

## College Newsletter

15 September, Volume 2, Issue 2

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### Principals Report

#### Congratulations to Peter Smythe,

winner of the ACT Microsoft Partners in Learning Teachers award 2011. This is a magnificent achievement for Peter with this recognition of his innovative teaching practices.

I am pleased to announce that our second Associate Principal has been appointed. John Alston-Campbell will commence in term 4.

John brings vast experience from his previous role as Director of Teaching and Learning, St Edmunds College. We welcome John to our team.

Gungahlin College presents Urbs Urbis, our very first drama production in our magnificent theatre, running 22-24 September. Please come along and see the talent of our drama students. Tickets are available at the door.

From 2012 Gungahlin College will be offering an exciting unique opportunity for a select number of Year 10 students to study fulltime on our college campus. The SMART program is the first of the Education and Training Directorate Excellence and Enterprise initiatives. The program

targets students with a keen interest or talent in Science, Mathematics and Related Technologies (SMART).

Students will have the opportunity to be extended in their learning in the areas of Science, Mathematics and Mechatronics engineering. An information session for interested students and parents will be held this Tuesday 20 September, 7pm. Please see our website for further details.

Breanna Blight and Shani O'Halloran will have their Photography work on exhibition at National Botanic Gardens during the October school holidays as part of the Capital Charm Photography Competition. Congratulations also to our students who participated in Dancefest this week

Last week we had 14 principals visiting from Victoria to see our showcase school and teaching and learning in action. We have also had staff from the Australian Science and Mathematics School, Adelaide, visiting our college. The college has a reciprocal arrange with the school enabling staff to share ideas, expertise and best practice in teaching and learning within collaborative environments.



Our transition programs have begun for our prospective year 11 students from our cluster schools.

Amaroo extension maths students came to Gungahlin College to work with our specialist maths students. Our Course information evening was very well attended with students deciding on their course selections for 2012.

Progress reports will be posted home on Monday 19 September. Parent Teacher Evening will be held on Tuesday 27 September 5pm to 8pm. Appointment bookings can be made through our online booking system PTO via our college website. Information on how to make a booking will be provided with your child's progress report.

Regards,

Gai Beecher

Principal

### Important dates:

**19 September**  
Mid-Semester Reports sent home

**20 September**  
SMART Information Session 7pm

**22—24 September**  
Urbs Urbis 7pm

**27 September**  
Parent Teacher Night 5-8pm

**30 September**  
Last Day of Term 3

**17 October**  
First Day of Term 4

# SMART

SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES

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### Gungahlin College Sustainability Group

The Gungahlin Sustainability group meets regularly on Tuesday mornings (once a month) and Thursday lunch (fortnightly).

The Gungahlin Gorilla appeared for the second time at Assembly with recycling messages.

We are pleased to see that students have taken the recycling bins on board and are using them around the school. However, there still seems to be some confusion over what belongs in what bins.

Recyclable items (that means Maccas wrapping without plastic, any cans, plastic bottles...) may be placed in the bins with yellow stripes

Non-recyclable items may be placed in the ordinary black bins.

Please keep to the specific bins as it helps our school to maintain its green rating.

This week, we were informed that our college has won a grant in order to aid the sustainability program. After discussing this good news,

we are considering setting up a Sustainability course through CIT or similar, any students interested in these courses should come to our meetings.

If interested in the Sustainability Group, get in contact with either Christine, Robyn or Di. Everyone is welcome! New ideas, feedback and faces are always a bonus.

Hope everyone has enjoyed term 3 because it has just flown by!

Caitlin Thomas

**“...If interested, get in contact with either Christine, Robyn or Di...”**

### Gungahlin College Talent Quest

The inaugural Gungahlin College Talent Quest was held on Tuesday 23 August 2011.

The event was organised by the year 11 Business Studies students as part of their marketing assignment. Students and teachers from music, drama, photography and media departments assisted to ensure the event was run smoothly and successfully.

Seven high quality student acts took the stage as well as three teacher acts of dubious quality!

Sausage sizzles were also held leading up to the event

to assist with the marketing and with fundraising.

\$500 was raised with all proceeds going to the National Brain Injury Foundation. The organising students felt a great sense of accomplishment (and received some practical education) in the process.

