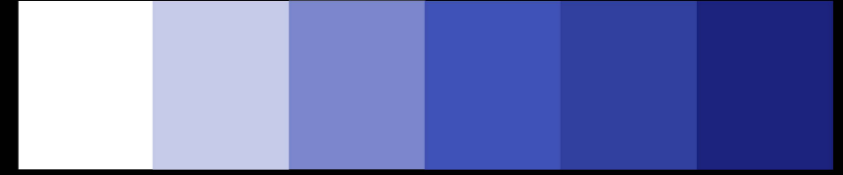




Penrith Selective High School — TOWERS 2017



PENRITH SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL

TOWERS 2017



ALTIORA PETO





Making Memories

Celebrating memories and honouring achievements are two of the most valuable aspects of being at Penrith Selective High School.

This is **TOWERS**, our annual school magazine crafted "by students, for students". We bring together the A-Z of memories and achievements seen throughout the year, and showcase why every student at Penrith is proud to be here.

In 2017, we recognise that our school motto, **ALTIORA PETO**, is what drives each of these memories and achievements.

We are **Striving for the Highest**.

Cover design by
Jas Kapadia, Year 12

From the Principal's Desk

MR. MARK LONG

IT is with great pleasure that I write the Principal's report for the 2017 Towers Magazine. This publication is a long running tradition that has captured the achievements of the school for many years.

2017 has been a year of adjustments, deep thinking and rigorous planning to ensure that we balance the day to day work of enabling every student to achieve their potential, whilst also planning for how we will continue to shape and position ourselves as a leading high school in the coming 5-10 years.

We welcomed two new Deputy Principals, Mrs Tracey Cunningham and Mr Brian Ferguson. Mrs Cunningham joined our school as an experienced Deputy Principal in Queensland who most recently had been leading a number of curriculum projects with NES (Formerly the NSW Board of Studies). Mr Ferguson was a long serving Head Teacher Mathematics and has added a huge depth to the work across the school.

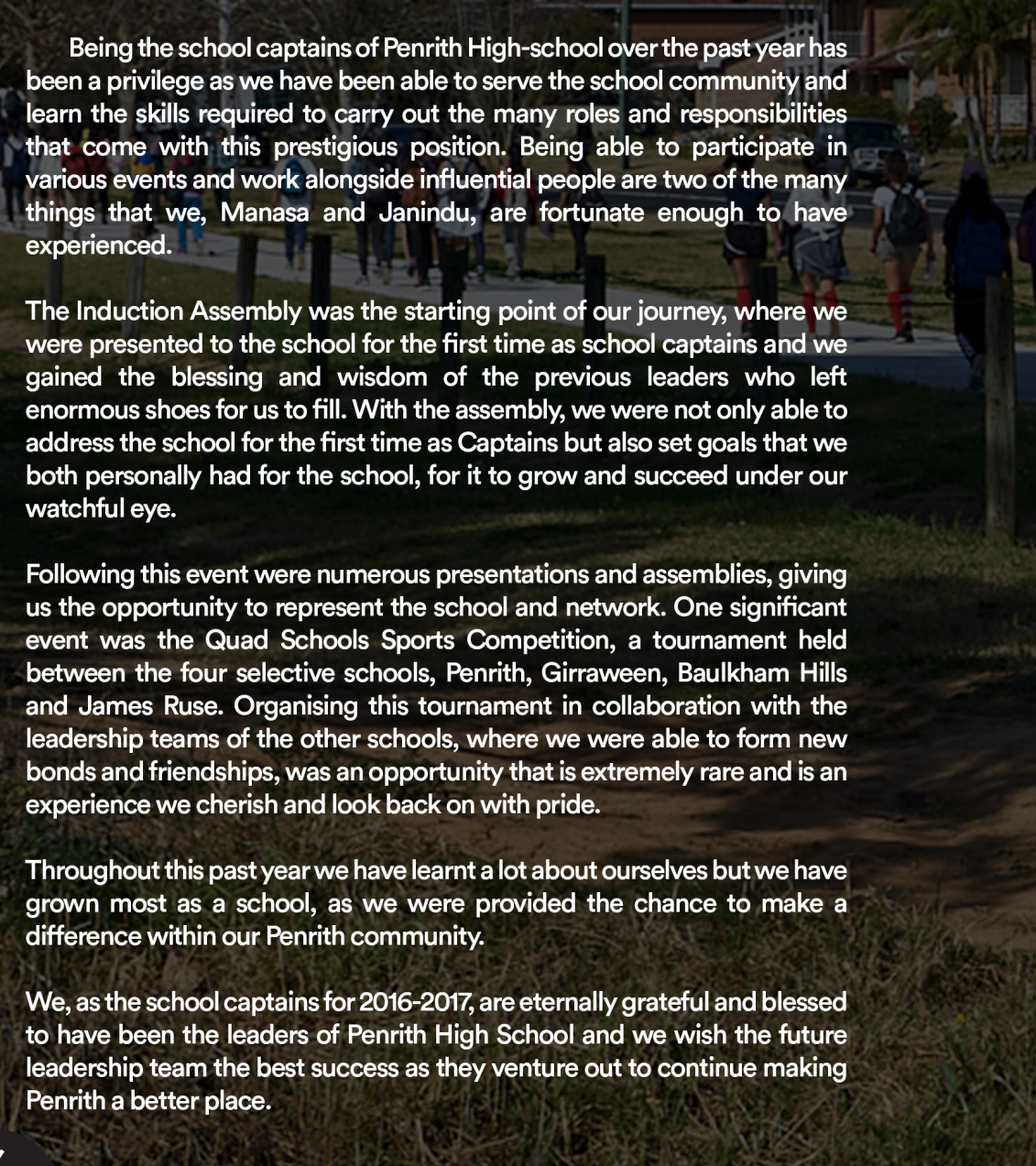
We continued to maintain a very high level of academic performance with the Class of 2016 achieving a median ATAR of 91.35. All 156 students were offered placement in universities and 147 students received offers of university places before their HSC exams. We look forward to seeing the results from the Class of 2017.

