



SEFA NEWS



Memorable Challenges 2011

Skyline Graduate Tony Nguyen and keen SEFA supporter Anthony McConchie have both taken on Memorable Challenges to fundraise for Skyline. After fundraising over \$6,000 each, Tony will cycle through India and Anthony will trek The Great Wall of China. So far Tony has raised \$2060 and Anthony has raised \$1660. Please support these boys, and Skyline, by visiting their fundraising pages at:

http://www.everydayhero.com.au/anthony_mcconchie
and

http://www.everydayhero.com.au/tony_nguyen_0

For more information or to join a Challenge email: charrison@memorablechallenges.com

FROM ADVERSITY TO OPPORTUNITY

Skyline Residential Workshop

We all met at Southern Cross Station on Friday night, 18th March, boarded the bus and headed down to Grantville Lodge near Philip Island, for our three day camp. Jason and Tara facilitated a range of workshops and discussion sessions. We revisited "The Game Plan", a powerful tool for analysing goals and staying focused. Students shared their academic and personal goals with the group. We also learnt about life balance and the benefits of a good diet and adequate sleep. The Year 11s were presented with a new time management tool that required the documenting of a plan in order to monitor their progress. The Year 12 students used their Myers-Briggs personality type results to examine career pathways and discuss University course options.

But it wasn't all hard work. We enjoyed a trip to Maru Wildlife Park to feed the kangaroos and played a game of mini-golf. Some of the Skyline board members joined us for dinner on the Saturday night. We heard from our guest speaker, Luther Ellis, who spent a year volunteering at an orphanage in Tanzania. This was followed by a fabulous quiz. Not only were the students required to answer a range of historic, political, scientific and mathematical questions but they also had to create things with playdough. It was interesting to watch the students' competitive yet cooperative nature in their teams.

Whilst on camp the students were asked "What does it mean to you to be selected for a Skyline VCE Bursary?". One student responded "It's an opening to a lot more opportunities in what Skyline offers and a load off not

worrying so much about the financial stress upon everything else". Another student replied "It means a lot not only to me but my Mum and my family. I have found out this weekend that Skyline is not only there to help with financial situations but to help me be the best I can be".

We had an amazing time, old friendships renewed and new ones forged. Each student went away with a greater knowledge of the support available to them, through Skyline, and a range of vital skills that will help them reach their academic potential.

According to the students the camp highlights included: meeting new people with similar interests, making new friends; escaping the hustle and bustle of school life; learning to manage my time more effectively; looking at what is holding me back; learning about career pathways; the guest speaker; and quiz night.



MEET OUR NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR

By Penny Horton-Stephens

I was born and raised in Tasmania. I went to University and studied hard for a Bachelor of Education degree. I enjoyed studying so much I soon went back to study for a Master of Science, my newborn daughter used to sleep in the corner of the lecture hall whilst I took notes. I taught Mathematics and Science for ten years at a range of schools across Tasmania. My husband and I then took our two children to live in Hong Kong for four years.

This allowed us to fulfill our dreams of travelling and experiencing different cultures. After adventuring through twelve countries on four different continents we are well aware we have only just scratched the surface of diversity on this planet. My children, now five and ten years old, are enjoying life in Australia, close to their extended family.

What do I enjoy most about my job? I find it incredibly rewarding working with young people. I love organising things

and meeting new people. I spend most of my office days responding to emails, organising paperwork, writing cheques, keeping track of costs and researching and writing grant applications. I also enjoy getting out of the office to meet with sponsors, attend SEFA board meetings, visit Principals, Companion Teachers and our students.

I consider it a privilege to work with such a dedicated board, talented students, caring teachers and generous sponsors.



The **SEFA Fundraising Gala Dinner** will be held on **Thursday 20th October** in the Victory Room at Etihad Stadium. Please put the date in your diary. We would love you to invite your friends and colleagues to make up a table.



FUN AND GAMES, TIPS AND TRICKS

By Sophie Noukaris

In March this year, the year 11s and 12s of the Skyline Bursary Program boarded a bus and were off to Grantville. At first I was so scared and I thought it was going to be a nightmare, but the moment we stepped off of the bus, I was proven wrong. The weekend was filled with fun and games, whenever we weren't absorbing the great tips and tricks Tara and Jason were giving us. All the students were great and filled the weekend with laughter. I cannot wait until next year's camp where this year's year 11s can meet up for another awesome weekend and where we can meet and greet the new students. I just wish it went for longer!

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

By Jasmine Isobe

Going on the Skyline camp to Grantville was a great experience, this year and last year. The organised group activities and the casual time to make and build on friendships made for a very enjoyable, engaging weekend away. Meeting and getting to know the other students in the program was definitely the highlight for me, and I have come away from it feeling like I am part of a special group of people. The information on study techniques and handling our VCE given to us by Jason and Tara is very useful and has helped a lot over the last year, and continues to this year. A very big thank you for the camp and to everyone at Skyline!