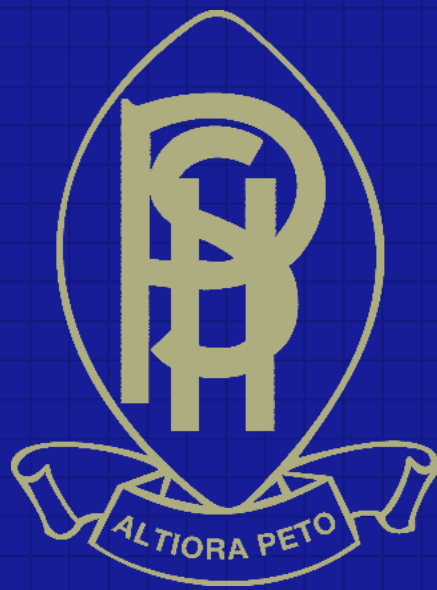


# THE TOWERS MAGAZINE

2018



THE  
TOWERS  
MAGAZINE  
PENRITH SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL



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# The Principal's Report



**Mark Long**  
**Principal**

It is with great pleasure that I contribute to Towers 2018 as it has been another fantastic year for the school.

The school year started with the entire school community reflecting and celebrating on the HSC success of the class of 2017. The group achieved more Band 6 results than any group before them and saw their cohort equal our best ever state ranking of 27<sup>th</sup> (improving from 32<sup>nd</sup> in 2016). The 27<sup>th</sup> ranking equalled the success of the class of 2010. Of course, the HSC class of 2017 like others who have come before them are much more than a 4 digit number and achieved and contributed in so many ways both within and beyond the school.

Across the school, I am in continual amazement at the work that students are achieving. Their work in classrooms and through the variety of clubs and co-curricular groups is impressive. There are now over 50 clubs running across the school and our model, where they are led by students or alumni with sponsorship by teaching staff who provide expert advice, has allowed many students to find their passions while often working with students from other year groups. Many of the reports in this addition of Towers will spotlight some of this rich, complex and collaborative work.

In March, we welcome two of the world's preeminent experts in Gifted Education, Susan Baum and Robin Schader. It gave incredible insightful into how we can continue to support all of the students at the school. This insight was also shared with a number of visiting teachers from across the selective schools network as well as guests from interstate and overseas.

Student achievement is evident every day a Penrith and is a reflection of the hard work by students and staff as well the incredible support offered by families. A key highlight, which is almost an impossible task, was the selection of Jamieson Berida of Year 9 into the Informatics Olympiad Summer School program. We look forward to knowing if he will make the Australian team for the Olympiad in Europe. Regardless, this is a monumental achievement.

Our playground areas have undergone significant upgrades thanks to the generosity of families who contribute both time and money. New seating and shade areas have been installed and a number of additional upgrades are planned for 2019. The students have enjoyed the new areas and have played a key part in the decision making process.

As we approach our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020, it has been wonderful to welcome back many members of the school's alumni. The Prefects, our first body since 1983 spent a lot of time engaging with and learning about the history. The school has such a unique history as both a comprehensive and selective school and the digitisation of every published edition of this wonderful publication, Towers, should be online for all to see by December 2018.

Well done to the entire school community for another successful year. It is an absolute privilege to be the Principal at Penrith.

Mark Long

# The Captain's Report

By Adam Evans and Grace Faulder  
School Captains 2017/18

Over the past year, Penrith Selective High School has undergone many changes that have allowed more students to be engaged in a wide range of opportunities across the school. As captains of the school's first prefect body since 1983, we have had the unique opportunity to work closely with staff and students for the improvement of the school community. We have hosted an array of new events including our first Prefect Afternoon Tea and Alumni Night, as well as school induction ceremonies. It was also our responsibility to organise and execute prefect initiatives, such as World Teacher's Day, Comedy for a Cause and Mental Health Awareness (MHAY) Day.

In this role, we have been fortunate enough to represent the school's student body on numerous occasions. Last November, we represented the School at the Q&A School Special, along with our vice captains, and 6 other year 12 students. This gave students the opportunity to meet politicians and ask questions regarding education and youth employment.

Last year, we were invited to take part in a soil collection service for the Centenary of ANZAC, along with other school leaders, retired servicemen and women, Minister for Veterans Affairs David Elliott and Member for Penrith Stuart Ayres. More recently, we attended Penrith RSL's ANZAC student service, laying a wreath along with many other school leaders from the greater Penrith area. These events allowed us to pay our respects, on behalf of the school, to past and current servicemen and women, and the sacrifices made to serve our country.

Through our commitment to community service, we received invitations to Penrith Mayor Councillor John Thain's 2018 Secondary School Leaders Civic Reception, and to a Youth Leadership Day at Sydney's Parliament House. It was very rewarding to receive recognition our involvement in both our school and local community. Unfortunately we were unable to attend the event at Parliament House, but we would like to thank our Vice Captain Sujin Kim for travelling to Sydney in our absence.

We would like to thank all of the staff and students at Penrith for their ongoing support. In particular we would like to thank Mr Long, Mr Ferguson, Mrs Cunningham and Ms Ryan for their organisation, insight and experience. We'd also like to thank the leaders who worked alongside us throughout our tenure. Our prefect body, SRC representatives and House Captains have all contributed greatly to the positive changes happening in our school and local community. Special thanks to our Vice Captains Sujin and Peter, as well as SRC Executives Aryenish and Lachlan for their dedication and hard work. We are very proud of what we have been able to achieve, and it wouldn't have been possible without the help of the great support network around us.



From left to right: Sujin Kim, Adam Evans, Grace Faulder, Peter Nichols

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# The P & C Report

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## By P & C

The P&C has been very active at Penrith Selective High.

Thank you for making your P&C Contributions each year which allows us to help the school in many areas.

P&C has donated/ sponsored the following:

- Donated \$30,000 for new outdoor furniture
- Donated \$30,000 to purchase and install air conditioning devices to the remaining 6 class rooms

In addition:

- P&C representatives assisted the school with the curriculum committee and interview panels
- the P&C appointed a new canteen manager, **Loretta Sharman**
- the P&C held a fundraising food stall during Multicultural Day

**Updated P&C Office Bearers for 2018 – 2019 are:**

- **President** – Praba Prabakaran (Maheswaran)
- **Vice-President** - Anu Prakash (previously Freda Wilson-Williams)
- **Vice-President** – Jagadesh Subburayalu
- **Secretary** – Malcolm Heath
- **Treasurer** – Shivkumar Ramachandran
- **Auditor** – Janine Peters

**Non-Executive Members:**

- Danielle McLoon
- Prakash Rajasundram (Assistant Secretary & IT)
- Chirantan Pandya
- David Shead
- Sanjeevan Thanabalasingam
- Mamta Alajpur
- Aslyn Chand
- Dipa Khan
- Komal Kalyani
- Arvindhan Siva
- Mahendra Garnepodi