



**PENRITH SELECTIVE
HIGH SCHOOL**

**2009
Towers**

Principal

What a wonderful year 2009 has been for our school.

This edition of *The Towers* is a tribute to the many impressive achievements of our staff and students as we strive for the highest at Penrith High School. Within its pages are many happy memories and a great record of special events that made 2009 an extraordinary year.

At the start of the year, Peter Woodfield was selected to represent Australia at the National Youth Science Forum in New Zealand, and later achieved the New South Wales Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement. Mid year, Matthew Higgs and Brendan Hosking were sent to Okinawa by the Japanese Embassy as the only two Australian representatives in the Asian Scientific Youth Exchange Program, participating in a series of seminars on water ecology. Lily Ward, James Moore and Blake Sherry were national finalists in the Model United Nations Assembly held in Canberra.

This year has also been the year of the Digital Education Revolution, and the arrival of a laptop for each of our Year 9 students, with successive Year 9 students to receive their laptops over the next few years. We have also been able to communicate with other schools in NSW, interstate and overseas through our new Connected Classroom. These are indeed exciting times!

As the year draws to a close, Jonathan Baker has been selected for the Australian Youth Orchestra and SBS Youth Orchestra, Elizabeth Cameron has achieved a Regional Award for Excellence in Student Leadership and our school has received a Regional Award for Excellence in School Achievement in Science Education.



These diverse achievements, along with so many other awards of excellence, reflect the high regard that our school, our students and our staff are held in our community, as well as the depth of talent, enthusiasm and passion for learning that characterise our students. My thanks and congratulations to our wonderful students, staff and parents for their outstanding contributions to our school. As our fifth decade as a school draws to a close, we should be very proud of Penrith High School's achievements to date, and we are looking forward to our special 60th Diamond Anniversary year in 2010.

Altiora Peto

Wendy De Paoli
Principal

Deputy Principals

The production of the Towers is a labour of love. I would like to congratulate and thank the Towers team for their outstanding effort and commitment to preserving the memories of 2009.

This year we continued to promote "Student Voice". This initiative, led by the SRC, began in 2008. This year 200 students from PHS and other local schools discussed various topical issues. Their opinions were compiled by Elizabeth Cameron and sent to the relevant state and federal politicians. Our students have their voices heard and make a difference for their future.

All the Year Advisers deserve special thanks for their work in supporting students and developing their leadership skills. The Year 8 & 10 camps were again major highlights for the students and staff with

2009 has been a year of achievement. One aspect of school life I wish to focus on is the Library.

I would firstly like to acknowledge the tremendous effort the Towers Roll Call group has made in order to produce such a fine quality magazine. Several weeks ago I was in the Library at 4.45pm one afternoon and there they were, a team of students with Mrs Beves working on this year's production. That is what I call enthusiasm! Membership is across Years 7 -12 and they are a dedicated group of students who are absolutely focussed on excellence in the edition of The Towers yearbook. They have been able to do this with success because of their commitment. This year we were privileged to be joined by Florian Lichtin,

many memorable moments of bravery and strength as well as funny moments.

A focus this year has been the strengthening of support for our senior students, Year 12 in particular, with the continuation of career and university seminars organized by Mrs Zugajev. Some other initiatives include teacher mentors, groups reflecting on personal performance and lunchtime seminars on study skills, stress management and time management. This year's Year 12 students have a deep commitment to each other and a high level of maturity and I wish them well in their chosen careers.

2009 has been an amazing year filled with extraordinary achievements. Congratulations to all and I look forward to an even brighter 2010.

*Robyn Asboth
Deputy Principal*

our Swiss exchange student. Florian has provided a unique Swiss perspective to this production. The Towers reflects the high level of achievement across a very broad range of activities in which our students enjoy participating throughout the year. Each year our school calendar becomes more eventful, hence the importance of the yearbook as a record to remind us of past important events well into the future.

Congratulations to all those who have helped make 2009 a year to remember.

This yearbook reflects why Penrith High School is such a fantastic working environment for both staff and students.

*Brian Kirkby
Deputy Principal*

SRC REPORT

The 2008-2009 SRC is to be congratulated on a most successful year. Under the immaculate leadership of Aasta Laurie, the council was able to organise and wondrously execute numerous events, from promoting leadership and taking initiative to putting on a rocking disco. Variety Night 08 was one of the special highlights of the year with a great response from the audience for the superb acts of the night. As we moved into the year 2009, the first semester was packed with events to organise, with School Spirit Week first on the list followed by the Winter Disco, both events being massive sensations. The council also took part in the 2020 leadership summit led by school captain Elizabeth Cameron, with issues like the increasing of school leaving age on the agenda. The SRC also worked and continues to work alongside the school's Carbon Neutral Committee to reduce the school's carbon footprint. The council thanks the 2008-2009 SRC representatives and heartily welcomes the succeeding 2009-2010 reps.

Mandish Kalsi