

## From the Principal's Desk

Later this afternoon, students, parents and guardians will be able to access comprehensive semester one reports on Compass School Manager.



Over the past week I have read reports that detail the varied work that our students are completing day in, day out. I have been most impressed by the high level of commitment demonstrated and the corresponding high level of performance across a range of studies.

There is a direct correlation between students' attendance in class and the level of performance in their chosen studies. High levels of attendance more often than not equates to high levels of performance.

Congratulations to all students on reaching the half way mark of the year and I look forward to your continued improvement over the last half of the year.

## Top Arts People's Choice Awards

Yesterday I attended the NGV Ian Potter Centre for the announcement celebration on this year's winners of the Macquarie People's Choice Awards. This year the Top Arts Exhibition was visited by thousands of people, many of whom registered their vote for their favorite artwork.

I am thrilled to announce that the First Prize was awarded to our very own Rukaya Salum Ali-Springle for her piece, Unnatural. We are all so proud of Rukaya and hope that her success will open many doors for her.



## Breakfast

For term 3, students will be able to get a free breakfast at the school canteen between 8:00 and 8:40am. Students will be able to select two items from a wide range of healthy options. We understand that many of our students skip breakfast in a rush to catch trains to get to school. It is hoped that this initiative will set them up for a more productive morning in class.

I sincerely hope that all members of the Swinburne Senior community have a great break and I look forward to seeing everyone back and well rested on Monday 17 July.

*Michael O'Brien*  
Principal

## Assistant Principal's News

June has been a busy period for students as they completed their mid-year practice exams for all of the English's and the VCAA General Achievement Test (the GAT). I congratulate them for the way they approached these exams. Semester one reports will be uploaded on Compass and available to parents at the End of Term.

We are at the time of the year where students should be accessing Compass School Manager for daily news feeds regarding different events, workshops and guest speakers from tertiary institutions. These are regularly posted by the Careers and Pathways Advisor. Year 12 students should be accessing university websites regarding scholarships and open days. There is a broad range of scholarships which cover academic achievement. It is worth applying for as many as possible as each year there are quite a few not taken up.

A reminder to all that Parent-Teacher interviews will take place on Wednesday 9 August. The times are from 3:30pm to 8:00pm with bookings made through Compass School Manager.

## Approving student absences

Many families are taking the option of explaining their child's absences online using Compass. This can be done in advance or retrospectively. Please continue to provide the College with explanations for students' absences, either using Compass, emailing or contacting your Mentor.

I wish you all a safe term break.

*Robert Lewkowicz*  
Assistant Principal

## Swinburne celebrates diversity and individuality with a 'human' Rainbow Flag.

On May 18 Swinburne students came to school in all the colours of the rainbow and joined together on the basketball court to recreate the LGBTQI Flag. Around the world, IDAHOBIT Day (International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia) is celebrated on the 17 May to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder. As the 17 of May fell on a Wednesday this year, it was decided to celebrate on the 18<sup>th</sup>.



The decision to recognise IDAHOBIT day was the initiative of the newly formed Rainbow Connection Club at the College. An LGBTQI Student alliance the club is open to all who wish to work towards creating a more inclusive, respectful and safe space at Swinburne. Whilst Swinburne Senior has a reputation of welcoming and supporting LGBTQI students, the Rainbow Connection Club believe it is important to continually maintain a debate and dialogue in relation to the school's culture and climate. Even though it does appear that our society is moving towards a greater level of recognition and acknowledgement of the LGBTQI community, LGBTQI youth are still at a higher risk of mental health, harassment or harm. Statistics from the National LGBTI Health Alliance (July 2016) found the following:

- LGBTI young people are five times more likely to attempt suicide than their peers of a similar age
- LGBT young people are nearly twice as likely to engage in self-injury than their peers of a similar age
- LGBT young people aged 16 to 24 have a higher rate of being diagnosed with a mental disorder than older LGBT people
- LGBT young people aged 16 to 24 have the highest level of psychological distress across all age groups



The good news however, is that research from the National LGBTI Health Alliance and from overseas, indicated that school based supports such as student clubs, supportive educators, comprehensive anti-bullying policies and LGBTI inclusive curriculums can have a significant impact on improving school climates, reducing psychological distress and absenteeism amongst LGBTQI youth.

