary course reports on Monday 29th October. Students met with their curriculum advisors and discussed their progress and set goals and strategies for improvement for their HSC year.
School Uniform
As the weather is starting to warm up, I would like to remind our school community about how essential it is to wear the correct summer uniform each day. Overall our students wear their uniform with pride; however, I have received a number of concerns from our local community recently regarding the appropriate length of the girl’s skirts. As a school we often reinforce the importance of modesty with all our students and in light of the community concerns expressed, I wanted to ask our girls and their parents to review the length of the skirts leading into the summer months, ensuring that they are appropriate. It is also important to note that if students are out of uniform, a letter from parents needs to be provided to the school and a uniform pass must be obtained from the front office in the morning.

Assessment Tasks
This time of the term is a busy assessment period for all of our students. Many students have already completed key assessment tasks in all subjects and here are still a number of tasks to come over the coming weeks. The student grades that appear in their semester 2 reports reflect the outcomes assessed in these tasks and for our Year 9 and 10 students will meet with their curriculum advisors later in the term to review their progress and personal best targets set in semester 1. It is important that all students meet their assessment deadlines and become familiar with the assessment policy clearly explained in their booklets. Semester 2 reports will be sent home at the end of this term.

I wish you all a great term and I am looking forward to seeing many parents over the next few weeks as we enter into our busy event and showcase period. As always I welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the events mentioned in this correspondence with you and I am also available to assist our Years 7, 9 and 11 parents with any specific welfare or school matters.

Mrs Betty Romeo
Deputy Principal
Welcome back to term 4.

Year 12 began their HSC examinations on 15th October which continues through until 8th November. I would like to extend my best wishes to all students and hope to see Year 12 on Friday 9th November at the sign-out BBQ to celebrate the end of the HSC and their school life.

Year 11 has started HSC studies and students have received their assessment booklets and calendar for 2012/13. It is extremely important that students read the contents of the booklet and are aware of their assessment commitments and the process to follow in regard to illness/minadventure. Parent support and encouragement is most important and it is recommended that you are aware of the assessment information contained in the package. The acknowledgment of receipt of the assessment documents is to be signed by student and parent and must be returned to Year Adviser, Mr Cole.

Reports for students in Year 11 were issued on 29th October during a meeting with their Curriculum Advisers. Students by now may be in a position to decide their pattern of study in the HSC year. It is advised not to make a hasty decision if you are unsure and instead, maintain 12 units until later in the term or even next year. Some students have already made decisions to drop a course and/or pick up extension courses. Once the documentation has been completed students will be issued with updated timetables and will be invited into the library to work independently during study periods. All Year 11 students are expected to be at school for the entire school day.

Year 10 are currently completing the final assessment tasks this month. These tasks and the other tasks described in the assessment booklet that have been completed throughout the year contribute towards their Record of School Achievement (RoSA). It is important all tasks have been completed to at least a satisfactory standard and if any N determination letters have been issued, the tasks described in the letters must be completed and redeemed. Classes for Year 10 will continue up until the end of the school year and students are expected to attend all lessons. In class, they will complete their Year 10 courses, the mandatory “All my own work” modules and follow programs designed to develop skills in preparation for senior schooling.

Preparations for the 2013 timetable are well underway with students currently in Years 7, 8 and 10 finalising their choices for elective courses. If your child is considering changing their pattern of course study, a supporting letter from a parent is necessary.

Rehearsals for the Schools Spectacular and our Showcase season are also well underway. Many of our students are participating in these events and managing assessment tasks and examinations too. It is a credit to those students who display enormous commitment and dedication to their academic studies and creative arts. Congratulations to those students.

The opening night of the Showcase season began on Tuesday 30th October. The Showcase Hospitality students, under the guidance of Amelia Berner prepared all day for the evening and served delicious savouries and a variety of cakes at interval. Congratulations to all students and staff for their outstanding contributions in the opening week of the season. The Showcase season continues throughout November and I am looking forward to each week’s shows. Our season culminates with the Dance Showcase and the Showcase Finale Concerts to be held at the Seymour Centre on 27th and 28th November. Tickets are on now sale from the Seymour Centre.

In December, Year 11 2013 Orientation Day is to be held on 3rd, Year 7 2013 Orientation Day on 5th and Presentation Day on 13th.

