



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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SEYMOUR TECHNICAL HIGH



Jeremy Joyce, Phillip Cubbin, Kyle Clarke, Jake Moffat, Jacob Debattista, Joshua Henshall, Fraser McQueen & Ashley Hall lounging on a brand new 30 million dollar military helicopter at the Australian International Airshow Careers Seminar at Avalon Airport.



Joshua Henshall and Fraser McQueen with Dr Andy Thomas, Australia's first astronaut.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 20 th March	Inter-house Athletics Sports
Thursday 26 th March	StartSmart Presentation—Year 10 & VCAL
Saturday 28 th March	Central Australia Trip Departs
Monday 30 th March to Friday 3 rd April	10B Work Experience Week

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**School Council AGM**

Last week the Annual General Meeting of the school council was held in the school conference room and I am delighted to report that Val Pinder has accepted the role of School Council President again. Congratulations to our school councillors and the staff who have been elected to the 2009 council. Finally, a very big thank you to the staff who have stepped down from council this year.

Regeneration

As part of the Regeneration process a combined school council meeting will be held on Monday 23rd March for all sectors involved in the Regeneration process. A model proposal will be presented to councils and later to public meetings of the schools. At this stage we are a little behind in our timeline of selecting architects but this should occur shortly. A number of tours have occurred, including our visit to Maryborough Education Centre last Friday week. Maryborough was the first of the amalgamations of schools to reform teaching practice and we were able to learn significant lessons from this visit.

Athletics Sports

Tomorrow is the annual athletics sports and it is expected that all students will attend and support their houses and the school in a day of mutual pride in the school. Parents are most welcome to join us at Kings Park.

Building the Education Revolution

The Federal Government has announced funding available for secondary and primary school. All schools are eligible to apply immediately for \$200,000 for "National School Pride" money. The school hopes to develop its community and school resources by the following:

1. \$75,000 to establish interactive whiteboards in 15 classrooms to add to the seven existing. These will allow more teachers to use enhanced use of inquiry learning and changes to their pedagogical approach to improve numeracy and literacy outcomes.
2. \$42,000 to the new Performing Arts Centre to have an existing room equipped with appropriate IWB setups and furniture in the theatre and specialist teaching rooms. The money will also be used to provide stage curtains and curtain legs to finish the performance area and new tables to provide for community use of the facility.
3. \$30,000 will be spent to develop a freshwater studies science complex in existing buildings as a school and community resource for local and other schools' use and to encourage a cross key learning area approach to the issues of water use in the Murray system including bushfires, agriculture, drought and climate change. We will invite support by local Water Boards and other community agencies.
4. The balance to develop a joint graphics and photography teaching space. This will involve the

refurbishment of a room by the demolition of an existing wet photo lab and new benches and interactive whiteboard facilities with Macs sourced from other Federal grants.

The timeline for this has been less than a fortnight from information to application but a number of these projects and needs have been on my drawing board for some time. The Regional Network Leader at Hume Regional Office will need to endorse these and we hope to be in the first round of successful applications shortly. I will keep our community posted!!

Technical Trade Centre Application

We continue to work on this application and as part of this process I visited Broken Hill to meet with school leaders there, to get an understanding of their application and why it was rated the top application in the last round.

Seven Principals flew up and back in a day by light aircraft funded by the local LLEN. The Regeneration must be considered in this application to gain funding and merge both rebuilding and refurbishment models as we hope the building works will happen at the same time.

Tim McCartin - Principal

SCHOOL TIES & SCARVES

We are stocking Seymour Technical High School ties and navy scarves at the General Office. These are optional items on our winter uniform list. They can be viewed and purchased at the General Office.

The ties come in two sizes, long and extra long and sell for \$12.00. At present, we are still waiting on the arrival of our scarves and will report their cost in the next edition of this newsletter .

