

penrith high school yearbook



The

TOMER'S

1998

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Front cover artwork
untitled
 by Andrew Appleton
 Year 12 Visual Arts

The Grand Legacy Of *The Towers*

Once upon a time, there stood on the site of Penrith High School a striking landmark of the district — a large home with high twin towers. Dr Barber, the master of this imposing edifice, had added these towers to the original structure to give it something of the appearance of an Irish castle which he had seen and admired. His home quickly became known as The Towers — the name we have appropriated for our magazine.

Originally, *The Towers* magazine was in fact a jumble of bits and pieces of literary works from students within the school, mashed together and published to commemorate the transformation of Penrith High. From an intermediate high school, in 1950 we became a full high school, complete with the fresh energies of new and eager students, all bursting with promise, talent, and enthusiasm.

In 1952, *The Towers* was revived as the first official year book of Penrith High. Since that time, the magazine has been published annually, as a way to remember the trials and triumphs of the year. It is now grown into a firmly established and enthusiastically continued tradition. The copy you are clutching contains within its pages the many achievements and unforgettable moments of this year, a continuation of the unbroken heritage which has been passed down, through the generations, into your hands.

Divya Mahananda & Genevieve Hambly

Principal Matters

The publication of *The Towers* always seems to herald for the school the imminent closure of the academic year. At such a time as this, it seems natural to reflect on the successes of the Penrith High School Community.

For Penrith High School, the results of the 1997 HSC candidature were outstanding; Melinda Roylett, Alison Smith, and Bradley Steel topped the state in Legal Studies, Visual Arts and Physics, respectively. To have three students placed first in differing subjects was a wonderful achievement. Indeed, many of our students excelled and gained entry into the courses of their choice. During this year, it has been pleasing to hear of the number of scholarships that have been awarded to our students for tertiary study and generally of the ongoing successes of students who previously attended Penrith High School. The current Year Twelve have demonstrated by their results and mature commitment to their studies that they will ably meet the challenge of the HSC. I am confident that they will achieve highly.

From academic to sporting competitions, from visual to performing arts, our students have attained state



recognition for their talents. It is to *The Towers* that I must leave the reporting of these successes, for they are far too numerous to detail here. Special mention, however, must be made of our successes in performing arts. To reach the state semi-finals of both the Hume Barbour and Karl Cramp Competitions and to have our Year 11 and 10 Dance Group chosen for the Metropolitan West Festival and State Dance Festival respectively, reflects the breadth of student talent and achievement. Congratulations to all students and teachers on a job well done!

Similarly, the attitude and work ethic of the students at Penrith High School needs to be applauded. The majority of students show pride and determination in all their efforts. Most strive to realise their personal best. I commend them for their diligence and their achievements and thank all students for their contributions to the school community.

A special note of gratitude must be extended to the staff of Penrith High School for without their commitment and professionalism 1998 could not have been the successful year which it has.

I look forward to being with you next year.

P. Press

School Council

The School Council has been operating as a part of the Penrith High School Community since 1994. Its members are drawn from a cross-section of the school and wider community, with elected teacher, student, parent and community representatives. Mr A. McDavitt is the current President and Amy Richardson and Renata Field hold the position of the student representatives for 1998.

Meeting monthly, the main business of the

Council is to oversee and formulate general school policy including financial matters. This includes planning and application of the school budget, investigating options and refining and adjusting the budget throughout the year to meet unforeseen needs. Council members also attend many school functions, the most prestigious of which is the annual Presentation night.

Kylee Shepherd

Parents and Citizens

The Penrith High School Parents and Citizens' Association (P & C) aims to bring parents, teachers and the wider community together in order to promote the interests of the school for the benefit of the students. The monthly meetings provide a forum wherein a wide range of issues can be raised and discussed.

The P & C also raises money to supplement the

funding provided by the Department of Education and Training. Families' voluntary contributions, guessing competitions, trivia nights and canteen profits form the basis of this fund raising. Money raised by the P & C is used to buy additional equipment, library books and improve the grounds.

Mrs R. Allen, President



*Nicola Plume
(V. Captain)*

*Angela Tillott
(Captain)*

*Matthew McCarron
(Captain)*

*Brian Tar
(V. Captain)*

Writing this piece is a bittersweet experience for us. While we are grateful for the chance to express our final 'thanks' and 'farewells', it is with a heavy heart that we must realise that our time at Penrith High School, and in the role of School Captains, is drawing to an end.

Thank you to the students and staff for allowing us to be your School Captains over the past year. It has honestly been one of the most cherished responsibilities ever bestowed upon us. Those who really know us will understand that these are not merely words. We are genuinely proud to be a part of such a close, warm and caring school community which has so much to offer each individual student.

On behalf of Year 12, thank you to every member of staff within the school. Your profession is undoubtedly one of great importance within our society and we thank you for your contributions to our lives. Our thanks extend especially to Mr it's-cool-to-achieve Atkins for his tireless efforts towards not just the Class of '98, but to the entire school community. We hope to 'do you proud' in the forthcoming HSC.

With this, perhaps, being our final task in the position of School Captains, we would like to leave this message to you all. Please make the most of your years at Penrith High School. Utilise the open and friendly learning environment for which our school is renowned. In a time when we are all growing socially and emotionally, lasting friendships are forged that will forever be a source of happiness. Value them. Most importantly, never forget your "Westie" roots.

Please also allow us to encourage all students, especially the younger ones, to take an active role in the school's extensive leadership program. Whether it be as school captain, Student Representative Council representative or even just participating in school events, the experience provides not only an enjoyable school life, but also the skills and experience required for life in general.

We wish you all the best for the future paths you take, wherever they may lead you. Thanks again for the honour of being your Captains.

Angela Tillott and Matthew McCarron

**As we farewell our 1998 captains, we begin
a new era with their successors**