So what next. The Rainbow Connection Club are in the process of organising a parent evening with the working title of "Understanding your Child's Queer/Gay Identity". The evening will include Swinburne students and parents talking about their personal experiences, as well as guest speakers from related agencies. Additionally, the evening

will provide an opportunity to showcase the music and art of Swinburne Queer students.

Finally, the Rainbow Connection Club (and the College) would like to thank the Boroondara Youth Services (also known as 360) for their support in helping us make IDAHOBIT day such a success.

If you have any questions or would like further information about the Rainbow Connection Club or upcoming events, contact Elizabeth Reardon, Manager, Student Wellbeing ([reardon.elizabeth.e@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:reardon.elizabeth.e@edumail.vic.gov.au))

**Procrastinating and avoiding work?**

**Not getting enough sleep?**

**Conflict with someone you care about?**

**Have a friend who needs help?**

**Who's got the answers?**

Last year, Kate Wilde, from "the Workshop" conducted a series of very popular sessions addressing just these questions. Kate is returning to Swinburne in Term 3 and will again be running the following sessions:

**Sleep:** This workshop provides students with information about good sleep hygiene (environment, behaviour, etc.) and helps them to identify areas for improvement in their own sleep hygiene. Students commit to try and develop one or two simple habits to help their sleep and receive a homework 'reminder' two weeks after the workshop. The session works by enabling students to identify their own point of motivation for developing new sleep habits (i.e. study outcomes, appearance, sporting performance, etc.).

**Relationships:** This workshop outlines the hallmarks of healthy and unhealthy relationships, with a focus on managing conflict. Students identify their own way of dealing with conflict (passive, aggressive, etc.) and learn strategies for addressing conflict and/or negative emotions in an assertive way. This workshop explores relationships broadly, including family/carers, friendships and partner relationships.

**Helping a Friend:** This workshop was evaluated by students as one of the most useful sessions of 2016 and was also one of the most popular with students having to be turned away. The workshop adopts a 'mental health first aid' approach and helps students to identify what aspects of their friends' behaviours/situations and difficulties they can help with and when they need to seek help from a professional. The session also emphasises the need for self-care when faced with a friend who is experiencing difficulties.

**Coping with stress and addressing Avoidance:** This workshop helps students to understand the motivation behind avoidance behaviours and also identify the impacts of avoidance on their goals and wellbeing. Several models

of coping with study stress/anxiety are provided and students select one which they find relevant to their own situation and complete an 'undertaking' to try a new behaviour or habit to address avoidance and reduce their anxiety.

All sessions will run on Tuesdays starting at 11 am for approximately 45 to 60 minutes. Students who register will be exempt from attending class and their absence will be approved on Compass through the Wellbeing Office.

Registration forms will be distributed at the end of Term 2 and are also available from the student's mentor, the Wellbeing office or online through the Compass Newsfeed. Forms can be returned to the Wellbeing office or Mentor.

For questions or further information about the relevance or suitability of the sessions for your son/daughter, please contact Elizabeth Reardon, Manager, Student Wellbeing on 8862 4400 or [reardon.elizabeth.e@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:reardon.elizabeth.e@edumail.vic.gov.au)

*Elizabeth Reardon*  
*Student Wellbeing Manager*

### **From the Year 12 Manager's Office**

It's been a very busy time for Year 12 Students as Unit 3 has come to a close. I would like to congratulate all the students who have worked steadily throughout Semester One to ensure that they not only satisfied the Outcomes for their chosen subjects, but also for staying focused on their goals. As Unit 3 closes, Unit 4 opens a door to new opportunities and challenges that students must face. Year 12 Students should begin to hone their skills in the second semester as the end of year examinations draw closer. I look forward to seeing the students in the Visual Arts demonstrate their talents in their final artworks. I am excited to see our Design students produce their products after the design process that has taken place in Unit 3.

The mid-year break is a great time to relax, but also an opportunity for students to ensure that they are ready to take their skills to the next level in Term 3.

Some things Year 12 students can do to make sure they are fully prepared for next term are:

1. Read all the books, textbook chapters and watch the films they will be studying in Unit 4.
2. Consolidate and organise their notes from Unit 3 into distinct folders for each Outcome studied.
3. Search VCAA's website for past exams and the subject study designs.
4. Use the course outlines and SAC dates calendar provided on Compass to plan out the main assessment task dates.