If you have any curriculum, welfare or other matters you wish to discuss with me do not hesitate to call. See you at the Showcase evenings.

Peter Shields
Deputy Principal
NEXT P&C MEETING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 13, 6PM, STAFF COMMON ROOM

This is the last P&C meeting for 2012. On the agenda will be discussion about priorities for allocation of 2013 P&C fundraising and P&C executive renewal (The P&C AGM is held in March). Please take this opportunity to come along and contribute to the discussion.

Mini Working Bee
Thanks to nine parents and students who came and tidied up the gardens outside the studio theatre, cleaned the paint off the concrete, weeded and tidied the veggie garden and trimmed the ivy on the wall near the car park entrance. All the improvements were small but significant improvements to the appearance of the school. Next working bee will be held in first term 2013. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped around the grounds during the year. I hope to see you back for more next year.
John Caley, P&C Environment committee convener

Showcase Front of House Help
The P&C coordinates refreshments before each Showcase performance and during interval. We need a roster of helpers to facilitate this service. There are still some nights requiring volunteers over the next few weeks, particularly Wednesday nights (November 14 and 21) and Thursday November 22.
Donations of baked goods are also greatly appreciated each evening.
If you can help please contact Mark Rolfe via m.rolfe@unsw.edu.au
Many thanks to those parents and carers who are already on the roster.

NHSPA School Website - follow the link below:
http://web1.newtown-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/
The school website has a calendar and also links for the P&C, contacts, minutes etc.

Parent Email Network (Google Groups)
We encourage all parents to subscribe to our parent email network. This is a great way to receive information from the P&C and stay in touch with other parents (including getting questions answered and sharing information). To subscribe send a blank email to: nhspa+subscribe@googlegroups.com

There is a google groups fact sheet on the P&C page of the school website

NHSPA Parents Contact Message Board
Follow this link for posting requests and ads for second hand uniform, instruments and equipment etc. http://nhspasecondhand.proboards.com/index.cgi?
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

This final part of the year is busy with Showcase performances, Schools Spectacular, Seymour Showcase, Orientation Days, Elysium Concert and preparation for the Opening of the Academic School Year in February at the City Recital Hall. Choir students, the string ensemble and members of the percussion ensemble will be featured in this important Regional Event on February 26th 2013. The school will host a combined rehearsal in the studio theatre on Monday 25th February.

Congratulations to the HSC Music Extension students who gained a nomination for the HSC Encore Concert- Theo Small (Recorder) and Adam Bokaris (Euphonium)

Upcoming Calendar Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday /Wednesday 13/14</td>
<td>November Showcase Music Ensembles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 15th November</td>
<td>Showcase Electives &amp; Solos from Yr 11 and 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28th November</td>
<td>Seymour Centre Mixed Showcase - features Stage Band &amp; singers with dance, &amp; percussion ensemble with drama company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th November</td>
<td>Elysium concert for HSC students intending to complete the Music Extension course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 25th Feb 2013</td>
<td>Combined rehearsal Academic School Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26th Feb 2013</td>
<td>Performance Academic School Year</td>
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Gemma Thomas
Head Teacher Music

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Our showcase seasoning is progressing with three productions in the Studio Theatre on November 20, 21 and 22.

An example of Verbatim Theatre, “Happiness is a Place Called School” has been devised by the students and the director through interviews with family and friends.

“The Dining Room” – a students’ directed piece – is based around members of the upper-middle class over different periods of time.

“Christ Almighty!”, billed as a blasphemous comedy of biblical proportions, is a modern retelling of the gospels. Parents are advised that this production may contain material that might offend.

Finally, on November 28th, the Year 7 Company perform a live radio show with “The Adventures of Phillip Marlowe” as part of the Showcase Finale.

Tickets for this show is available through the Seymour Centre’s website.

We also hope to see you at our showcase performances at Studio Theatre, tickets can be purchased through the link on the schools website.

Tim Ailwood
Head Teacher Drama
Prefect Training Day

In Week 1 of this term our school prefects for 2013 underwent a training day at the University of Sydney. The team from Rising Generation facilitated the prefect training. The training helped equip our prefects with leadership skills as well as skills in communication, strategy, problem solving and project planning. It gave the team an opportunity to build strong relationships with one another and to develop a new vision for positive, creative and meaningful initiatives they can implement at the school.

