GOOD LUCK TO RIO IN LA!  
Rio Kang, Year 11, shows why he was chosen to join the three week Glee Club tour to Los Angeles this December.

GOOD EFFORT DEBATERS!  
The senior debating team won the Zone competition.
The senior debating team (Year 12) defeated Wiley Park Girls High and the Year 11 HBHS team to become Zone champions. They went on to be defeated in the Premiers Challenge semi-finals by Sefton High School. They delivered a fine performance and are to be congratulated on their effort. (Story inside.)

HBHS STATE FUTSAL REPRESENTATIVES  
Above: Homebush Boys played against the best in the State. (Story inside)
Welcome to another Bush Bulletin! At the time of writing we are about to farewell our year 12 as they start the final leg of their school journey. Students have completed their trial HSC exams and staff have written reports which show the fruit of many hundreds of hours of hard work and dedication. The school wishes all year 12 the very best of luck and we are sure that they will do very well.

This week some of the extraordinary HSC talent was on show for the markers. The year 12 Industrial Technology Timber class displayed some of their major works in the common room. These exquisite pieces of furniture are the products of many long hours of creative labour. They are a credit to the students and their mentor Mr Ben Crosweller.

Not to be outdone, our thespians turned on quite a show for the Drama markers when they presented their performances. According to teacher, Mr Paul Koff, “They nailed it!” The students then performed their pieces on CAPA night to a very appreciative audience. On CAPA night the Year 12 music and visual arts students showcased their major works to friends, parents and staff. Music maestro, Mr Andrew Smith was overheard to say “I expect excellent HSC marks for these musicians”.

The visual arts Head Teacher, Mr Kim Attwood, proudly showed off his students’ works with a fabulous display in the hall. Art teachers Ms Audrey Juska and Mr Anthony Letsios both praised the quality of the works on display. To my eyes they appeared to be some of the best ever.

For our year 7 and 9 students it is also a tense time as their NAPLAN results arrive in the school in week 8. These national tests will demonstrate student skills in the literacy areas of writing, reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation as well as numeracy. Although this is only a small snapshot of student performance it guides the school in the allocation of resources so that if trends in the results show areas in need of development, they can be addressed and improved. All result envelopes will be posted home in week 9. The school will host an information evening in term 4, week 1 on Thursday October from 6.30pm in the Hall.

The “Great Book Swap” is “great” success. On Thursday 2 September, the Literacy Team, led by Mr Chabes Elaro, organised a wonderful initiative where students brought in “pre-loved” books to be swapped for $1 for other novels. Boys could also buy a book for $2. This not only helped literacy (reading) in our school but the funds raised were donated to assist the Indigenous Students Literacy funds. We are sure that this wonderful celebration of reading will become an important literacy event in the school calendar. Mr Elaro exclaimed, “Once a year? No way sir! Every term!” showing his strong support for the project. This was well supported by staff who donated many books and worked very hard especially Mr Ron Tedford, Ms Marianna Lacek, Ms Jenelle Horiatopoulo and Mr Andrew Fairley.

Congratulations to the Prefects. Our outgoing Prefects have done a fantastic job under the superb leadership of Captain Dennis Griffen-Colls, with Vice-Captain Tom Burton and with the support of Senior Prefect Jackson Hua. These young men have worked tirelessly and have been a credit to the school. It is with great pleasure that we greet the new breed of Prefects led by Captain Erkan Altun, Vice-Captain Ben Eisokovitch and Senior Prefect Patrick Gallagher. These young men have been prominent as student leaders and will be fabulous representatives for the school.

Our students love their sport and also their computers so it isn’t surprising that the boys have combined these skills in the Robocup competition. In the state final we came second in a gripping match which involved playing soccer with robots that the students have built and programmed. We wish the team well in the National titles in Canberra in late September. Read the fascinating article by Tom Goth-Towney on this great sport later in the Bulletin.

Iftar at Homebush During the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, the Muslim students of at Homebush have been fasting from dawn to dusk. Iftar, refers to the evening meal when families break their fast. Iftar is a religious ceremony and the meal is often shared with as a community. We have been very fortunate at Homebush because our students invited staff and non-Muslim students to share this excellent ceremony (and the beautiful food!). Thanks to the very hard working organisers especially Maths teacher Ms Dounya Fattouh and Prefect Omar Ibrahim, who was the excellent master of ceremonies. It is sure that this will become a special event on our calendar.

Tim Jurd
**HELPING LEARNER DRIVERS BECOME SAFER DRIVERS**

Strathfield Council and the RTA are offering a free two-hour workshop for parents and supervisors of learner drivers on Wednesday 22 September 2010.

The workshop will provide practical advice about:
- new laws for learner and P-plate drivers.
- how to use the new Learner Driver Log Book
- how to plan on-road driving sessions and supervise learner drivers
- understanding the benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.