Year 12 Students should take some time in the mid-year holidays to reflect on their achievements so far. I hope

students use the holiday break as a good opportunity to rest from the daily grind of Year 12 and also as a time to reflect on the key skills that they need to improve on for Unit 4.

*Joel Guye*  
*Year 12 Manager*

### **Swinburne's Model United Nations Assembly**

From Friday 26 May to Sunday 28 May both myself and Luke McCracken went to Camp Getaway where we took part in MUNA. MUNA stand for Model United Nations Assembly and simulates what happens when the United Nations meet to discuss key issues of global importance. MUNA provides students with the chance to debate on matters of political and social concerns around the world.

At MUNA 2017 there were groups of two students representing different countries from around the world all students went to school in Victoria. The majority of students at the event were in years 11 and 12 with only a few year 10s. Luke and I represented Colombia, and we had to debate against other countries such as Australia, North Korea, United states, Israel and many more about issues that were relevant to our country, including global warming, refugees, and terrorism.

We were able to debate these questions with the help of 30 resolutions which we had to familiarise ourselves with. For each resolution we had to decide what our countries views on the matter would be based on their culture, politics, allegiances and what outcome would be in their interests. The assembly ran over the Saturday and Sunday, at the end of the assembly prizes were given out to best dressed and best debater.

The weekend is an amazing experience and I'd recommend it to students who enjoy debating and who would want to get an inside view of how a United Nations Assembly runs. I'd like to thank Rotary for hosting the event and Glenferrie Rotary for sponsoring us for the weekend.

*India Guerrieri*  
*Year 11 SRC Captain*

### **Food Studies**

In National Reconciliation Week, the Year 11 Food Studies group completed a Practical test (SAC) in which they were required, as part of the design brief, to feature an Indigenous Australian ingredient in a modern recipe.



There were many different recipes cooked: Dark chocolate, coconut and macadamia nut tart (Sophie Hunter), smoked kangaroo meat and quandong 'jam' (Hannah Frederick), lemon myrtle cheesecake (Rebecca Joseph) and 'jumping' spaghetti (Paris Jewel).

Both Carayl and I were very impressed by the variety of ingredients used by some students and the high level of design and cooking skills displayed. It was a great practical experience for all involved, especially the taste-testers!



*Vivienne Hogan*  
*Food Studies teacher*

### **Son of Light**

#### **A Ramble by Finn Withers**

A boy  
Soldier boy  
Mechanical boy  
Broken boy  
Forged in fire  
Beaten by the fire  
Beaten by his kind  
Beaten by his father  
So he could live in the world  
That he was created in

Beaten by his friends  
Beaten by his new friends  
Burned by his new father  
The new father that gave him new purpose  
Burned by the fires  
Like the fires he was forged in  
His brother stands before him  
Like him, his brother is  
Eyes of his father  
Eyes of light  
Skin of steel  
Heart of fire  
Ready  
Willing  
Prepared to fight

### **All Australian Women**

My world shakes. The boat rocks over each rough wave and my heart jumps with each lurch it makes. I can't breathe. I can't be alive right now. My eyes snap open just as the boat drops off the final wave. My heart races as I turn over. A nightmare. It was just another nightmare. My husband lays next to me breathing soft, calming breaths. He came by plane to Australia and I came by boat.

Back in Nigeria my parents screamed in delight as I stood mixing a pot of yam porridge.

"A professor!" My mother screamed at me from across the house. "An Australian professor!"

He wasn't really an Australian. He came from the village over the river, apparently his friends and he had gazed upon me as I milked the goats and he had decided that I was to be his wife in Australia. He sent for me and I was dumped onto the next boat to be married when I arrived. I have never felt so betrayed.

His eyes flicker open looking at me through his thick lashes, blinking as if his eyes are too heavy.

"Good morning darling." His breath smells like off fish left out in the sun to dry. I smile and try to rise from the bed, but his strong arm pulls me back. As we make love he pulls my long black hair back. This was a habit that he picked up the night we were married. It is as if the roots of my dark hair are connecting him to the roots of his culture.