We wish our prefects all the very best and are confident of them being positive role models in the school community.

Peer Support Leadership Camp

The Year 9 Peer Support Leadership Camp was held in Week 3. Sixty Year 9 students were selected to attend the training camp at The Tops, Stanwell Tops. The Peer Support program is a welfare initiative that helps students develop leadership skills and provides a great opportunity to encourage our senior students to contribute to the growth and well-being of a group of Year 7 students.

The three-day camp involved a variety of challenging and fun activities as well as a structured and engaging training day, once again facilitated by the great team from Rising Generation. The training provided the students with opportunities to discover and understand their own leadership strengths through learning how to support and work with others.

Year 9 students would have to be commended on their exemplary behaviour while on camp. It was an absolute pleasure being with them and getting to know them well. Choosing the forty Peer Support leaders from the group of sixty students that attended the camp proved to be an extremely difficult decision as every student showed great leadership skills. There will be opportunities for all students to employ these qualities in several school initiatives. Congratulations to the 2013 Peer Support Leaders.

I would also like to thank Jeremy Atkinson, the Peer Support Co-ordinator as well as the other staff members, Ms. Berner and Mr. Miller, for volunteering their time. Without the hard work and dedication of our staff members, camps such as this would not be such a success.

Nilaufer Rajwar
Head Teacher Welfare

EMPLOYME

EmployMe is an exciting new method of bridging the gap between employers and job seekers. It is the reverse of traditional online recruitment models where employers post job vacancies, wait for hundreds of resumes, undertake interview after interview, which all takes time and money.

EmployMe allows people looking for employment to create their own profiles and post to the website, adding photos, videos and a profile, so employers can actually see the job seeker, and in some cases especially part time and casual positions the employer will be able to employ directly through the website.

www.employmeaustralia.com.au is the perfect place for students to advertise themselves to thousands of employers across Australia. Employmejob seekers will also receive tips and advice on everything from interview techniques, to perfecting their own resumes, and advice from Australia’s top employers.

So whether students are looking for a job as a baby sitter, a check out assistant, a lifeguard or a waiter, Employme can help! Seasonal work, summer jobs, part time and casual work - Employme has it covered.

Employme is also a completely FREE service for the job seeker. It’s simple, fun and easy to use and will take a lot of the hassle out of finding work. Importantly it’s safe. No employer can contact a job seeker without having undergone the proper company security checks.
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The new cohort of Extension 2 students recently attended Word Express, a joint venture between the NSW Board of Studies and the State Library. Students attended a series of talks about the course and heard from students from the 2011 course whose Major Works scored in the top band. It was a great day and served not only to inform our 14 students but also to inspire them. Already our students have some interesting ideas for their projects and are hard at work with their research.

The final term of 2012 is well underway (where has the year gone?) and all of our students are busy with their final module of the year. Year 7 have travelled back in time and are learning about Medieval Literature while Year 8 are back in Elizabethan England studying the works of William Shakespeare. Finally Years 9 and 10 are enjoying Keats, Blake, Jane Austen and William Wordsworth’s Romanticism literature. Our aim at this time of the year is to give junior students a taste of the history of literature to prepare them for the rigours of senior English. Year 11 of course, already proudly sporting their Year 12 jerseys, are well into their Area of Study and are feeling a real sense of belonging. This important part of their work will be assessed as a speech in the last week of the school year. We wish them all the best for their HSC 2013 preparations.

A reminder to all students that any English texts issued this year need to be returned as soon as possible. A great reason to tidy up your bedroom!

Michael Fischer
Head Teacher English

PDHPE DEPARTMENT

The PDHPE Faculty is excited to run a 'Surf/Beach Safety School' for all Year 9 students.

Students will have the opportunity to attend a one day 'Surf/Beach Safety School' at Long Reef Beach on the Northern Beaches. The trip will enable students to develop knowledge and skills related to surf safety, surf education, surfboard riding and body boarding tailored to their individual ability. The program is supported by 'Surfing Australia' Safe Surf Program.

It will be held on Thursday 6th December, 8.20am - 3pm. All students will be travelling to and from the venue by private bus charter. Students will be issued with their permission notes in class and will also be able to pick up spare notes from outside the PE staffroom.