Participants will also receive a resource folder with a reusable calendar to plan on-road driving practice, a multi-media Young Driver CD, frequently asked questions sheet and further information for both supervisors and learner drivers.

### Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers

**Wednesday 22 September 2010**

**Strathfield Community Centre**

1b Bates Street, Homebush

6.30pm – 8.30pm

**Bookings are essential, please phone Strathfield Council’s Road Safety Officer on 9748 9606 today to secure your place.**

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**SCIENCE EXCURSION**

Sixty Year 7 and 8 students from the top science classes recently returned from an incredibly successful camp to our nation’s capital, Canberra. These students accepted the invitation to take part in the annual Science Festival activities which included visiting some of the most tremendous science education venues in our country.

This year the camp included sessions at Questacon, the Australian Institute of Sport, the CSIRO Discovery Centre, the Arboretum and the Canberra Deep Space Communications Complex. But it was at Geosciences Australia where Homebush Boys High School really left their mark.

To commemorate the visit, a layer of sediment was added to an artificial sedimentary rock column by Tony Lee of Year 8. The date and layer number was recorded in the official visitor’s book for all of geological eternity! Students then examined rare rocks, gems and minerals and produced tremors that were recorded on an actual seismograph.

**Daniel Collis**

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Left: Scenes from the Canberra Excursion.
COMMUNICATORS IN THE MAKING

On Friday the 30th of July, Pete Upatising and Scott Worthington represented their school in the Legacy Public Speaking Competition. There were 16 competitors with representatives from MLC to James Ruse.

The topics were free to select and they ranged from Bacteria to a Dangerous Creature. There was also an impromptu section with the topic If only…. The eventual winners were not from Homebush but were from MLC, James Ruse and Model Farms. It was a great speech that the winner made and when he said he wanted to be a motivational speaker, we had little doubt he would be.

Ms. Sahay who coordinated the activity stated that Pete and Scott performed admirably and gained great experience by participating. Since Pete is in Year 8 and Scott is in Year 9 they will be able to put to good use the skills they developed as result of their participation in their senior school years.

Some Good News Bits from Homebush

The Australian Mathematics Challenge – the school sponsored the entry of 37 talented maths students in this prestigious competition. The results were fantastic and students were awarded 16 Credits, 6 Distinctions and 2 High Distinctions.

On Thursday 19 August a number of Year 10 students received certificates of achievement as part of the school’s Youth Transition Program. This program builds on the School to work Program introduced in Year 9 and the workshops deal with topics such as Workplace Learning, Qualities that Count with Employers and Working Safely. Mr Tom Pinkey stated, “a major aim of this program is to encourage students to realize the relevance of their current schooling to their future choices, including TAFE, University or employment.”

Erkan Altun (11) is to be congratulated on his selection to the National Youth Science Forum in January 2011 to represent Rotary District 9690. Erkan, the SRC President for Homebush, will attend the forum in Canberra for 12 days and has been supported by Rotary, his school and his mates who ran a very successful sausage sizzle to cover his costs and expenses.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD PROGRAM

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is a program open to students aged 14-25. The Award is a self-development program which encourages young people to set and achieve goals at a range of levels.

There are four sections that must be completed for a young person to qualify for an Award: Volunteering, Skills, Physical Recreation and Adventurous Journeys. These activities provide an opportunity for students to acquire and develop skills and build initiative and self esteem which will help them become more confident and contributing members of the community.

Participants design their own program by selecting activities they are interested in, setting their own goals and striving to achieve to their own potential. The Award has three levels- Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Currently approximately 30 students are participating in this program. A range of Volunteer activities are being undertaken including working after school in the Peer Tutoring Program. This requires the students to help students improve their literacy and reading skills and requires them to mentor a student each week.

The skills that students in this program are undertaking include school activities such as Drum Corps and School Journalism. Other students undertake activities outside of school including Air force Cadets to gain these skills.

The Physical Activities that students are completing include participation in Grade Sports teams, Rowing, Cycling and Walking. This requires the students to have a commitment of 1 hour a week in this section.

The next Adventurous Journey will be held on Thursday 16th – Saturday 18th September. This requires the students to walk from Little Wobby to Somersby. They have to carry all their own equipment and camp overnight. It is a challenge as participants are required to walk between 10-17km per day.

If students are interested in joining the program they need to speak to Mrs Middleton for more information.

Mrs Middleton
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator
CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS

On a cold and wet Thursday night, 1st July Jared Wee, Steven Grasion and Ashvin Ashok joined the Ceremony Co-ordinator, Mrs Murray at the Strathfield Town Hall to host the recent Strathfield Citizenship Ceremony.

This event is held four times per year. Homebush Boys High School supplies the work force, namely Year 12 Prefects, our school parents donate several plates of food for the event and HBHS receive a contribution from Strathfield Council to their P & C fundraising ventures.