Back at home all my hair did was cause troubles. When my mother was angry it was used to pull me to where she wanted me go. In first grade, the only year of school I completed, a boy cut off my ponytail and yet I was the one slapped across the face for losing my "beautiful curls".

After my husband is done I begin the day. I look through my side of the closet and try to find something suitable for the people I see on the streets each day. I remember buying jeans for the first time. The rough constricting fabric pressed tight against my thighs. It was like two hands trying to choke my legs. Yet, as I grew into the Australian culture the jeans became more comfortable. I could wear them

most places in most weather conditions and not one person blinked at me like they did when I wore my patterned dresses from home.

I don't go home with my husband anymore. In the beginning I would travel with him, but as I kept seeing my parents I began to feel the boat shaking and moving. The same fear I felt when they sent me away. The smell was overwhelming as I stepped into our small hut. My mother would almost religiously cook pepper soup each time we came home. My husband loved it. I just became nauseous each time I smelt it. It was as if I was seasick. Each morning I make toast with jam, a cup of tea with one teaspoon of sugar and I sit and wait. I wait for my angry husband to emerge and sigh a frustrated sigh at the lack of traditional Nigerian food. He misses our home. Aside from my hair, I have forced separation from home. Each morning I feel his hatred grow. He takes in my clothes, my breakfast, my make up that I have bought one shade lighter than my skin to try and blend into my surroundings. It has been six months and I still have no friends in Australia, or at home. This morning his answer to his frustration is to sigh, tell me he's taking a trip back home and stomp out of the room. He has stopped asking if I will join him.

The last time I went home I wore jeans. My husband was appalled with me. I straightened my hair too. It took me three hours, but for the three days we were home I deliberately didn't wash it to keep it straight. My mother could barely recognise me and I was happy. I wanted her to feel the way I did when I was put on that boat. I wanted her to feel betrayed and confused.

I know my husband has another woman in Nigeria. It doesn't bother me. I have a man in Australia. He is on the television each night on a show called "The Bachelor". I have promised myself that I will be one of those women. I will be Australian, beautiful and looking for true "Aussie" love.

He slapped me. He yelled in my face. How could I do this to him? He says I have cut him off from his roots. All I can do is smile as I admire my handiwork. He yells that I am not the woman he married. He is right. I am not. He says he married the perfect dark haired Nigerian woman from over the river, not the short-haired blonde bombshell in front of him now. I smile as I eat the pizza bought from the shop around the corner of our house. I think about how tomorrow morning I can finally get up in peace and sail through the calm waters of an ocean of possibilities.

*Kat West*

*Year 12 English*

### **Year 11 Drama Report**

On May 30th this past semester, Meiki's year 11 drama class organised an Ensemble Performance Evening showcasing the students' writing and acting skills in the

form of four ten minute performances. We had previously workshopped our performances at the Malthouse, getting feedback from experienced VCE Drama examiners and from students from a range of other Melbourne schools. However, we'd developed the pieces significantly since then, and it was the first time our family and friends had seen our work.

The diversity of the performances was incredible with each one being a polar opposite to the last.



We had a satirical comedy titled "Robeo and Juliet." This piece recontextualised Shakespeare's famous tale hundreds of years into the future with the star crossed lovers becoming a human and robot torn in a world of conflict between the two. Jack played Juliet, besotted by Robeo, who wishes he was a human.



We had a skit that explored fear. It focussed on abuse in relationships and in the household and how it is portrayed in the media. The audience was particularly touched as this was the only piece to focus on a real-world issue in depth and fantastic detail. It was a dramatic, intense and very moving piece.

There was an item about several unique characters slowly discovering they are in Limbo. They are trapped in a colourless room together and gradually we understand

that it is in fact a creation of one man's hell. Particularly impressive about this skit was the intensity that was conveyed in the plot, set, and character-there was a clown, an army major, a ballerina and a homeless man, but they didn't feel like cliches-it was difficult not to sympathise with their plight.



The performance to open the night, titled "Clue: The Mystery of Ms Green" was based on the cluedo board game and very cleverly used transformation of time and place to connect each character. Ms Green has gone missing from a dinner party and each character accuses the other of being responsible leading to reasons as to why and how they killed her.