SEYMOUR JUNIOR BASKETBALL ENROLMENT DAY

Enrolments for the Winter Basketball Season is on Tuesday 31st March, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Seymour Sports & Aquatic Centre. All players to attend and new players, boys and girls are most welcome. Ages are based on the year the player is born, not their school year. This season's age groups are as follows -

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Age Group</u>
2001, 2002	Under 9
1999, 2000	Under 11
1997, 1998	Under 13
1996, 1995,	Under 15
1994, 1993	Under 17

The Annual General Meeting is on Thursday 12th March at 7:00 pm at the stadium. All are welcome. For any further information contact the Secretary - AnnMaree Gregson on 57924100.



Alias Jesse Woods, Craig Hart, Brad Cole, James Gallien, Dylan Bruce and Rhys Dimech celebrating Rock Star day

YEAR 12 "ROCK STAR" DAY

Despite the cold weather, the Year 12 Rock Star day brought out many famous faces. Stars such as Gene Simmons from Kiss (once again Brad Cole outdid the dress-ups) and Brian Johnston from ACDC (Reece Dimich could be his long lost twin) made guest appearances along with some Motley Crue groupies and other Rock Stars.

Jessica Flavel & Bronte Halsall
- Magazine & Visual Arts Captains

EDUCATION TAX REFUNDS

A reminder that parents should keep receipts for education expenses from July 2008, to make the most of the benefits available to parents under the Australian Government's Education Tax Refund. Schools are unable to provide duplicate receipts.

Keren Fletcher - Business Manager

BPAY

BPay facilities are now available for payments to the school. Your Bpay number is shown on your family statement. Biller code and reference numbers are available from the school on request.

All payments received by Bpay will be allocated to the oldest outstanding charge first, excluding voluntary payments such as magazine and Equipment & Facilities levy.

Keren Fletcher - Business Manager

WINTER UNIFORM

All Year 7 students will be expected to be in their winter uniforms at the start of term two.

In particular, boys will need to be wearing the new school trousers, rather than grey cotton.

Please check with the school's uniform supplier, C. & J. Kerris Menswear, concerning the availability of uniform items.

MOBILE PHONES, iPods AND ELECTRONIC GAMING DEVICES AT SCHOOL

We would like to remind all students and parents of the school's policy concerning student mobile phones, iPods and electronic gaming devices (eg. PSPs) at school.

The school prefers that mobile phones, iPods and games are not brought to school.

Y In cases where the phone may be needed for family arrangements, the General Office is able to pass messages from home to students (prior to recess and lunch bells) and a public phone is available at the General Office for student use at recess, lunch and after-school.

- Phones with a camera function should not be brought to school at all, to protect the privacy of all students.
- If mobiles do need to be brought to school, they should be kept securely in student lockers. There is no need for them to be taken to class.
- The school cannot guarantee the safety of mobile phones, iPods or other electronic gaming devices at school: they are desirable 'accessories' amongst teenagers and they are brought to school at the owner's risk.

Y Mobile phones, iPods or other MP3 players or games (eg. PSPs), seen, heard or used in class will be placed in an Assistant Principal's office for collection at the end of the day. If a student's phone causes further interruption to classes, it will be kept until parents are able to collect it.

In common with many other schools, we are finding that mobile phones, especially text messaging, have been used to harass other students, often outside school time. Students found to be engaging in such harassment during school time face severe consequences and parents will be asked to take charge of the student's phone. It should be pointed out that, across the state, some instances of such harassment have become matters for police action.

Please assist the school in these matters. These arrangements are there to protect students' belongings and their welfare at school.

David Mills, Jurgen Frank & Sally Ann Venables - Assistant Principals

RELAY FOR LIFE

Next Friday, 27th March, will be an "Out of Uniform" day in aid of Relay for Life. Seymour Technical High School has a team that are actively fundraising for this worthwhile event.

We ask that students support this day with a gold coin donation and come dressed in red, being this year's theme colour.

Students who have their current Relay for Life tops are expected to wear them on the day.