Without the generosity of the school community we could not participate in this venture so it is crucial that we have at least 40 families helping out with a plate of food each time.

If you would like to join our current team of parents, please keep the following dates in your diary.

Thursday 16th September 2010
Thursday 4th November 2010

Just send your yummy donation to the school office before 10.00am on these days.

If you would like any information please contact Fiona Murray on 0413 429 415.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2010

Week 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>VET Award/HSC Music Performance (6th-7th)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Yr 9 Geography excursion -Homebush Bay wetlands</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Period rotation: 3412</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Yr 7 French excursion - La Perouse</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Yr 9 Geography excursion Homebush Bay wetlands</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Yr 10 ‘Cheap Thrills’ Periods 7-8 New Gym</td>
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Week 9

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Trial School Certificate - English &amp; Science</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Yr 12 PDHPE Olympic Park:9-11</td>
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<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Trial School Certificate - Maths/History-Geography</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Yr 12 PDHPE Olympic Park:12-2</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Period rotation: 1234/Trial SC PD/H/PE</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>PD/H/PE: Jump off day/Comp. Skills p1-4</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Yr 7 Languages excursion/Yr 12 PDHPE Olympic</td>
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<td>Park:10.30-12</td>
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Week 10

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<th>Prefect Camp</th>
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<tr>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Prefect camp/ Medieval Day P1-6. Yrs 7 &amp; 8/NAPLAN</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>School Council/P&amp;C meeting</td>
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<td>Prefect Camp/P1-4 Workshop ‘School to Work’</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Period rotation: 3412</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Hall set up</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Yr 12 Farewell-Presentation Evening</td>
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TERM 4 (11th October-17th December 2010)

Week 1

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<th>October</th>
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|          | HSC begins |

Week 2

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<th>October</th>
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<th>WORK PLACEMENT ITVET</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Yr 7 Geography Blue Mountains</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Period Rotation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Yr 11 Report distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Trivia Night</td>
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<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Art marking 25/10-5/11/Yr Geography Sydney</td>
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<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Aquarium and Imax</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Period Rotation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUBMISSIONS TO BUSH BULLETIN

If you wish to submit a photograph or article to the BB please send it to Mr Bill Hilliard’s email address:
william.hilliard@det.nsw.edu.au &
Read about the local news at http://rhodester.com.au
At a time when Year 12 students are undertaking the most crucial period leading up to their HSC, again I can’t stress enough the importance of attendance and attempting past HSC exams under exam conditions. This is crucial not only in my Faculty area, English, but also in all other KLA’s.

A student can improve his HSC results, and subsequently, his ATAR, dramatically in those precious few weeks between the trial HSC and the HSC proper. Can I reiterate that attendance is compulsory to all lessons. The English staff will undertake revision programmes and reinforce exam procedures in order for your son to maximize his performance in the HSC.

Most importantly, a student should be practising essays under exam conditions, ie 40 minutes per response. This replication of the exam conditions is vital as it was a significant problem that the majority of students encountered in the trial HSC exams.

The results of the Spelling and Writing competitions recently arrived in the school. For the Spelling Competition, which was attempted only by Year 7 students, over 43% of the students achieved a credit or distinction – a very pleasing result.

The students who achieved distinction certificates were Vignesh Bhargava, Srinivas Byreddy, James Cai and Vincent Chung.

In the Writing Competition, which was open to all years, we had over 40 of the candidates achieve a credit or better. The distinction certificates were awarded to Kevin Dao, David Gajic, Cameron Shir-King and Pete Upatising, all from Year 8. From Year 9 gagan Jalandhra, Leandros Pandoulis, Burney Wong and Scott Worthington were awarded distinctions. In Year 9, Achintya Chavan and Aleks Wynne were the recipients of distinction certificates. Frank Day, from Year 10, was honoured with a High Distinction, a tremendous achievement.

Congratulations to all the students who entered and I hope to see more students get involved in these competitions next year. A side note, I am hoping to have the English Competition results ready for the next Bush Bulletin.

Can I remind you of the importance of reading at home on a regular basis! Your son should be reading for at least 30 minutes per night. All students in years 7 – 9 have a wide reading programme in English which requires regular reading of novels that the students choose.

Cheiban Elaro
English Head of Department

In 2010, the Senior (Yr 12) debating team set out to beat our previous record of being semi-finalists, a feat we were so close to accomplishing. Despite a few close calls, we managed to become zone champions, which is not easy against competition like Wiley Park Girls and our very own Homebush B (Yr 11) team.

Having learnt a few tips along the way (including the terribly difficult task of zipping it), we continued on in the high-stakes Premier’s Debating Challenge. Unfortunately, the past repeated itself and we lost to Sefton High in the semi-finals (same round and same team; a bad case of déjà vu). In the end though, we walked away with great experiences and memories that we will look back on fondly in the future.