Student voice has continued to play a significant role in the life of the school. We have strategically looked to give multiple platforms for students to inform decisions and the reintroduction of the prefect body, the first since 1983 has been a wonderful addition and their work alongside the SRC and House Captains has been impressive and will continue to be so.

At a high performing selective high school like Penrith, it is challenging to capture all of the achievements of students when everyday there are students across Years 7-12 doing extraordinary things. The focussed work around student leadership has yielded so many unique opportunities and not a week has gone by that Penrith students aren't making an impact on global stages such as the Kokoda trail or exchanges or closer to home at Government house or at Parliament. Sport, the Arts and social justice ensure that students at Penrith are supported to be not only outstanding academically but also experienced in so many facets for their future lives and careers.

Our parents continue to be incredibly supportive, adaptable and unwavering in making Penrith a school that understands and respects our traditions whilst demonstrating adaptability to ensure students are prepared for a slightly uncertain, but definitely globalised world. In 2017, we have looked to strengthen our engagement with our alumni. As a school edging towards its 70th anniversary, we are so lucky to have leaders in almost every field. It has been enriching to welcome over 30 members of the alumni back for a range of events this year and we look forward to doing this even more in 2018.

Finally, I want to conclude by acknowledging the passing of Mr Jack Mullane, former Principal of Penrith from 1976- 1980. A pioneer and committed educator who was a member of the Mathematics teaching staff when the school opened in 1950. The 2017/18 Captains, Adam Evans and Grace Faulder joined our School Administration Manager Maria Ryan and I at his funeral in October this year.



Being the school captains of Penrith High-school over the past year has been a privilege as we have been able to serve the school community and learn the skills required to carry out the many roles and responsibilities that come with this prestigious position. Being able to participate in various events and work alongside influential people are two of the many things that we, Manasa and Janindu, are fortunate enough to have experienced.

The Induction Assembly was the starting point of our journey, where we were presented to the school for the first time as school captains and we gained the blessing and wisdom of the previous leaders who left enormous shoes for us to fill. With the assembly, we were not only able to address the school for the first time as Captains but also set goals that we both personally had for the school, for it to grow and succeed under our watchful eye.

Following this event were numerous presentations and assemblies, giving us the opportunity to represent the school and network. One significant event was the Quad Schools Sports Competition, a tournament held between the four selective schools, Penrith, Girraween, Baulkham Hills and James Ruse. Organising this tournament in collaboration with the leadership teams of the other schools, where we were able to form new bonds and friendships, was an opportunity that is extremely rare and is an experience we cherish and look back on with pride.

Throughout this past year we have learnt a lot about ourselves but we have grown most as a school, as we were provided the chance to make a difference within our Penrith community.

We, as the school captains for 2016-2017, are eternally grateful and blessed to have been the leaders of Penrith High School and we wish the future leadership team the best success as they venture out to continue making Penrith a better place.