



Fort Street High School

# MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School  
August 2011 Term 3

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Dear Parents, Caregivers and Fortians,

This issue of the Mercurius reaches you with four weeks left of Term 3.

During the last two weeks we have been treated to wonderful HSC Music and Drama Showcase evenings and the HSC Visual Arts Exhibition.

Our HSC Drama students presented their individual projects and group projects to the HSC examiners on 23 August, the HSC Music students will present their performances and vivas to examiners on 5 September.

The HSC Extension 2 English students works were collected and sent to the Board of Studies for marking on 19 August and the HSC Visual Arts works were collected for examiners on 28 August.

A huge thank you to the P&C for the wonderful variety of soups and cakes provided for each of our HSC showcase evenings.

I was really impressed with the quality of the Extension 2 English films, short stories and critical responses which Year 12 shared with me on August 30.

I look forward to celebrating our Year 12 day on Thursday 22 September commencing with the breakfast for staff and Year 12. This is followed by the farewell assembly and finally at 7pm their graduation ceremony.

I would like to thank the staff for their support of Fortians 2011 and in particular Mr Hoekstra - Year 12 Adviser, Mr Ockwell - Assistant Year Adviser and Mr Osland Deputy - Principal in charge of Year 12.

### Aircraft Noise Amelioration Program

The work during the September/October holidays focuses on completing as much work as possible in the Kilgour building.

The Christmas holiday work will see the ceiling in the Rowe staff study replaced and the hall roof tiles replaced. Those areas of the school will be given over to public works from 9 December.

### Congratulations to:

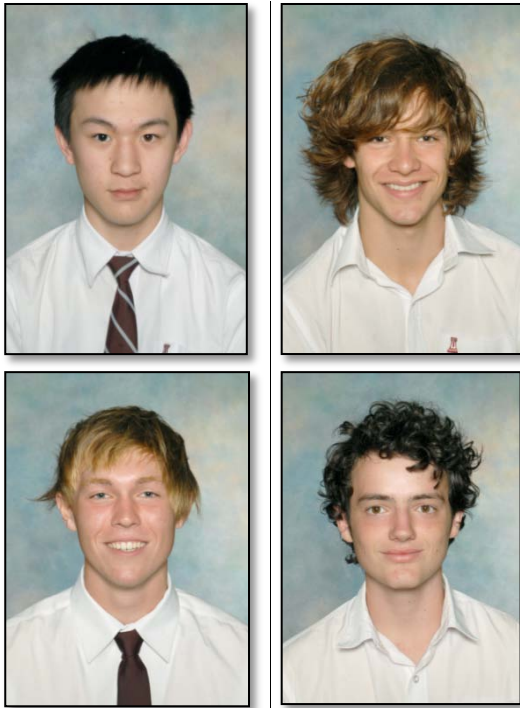
**Carlo Antonioli - Year 12** has been awarded a Ministers Award for Student Excellence. He will be presented with his award on 12 September.



**Laura Walker - Year 12** entered the recent Mosman Youth Awards for Literature. She entered both a poem and a story of which both were shortlisted for the award. Laura's poem won first prize the Senior Division.



- Senior Robotics Team, **Simon Ko - Year 11, Daniel Playfair Cal - Year 12, Riley Berlecky - Year 12** and **Rueben Moorhouse - Year 12** won the state Robocup for the third year with Premier Soccer.



- One further team reached the finals. The team members were **Stephen Huang, Darren Nguyen, Jason Wooi** and **Anthony Ou - Year 9**.
- **Lindsay Small - Year 7** was commended on his very first effort in this competition.
- The **Senior Percussion Ensemble** was placed third at the recent Australian National Percussion Eisteddfod.
- **Michaela Mullalley** and **Imogen Lourey Gregory - Year 11** on graduation from the Sydney University Course – *America: Rebels, Heroes and Renegades*.



- **Tournament of the Minds:** Congratulations to all the participants and especially to the Language Literature team which gained an Honours Prize. The teams owe a huge debt of thanks mentor Katherine Voukidis – Year 11 and Ms Starr.

**Language Literature - Hannah Harmelin** and **Kien LeBoard - Year 10, Imogen Smith - Year 9, Ligaya Quibeyan** and **Tanwee Shrestha - Year 8, Lyndon Wale** and **Christina Nguyen - Year 7**.

**Maths Engineering - Celeste Ly, and William Hales - Year 10, Gayathri Shankar, Raelene Emmanuel** and **Lucy Li - Year 8, James Merlo** and **Lauren Ashley - Year 7**.

**Social Science - Lucia Mai** and **Dimitri Kastanias - Year 10, Evonne Voukidis, Pamela Vassil, Mariella Powell - Year 9, Ava McConnell** and **Sebastian Van Gerwen - Year 7**.