The team this year had a new speaker – Satyajeet Marar (1st speaker). The rest of the team remained the same: Ashvin Ashok (1st speaker; team advisor), Shivayan Saravanapavanathan (2nd speaker), Vignesh Iyer (3rd speaker), and Dhananjay Pandya (team advisor). Ms. Porteous was our coach this year and has been since Year 8. She has been with us through thick and thin, and provided us with constructive feedback to develop our skills, and break the school record thrice! Although this is our final year, we will cherish our memories from ‘back in those days’.

Vignesh Iyer, Ashvin Ashok

The Senior Debating Team: Vignesh, Satyajeet, Ashvin, Dhananjay and Shivayan with Ms Porteous.

On Wednesday the 25th of August all students who completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge had the opportunity to participate in a video conference with the famous author Jackie French.

Jackie French’s writing career spans over 17 years. Forty eight wombats, 132 books, 23 languages, 3,721 bush rats are some of the books she has written and received over 50 awards in Australia and overseas. She has also written six possibly insane lyrebirds, assorted ‘Burke’s Backyard’ segments, radio shows, newspaper and magazine columns, and theories of pest and weed ecology.

It was a fantastic opportunity for all students, learning about her career and what inspired her to start writing novels. The students got an opportunity to understand how she decides how her stories should turn out. She also encouraged us to write and also advised us to only write about something that we are passionate about.

Sarankan Suresh-Kumar

VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH JACKIE FRENCH
RIO GOES TO LOS ANGELES

Sixteen year old Year 10 student at our school, Rio Kang, was recently selected to participate in a three week Glee club tour to Los Angeles this December.

The tour is being organised by the Australian Institute of Performing Arts which has its Sydney base at Naremburn.

Rio is an exceptionally gifted vocalist whose technique and stage skills have been developed over the past two years through the Department of Education and Training Arts Unit’s Voceworkz and Talent Identification Program.

Homebush Boys High School has also contributed to Rio’s development through holding Voice Masterclasses at its annual Performing Arts Camp. Talented singers gain the benefit of intensive tuition from multi Mo Award and Peter Allan Award winner Stephen Fisher-King whose participation has been gratefully sponsored by the Rotary Club of Strathfield. Veteran Australian performer, Patricia Amphlett (“Little Pattie”), has also directed vocal workshops at Camp.

Rio has performed regularly at major school functions such as the annual Presentation Night and Opening of the New Gymnasium. He has also performed for local community events such as the Inner West Youth Concert organised by Strathfield Council last June and Strathfield Rotary’s Christmas celebrations.

When in the USA Rio will be working with some of LA’s finest choreographers, composers, musical directors and vocal coaches. For young performers like Rio the trip is the opportunity of a lifetime.

The tour itinerary includes recording and mixing of an original song, performances at Universal Studios and Disneyland, casting director workshops (Glee! And Hanna Montana) and sight-seeing.

The group’s tour will be the subject of a documentary entitled “Bright Lights”. The film will follow successful applicants through from audition to the final performance in Los Angeles.

Congratulations Rio! Everyone at school wishes you the best on your trip to Los Angeles at the end of the year.

UNDER 15’S BASKETBALL KNOCKOUT

A dedicated group of basketballers made up a dream team for this competition. The first round against Cherrybrook was greeted with a large audience. Jonah Bolden led the team with confidence to a win with a 50 point lead. Some memorable plays included Alex Weregola and Justin Cheng fast breaks and teamwork.

Round 2 against Freshwater was held in the new gym. The team was comfortable with the court and the support of their friends. Youssef Morgan impressed his peers with some great shots whilst Justin Shon and Steven Luo worked hard to get rebounds for the team. Another huge score gave the team a boost.

Round 3 against Killara led to another win. Tim Han, Addam Stone, Victor Le and William Park supported the other players in this win.

Unfortunately Round 4 against our local rivals Ashfield led to us being knockout of the competition. We tried hard but sadly Ashfield was just better on the day.

A great season with some memorable moments and enthusiastic player led to a great competition. Well done to all.

Mrs Middleton

UNDER 15’S RUGBY UNION

A slow start to the season with no try in the first game led to a concern about how the season would be. Once Omar Abdul-Rahman scored in the second game, the team developed a drive to succeed and win games.

Omran Allam’s season ended quickly after a broken arm in a tackle in the first three weeks leaving the team down a player. Under the leadership of Corey King and with Tevita Moeakiola moving to the 2nd row, the team began to work together which led to them finishing 3rd for the season.

Mohamad Zreika and Brian Dowling worked hard in the front row making a number of tackles against some solid players. They were supported by the other forwards Philip Maxwell, Bilal Abdul-Rahman, Adam Sayed, Ali Baddah, Lachlan Mackintosh and Sam Itaoui.