The organisers would like to thank the following businesses for their generosity in donating prizes and other goods:

The Market Place

Majestic Mushrooms

O'Sullivan's Rural Waste

Hoyts

Action Buses

First Choice Butchery

Café Zest (Raiders Club)

Zambrero

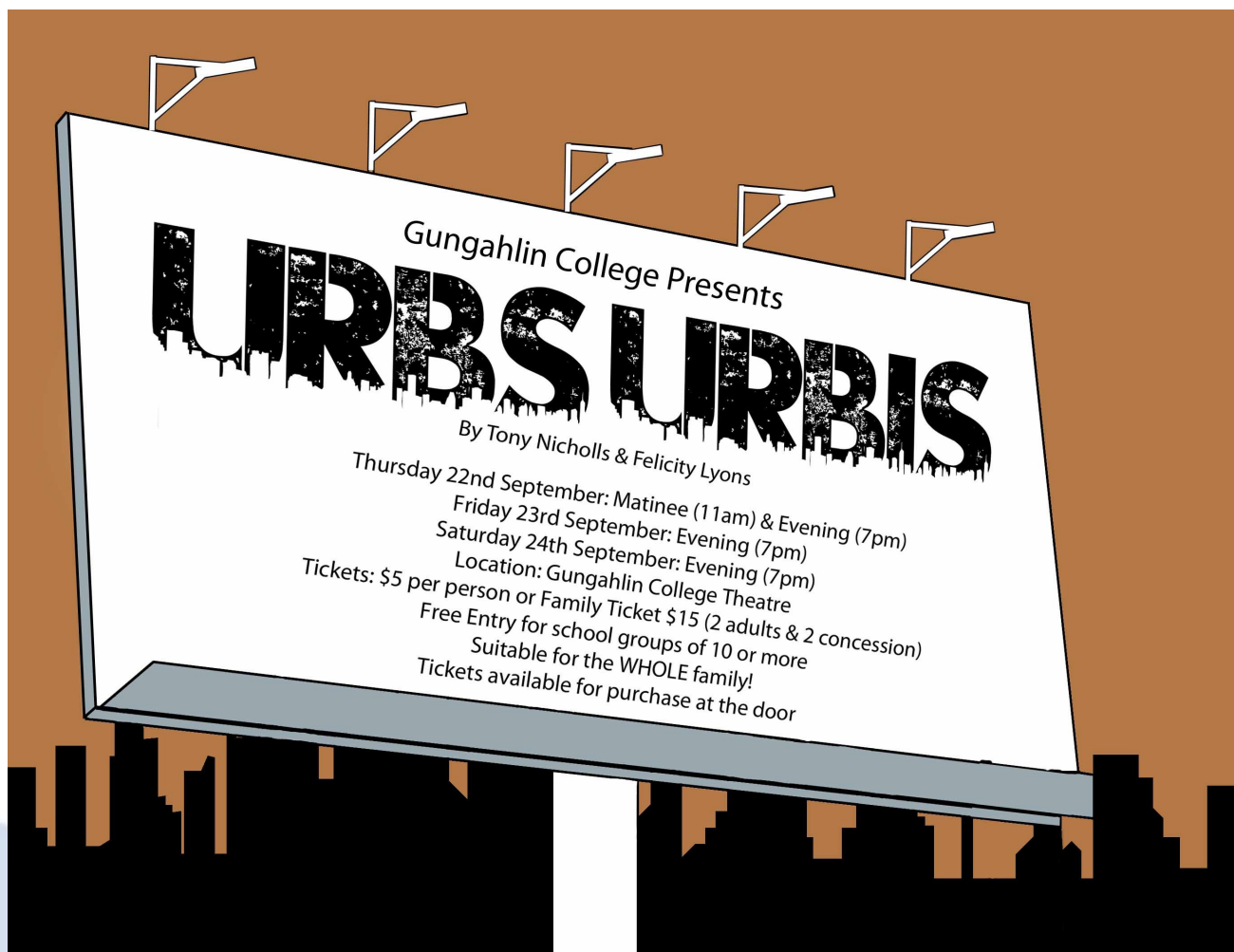
Bakers Delight

A special thanks goes to our guest judge, David Shillington, from the Canberra Raiders. The 2011 Business Studies students have set a high standard for future classes to match or better this year's event!

Vicki Larkman

**“Seven high quality student acts took the stage as well as three teacher acts of dubious quality!”**





“Urbs Urbis” is a theatre in education piece written by Tony Nicholls and Felicity Lyons, two members of the Theatreground Company from Perth in Western Australia. It is an entertainment consisting of a number of scenes, songs and scenic events on the theme of the city and life in it.

Our students have devised new material for inclusion to ensure a more contemporary feel and they have developed strong skills in ensemble performance, voice and movement. Whilst the style is highly comical, there are some very strong dramatic moments which will leave the audience thinking about the nature of city life and the price we pay for overcrowding.