Students must return their permission notes it by 30th November at the latest to the PE Faculty. Payment of $45 is also required at the front office by 30th November.

For further information on the reasoning behind this excursion please see the link below.

Students will participate within 'Sydney Surf Safety School' three hour surf education program supervised and instructed by qualified instructors allowing students to develop new skills in beach safety, surfboard riding and body surfing. The program is run in conjunction with Surfing Australia’s Safe Surfing Program and the NSW Education Department Risk Assessment guidelines.
http://manlysurschool.com/lessons/student-programs.html

We look forward to a productive and fun day.

Branimir Lazendic
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Students in **Year 7** are looking at the topic “Full of Energy” this term which is designed to help students understand how energy can be converted into different forms and used for specific purposes. Some classes have been designing their own energy conversion contraptions and it has been great to see the variety of designs they have come up with to show different forms of energy. Students are to be commended for their initiative and creativity and enthusiasm in their designs.

Tuesday and Wednesday the 13th and 14th of November sees **Year 8** sit the state-wide Science ESSA test which is performed online allowing for multimedia and sound helping students fully understand the question and its intent. Students should bring headphones or earphones to use on the day and be able to login to the school computers and have their internet password. Parents and students are provided with detailed feedback on the student’s achievement highlighting areas of strength and areas for development. The Science faculty uses this data to assist us in seeking to continually improve the quality of Science education through identifying areas which students understood concepts well and areas where the year may have experienced some difficulty in answering questions. This allows us to develop tasks to specifically address identified needs. The results are expected early Term 1 of next year.

This term **Year 9** have been looking at the causes and effects of various natural disasters such as Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Tsunamis and Cyclones and the ways in which we can monitor and manage their effects. The timing of this topic has coincided with the terrible events surrounding the Superstorm Sandy where students appreciate just how much power and devastation can be caused by natural disasters as well as the problems associated with ensuring people are kept safe well after the immediate danger may have passed. Students are being asked to assess the risk of Australia having a Natural Disaster and then evaluate the way in which we should monitor these risks to avoid loss of life. We are also focussing on improving student literacy by providing students with a scaffold to help them respond to these higher order questions so they can show the depth of their understanding.

The focus of **Year 10** has been Forces and Motion in Sport. This term has also seen many students keenly thinking about next year as they progress into Year 11 and it has been great to provide advice to many students about their subject choices. We aim to ensure students are fully informed about the difficulty of the Science subjects and the ability, time and organisation required to perform well at them. We particularly want students to be aware of the mathematical and abstract reasoning skills required to do well in both Chemistry and Physics. Should you wish to discuss your child’s subject choices in Science further I am most happy to do so. We would rather see students enjoy doing a subject they have an interest and achieve well in rather than choosing a subject which they may have chosen for other, sometimes ill-informed, reasons. The Senior courses are indeed very interesting but are not suited to everybody.

**Year 11** are to be commended for the way in which they have begun their study of the HSC course. Students should ensure they continue a regular study schedule, revising all course content thoroughly, and clarify any points they are unsure of early to ensure their continued confidence as the HSC continues.

We wish our **Year 12’s** well at the completion of their exams and want to acknowledge them for the hard work that they have shown in preparation not only for Science exam but the mature approach they have taken to all subjects. We also take this opportunity to wish them well in their future endeavours whatever they may entail.

Brett Stone
Head Teacher Science on behalf of the Science Team
TOURNAMENT OF MINDS 2012

Tournament of Minds is a competition that celebrates and encourages creativity and imagination. Students are required to write and perform a ten minute play, including making all props, and then answer an unseen short answer question with only three to four minutes thinking time. At the time of the September Newsletter deadline, Team Blue had not yet competed in the State Finals, having just won the Regional Final in the Language-Literature division.

Team Blue members: Nina Bayndrian (7), Amelia Caley (8), Yasmina Chotchova (7), Harrie Hogan (8), Ella Kennedy (8), Hannah Newton (7) and Miranda Rodgers (7).