The speedy backline included Brandon Vuong, Khaled Allazze, Aydin Cochrane, William Dowsley, Matthew Penfold, Anthony Phan, Lachlan Nelson, Jerry Miao, Adrian Mak and Anil Bhandari thrust their energy into their roles to help support the forwards.

Congratulations to the team for their hard work under some difficult conditions during the season.

Mrs Middleton
The NSW competition for Robocup Jn was held last Thursday and Friday (26th and 27th August) at UNSW. Homebush boys had entered in two teams this year, The Blues Brothers and HBHS Senior.

On the first day neither of the teams did that well as the arena was not only different to last years and the one we built and practised on but this year, unknown to us there were different variables than we’d been expecting (They’d turned on the bright lights). Luckily most teams weren’t prepared for this and so no teams did particularly well, but the fact remained that we still didn’t have proper functioning robots.

After a very late night, and early morning, the teams were ready for the business end of the competition. Thankfully the lights were turned off due to all the malfunctions, which made our new program and slightly modified robots even more effective.

The Blues Brothers team had a problem with their second robot however and were only able to play one of the two robots on the field for their first games. Despite this they only lost the first game 1-0 and managed to win the second game 7-4. However due to the rules in the competition they were not allowed to continue and instead the team that they beat 7-4 went through. Another problem was that a team member from HBHS senior had to leave for other sporting commitments and his robot did not work, at all.

At this we merged our two teams together, each of the functioning robots being used whilst we continued to try and fix the other robots, which we only got to work after the competition. But with that we went undefeated until the grand final, where we lost 5-1.

For the third year in a row our school has managed second place in the state tournament. Last year we managed to grab 9th in the nationals. In about four weeks we will be headed out to Canberra with a team of three (Oliver Buckley, Thomas Goth-Towney and Lachlan Foster, team name to be advised) in hope of beating that score.

Thomas Goth-Towney

A number of Year 10 students at the beginning of the year were given the opportunity to take part in a school program to assist students in their decision-making process concerning their post-school options.

The Youth Transition Program builds on the School To Work Program introduced in Year 9 and their Study Skills Program, which they undertake at the beginning of each year. A major aim of this program is to encourage students to realise the relevance of their current schooling to their future choices, including TAFE, University or employment.

The students have been working with teacher mentors to develop resources, such as a resume, to keep in a portfolio to assist them when they leave school. Also students during Term 2 took part in the “Work Ready Program” undertaking modules of work, such as Workplace Learning, Qualities that count with Employers and Working Safely, that will assist them in their transition from school to work. The workshops were run by Annabel Chapman, Year 10 Adviser and Coordinator of the Transition Program, Caitlin Dwyer, Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning and Career Adviser, Tom Pinkey.

That the school values this program is evident by the attendance of the senior executive Principal Tim Jurd and Deputy Principals Caitlin Dwyer and Bill Hilliard at the presentation meeting to recognise the students’ achievements. Tim Jurd congratulated the students on their efforts and awarded the students with their Work Ready Certificates. More photographs are available in Gallery under Year 10 Transition Program.
This year, some 37 students from the junior secondary years attempted the prestigious Australian Mathematics Challenge (organised by the Australian Mathematical Olympiad Committee and the University of Canberra).

Their entry fee was subsidised by the school’s Excellence Fund, a fund established to assist students financially in their endeavours to challenge themselves to greater achievement in their particular area of skill.

The results were fantastic and show the calibre of the students which are attracted to and extended by Homebush Boys.

Of the 37 students, 16 achieved a Credit; 6 achieved a Distinction and 2 were awarded High Distinctions.

Congratulations to all the participants and thanks go to the Excellent Fund for the generous assistance.

In 2011, the Challenge continues…!

### 2010 RESULTS

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<tr>
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<th>Junior (8 &amp; 9)</th>
<th>Intermediate (9 &amp; 10)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Distinction</strong></td>
<td>Vidhushan PAHEERATHAN (8)</td>
<td>Henry LIANG (9)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Distinction</strong></td>
<td>Andrew CHAU (8)</td>
<td>David HO (9)</td>
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<td>Grant CHOI (8)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bassel RANA (8)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adithya SRIRAM (8)</td>
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<td>Anuraj TALATI (8)</td>
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<td>Krishnath MAHARASA (8)</td>
<td>Kelwin TANG (10)</td>
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<td><strong>Participation</strong></td>
<td>Daniel YUAN (7)</td>
<td>Andrew TRUONG (10)</td>
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<td>Danny LEE (8)</td>
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Homebush Boys High Year 10 student Bilal Taha was recently selected to participate in a High Performance AFL Camp in Melbourne in preparation for the National Under 16’s Championships.