- **Year 12 Music 2 and Music Extension and HSC Drama students** for their wonderful HSC performance works and compositions: **Carlo Antonioli, Edmund Benson, Hayden Ballantyne-Smith, Michael Christensen, James Leeder, Chris Barker, Meredith Waldron, John Wu** and **Elias Wilson**.
- **Year 12 Visual Arts students** for their inspiring artworks: **Sarah Chang, John Corletto, Eden Doran, Emma-Jane Lancaster, Jessica Le, David Lethlean-Higson, Freya Newman, Sophie Quinn, Clodagh Schofield, Angela Swan-Middleton, Dominic Tanaka Van de Ven, Oscar Thompson, Si Ping Wu, Clinton Zhang, Adrian Miranda, Otis Tanner, Rueben Moorhouse, Clinton Zhang, Rosemary Balcomb, Tina Giannoulis, Saro Lusty-Cavallari, Sam Bennetts, Hannah Davies-Conyngham, Christian Byers** and **Fergus Barker (Year 11 Lighting Assistant)**,

- **Year 12 Extension 2 English** students for their projects which encompassed a wide range of subjects and media: **Siobhan Bryan, Christian Byers, Eden Doran, Anna Eggerton, Jessica Fogarty, Tina Giannoulis, Freya Newman, Clodagh Schofield, Otis Tanner, Carlo Antonioli, Oscar Kovaks, Saro Lusty-Cavallari, Sophie Quinn, Nichola Richardson and Tobias Shine.**

## Mathematics Evaluation

Thank you to staff, students and parents for their contributions to the mathematics evaluation. A report from the evaluation will be in the next edition of Mercurius.

## Open Evening

Our annual Open Evening was held on 18 August. The evening commenced from 5.30-7pm. Particular mention goes to students from the Drama Department, IMP, Hospitality, the SRC and Year 10 guides who were wonderful ambassadors for the school. I wish to thank staff, students and parents for their contribution to making the evening such a success.

## School Council

Tom Hubble our School Council Chair is stepping down. Now is the time for parents to think about joining the council. See page 7 for information concerning nomination for school council.

**Roslynn Moxham**  
**Principal**

## Fort Street High School Exit Profile (*School Council Meeting*)

*Our aim is that on completion of Year 12 Fortians will have:*

- *achieved their full academic potential.*
- *developed individual skills and talents.*
- *developed learning strategies to equip them to be independent self motivated lifelong learners.*
- *developed emotional resilience, self reliance and leadership potential.*
- *recognise their responsibility to the wider community.*
- *developed a strong sense of social justice as well as commitment to fairness and equity.*

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## Important Dates

### **September:**

2	Year 9 Legacy Day Year 12 Reports
5-7	Year 10 School Certificate Examinations
5	HSC Music Performances Examinations
7	School Council Meeting Foundation Meeting
8-10	CHS Athletics
8-16	Year 11 Assessments
12	IMP Executive Meeting
14	Open Morning Year 11 2012 Orientation
15	Year 7 Gala Day
19	Year 7 Vaccinations
22	Year 12 Farewell Assembly and Graduation

### Open Evening Speeches - 2011

"I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Gadigal people and extend my respect to all Aboriginals here tonight.

Good evening ladies, gentlemen and Fortians of the future. My name is Alicia Bell and I am the President of the Student Representative Council.

Fort Street is a school with a rich history and tradition of academic excellence. This prestigious school has produced the likes of Sir Edmund Barton, Neville Wran, Doc Evatt, Justices David and Michael Kirby, Australian of the Year Dr John Yu, John Singleton and many more famous scholars, sports persons, businessmen and artists. To continue this legacy, Fort Street offers a vast range of co-curricular activities to help students reach their full potential.

You will have the opportunity yourself to participate in our chess, robotics and photography clubs, our debating and Mock Trial teams, the successful and vast Instrumental Music Program, the Tournament of the Minds competition, our sporting teams and take part in many dramatic, athletic and academic opportunities.

As I previously mentioned, I am the current President of Fort Street's Student Representative Council. The SRC plays a very important role within the school community as we are the communication network in and amongst the students. We also organise student events such as dances, charity fundraisers and trivia nights as well as the community biennial Fort Street Festival which will be held in May of 2012.

I am sure you are all probably feeling nervous coming into a new school, it can be really daunting. I remember - I came from a really small school with only 600 students where you knew everybody's name, then to come to Fort Street with such a large student body by comparison, I felt quite lost. However after a few weeks you will settle right in and discover the welcoming, friendly nature of the school community.

After five years, the Fort has come to hold a soft spot in my heart. This is not just a school but vibrant cultural and intellectual community where everyone is accepted regardless of their background. Students leave Fort Street not only knowing their facts and formulas, but also with a sophisticated, open-minded attitude, equipped for whatever the world throws at them.

