Author Robert Newton comes to Blackburn High

School Captain: Lingyun Li

Teachers
-Youla Pantazopoulos
-Judith Davis
-Val Webber

School Captain: Caleb Webb
PRINCIPAL’S PERSPECTIVE
End Of Term 3 2011

Congratulations to all our staff and students for their significant work throughout Term 3. Again it has been extremely hectic and a well earned rest over the holidays will be greatly appreciated. I am writing this in the 2nd last week as I will be away on a study tour, as indicated in last week’s newsletter, leaving on Saturday.

The two week ‘study break’ is also an excellent opportunity for VCE students (in fact all students!) to combine revision and further study with relaxation. This time will allow students to consolidate their understanding of the skills and knowledge in preparation for the upcoming exams in Term 4.

I wish staff and students a relaxing, enjoyable and most importantly safe holiday break. School resumes for Term 4 on Monday 10th October and concludes Friday 23rd December.

Blackburn High School has a retirement this term with Reg Donnelly, our Facilities Manager, retiring after many years of making a significant contribution to Blackburn High School. Many Staff will miss Reg and his ‘chats’ and I wish him a happy and productive retirement.

Thankyou to Ian Anderson and Tess Monda who have filled the roles of Year 7 and 11 Coordinators, respectively, this term and we thank them for their many hours and commitment to these roles.

Student Progress Conference Year 7-10

This opportunity was held on Wednesday and it was great to see the level of attendance. It is an important time for students to appraise their level of performance, look at achievements, areas for improvement and to set further goals for the rest of the school year.

Building Update

With great anticipation we hope to be able to move our office and some of the administration in to the new buildings over the holidays.

Uniform

Our uniform is an important medium that the community uses to make judgments about our students, our school and their values, rightly or wrongly. Wearing the uniform with pride and the value you as parents’ place on your students attending school in the correct uniform, go a long way to creating a positive community perception. With this in mind we are currently working with Council Parent representatives and students, through a working party, to update the look of our uniform. We often receive the negative feedback and people don’t take the time to send in the positive responses. I would ask that you engage with our discussion as we move forward with our planning and please send your feedback through. We are also considering phasing in options for these changes.

House Naming Competition

As the excitement builds I would like to congratulate the SRC representatives who have put in place the process to determine the new house names. All students were invited to submit entries and we would like to thank the many students’ who took the time to do so. A panel of SRC reps from various year levels, 2 staff, Carolyn Nette, as School Council President and myself worked as a team to decide on the final options for voting. This process was given a great deal of thought, discussion and consideration before making the final choices. Students will all have voted on Thursday and we will soon know the outcome, which is very exciting.

It is important to honor the traditions of the past and we are currently considering ways in which we can do this. A suggestion is to utilize our current House names as perpetual trophies for House competitions next year, eg Strickland Trophy for House swimming, Cuthbert for House music etc. We are also examining where we can display our rich heritage.

Math’s Club

The Math’s club has been a great initiative and is certainly popular at lunchtimes. Congratulations to our dedicated teachers who give up their lunch time to work with students to improve their outcomes.

Sandra Woodman
Author Robert Newton Comes to Blackburn High

On Wednesday 7th September Year 8 and 7C students were given the wonderful experience of a visit from the author of the novel Runner, which they had been studying for English.

Robert Newton talked about how he came to be a writer and encouraged students with ideas about their own writing. He also explained how he became interested in writing Runner which is set in Richmond in 1919 and includes the infamous Melbourne Gangster Squizzie Taylor. Robert’s stories about his life and work in the MFB were very enjoyable and students greatly appreciated his talk.

Judith Davies, English Teacher

SOME STUDENTS COMMENTS:

On the 7th of September 2011, Robert Newton, author of Runner, came to Blackburn High School to talk about his books. He shared his story about how he came to be an author.

He explained how he had come to decide what he wanted to do with his life. He became a fireman and I like his story of what he does at his job.

I liked the way he gets his inspiration; he once saw a homeless man and created a short story from it. He says you just have to keep your eyes open and you can create a story from anything.

Emma Jeffery, 7C

This Wednesday the Australian author Robert Newton come to the BHS Library to talk about his book Runner and his other successful books.

He told us a lot about his life, and experiences he has had that have influenced his writing. Robert also told us to write in our own style. He was very interesting to listen to, especially when he told us that he started writing by sending letters and stories to his brother.