He played for the World XVIII coached by Michael O’Loughlin and Chris Johnson.

Michael O’Loughlin described Bilal as a pleasure to coach and an absolute joy to watch!

Bilal gained an enormous amount from this experience - not only did he improve his AFL skills but he met young people from all over the world.
HBHS PLAYS AGAINST BEST IN STATE

On August 12 and 14 the Homebush Boys U14 and U16 Futsal teams competed in the State Championships at Penrith Sports Stadium.

Both teams had qualified through the Marrickville Regional Championships and this saw them placed in the top 24 teams in the state. This was a huge achievement in itself and was the result of a lot of training and preparation by both players and coaches.

Both teams performed admirably against some of the best players, and teams, in the state. The U14’s were very unlucky not to progress to the quarter finals after winning two of their three games. While there were some standout performers, such as David Gajic and Harry Griffin-Colls, the whole team showed the teamwork and technique that bodes well for the future. According to keen spectators, the highlight was an absolute “screamer” scored by Matt Cook.

The U16 team topped their group winning all of their games. The standout match was a narrow 3-2 win over a very talented Endeavour Sports outfit. “The Endeavour team had some fantastic technical players,” said the Homebush coach, “but our defence just shut them out of the game”. Brian Griffin-Colls was a standout at the back while man-of-the-match Eddie Kadayifci provided thrust up front to keep the Endeavour team on the back foot.

These good early results saw the U16’s progress to the quarter finals. This achievement meant that Homebush was placed in the top eight teams in the state; no small achievement for a comprehensive high school and a true indication of the depth of sporting talent at this school.

The match itself was a dramatic and tense contest. Conceding a goal early on, Homebush battled to restore parity and needed to wait until the final seconds before Omer Cenk scored one of the goals of the tournament off a Peter Totidis throw. This threw the game into extra time but a short lapse in concentration saw Homebush concede what turned out to be the decisive goal.

The team captain, Rustam Mia said, “Everyone in the team had been waiting three years for this day so we were all really tense. No-one is happy with the result but we managed to do well even without playing at our best.” One of the highlights was the way “everyone stuck together” even after the disappointing loss. It is of this great attitude that the school is especially proud.

Obviously the team played better than the boys themselves thought as two of them, Brian Griffin-Colls and Rustam Mia, were selected to play for the state team that will tour New Zealand in December. This is an extraordinary achievement given how far the team progressed and the understated Rustam says he is “really happy” with this opportunity.

Mr Fairley

THE CLOSE THE GAP CONFERENCE

On Monday, August 30th, eight boys from year 9 attended the “Close the Gap” conference at NSW Parliament House.

This was a prestigious event designed to showcase school and community based efforts at working towards reconciliation.

In particular, the conference considered programs to close the 17 year gap in life expectancy and other features of disadvantage between between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Australians.

The boys who attended the conference had been researching Aboriginal reconciliation in their History Elective class. Nayan, Mahmoud and Piragaash delivered an excellent presentation on the practical activities undertaken at Homebush Boys this year in Aboriginal education, including the inclusion of welcome to country at all school events, class research projects and fundraising for Aboriginal literacy programs.

The boys who attended the conference were Piragaash Sivapatham, Iamo Guru, Serge Houhlias, James Burton, Nayan Bhathela, David Hu, Mahmoud Ayish and Leondras Pandoulis.

The Equity team

Our team of Year 9 boys who attended the “Close the Gap” conference at NSW Parliament House.
THE STONE

Below is a story written by William Hongmin ZHU of Year 7. This is the continuation of an excerpt from ‘The Stone’ by Anthony Holcroft.

There appeared to be nobody at home…

I was worried, because hunting was not permitted in this town; anyone who did so received a heavy fine or months in jail. I decided to explore more, hoping to get a clue on whether this was a rabbiter’s hut. I went inside again and saw that there were still hot ashes in the stove, which means that the hunter had recently left.

I walked to the backyard and uncovered heaps of fur under a huge piece of cloth. This clue aroused my suspicion, so I wandered inside the bedroom and looked under the wooden bed. What I saw stunned me; there was a complete armoury of weapons: a hunting rifle, three different types of knives which were all sharpened, and two full boxes of bullets.

Now I was sure that the hunter had left to hunt more rabbits, I was so scared and shocked that I stood there like a scarecrow for a minute. After I had calmed down a bit, I realised that I had just discovered some new evidence on illegal hunting. I had to tell someone.

I took off, down the stairs that were so uneven that I had to put all my concentration on them. Suddenly, a huge shadow loomed over me, I stopped for a second and looked up slowly with a racing heart. Before me was an ugly, burly man carrying a rifle and two rabbits.