CAREERS NEWS**STHS Students Learn How to Launch into Space**

Several Seymour Technical High School students had the rare opportunity of listening to Australia's astronaut, Dr Andrew Thomas, who spoke at the *Australian International Airshow Careers Seminar*, at Avalon Airport. In a captivating address, Andrew explained what it is like to be launched into space and spend time in a weightless environment orbiting the earth. He outlined his career pathway, the pinnacle of which included being recruited by NASA in 1992 where he was trained to become an astronaut. He has ventured into space on four separate occasions. Despite his monumental career achievements, Andrew's manner was down to earth and he willingly spent time talking to our students. Other speakers at the seminar offered details about how to enter a huge range of aviation careers in addition to becoming a pilot (or astronaut). While the importance of studying Maths and Physics was repeatedly emphasised (and clearly advantageous), a 19 year old female pilot explained how she entered the profession with Year 12 subjects that included Italian and Literature and no Maths or Sciences. After lunch, we were offered the chance to purchase helicopters worth between five and 30 million dollars. We watched several aeroplanes, including a Spitfire, Mustang and Boeing 757 doing breathtaking manoeuvres that defied what might have been expected given their age or size. Students interested in pursuing an aviation career can receive further information from the Careers office.

**UMAT****Year 12 Students: Do you need to sit the UMAT?**

The UMAT or Undergraduate Medical Admissions Test is a test that is used specifically to assist with the selection of students into the Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Optometry or Physiotherapy at undergraduate level at Monash and Melbourne universities (a full list of Universities and courses that require the completion of the UMAT is available from the website:

<http://umatweb.acer.edu.au/>). If you need to complete the UMAT, you need to register by June and sit the test on 29th July 2009. Several companies offer UMAT preparation programs (at a cost) including MedEntry www.medentry.edu.au/ and National Institute of Education <http://www.nie.edu.au/nie.html>.

National Careers & Employment Expo

The National Careers & Employment Expo commences at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre 27th March. Refer to www.eocexpo.com.au for more information. A number of free passes are still available from the Careers office.

Worldskills: Attention First Year Vet Students

Got Skills? Flaunt your skills at Australia's largest competition for VET students. If you are a future business guru, head chef, computer expert, builder or mechanic (to name but a few) you can be involved. Check with your VET Coordinator (Mr Rimes) or www.worldskills.org.au for more information.

Flightcamp (Students 15 Years Of Age And Older) Experience hands-on flying training, helicopters, guest speakers, airport tours, air displays and more. For more information, contact TVSA 03 5369 5162, email: fly@tvsa.com.au web: www.flightcamp.com.au

The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine Students in Years 9 - 12 who are interested in a career in Forensic Medicine may want to attend one of the two [career](#) afternoons that are provided by the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (Southbank - first session 6th April). Learn about careers in this industry and course entry requirements. Places are limited - bookings essential. Email jobs@vifm.org or phone 0396844342 www.vifm.org

Careers Seminars and The Werribee Zoo

Careers Day Seminars at the Werribee Open Range Zoo will be held on April 8th, 9th, 16th, 17th, 23rd & 24th, with limited places still available. Bookings: contact Jeanette Goonan 9731 9613.

VET for a Day at Healesville Sanctuary

Healesville Sanctuary is offering two one-day programs 'Vet 4 a Day' (behind the scenes in a wildlife hospital) and 'Keeper 4 a Day' (being a zoo-keeper). The cost is \$99.00 with various dates available from April onwards. Limited spaces are available. To find out more, go to

http://www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Programs/Student_Conferences/Careers

Please note that the Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Zoo activities are not available as school excursions, but will require students to make their own transport and payment arrangements.

University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne - VETERINARY SCIENCE OPEN DAY 2009 will be held on Sunday 22nd March from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Go behind the scenes at the state-of-the-art Veterinary Clinic and Hospital, and take a tour. Career and course advice lectures will be provided hourly from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Individual course and career counselling will also be available. Venue: The Veterinary Clinic and Hospital, 250 Princes Highway Werribee, Victoria (Melway 206 REF G5). Enquiries: Telephone: 03 8344 7357 or visit www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/. Students can register their attendance at:

<http://www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday/openday2009reg.html>

Jeremy Linton - Careers Coordinator