The State Finals, on the 9th of September, restricted the students’ working time to only three hours. The result was fantastic. Another win! This meant gold medals for us all and another large plaque for the school’s trophy cabinet. Better still, this ensured a place for us at the National Competition in Perth (Australasian-Pacific Finals), where NHSPA would be representing NSW in the Language-Literature division, against all the other states. Thus, our TOM adventure continued…

Very early in the morning of October 18th the team and I flew to Perth. Five hours later we landed, to a very friendly welcome from the Western Australian TOM officials. That afternoon we met up with the rest of Team NSW and received our blue uniforms, ready for Friday’s Opening Ceremony. The next day, at The University of Notre Dame, all 450 competitors and facilitators were welcomed formally, after which we all played tourist in Fremantle.

The girls were ready for Tournament Day (20th October). For three hours in the morning the team was isolated to work on their play. The play had to include five hyperboles (exaggerations) which would lead to either a happy or tragic conclusion. Our girls chose to do a murder mystery, with their performance being widely praised. Most competitors and facilitators were most impressed that NHSPA had such a talented team, in spite of their youth and inexperience. Ultimately, our division was won by Victoria. The nice part about the whole competition was the mutual support shown to all teams – win or lose – irrespective of the states we represented. Any competition stresses disappeared at the disco after dinner. On Sunday we relaxed at Perth Zoo before flying home.

Overall, we all had a fantastic experience. I received many compliments about our girls: lovely manners; excellent self-direction; excellent teamwork and creativity; excellent acting. They were a credit to our school. We could not have participated in the Perth venture had it not been for the support we had from all parts of the school and community. Firstly, a huge thank you to the P & C, who provided generous financial assistance towards our costs. Thanks to the local shops who donated prizes for our raffle, and thanks also to the parents and friends who bought the raffle tickets at the Spring Prom. We thank all the students who bought our chocolates or helped out at the market stall. Wishes of “good luck” came from many people and we appreciated that moral support too.

I would like to add my own personal thanks to the office staff and Mrs Romeo for assisting me, and thank all the families of all the TOM students for their support throughout 2012.

Mini Trifunovic
TOM Facilitator
FILM STUDIES
‘Time Travel Toby’ is an outstanding film by senior student, Tom Green.
Tom wrote this amusing quirky western and also acts in it; he co-directed it with Toby Quast. The film, which does have MA content will screen at the Showcase Concert on 22 November.

ARTEXPRESS 2012
Zachary Moore-Boyle’s photographs have been retained by the HSC marking centre and we are hopeful that they will be included in ARTEXPRESS.

Zac has been obsessed with photography since Year 7 and these very large scale abstract works are quite enigmatic. The images were shot on film and scanned to digital format with multiple layers; then printed on heavy weight, matt, fibre-based paper.

NAGOYA ART EXCHANGE
This ‘sister-city’ program invites schools to submit only 4 artworks each year for consideration so we were thrilled when three of our talented Year 8 students' works were chosen to represent Sydney in Nagoya, Japan.

Our congratulations go to Stephanie Oppen-Riley, Luca Lamont and Claude Scott-Mitchell; all study Visual Arts as an elective subject.

NEWS OF EX-STUDENT’S SUCCESS
It was great to read in the Inner West Courier [9 Oct ‘12] that ex-NHSPA art-student Natalie Johnson, now studying at the Design Centre Enmore, has won the inaugural Ikea Tempe Chair Competition. Natalie’s entry to create a chair based on the creative theme of phobia, took out the Best Overall Design award.

NATIONAL ART SCHOOL
The National Art School, Darlinghurst offers an extra unit in studio studies for talented Year 11 art-students; students attend an intensive course in their holidays and their work is assessed and exhibited. The results are recorded on students HSC but does not contribute to their ATAR.

This year Olivia Arnold attended the life-drawing course and produced some fantastic work.
RECONCILIATION

It was fantastic to have works by Stephanie Oppen-Riley, Astrid Crane, Laura Sheedy and Jemima Tilley chosen for the 2012 Reconciliation Art Competition. The exhibition at the Australian Museum, College Street was a part of this year’s NAIDOC celebrations and remained on display until August. The four artworks The NSW Reconciliation Council also concurrently held a charity auction of digital images of the Schools Reconciliation Challenge 2012 artworks and Stephanie’s submission ‘White style – Black Culture’ was purchased by Allens Linklaters lawfirm for the substantial donation to the NSW Reconciliation Council of $500.

Ian Carrick
Visual Arts Department