Our motto, '*Faber est suae quisque fortunae*' means 'Every man is the maker of his own fortune'. This school is what you make of it, so welcome future Fortians. I look forward to meeting you all next year and I wish you the best experience at this prestigious school. "

**Alicia Bell**  
**SRC President**



## Starting High School A Personal Experience ...

Hey everybody! What do you think of when you hear about Year 7? I bet thinking of starting high school next year is giving you loads of butterflies in your stomach. Well I understand just how you are feeling as I had the exact same feeling as I stepped inside this enormous school on my first day.

I was wearing a white shirt and grey pants and I was feeling really dizzy. I was scared that I might be the LONELY kid of the school and I wouldn't have ANY friends. However something very strange and wonderful happened to me that day - another student walked up to me and then started talking to me. It was as if I had known him for years, he was like an old best friend.

If you are wondering how you can pass your student time at Fort Street High School? At Fort Street there are a variety of opportunities for everyone. There is a debating team, a chess team, Tournament of Minds team and a whole lot more, which includes sport and music. We have our very own school band where they actually sound like they know what they're playing!

Year 7 has been a wonderful year to my run up to high school years. I will never regret the day I started at Fort Street High School. In less than a year, I have many special friends from Year 7 to even Year 12.

One of greatest challenges for any Year 7 was the moving from classroom to classroom. There was no more one classroom forever. In high school you have different teachers for each subject. On my first and second days, I struggled not knowing where each classroom was. However, after some help from the senior students - I was amazed to find that these classrooms did exist!

My experience at Fort Street High school has been a ball so far. Fort Street has given me a sense of independence. Independence isn't when you are given an assignment and your parents' do all of it which makes you get full marks. Independence is something that you are to do alone without anyone supervising or helping. At Fort Street we are encouraged to be independent and to do our own homework, which is exactly what I need.

There are so many extra curriculum activities that you will not be able to chose which ones to do. I have had a go at new challenges and did things that were not in my comfort zone. I hope my incredible experiences will continue throughout my time in Fort Street and I hope yours will to!

Before we conclude we would like to give you a few very important tips. Don't lose your timetable, don't lose your diary, always be organised. Always listen and REMEMBER do your homework before hand and do not leave your assignments until the last minute because you do not want your teacher to explode, right? Oh and get a locker. You will seriously need one.

Au Revoir - for now!

**Angele Yan**  
**Saiharan Sooriakumar**  
**Year 7**



### **When a student is not able to attend school ....**

Parents should send a text message to the school on 0428 884 762 prior to 10:00am on that day.

The text message must state the student's name, roll class, date and reason for absence. If you choose to send us a text message, you will not be required to provide a handwritten letter explaining the absence.

If we do not receive a message, parents will be informed by a text message on the same day of the absence.

If any absence is not explained, parents will receive an official request for explanation from the school.

## Tournament of the Minds

In 2011, Year 11 student **Katherine Voukidis** has been the lead facilitator for Tournament of the Minds and she has done a great job in motivating students to join the teams and briefing them. Katherine has been ably assisted by **Kalanjay Dhir and Arizona Hart** also both of Year 11.

The Tournament took place on 27 August 2011. We entered three teams this year with student representatives across Years 7 to 10:

**Language Literature:** **Hannah Harmelin and Kien Le Board - Year 10, Imogen Smith - Year 9, Ligaya Quibeyan and Tanwee Shrestha - Year 8, Lyndon Wale and Christina Nguyen - Year 7.**

**Maths Engineering:** **Celeste Ly, and William Hales - Year 10, Gayathri Shankar, Raelene Emmanuel and Lucy Li - Year 8, James Merlo and Lauren Ashley - Year 7.**

**Social Science:** **Lucia Mai and Dimitri Kastanias - Year 10, Evonne Voukidis, Pamela Vassil, Mariella Powell - Year 9, Ava McConnell and Sebastian Van Gerwen - Year 7.**

**Ms Starr**  
**Head Teacher Teaching and Learning / Welfare**



Fort Street  
High School  
WINS "TechnoPush  
2011"

Best Secondary School Team  
"ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE"  
and "PERFORMANCE" awards.

A team of students from Fort Street High School again competed in the TechnoPush Challenge at Eastern Creek Raceway. This year's event was held on 17 of August.



This state-wide competition involves students designing and building a "pushcart" while complying with detailed design specifications and strict competition rules for entry. The cart was designed and built during regular lunchtime workshops as a co-curricular activity. Design and construction took place over Term 2 and finished early Term 3.

An NRMA "scrutineer" visited the school in week one of Term 3, giving valuable feedback on the suitability of their design.

Further work on the aesthetics of the cart saw it painted red and team t-shirts were designed and printed to create a real team look. "Keep Clear" would be the team name and gave warning of their planned performance. Trials helped hone students' driving skills and prepare them for the race day.