I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Niamh Mackey, 7C

On Wednesday, 7th September, writer Robert Newton graciously took time to come here in Blackburn High to talk about his book Runner and his interesting experiences to Year 8 and Year 7C. Being a good speaker, he enraptured us with incidents like when he found out he was interested in working in the fire brigade and his passion for writing. I especially loved the part when he spoke about his dyslexic brother who ended up being an English teacher!!!!!

Shivani, 7C

On the 7th of September a writer Robert Newton came to Blackburn High School to speak to our grade as well as the Year 8’s. He told us about his journey to become a writer, and how he came to write “Runner”, his bestseller.

You could tell he was an engaging writer because he talked with enthusiasm and used wonderful objectives and similes.

I hope he comes back and talks more about his work because he was very interesting person.

Ghezal, 7C

On Wednesday 7th September, the author of Runner, Robert Newton, came to talk to Year 8 and 7C about his experience of being a writer. It was really interesting to hear about how he found out he loved to write.

Deevi, 7C

On the 7th September, Robert Newton (the author or Runner) came to school to talk to the level 8’s and 7C about himself and his writing. He was very animated and interesting to listen to and I especially liked how he started writing.

He told us that he didn’t have much experience with books until he started writing which I think is pretty strange.

Elise Pratesi, 7C

On Wednesday the 7th of September, a writer came to Blackburn High School, called Robert Newton to talk to the Year 8’s and a few year 7’s about his book “Runner”.

He wasn’t like I expect because I thought it would be an older man because of when the book was set but he was a young fit man and a firefighter. He told us about his brother with dyslexia and about his daughter Molly. Also about how he became a writer and where he gets his inspiration.

Robert Newton was a very inspirational writer and person.

By Lisa
Last Friday was the Intermediate Spring Round Robin. Blackburn was very well represented with many year 9 and 10 students competing on the day in Hockey, Basketball and Table Tennis. For many students, this was the first time they had competed in the new region. With the addition of Koonung Secondary, Box Hill High, Box Hill Senior & Doncaster East into the region, competition on the day proved to be tough. Well done to all students involved. All students participated well on the day and represented the school well.
On the 7th of September, I had the opportunity to attend The International Student Forum with 4 International students and 2 local students.

The aim of the Student Forum was to explore the concept of “Identity”

“Who are we as Australians and how do we connect with the rest of the world?”

We discussed the idea of stereotypes and globalization.

By attending this forum we all learnt about respect, tolerance and communication.

Ted Na (Ki Doo Na)
On Tuesday 6th September 2011 a group of Blackburn High students were honoured to have the opportunity to participate in the International Student forum at Etihad Stadium.

We were able to meet a diverse group of students from a variety of schools, cultures and nations to discuss the importance of global connections. We were challenged to move out of our comfort zones and to explore issues of stereotyping and the challenges of effective communication.

This experience has certainly encouraged us to interact more closely with ESL and International Students and to practice the act of inclusion, which we will endeavour to extend in our Mentor Groups in 2012.

We were able to share our ideas with the Honorable Minister of Education Mr Martin Dixon, who took great interest in our discussion.

Madeline Wilmot 11C, Hannah Urwin 11B.
The following 8 google designs have been chosen for the “doodle 4 google” competition. The theme is “My future Australia”. Artworks that are chosen will be shown on the Google Australia homepage. The above designs have been chosen from the Year 7 and Year 10 entrants. Online public voting will take place in October.

www.google.com.au/doodl4google
CAREERS CORNER

1. Reminders

- Work Experience Year 10s - **NEXT WEEK!!!**
- Last day to hand paperwork in - Friday 16th

No Work Experience if Arrangement Form & Safe@Work certificates are not handed in.


FORENSIC SCIENCE – The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine has a careers afternoon for Year 10-12s. **When:** 12.30pm, Fri 30 Sept; **Where:** Institute Lecture Theatre, Coronial Services Centre, 57-83 Kavanagh St, Southbank; **Registration:** [www.vifm.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Careers-Day-Registration-Form.pdf](http://www.vifm.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Careers-Day-Registration-Form.pdf)

KEEPER FOR A DAY – Werribee Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary have a Keeper for a Day holiday program for students wanting to work with animals; see [www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Camps-Holidays](http://www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Camps-Holidays).

CHECK THEM OUT….