The man had big furious eyes, a huge pointed nose and an over-all evil-looking face. We gazed at each other for a few seconds; me, scared to death and trying to work out a plan despite the nasty things going through my mind; the man on the other hand clearly puzzled yet alert. My body jolted when the monster made the first move, walking towards me, looking far from friendly. I desperately tried to think of a way to escape, if I just ran, the man had a rifle and had clearly understood the danger I represented. It was just a matter of time before I would get shot. It was too late; the man had drawn his rifle and was aiming it at my heart.

I had no choice but to reach into my pocket and hurl the olive-green stone at the man’s face. The stone hit him in the nose. He stumbled backwards and fell down the uneven stairs. I took the chance, with unstoppable tears rolling down my cheeks and I sprinted faster than I had ever done in my life. I ran and ran and ran, non-stop through the thick forest.

Finally, I ran out of energy and propped myself up on a thick tree trunk. I was still petrified, fearing the furious monster might catch up to me. But there was no sign of him. At this point I realised it was pouring with rain, but I was so scared that this didn’t even take up one little space in my mind. As I looked down at the ground, I saw something glowing amongst the matted leaves. It was a piece of pure green jade the size of my palm. I picked it up and was confused as to why the glow stopped once it was in my hands.

This was just the way Father had described it – this might be the best jade! Green mist was moving slowly inside it, like something magical. Excitement rose up inside me and almost overtook the fear but then I remembered this was no time now to examine a stone, so I stuffed it in my pocket and moved away slowly, dying to get home but having no energy to run.

Then, something so terrifying happened that it scared the living daylights out of me. I heard the sound of an explosion coming from a tree trunk next to me. It was deafening and I screamed at the top of my voice. Glancing back over my shoulders, I saw the huge brute about 100 metres away from me; blood trickling down his wet, red face. I got off my feet as he started to reload. That was when I made a careless mistake, in my haste to escape, I tripped over a thick, long branch, falling flat on my face. Now mud-covered and shaking violently with cold and fright, I could hardly think or move. The man moved closer towards me. I stood up slowly with fatigue and exhaustion. I tried to run again but the attempt sent a penetrating pain down my ankle and I fell over. I had twisted my ankle.

The pursuer was closing in on me now, he stopped and took aim. I closed my eyes, waiting to be shot. A loud shot rang out. I heard a metal clang on my body the moment he fired and at the same time, a wave of pain surged through my body. That was the most terrifying moment of my life, but I wasn’t dead. I opened my eyes and nearly fainted from shock.

My body was glowing green and rock hard. It was the stone! It protected me from getting shot. That was the magic that the stone released. Suddenly I felt stronger than ever. The gunman’s jaws nearly touched the ground from shock. For a brief moment he stared at me with eyes that were no longer evil but scared and shocked. At last evil took over again, he aimed at me and readied to shoot.
THE STONE continued from previous page.

I knew the stone was protecting me, but I didn’t fancy another shot in the head. The monster shot again, the bullet coming straight for my head. Everything was in slow motion and I could see the bullet moving towards me and jumped at the last minute. To my surprise again, the jump was as high as the tallest tree’s canopy but despite the height, I landed like a feather. I punched the gunman in the stomach before he could even have his jaw back up. He flew about five metres into the air and landed with a terrible thud. He didn’t get up.

I rushed to him, hoping he wasn’t dead. I crouched and felt his pulse. It was still beating so I let out a big breath of relief. I jumped up and landed on the tree which had the biggest and strongest leaves and pulled some off. I landed and lifted the man with one hand, propping him against a tree trunk. Then I twisted the leaves and vines together to make a rope. With this, I tied the man onto the tree trunk, making sure that the leaves wouldn’t snap.

After I had finished, I sat down in the muddy ground to have a rest and the stone accidentally dropped out of my pocket. I was picking it up when I realised that I was back in human form, a normal 13 year old kid. But when I picked it up again, I was transformed back to the green, super human form. I was relieved and happy that I had restrained the mad killer, but I still couldn’t believe what had just happened.

I suddenly realised that I needed to get some help, so I stood up and put the best jade in my pocket. I sprinted all the way home without looking back.
On 6th September 2010, students from Year 7, 8, 9 participated in the Battle of the Brains Quiz.

Battle of the Brains Quiz is based on the Premier’s Reading Challenge, giving the participants an opportunity to test & widen their knowledge about the English language & the books in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. It is also an initiative to reward the participants who finished the tough challenge.

There were 6 teams of 6, 3 from HBHS and the other 3 were from old rivals, Birrong Girls. The teams participated in 7 excruciating rounds where they had to answer 6 team questions plus 5 open round questions where they were expected to buzz in.

The audience, Mr Fairley’s Year 9 class had to answer a worksheet based on the rounds for a lucky door prize.

The winner was Jarryd McFarlane who won the prize. Mr Fairley the host presented one of the most competitive quizzes, with a tight proposed future winner, Birrong Girls with a 0.5 lead.