The day involved a series of challenge events, starting with the scrutineering of the cart.

They were fast through the obstacle course and passed the braking test before the team went on to convincingly win 1<sup>st</sup> place in the adventure course event.

They demonstrated their understanding of the road rules, through driving the road safety course and again out-performed the competition in the final sprint relay, winning the race!

Students were again very impressive in their ability to talk about the project, demonstrating an excellent understanding and of the design and construction process. They shared their enthusiasm with Carmel Tebbutt who visited the event..

They were rewarded with two grand trophies at the end of the day for their team work in achieving "Engineering Excellence" and best "Performance".

**Mr Dopierala  
Head Teacher TAS**

America: Rebels, Heroes and  
Renegades

America during the twentieth century was a dynamic place, full of interesting people who shaped the country with their actions. The stories of some of these individuals and the greater American tale through the past hundred years are the focus of the Sydney University course, America: Rebels, Heroes & Renegades (developed by the US Studies centre). As part of the university's Summer School program, the course is open to senior high school students who love history and want to get an idea of what it would be like to pursue these interests in a university environment.

Fort Street was well-represented in the class of 2011, with three students selected: Hayley Melville - Year 12, and Mikayla Mullally and myself - Year 11. There were fifteen members in the class, and a remarkable lecturer, Dr. Rebecca Sheehan. As we began to adapt to university study: two weeks of all-day lectures in the January holidays, as well as two Saturdays in the beginning of Term 1. We also had to complete three assessments – the penultimate work being a 2000 word research essay.

It was a vastly rewarding experience, our academic and personal rewards were made visceral on Saturday 27 August, when the US Studies Centre held a graduation ceremony to celebrate our achievements and we received our certificates. Our parents and Ms Moxham joined us for the ceremony and the delicious lunch provided afterwards.

We closed a wonderful chapter in our lives – one we hope to one day return. We would like to thank Mr Canty for his wonderful organisation, Dr. Sheehan for inspiring us, as well as our parents and the school for supporting us.

**Imogene Lourey Gregory  
Year 11**

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE  
VACANCY

Are you interested in joining the School Council as a parent representative?

The School Council meets at 6pm on the first Wednesday of every month to enable formal school community participation in the planning and direction of Fort Street High School.

The objectives of the School Council as identified in the Constitution are to:

- define and ratify broad school policies,
- define and ratify priorities in the allocation of funds
- encourage and promote community participation in the school.

The School Council Constitution can be viewed in full on the school website.

The School Council is made up of 14 members of the school community including 3 parent representatives and a member of the wider school community. There is currently one vacancy for a parent representative.

If you are interested in being part of the School Council then please contact the P&C on [fortst.pc@gmail.com](mailto:fortst.pc@gmail.com) for a nomination form. In the event of more than one nomination then a secret ballot will take place

## HSC Visual Arts 2011 Body of Works Exhibition



Mr Hart and guests at the exhibition



Audience member studying John Corletto's Body of Work and Comic Book



A section of Fred Si Ping Wu tranquil landscape and Sophie Quinn's Body of Work



Audience members taking a closer look at Daniel Lethlean Higson's Body of Work; to their left is Tina Giannoulis's Body of Work. To the right is Jessica Le's Body of Work

## Year 9 Engineering

A team of five Year 9 Engineering students competed in the recent Aurecon Bridge Building Competition at the Art Gallery of NSW on 5 August.

Students worked within the competition rules to span a 650mm gap with simple kit of cardboard, balsa wood, string and glue. Bridges were loaded until failure to determine the strongest solution.



The team successfully met the challenge, engineering a solution that held more than 46kg, beating the 41kg load held by the best solution from the Aurecon engineers.



Students closely analysed the huge variety of solutions presented on the day by the 50 plus schools competing.

The team explained the theory behind their design solution to a panel of Engineers who judged the events.

The project provided a real opportunity for students to apply their engineering skills and enhanced class work.

**Mr Dopierala**  
**Head Teacher TAS**



## HSC Drama Year 12 Take A Bow



Left to Right: **Adrian Miranda, Fergus Barker (Year 11 Lighting Assistant), Otis Tanner, Rueban Moorhouse, Clinton Zhang, Rosemary Balcomb, Tina Giannoulis, Saro Lusty-Cavallari, Sam Bennetts, Hannah Davies-Conyngham and Christian Byers.**



## IMP Report

The 2011 IMP ensembles CD is well on the way for its end of year release – the final 5 ensembles (Vocal, Chamber, Philharmonic, Junior and Senior Percussion ensembles) are recording their tracks on Saturday 3 September. CDs will be on sale at the IMP end of year concert for \$15 each. Don't miss out!