- **DISCOVER DEAKIN** – this is a program for parents/students considering option; get an overview, do a tour. **When:** All Tues 27 Sept; Melbourne 6-8pm, Geelong 11am-1pm; Geelong Waterfront 6-8pm; Warrnambool 11am-1pm; Reg’n [www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/campus-tours/discover.php](http://www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/campus-tours/discover.php)

- **LA TROBE UNIVERSITY** – ‘Talk and Tour’ gives secondary students/parents a chance to get to know La Trobe, its courses/facilities, and talk with staff/students. **When:** 9.30am – 12 noon, 27 Sept (Bendigo) and 28 Sept (Melb). **Reg’n:** [www.latrobe.edu.au/talkandtour](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/talkandtour); Info: 1300 135 045.

- **SWINBURNE** – Join ‘Walk n’ Talk’ to meet current students, view facilities, speak to future lecturers and see what studying at Swinburne is really like. **When:** 10am-1pm, Wed 28 Sept; **Where:** Hawthorn; **Info:** [www.future.swinburne.edu.au/events](http://www.future.swinburne.edu.au/events).

- **MONASH** – has Parent Information Evenings covering VTAC application and selection process, scholarships, fees, course structure/options, graduate outcomes. **When/where:** Caulfield, 6pm Tues 13 Sept; Berwick, 6pm Tues 20 Sept; **Register:** onshore@monash.edu or call 1300 Monash.

APPLYING FOR THE VCA – Videos about courses and the selection process for B. Fine Arts are on the VCA website under “Course Overview” for each course. Eg the one on Film and TV is at: [www.vca.unimelb.edu.au/bfaftv/course_overview](http://www.vca.unimelb.edu.au/bfaftv/course_overview). Applicants for this and other B. Fine Arts specialisations will find the videos useful (make sure you meet the Supplementary Application Form deadlines – see page 474 of VTAC Guide).

UNIVERSITY ACCESS SCHEMES – Some universities offer access schemes for students attending nominated schools. **La Trobe** offers Schools Access La Trobe (SALT), **RMIT** offers Schools Network Access Program (SNAP), **Swinburne** (Lilydale) offers a 5-point ATAR Bonus ([www.lilydale.swinburne.edu.au/atarbonus](http://www.lilydale.swinburne.edu.au/atarbonus)) and **Victoria University** offers the **West+5 Scheme**. ([www.vu.edu.au/courses/applying/eligibility-requirements/special-access-schemes](http://www.vu.edu.au/courses/applying/eligibility-requirements/special-access-schemes)). Applicants for the **La Trobe** and **RMIT** schemes apply using the SEAS (Special Entry Access Scheme) administered by VTAC.
Access Melbourne 2012 – Twenty percent of the University of Melbourne’s new undergraduate Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) in 2012 will be offered to students from educationally, financially or socially disadvantaged backgrounds through the Access Melbourne scheme. Access Melbourne can help you gain a place in a course even if your ATAR is below the Clearly-in-Rank. Access Melbourne applicants who are eligible will automatically be considered for the Melbourne Access Scholarship, National Equity Scholarship, Commerce Opportunity Bursary and Commerce at International House Scholarship (no separate application forms); see www.access.unimelb.edu.au.

APPLYING FOR NURSING? If you are applying for Division 1 nursing at university and are concerned that you may not obtain a high enough ATAR for the course, you are advised to consider studying Division 2 nursing at TAFE. Some TAFEs allow you to apply through the VTAC system (eg RMIT). Others require you to apply direct to the TAFE. In this case you are advised to apply soon, not when you find you have missed out on a university place.

OTHER NEWS for YEAR 12s

SPECIAL ENTRY ACCESS SCHEME (SEAS) – Booklets describing this scheme are now available at school. SEAS is the umbrella program run by most institutions for applicants who have experienced educational disadvantage. The program plays a very specific function in selection. It allows selection officers to grant extra consideration for course entry to applicants, but it is not used as a replacement for course entry requirements. There are six categories within SEAS. Not all institutions recognise all categories.

- Category 1 – Personal information and location
- Category 2 – Non-English speaking background
- Category 3 – Difficult circumstances
- Category 4 – Disadvantaged financial background
- Category 5 – Disability or medical condition
- Category 6 – SNAP (RMIT) and SALT (La Trobe Uni)

If you believe you may be eligible under one of these categories, collect a booklet about SEAS.

CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY – The Student Committee of the Australian Psychological Society is running a ‘Careers in Psychology’ information session for aspiring psychologists. The purpose of the evening is to offer secondary and undergraduate students an insight into several specialist areas of psychology. When: 7.30-10pm, Wed 14 Sept; Where: Prince Phillip Theatre, Architecture building (building 133), University of Melbourne; Info: melbapsstudents@gmail.com; no bookings required.