The show is suitable for ages 8 and up and with a running time of approximately an hour it will give you a satisfying live theatrical experience. This is the first show to be featured at the Gungahlin Theatre, and provides the opportunity to showcase the talent of the students and the superb facility.

The backstage work will be carried out by students from the Production for Live Theatre class, including the operation of lights, sound, front of house and stage management.

Urbs Urbis will be showing at the Gungahlin Theatre, Gozzard Street, Gungahlin

**Thursday September 22 - Matinee at 11 am (Free) and show 7 pm**

**Friday September 23- 7pm**

**Saturday September 24- 7 pm**

**Tickets \$5 and \$15 Family – available at the door.**

**Entertainment will be provided in the foyer before the show and light refreshments will also be available.**



**“Congratulations to Nayomi Lecamwasam and Harrison Thiele for gaining a High Distinction in the National Chemistry Quiz.”**

## Faculty Report—Science

### Honours

Congratulations to Nayomi Lecamwasam and Harrison Thiele for gaining a High Distinction in the National Chemistry Quiz. Other award winners include Jak O'Brien – Distinction; Nicholas Adams and Tara Dehm - credit. Well done to all these students and to all who entered this worthwhile competition.

### Science Olympiads

Recently, students sat the national qualifying exams for the Science Olympiads. Well done to the following

students who tackled the difficult questions in the following exams:

Physics – Dongtao Yu & Bradley Chamberlain

Chemistry – Celine Anderson & Caitlin Cherryh

Biology - Celine Anderson & Jenny Bourke

Lisa Pluis



Harrison Thiele in the Chemistry Lab.

## Faculty Report—English / Humanities

It has been a very busy and challenging term in the English/Humanities faculty with a wide variety of learning experiences challenging and exciting our students!

Excursions were the order of the day as no less than four occurred in one term!

The Gothic and Modern Horror class recently went on an excursion to *Jane Eyre*. It formed part of the unit study and provided an interesting insight into mid-19<sup>th</sup> century England. The excursion was a success, with one student stating, “...that was awesome!” Further film studies are planned to explore the seductive force of terror in fiction.

Nicole Downes' Images of War English class together with Ben Williams' Modern History class visited the Australian War Memorial. Students participated in two separate programs aimed at enhancing their understanding of their unit content.

Modern History students explored the Vietnam War through role-play whilst Images of War students investigated the conditions soldiers operated in during WWI and visited the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Last Wednesday, Sarah's Sociology class went to the cinema to see the film *Horrible Bosses*. The purpose was to explore some of the theories of deviance and crime that students have been studying in class in a different and entertaining way.

Whilst Annabelle appeared to injure herself (and possibly those around her) by laughing too much, Sarah found the whole experience traumatic and has vowed never to take this unruly group of students on an excursion again, unless of course, they buy her a large popcorn!

Finally, Michael's Global Relations class attended the two day ACT

Constitutional Convention, or “Con Con” as Haley liked to call it. Its central question this year was: “Should the commonwealth Parliament have specific powers to legislate for the environment?”

The students were engaged in a variety of activities at the National Archives and Museum of Australian Democracy, which culminated in a lively and vociferous debate at the ACT Legislative Assembly with all delegates expressing intelligent and passionate arguments.

It was a challenging and engaging two days as the students grappled with the Australian constitution and environmental issues.

Hopefully one of our group will be representing Gungahlin College at the National Constitutional Convention later this year.

Michael Lemmey

**“The students were engaged in a variety of activities at the National Archives and Museum of Australian Democracy, which culminated in a lively and vociferous debate at the ACT Legislative Assembly.”**

## Our Details

23 Gozzard St.  
Gungahlin Town Centre

Phone: 6142 1000  
Email: [gungahlincollege@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:gungahlincollege@ed.act.edu.au)



Australian  
**Sustainable Schools Initiative**  
A Partnership of the Australian Government, the States & Territories

## Our Newsletter

Our newsletter is distributed electronically via email. If you are not on our mailing list please contact our front office or by emailing the above address. Newsletters are distributed 2 times a term in weeks 4 and 8.

[www.gungahlincollege.act.edu.au](http://www.gungahlincollege.act.edu.au)

## Community Notices

As Marcel Proust, a late 19<sup>th</sup> century novelist, wrote: "the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes".

Host an international high school student in February 2012 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in February for one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Scandinavia, Japan and the U.S.A. They will attend a local secondary school, are fully insured and have their own spending money.

Call S.C.C.E now on 1800 500 501, email

[scceaust@scce.com.au](mailto:scceaust@scce.com.au) or visit our website ([www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au)) to be part of this rewarding experience.

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