Congratulations to the Senior Percussion Ensemble and IMP tutor Martin Highland who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Australian National Percussion Eisteddfod last Sunday. Both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners were from interstate.

The IMP AGM was held this week. A huge thank you to all the members of the 2010 – 2011 Executive Parent Committee for their hard work and commitment to the IMP: Co-Convenors **Alison Falzon** and **Peter Brewer**; Treasurer **Michaela Ferrier**; Minutes Secretary and Publicity Officer **Juliette Smith**; Membership Secretary **Finola Carey-Border** and Camp Coordinator **Ellen Osborn**.

Several of these parents have kindly agreed to stay on the committee for another year. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to **Lisa Harrison** and **Ian Daniel** who join the Executive for 2011 - 2012.

**Liz Scott**  
**IMP Coordinator**

## Fort Street Foundation

Through the generosity of Fortians and families we can add a further \$19 000 to the \$107 000 already available to refurbish a second science laboratory. We are still fundraising to raise the additional \$74 000 needed to reach our target. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project so far.

### Before



### After



Our science laboratories are used by all students in Years 7 -10 and more than half of all students in Years 11 and 12. A significant number of students go on to study a science at University and many follow careers in this area.

Please consider making a donation if you have not already done so. Any contributions will be gratefully received.

**Jules Davies**  
**Executive Officer - Fort Street Foundation**  
**julesmdavies@gmail.com**

## P&C President's Report

### Cyber Safety and Bullying

With the proliferation of Facebook, Email, Texting, etc. Cyber Safety has become a major concern in school and elsewhere. On Wednesday 14 September (not 7 September as advised earlier), at 7:30pm in the school library, there will be a presentation for parents on how to recognise the signs and how to prevent your child from becoming a victim or perpetrator.

There will also be an update on the latest happenings around the school by the principal. A light supper will be served after the meeting.

### Coles Sports for Schools Vouchers

If you shop at Coles, do ask for the Sports for Schools Vouchers at the checkout and remember to drop them in at the school before 18 October. There is a collection box in the school office.

### HSC Visual Arts, Drama & Music Showcases

The recent HSC Visual Arts exhibition and Drama performances, HSC Music talks and performances were wonderfully entertaining and further examples of the outstanding talent at Fort St.

The drama performances included great monologues and ensemble pieces. The music night had solo and group performances as well as witty presentations on essays and compositions, including playing recordings of the compositions.

Thanks to the students for their fabulous work and to the teachers for all of the time and effort that they always put in above and beyond the call of duty.

The P&C provided soup, bread rolls, cake and drinks before the performances and during interval. Along with the admission fee for the drama performances, we made almost \$760 for the school over the two nights.

I would like to thank everyone who helped, including **Julie Bishop, Mark Cao, Susan Connor, Jal Jalaludin, Rod Lander, Sau-Chee Low, Luisa Reid, Susie Schenker and Dai Fei Yang**. Your contribution and efforts were greatly appreciated. I apologise if I have left anyone out.

### **Mysteries of the HSC Explained**

At the last P&C meeting held on Wednesday 10 August, there was a wonderful presentation by Mr Scovell explaining the mysteries of the HSC and the marking and scaling of HSC and ATAR scores. He did a great job of explaining this incredibly complex process and all present went away much better informed.

A copy of the presentation is on the P&C Meeting Minutes pages of the school website.

### **School Plan and P&C AGM**

On Wednesday 9 November there will be a presentation of the new 3 year plan for the school. This will also be the AGM for the P&C.

### **Website**

The P&C has some pages on the school website (<http://www.fortstreet.nsw.edu.au/>) under the **Community** link. There you will find information about the P&C, meetings, the canteen and the uniform shop.

### **Contact Us**

If you would like to receive emails notifying you of meetings and other events but do not currently receive them, please let us have your email address and we can arrange accordingly.

If you wish to contact the P&C, email [fortst.pc@gmail.com](mailto:fortst.pc@gmail.com) or feel free to contact me on 0402 188 489.

**Ian Reid**  
**P&C President**

### **CSU launches Doctors 4 the Bush**

Do you think we need more doctors in rural areas? Would you like to study medicine at Charles Sturt University (CSU)?

CSU has submitted a detailed proposal to the Federal government asking for help to establish a new Medicine and Health School in rural NSW to increase opportunities for rural students to study medicine, and to get more doctors working in rural areas in the long term.

This will benefit both students interested in studying medicine and residents of regional and remote Australia.

To support this proposal:

- \* find Doctors 4 the Bush on Facebook
- \* follow on Twitter @doctors4thebush
- \* or go to [www.doctors4thebush.org.au](http://www.doctors4thebush.org.au).



## 2011 University Applications in NSW /ACT

An important reminder: it is **your responsibility** to complete your UAC application. The on-time closing date is midnight Friday 30 September.