SWINBURNE NEWS - Swinburne is both a university and a TAFE. The Swinburne Guaranteed Entry Scheme gives students a guaranteed spot in an undergraduate degree when they successfully complete their diploma or advanced diploma. Students who complete a Swinburne diploma will be exempt from at least one year of study in a degree, or one and a half years for a Swinburne advanced diploma. See: www.swinburne.edu.au/ges.

- Science Experience – This is a fun three days of science activities for Year 9 and 10 students hosted by Swinburne. Participate in hands-on workshops and interactive demonstrations across all sorts of science activities, under the guidance of university scientists and students. For example, understand forensic investigation, how to make slime (and the chemistry involved), how to build an electronic die. When: 6-7.30pm, Tues 20 – Thurs 22 Sept; Where: Hawthorn; Info: ph 8288 1001, www.scienceexperience.com.au

- Swinburne Lilydale - offers a 5-point ATAR bonus, applicable to selected schools. See: www.lilydale.swinburne.edu.au/atarbonus. You ATAR will be adjusted automatically during VTAC selection period if you apply for a Lilydale course and attend a nominated school.

Terry McGann
Director of Pathways
FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Please note the below information. If you fall into this category please contact either myself at the school for further information or call Carry directly on the number supplied.

Thanks, Kirsten Winkett

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Are you Ex Navy, Army or Air Force?

Then Carry On (Victoria) may be able to help you with education costs if you meet our eligibility criteria.

Carry On (Victoria) assists Secondary School students in Years 7-12 with grants for expenses such as fees, books, uniforms, excursions etc. For those students going on to Tertiary Education a grant may also be available.

Children whose Parent/s or Legal Guardian/s have a need for financial assistance and comply with our eligibility criteria may apply. All grants are income tested and the closing date for applications is 25th October 2011.

If you have served in the Australian Defence Forces or Allied Forces and you wish to apply for a Secondary Education Grant for 2011, please telephone Cary On on (03) 9629 2648 to establish eligibility and request an application form.
Past Student Carl Scrase, Class of 2001, has been very busy since he graduated from Blackburn High School. He is the co-founder of the Wemakeus Collective, an Australian organization aimed at raising the profile and importance of creative thinking in the public mind. He has achieved considerable success recently. Carl has been selected for the prestigious Young Social Pioneer Program which offers twelve months of skills development, mentoring, intensive training and access to a global network of social innovators. He has also been awarded the Freedman Foundation travelling scholarship for emerging artists. Carl is currently launching an ambitious viral poster project.

Posters have already started appearing in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth. Scrase’s *Viral Poster Project* uses questionnaire posters to ask members of the public: “*Is our empathy on the rise?*”

The *Viral Poster Project* allows anyone to actively participate, at any stage of the creation, if they so choose. All they need to do is watch this [YouTube video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=) and then follow the instructions. Scrase will officially launch the poster project at [Firstdraft Gallery](http://www.firstdraft.org.au/) as part of the WAH Festival in Sydney on the 1st of September and at [Meyers Place Art Space](http://www.meyersplaceartspace.com.au/) in Melbourne on the 5th of September.

As a student at Blackburn Carl had a strong desire to make a positive difference in the world. He started dedicating himself to art and gained a deeper understanding of who he was and how creativity can ignite passion and change.

At the age of 25 yrs Carl was invited to the Inaugural Splendid Arts Lab, which brought together 10 of Australia’s best creatives to attend an intense three-week lab held at the Splendour in the Grass music festival. It was at this event that Carl realised the importance of creativity and how it can lead to positive social, cultural and political change.
## Dates for Your Diary

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21st Sept</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>School Council</td>
<td>Staff Room</td>
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<td>21st Sep to 23 Sep</td>
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<td>Year 9 Exams</td>
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<td>23rd Sept</td>
<td>2.20pm</td>
<td>Friday End of Term</td>
<td>EARLY FINISH</td>
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<td>12th Oct</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Chaplaincy meeting</td>
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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2011 – Term 4

#### Term 4 – Step Up Program

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whole School Step Up program</th>
<th>Year 12 Exams Continued, Year 10-11 Exams</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21/11-25/11</td>
<td>VCE step up concludes</td>
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<tr>
<td>28/11</td>
<td>All students 7 to 11 promoted to levels 8-12 for start next year’s work</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>Year 10 step up Concludes</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/12-16/12</td>
<td>2011 Year 9 Qld Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>16/12</td>
<td>Year 8&amp;9 step up concludes</td>
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#### Term Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
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<td>18 July – 23 Sept</td>
<td>8 Oct – 21 Dec</td>
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