In the end the final score 17 from Homebush Boys High School Yr9 team (team 5) to Birrong’s highest scorer of 13.5. The competitors had a pleasant lunch of pizzas and soft drinks thanks to Mr Fairley & Ms Kumaralingam.

On Tuesday August 17 the school celebrated the achievements of ten Year 8 students who had participated in the school’s gifted and talented program. These students had spent six weeks independently researching and creating projects that looked at the concept of Invention.

Some of the work produced included brilliant three dimensional street art, an evaluation of the impact of swimsuits on the sport of swimming, the invention of a home hydro electricity generator and an assessment of the use of natural sequence farming.

The boys who participated in this program should be congratulated for their fantastic efforts. They showed tremendous initiative, application and ability while creating their projects and they certainly engaged the audience while presenting their work at the presentation night.

A special mention should also go to the teachers who gave up their own time to mentor these students. Their expertise and guidance were invaluable and ensured that the students’ enthusiasm headed in the right direction.

Mr Fairley

120 Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Christian students from four Sydney schools came together at the Sydney Jewish Museum last week for the second event of an innovative three-part intercultural program titled “Respect, Understanding and Acceptance”.

Devised by the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies Education Secretariat, the program brings together students from Strathfield South High School, Homebush Boys High School, Strathfield Girls High School and the Emanuel School.

The students met for a day of discussion and learning about where racism can lead. They toured the Sydney Jewish Museum, guided by Holocaust survivors, and heard first-hand accounts of the Cambodian genocide, the Stolen Generations experience and the Armenian genocide.

The guest speakers were Cambodian Andrew Ang, Aboriginal Wallabies rugby player Gary Ella, Holocaust survivors Olga Horak, Eddie Jaku and Peter Rossler and Armenian Varant Maegeurditchian. All told the students of their and their families’ personal experiences of racism and genocide, stressing the importance of building bridges between the diverse cultures which call Australia home.

Referring to Eddie Jaku, one student wrote: “Eddie is the most interesting and spirited man I have ever met.” Others wrote: “I was shocked by how the countries surrounding Cambodia did nothing.” “I learned how much the apology meant to Aboriginal people.” And “I learned that racism is powered by good people turning a blind eye.”

NSW Jewish Board of Deputies CEO Vic Alhadeff said the program encourages students “to respect each others’ differences and have the guts to speak out when they see someone being isolated, marginalised or discriminated against. It’s all about recognising the humanity in others – even if, or especially if, we come from different cultural backgrounds.”

The third prong of the program will be held in October and will feature interactive sessions with speakers representing the various faith and cultural traditions of the students in the program.
Last week Year 11 and teachers elected the new prefects for 2011. The new prefects are:

Mohamad Al-Abdallah  Suffan Hassan
David Baek  Sam Hayward
Tim Barrett  Christian Iacullo
Tom Barrett  Jack Jones
Sai Abhishek Bhonsle  Mateusz Kaminski
David Brimfield  Youssef Latash
Peter Brimfield  Rory Peters
Andrew Depta  Beau Russell
Anirudh Despande  Joel Todd
Wesam Hadid

From the prefects the following were also elected:
School Captain: Erkan Altun  Vice-Captain: Ben Eisikovich  Senior Prefect: Patrick Gallagher

Congratulations to all the successful candidates!

Below: Prefects 2011 with Prefect Adviser, Ms Horiatopoulos
DRUMS CORPS SANDAKAN MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Sandakan Memorial Service was held on Sunday 31st July at Burwood Park with a limited number of Drum Corps members present.

Sandakan is the name given to those forced to walk the Sandakan trail by the Japanese in World War II, where the only people who survived were the escapees. General Peter Cosgrove was present and made a moving speech regarding the Sandakan Service members and the army during that time.

Timothy Mitry was on the bass drum, Scott Worthington was the Australian flag bearer and Danton Servatius and Daniel Collis were the drummers. The 40-minute long ceremony was well regarded by all who attended as we prayed, listened to the stories, laid wreaths and played songs of tribute to the ones who endured such a dangerous trek during those times.

Lest we forget!

Daniel Collis

PREFECTS AFTERNOON TEA

On Thursday 2nd September the prefects from Homebush Boys and Strathfield Girls held a combined Prefects Afternoon Tea.

The purpose of the Afternoon Tea was to meet other prefects to share ideas and have a relaxing time after the HSC Trials. Prefects from James Ruse, St Patrick’s, Burwood Girls and Riverside also attended. The event began with a fun ice breaker which was followed by a trivia quiz. The last activity involved modeling, drawing and miming words.

Another highlight of the Afternoon Tea was the excellent food provided by the Hospitality staff with the assistance of Phillip Stapleton.

For some it was a chance it was also a reunion of primary school friends while others made new friends. Everyone agreed that the event was a success and good fun.