This reason for submitting the application is to give Universities information about the demand for courses and to plan ahead.

**You can change your preferences anytime up to 5 January 2012.** You will have access to your HSC results on 14 December and the ATAR results on 15 December.

Remember **you only get ONE offer in each round** - the closest one to your first preference that matches your ATAR and prerequisites, so you have up to 5 January 2012 to fine-tune your preferences for the main round of offers.

### Applying on the Web:

Visit [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au). To complete your entry you will need your Board of Studies (BOS) Student Number and your UAC PIN number.

#### **WARNING!**

The BOS PIN number and the UAC PIN number are different. Your BOS pins were distributed at school. Please see me if you had not received your UAC PIN number in the mail by mid August or ring UAC on 02 9752 0200. Refer to page 21 for details.

The web service will cost \$26 and can be paid online by Credit Card (Mastercard or VISA), PayPal, BPay or Australia Post. You can change your preferences and check for offers everyday for no additional UAC charge. The only additional cost will be the Internet access costs. This address is not accessible during midnight to 7:30 am each day due to updating/maintenance.

#### Points To Bear In Mind

1. Your **UAC PIN number** is used to enter university choices and access your ATAR through UAC.
2. You will be given a **UAC number** at the end of your transaction with UAC. You will need this for any further contact with UAC. This will be your BOS number with a "1" in front of it.
3. You will also be given a **receipt number** at the end of any call to UAC. This will confirm your application and preferences have been lodged correctly. Keep a record of all these numbers for future reference.
4. Please note that the school has a list of your BOS numbers but not your HSC or UAC PIN numbers.
5. You must decide whether you need to complete a Full Year 12 Apply by Web Application page 22 examples are Accelerated Chemistry students, STAT test, etc
6. If you lodge a late application by these dates you will be required to pay the appropriate late fee to UAC:

31 October	<u>\$142 late fee</u>
30 November	<u>\$159 late fee</u>
02 February	<u>\$169 late fee</u>

When completing your application keep in mind that you can list **NINE** preferences. These are indicated by a course code e.g. 511200 is the code for an Arts degree at the University of Sydney. The codes are listed in the UAC Guide. Remember UAC will only make you **ONE OFFER** in each round if you are eligible. That is, UAC will process your preferences until a course that you have listed meets the UAC score and prerequisites - starting with your first preference.

It is possible that you do not meet the requirements for any course. This would mean that in the main round offers, you would not be made a university offer.

Be smart and always include courses you think you can get into comfortably. Any reasonable offer is better than NO offers. It is always difficult to guess the ATAR for new courses. Even the universities don't know what the expected ATAR will be.

**BEWARE:**

**Take care with CSP full time and Part Time course numbers.** Double-check everything!

CSP= Commonwealth Supported Place

**When picking preferences make your selections in 3 groups:**

- 1 = Pick 1-3 "ideal" courses**
- 2 = Pick 4-6 "realistic" courses**
- 3 = Pick 7-9 "foot in the door" courses**

**Don't wait till the last minute to apply!**

**HSC results on Wednesday 14 December - ATAR results from Thursday 15 December**

On 14 Dec, your HSC results are available via the HSC Telephone Results Service or the BOS website [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au). You need your BOS Pin number to access the Web. UAC will release the ATARs from 9am on 15 December via the website, [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au) From 16 December you will receive your written advice of HSC results from the BOS and ATARs from UAC

**Changing your university preferences Page 23 5.12**

It is possible to change your preferences as many times as you like until the closing date for each round. Remember the web site will be down each night from midnight – 7:30am to update changes made each day.

It is important that you understand the offer system described below. Change your preferences to suit for the subsequent rounds. **N.B.** Principal recommendations, audition/interview courses are made offers in the early and preliminary rounds.

**Offers for each round: Page 31**

**The seven rounds of offers are October, November, December, early January, Main, early February and Final**

The October, November, December and early January offers are predominantly based on criteria other than ATAR such as interview, portfolio or audition. The **Main Round** university offers are released from 9pm 18 January, the early February offers are released at 9pm on 1 February and the **Final Round** of offers are released on 8 February.

An alphabetical listing of university offers is also published in the major newspapers on 19 January 2012. Keep in mind there are limited offers made after the main round. These are the courses that still have vacancies.

**The Golden Rule is: accept all offers until you have exhausted all chances of getting your preferred course.** You must accept an offer by the date specified or you lose it. By the end of the final round, it is possible to have as many as 3 or 4 offers from various rounds. No penalties apply for accepting, then declining offers. Offers are posted by UAC on behalf of the universities with instructions including deferring

### Course Prerequisites or Additional Criteria Table pp.50-95

Some courses have specific requirements for entry- mainly ANU in the ACT. Ensure that you know if you need an interview or have to present a portfolio or go for an audition before you put these courses in your preference list. You cannot have an interview/audition or present a portfolio if you miss the time frame in which universities assess applicants. In other words, deciding to apply for a Bachelor of Music at UNSW in January is simply too late even if you have the necessary ATAR. You know if courses have additional selection criteria by consulting the UAC Guide Table 1 pp.50-95. In the last column a **diamond** will be shown if there are any special selection criteria. Courses with early closing dates are listed on **page 30**.