All of the performances were completely devised by the students who performed them using only a small stimulus and a whole lot of creativity and team skills. Thank you so much to Cal for his excellent work with sound and lighting over the course of the night and also to Paige for announcing the night. Well done, guys!

Huge thanks to our teacher Meiki for providing us with this opportunity and letting us showcase what we're best at, whether that's intense dramatic work, or ridiculous comedy. The evening was made remarkable by the love, teamwork and brilliant minds of each performer. It was a wonderful showing of what Swinburne students are capable of and a fantastic night in all.

*Maddy Hill*  
*Year 11 Drama*

### **SRC Report**

The 2017 Swinburne Formal was in all seriousness one of the loveliest and most fun formals I've been to in my life. I was so impressed at how glamorous, creative, and beautiful everyone looked, and I was even more impressed at how much everyone danced. My only real regret for the evening was being in the toilets for the closing song.

The dedication and professionalism of Tish, Caitlin, the year 11 captains and the SRC in organising this night was outstanding. Tish, Caitlin, India, Georgie, Luke, Tahlia, Kat, Morgan, and Ashely have spent their lunchtimes, weekends, and a big chunk of their social media down-time planning the formal. They oversaw everything from designing the posters and the tickets, to making beautiful white sashes for the award winners, to choosing the food and the decorations, to working out the award categories, to letting us know that they thought last year's music was pretty lame and that it would be better if the students got to choose their own.

Without this work, there would still be a formal, but it wouldn't have been the same.

On behalf of all the SRC, I'd like to thank Kate for her fantastic job organising all the logistics that go into a night like this, the teachers who dressed to nines and stayed up well past their bedtimes to make sure the night was smooth and safe, and the families who bought tickets, dropped students off, and helped them with their outfits, manicures, facials, fake tans and who knows what else. It couldn't have happened without this support.

It was a night to remember and we're very proud of it. Well done everyone.

*Meiki Apted*  
*SRC Coordinator*

### **Year 12 Captains' Formal Report**

We, as the Year 12 captains for 2017, are happy to say this year's formal was a blast! Everyone looked absolutely amazing, the night ran very smoothly, and both students and teachers alike enjoyed the night. The food was delicious, music was enjoyable and the photos are clear evidence of the amazing time everyone had. These photos are available at [happymedium.com.au](http://happymedium.com.au) with the access codes sw270617p1 and sw270617p2.

This year we organised a few awards for the night that were voted upon by each table. Meiki, Kate and the SRC collated the results and they were announced during the night, each winner given a sash to commemorate their award. Best dressed went to Mitzi Woolfe and Alex Sneddon. Most creative outfit went to Sam Progrund, while most iconic duo went to Bec Wu and Caitlin Bond. The Queen of Swinburne was won by Morgan Nichols and the King of Swinburne won by Archie McGill.

Finally, the best dressed teacher was won by Kate!

Congratulations to the award winners and for everyone else for looking absolutely fabulous and contributing to an exciting atmosphere at the formal.





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We would like to thank a few people, and we'd like to start off with the biggest thank you to Kate for organising the venue, the tables, tickets and pulling the whole formal together. She really has done so very much.

Next is to Meiki for running the SRC and for guiding us as the school captains to make the night all that it was. Another big thank you is to Michael and all the teaching staff for giving up their night to help make sure that everything ran smoothly. Next big thank you is to Liss Ralston, for volunteering her night to come and take photos of everyone looking fabulous (these photos will be released within the next couple days).

Thank you to Leonda for allowing us to use this beautiful venue; we are so lucky and grateful. A big shoutout to the SRC and everyone else who helped put this night together.

Finally, thanks to all the students for coming out and making this night as memorable as it was. The Year 12s now have another great way to remember their final year, and the Year 11s can look forward to another great year ahead, with an eventful start to their time at Swinburne.

*Tish Ralston and Caitlin Bond*  
*Year 12 SRC Captains*

## **Swinburne Hoodies #2**

Due to popular request we are doing one more round of 2017 Swinburne Hoodies.

The 2017 Swinburne Hoodies are black with the Swinburne Logo embroidered on the front, and a big "17" plus your nickname on the back. They're fleece lined so they're really thick and warm and they look great.

The LINK is

<https://orders.reformclothing.com/>

The new student log on code is:

