

# THE TOWERS

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2002



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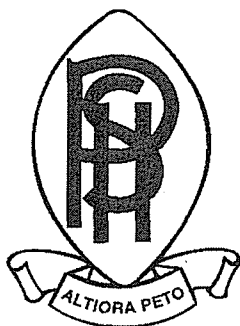
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Cover design by  
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 Year 11



Hello and welcome to the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual Penrith High School Yearbook.

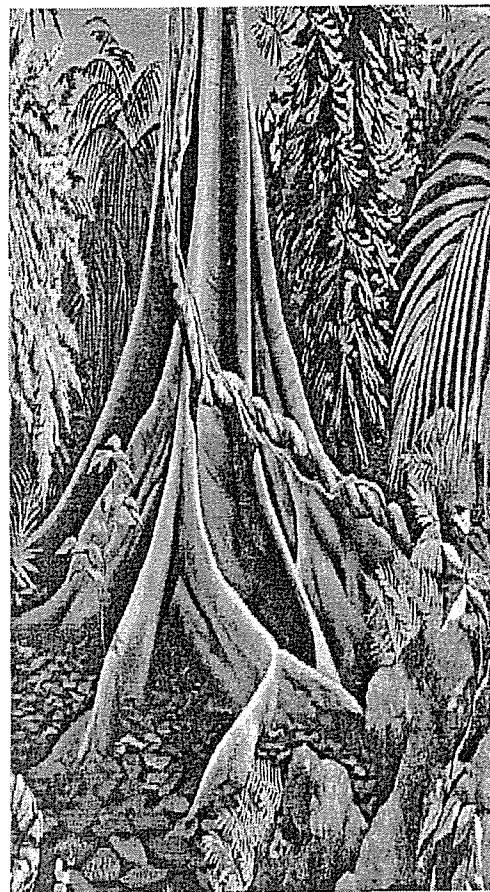
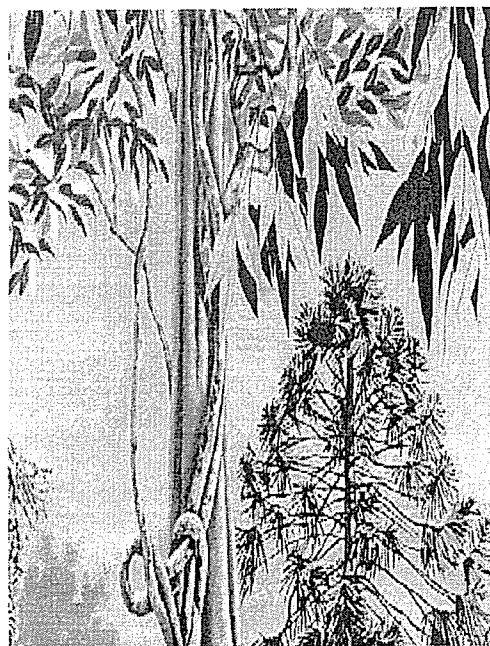
We'd like to begin by commending everyone's efforts on this year's school magazine. This magazine would not be possible without the creative skills of our writers, editors, photographers and reporters who gave so much of their time under pressure. You might also notice that *The Towers* has taken a new direction this year with different people at the helm. We hope you like it.

Penrith High School students have had some remarkable achievements in 2002, demonstrating the many talents of the different individuals and diverse groups that make up our school. We have proven that we can excel in a wide range of activities and competitions. We've seen outstanding successes in the areas of debating — Karl Cramp State Champions, Maths and Science Olympiads, Sport—World X-Country Championship, Visual Arts, Music and Dance — not only at local and district levels, but at State and national competition levels. Our social consciences have also been raised through active contributions to causes such as Amnesty and our fundraising for many charities through our House system. PHS students have truly shown what can be achieved through hard work and consistent effort.

Schools such as Penrith High are giving students the opportunity to work in an environment where students are eager to learn and want to achieve. We need to focus on the positive elements within our school community and continue to strive for the best.

So, in a way, this yearbook is a celebration of what public school students can do. It's a time for a huge pat on the back, or a pat on the head, or one of those stickers we got in primary school, because we've done well this year, guys. Congratulations PHS!

*Kathleen Williams and Neil Gardiner*



## Principal Matters

The 2002 school year began with the recent memories of the fires that raged around Sydney during the summer holidays. Many of our school families were affected by those devastating fires and there were many stories to tell on our return. Some of our students and staff had joined the many volunteers who battled to help those whose lives and homes were threatened. It was a startling reminder of the importance of joining together as a community, not only in times of emergency, but in the good times too.

Our school can be proud of the sense of community and school service that so many of our students show – once again this year we have seen this care and concern for others in students' generously giving their time to support school programs like Peer Mediation and Peer Support, in participating in SRC initiatives such as the traditional School Spirit Week in April – a lot of fun for all – and in contributions to groups like Amnesty and the school's various charities. Harmony Day 2002 was another memorable student-run event. The school has continued the tradition of the annual Walkathon – fabulous weather and a great atmosphere made this a very enjoyable day for all. It should be recorded that the staff retained its unbroken record in the tug-of-war competition – an incredible 16 years undefeated – Mr Marshall's expert coaching paid off once again for the staff team!

This year has also seen the installation of the security fence around the school – not the most desirable of situations, but we seem to be getting used to the change in routine it has caused, and its presence has certainly had a dramatic effect on the incidence of out-of-school-hours vandalism we have experienced in recent years. The working bees held this year have further improved the school grounds, as has the work of the Year 7 tree planting project, now in its third year, and the continuing work of the Environment Committee. Artist Annette Barlow returned earlier this year to continue her mural, moving around the hall corner to complete the forest scene begun in 2000, when our current Year 10 students were in Year 8 and worked with Annette on this special year project. It's great to have the mural completed, and to have our two Bunya Pines represented in the latest section. Despite a lot of care over the years and attention paid to preserving the front lawn area, one of the pines looks quite ill at the moment.



Our annual Open Night was another very enjoyable and impressive school event – some extraordinary activities and work on display, and many teachers and students putting in a great effort to ensure a very successful school showcase. This year has seen some excellent achievements by our students, as you will read in the pages following – from the state Karl Cramp Debating Cup victory, to the Globe Shakespeare Competition, Tournament of Minds and Mock Trial, our students have danced, sung and performed in state music, dance and drama festivals; they have been selected for the National Science Youth Forum and National Art School; represented in state and national sport teams; participated in the school's Duke of Edinburgh scheme, with bronze, silver and gold expeditions a regular feature of the year's calendar, and there have been many, many successes in a wide range of competitions and other activities throughout the year. 2002 has been a great year for our students and a very busy one for our extremely hard working staff as well.

The start of the school year saw Catherine Mann and Erin Weston presented with the Premier's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement in the 2001 HSC – both students achieved stunning results, gaining marks over 90 in all their HSC subjects. Kellie Adlam came first in the state in HSC French Beginners and Alex Gould topped the state in the Comparative Literature Distinction course. These were among many very impressive results achieved by our 2001 HSC group. As our 2002 Year 12 students head towards their HSC exams, we all wish them the very best and hope that they achieve their goals and dreams for the future.

Wendy De Paoli