### Handy Hints

1. Follow the UAC guide on how to lodge an application. **Double check** all the details on your application.
2. When making an inquiry/accessing the WEB, you will need to know your UAC and UAC PIN number.
3. Make a note of your receipt numbers when you apply or make changes to your preferences. It is your confirmation/proof of these changes. Use the table on the back page of the UAC book to record all relevant numbers.
4. If you don't get the ATAR you were hoping for, it is time to reassess before the main round, get out the Guide and have a good look for alternative courses with lower ATARs. They may not be your preferred choices but at least you can then apply to transfer after 1<sup>st</sup> Year if your Grade Point Average is high enough. Talk to the University representative about what you would need to achieve to transfer.
5. If you miss out on a University offer in the main round, work out those courses that have vacancies in them and apply for them in subsequent rounds. Check major newspapers on 19 January, 2012 A "V" after the course name indicates vacancies.
6. Apply for **Principal Recommendation Schemes**. It is a good insurance, as you may have a guaranteed offer before the main round. It can make the difference between having a university offer and not, especially if your ATAR is below your expectation.
7. UAC now runs a Mid-Year entry round. So it is possible to try again beware not all courses are offered. Also a number of University's offer alternative entry schemes as a way to get a foot in the door. Check the UAC website with the link alternative entry.
8. For scholarship information. Go directly to the University's web site.
9. Apply for accommodation on campus early as places are highly competitive. Directions are on the university web sites.  
**BEWARE:** deposits are usually non-refundable.
10. The HECS (CSP) system is administered through the Taxation Department, all students must have a **Tax File Number** when they first enrol in a tertiary course. Applying as a student through the school is the easiest way. **DO it NOW.**

If you have suffered from long-term educational disadvantage then make sure you apply for consideration through the Educational Access Scheme(EAS). You must supply detailed evidence to be considered! Applications are now available from Mrs J Kidd, the School Counsellor.

## Educational Access Schemes (EAS)

Most institutions participating in UAC have Educational Access Schemes (EAS) for applicants who have experienced long-term educational disadvantage.

If you think you are eligible, you should submit an EAS application to UAC, in addition to your UAC application. You may submit only one EAS application to UAC. Categories include 1) Disrupted schooling, 3) Home environment and responsibilities 4) English language difficulty 5) Personal illness/disability. Applications are then ranked on need. Each participating Uni reserves a couple of places in each course for this scheme.

Follow these steps:

Step 1: Check Part 2 of the Guide to find out which institutions offer an Educational Access Scheme. Different schemes have different eligibility/availability criteria.

Step 2: See Mrs Kidd, the School Counsellor for the form and advice on applying. She will complete the school recommendation section if required. You can also download the application from the UAC website.

Step 3: Otherwise give it to the relevant member of staff so that they can fill in the "Confidential statement of support" if you feel that they have a better understanding/knowledge of your case.

Step 4: If you have any questions, call the telephone number listed in the EAS booklet for the relevant institution.

Step 5: Submit your EAS application to Ms Kidd, School Counsellor at least two/three weeks before the closing date of 30 September 2011.

If you believe that you have been disadvantaged in your secondary studies but do not qualify for any of the Educational Access Schemes, you may be able to apply for special consideration directly to the relevant institutions. For further instructions on how to apply for special consideration check the institution eg. Elite sports person

## Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) Page 41

STAT is designed to assess a range of competencies considered important for success in tertiary study. If you are ineligible for an ATAR you can use this test to qualify for admission into tertiary study. In some Universities it is possible for current Year 12 students to use their result to supplement their ATAR. Check out the table on p.43 for a list of institutions that accept STAT. Check with UAC and the participating institutions.

**NB Sydney University requires STAT for Pharmacy and Veterinary Science.**

## Deferring an Offer

To defer a course you must first get accepted into it. So you need to go through the above process of applying to Universities. Not all Universities allow deferments so check with each institution. The UAC Guide has a table setting out different Universities policies and if any payment or conditions apply. You will need to reapply through UAC in the following year's intake. You can put in up to 9 preferences again if you wish and if you get another offer above your preference for your deferment you can accept it and forfeit your deferment.

## Bridging Courses

If you have not studied a subject that is classed 'benefit from' or "assumed knowledge" for the HSC, various Universities offer intensive study of these subjects so that you can catch up to the other students for the beginning of first year.

Bridging courses are offered in Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and other subjects. Each aims to provide you with enough knowledge to study those subjects at University level. It can't replace 2 years of study for the HSC in about 8 weeks.

You are not made to do these courses. However, they will certainly make your first semester of study at University a lot easier as you will otherwise be at a disadvantage compared to the rest of the students who studied these subjects for the HSC.

Bridging courses satisfy certain subject pre-requisites but will not affect your eligibility for course enrolment.

## Studying Externally Page 98-99

Often called Distance Education, this is another method of gaining entry into University without having to go through the UAC process. This option is also a more viable method of study for those students who can't afford to move away from home or whose results may not be as high as expected. Eg. At UNE most courses can be studied P/T or F/T externally, students may also be eligible to continue to receive Youth Allowance in consultation with Centrelink. You apply DIRECTLY to the University for distance education as described on page 94.

## I didn't receive an offer! What now? Upgrading your rank (ATAR)

It is vital that you take time **NOW** to look at **alternative pathways** to the career you are interested in. It is possible to upgrade your ATAR based on your study and work experience after school. I do not recommend repeating Year 12! TAFE and Private Colleges offer Diploma courses that can be counted towards your suitability to enrol in a University course. They are often a cost effective way of starting your Tertiary studies.

There is a general agreement amongst Universities in NSW that a 2 year diploma will be recognised and a 1 year credit be given in a related degree this option is less likely with popular Sydney based universities. In NSW you would need to discuss the best pathway into your chosen course with the individual university you wish to attend. NB. A number of Universities run alternative entry courses which allow you to enrol in a part load and depending on your results they will allow you to articulate into the course the following year. However these are usually full fee paying courses! TAFE High Demand course applications close at the end of October.

### **New courses listed in the 2012 UAC Guide in table 1 (pp. 50-95)**

**Australian Catholic University:** Applied Public Health, Arts and Economics, Business Administration/Global Studies, Commerce/Global Studies, International Development Studies, Nursing (Mental Health), Nursing/Business Administration, and Theology/Global Studies

**Australian National University:** Advanced Computing (Research and Development), Art History and Curatorship, Environmental Studies, European Studies, Finance, International Relations/Laws, Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies, Policy Studies and Dip Asia-Pacific Studies.

**Charles Sturt University:** Health and Rehabilitation Science and Social Work

**Griffith University:** Law School Double Degree Program

**La Trobe University:** Agricultural Science, Community Development (Health Promotion and Planning) and Science (Wildlife and Conservation Biology)

**Macquarie University:** Engineering with a major in Electronic Engineering, Engineering with a major in Mechanical Engineering, Engineering with a major in Software Engineering, Engineering with a major in Telecommunications Engineering, Engineering with a major in Wireless Engineering, Information Technology-Games Design and Development, and Marketing and Media.



**Southern Cross University:** Business in International Hospitality Management, Indigenous Studies, and Trauma and Healing.

**University of Canberra:** Accounting, Australian Politics and Public Policy, Finance, Graphic Design/Advertising and Marketing Communication, Human Resource Management, International Business, Marketing Management, and Social Science.

**University of New England:** Chinese Language and Business Studies, Ecology, and Financial Services/Laws,

**University of NSW:** Engineering (Electrical/M Engineering (Electrical)).

**University of Newcastle:** Business

**University of Sydney:** Engineering/Project Management, Project Management, Design in Architecture/Laws, Nursing (Advanced Studies), and Applied Science (Exercise Physiology).

**University of Technology:** Design in Animation, Midwifery, and Design in Animation/Arts in International Studies.

**University of Western Sydney:** Arts/M. Teaching (Primary), Arts/M Teaching (Secondary), Business and Commerce (Accounting), Business and Commerce (Applied Finance) , Business and Commerce (Hospitality Management), Business and Commerce (Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations), Business and Commerce (International Business), Business and Commerce (Management), Business and Commerce (Marketing) Business and Commerce (Property) Business and Commerce (Sport Management), Engineering (Advanced)/M Engineering Science (Civil and Electrical), Engineering/M. Engineering Science (Civil and Electrical), Engineering Science, Medical Science (Advanced), Medical Science (Nanotechnology), Natural Science (Advanced), Natural Science (Environment Management), Natural Science (Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security), Science (Advanced Science), Science (Biological Sciences), Science (Chemistry), Science (Environmental Science), and Science (Zoology)

**University of Wollongong:** Arts (Psychology)/Laws, Science (Psychology)/Laws, Arts (Psychology)/Commerce, Business, Economics and Finance, Conservation Biology, and Conservation Biology Advanced.

I would also keep an eye on the UAC newsletters announcing any course addition or withdrawals.

I will forward these by email.

**Phil Canty**  
**Careers Adviser**

Compiled from the 2012 UAC Guide