

penrith high school



2007
the towers

What's in the Yearbook....

SCHOOL LEADERS

Principal's Report	2
School Council	3
P & C / Canteen Report	4
Captains Report	5
House Happenings	6
Alumni	7
SRC Report	8-9
Level 8	10-11
Duke of Edinburgh	12-13
Staff - Arrivals / Departures	14-15

EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Presentation Night	16-17
Common good	20-21
Dance	18-19
Students abroad	24
Student exchange	25
Choir	26
Band	27, 29
Orchestra	28
Drama	30-31
Public Speaking	33-34
Debating	35
Competitions	36-40
Walkathon	41
HSC Design and Technology	89
HSC Art	90-91

YEAR PAGES

Year 7 pages	42-47
Year 8 pages	48-52
Year 9 pages	54-58
Year 10 pages	59-63
Year 11 pages	64-68
Year 12 pages	69-73
Year 12 Graduation	74
Year 12 quotes	75-88

SPORTS

Swimming Carnival	92-93
Cross Country Carnival	94-95
Athletics Carnival	96-97
Sport Profiles	98
Region and State Athletics	99
Team Sports	100-101

ENTERTAINMENT

Penrith in Performance	32
School Spirit Week	22-23

PHOTOS

Class Photos	102-111
Staff Photo	112

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Year 12

Principal's Message

2007 has been a very exciting year for Penrith High School. This edition of *The Towers* is full of wonderful memories and outstanding achievements by so many of our students. The photographic record shows how much enjoyment a whole range of wonderful school events this year brought our staff and students and, as always, Penrith High School students have done their best to participate in school activities and to contribute to creating a vibrant and exciting place of learning.

The response of our students and staff to the challenges brought about by our building project has been very impressive and I thank all of our Penrith High School students, teaching and administrative staff for 'going the extra mile' this year in such a positive and helpful way. Of course, we are all looking forward to the conclusion of the building project early next year and we can look forward to a fully refurbished Library, five refurbished Science laboratories and a brand new Performing Arts Unit consisting of two classrooms, a staff room, a store room and, most importantly, for the first time a rehearsal space for our musicians, actors and dancers. This is going to make a fantastic difference to the creative and performing arts in our school.

This year also saw the forging of new friendships overseas through our new Sister School Agreement with Chung Xiao Middle School. Our formal Agreement was signed at a special ceremony at Penrith High School in February this year and I had the great pleasure of visiting Chung Xiao Middle School in China in May to reciprocate. Next year we hope to see the beginning of teacher exchanges between our two schools and this will, of course, complement the opportunities that our existing Sister School relationship with Hakusan Council in Japan have provided us.

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to two long standing members of the school executive this year. Mr Bernays, Head Teacher Industrial Arts, retired this year following an impressive teaching career of 35 years, 31 of which he spent teaching at Penrith High School. Mrs Screech, Head Teacher Home Economics and Administration, is also leaving us at the end of this year to take on the Deputy Principal position at Liverpool Girls' High School. Mrs Screech has been part of our school for sixteen years. Both Mr Bernays and Mrs Screech have made an enormous contribution to our school and they have greatly enhanced the learning of many generations of Penrith High School students. They will both be greatly missed and we all wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

Finally, thank you to Ms Silk and the editorial committee for their hard work throughout the year. They have produced another high quality Penrith High School chronicle. I am sure you will treasure this wonderful collection of special 2007 memories.



*Wendy De Paoli
Principal*

School Council

The School Council is made up of a representative team of students, teachers, parents and community members. It participates in the policy making and planning of the school's operation and works for the betterment of the school in whatever way it can. It also provides a forum for discussion and review of major school initiatives, policies and issues. It plays an important role in the school's decision-making process, especially in relation to the School Budget and the School Plan.

In 2006-2007 the council members were:

Parent representatives: Lyndall Fitzgibbon, Debbie Grausam, Kara McKeown, Kristine McLean (President)

Parent - P&C President: Ian Hatton

Student representatives: Jessica Callaghan and Tom Woods

Staff representatives: Rae Clapshaw (Secretary), Cheryl Screech, Marion Silk

School principal: Wendy De Paoli

Community representatives: Dr Wayne Sawyer, Warwick Fuller

In the past year a major focus was enhancing the promotion of the school across the community with attendance at DET workshops and implementation of a number of preliminary strategies. Another focus, as always, was increasing the response rate in regard to general contributions and the technology levy - both vital components in the funding of equipment and materials for PHS students. It is good to report that the rate continues to improve but there is more work to do to get a 100% response in both.

At the time of writing, we are discussing the continuing viability of a permanent School Council and considering a shift to a more flexible project-based approach to parental involvement. By the time you read *The Towers* you will know the outcome of this discussion.

Overall it was a quieter year than 2005-2006 which was so very much occupied with gaining departmental commitment to new buildings and facilities. As always, however, Council members have worked towards practical goals and achievements for the school and it has been a rewarding process. I would like to thank everyone for their contributions and support over the year.

*Kristine McLean,
President*



Building Upgrade Project

Work began on the refurbishment of the Library, Science Laboratories and Performing Arts block in Term 3, 2007.

The Library and Science laboratories have been temporarily re-located and are operating out of demountable buildings for the duration of the construction work.

Completion of the project is anticipated early in 2008.

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