

9 December 2014

## Principal's Message



2014 has certainly flown by quickly. It seems only yesterday, we were having orientation with our present year 12 and this week we held Orientation Days for our Year 11 students of 2015. Next year we will enrol over 500 students into year 11, a record number of enrolments for GRC Oatley.

Our Year 11 students of 2014 are now in their Year 12 HSC courses. Year 12 courses begin in term 4 and are completed at the end of term 3. A reminder to all parents that the school day starts at 8.30am with a warning bell to proceed to class. Classes begin promptly at 8.40am. We ask all families to review morning procedures to ensure all students arrive on time. Our mantra is –“in class, on time and learning”. This is a good formula for success in the HSC.

A number of students received great news that their HSC Major Work has been accepted to the various HSC showcase events of outstanding work. Congratulations to Jana Borovskis (Dance), Jason Tamos and Lachlan Farrell (Industrial Technology) and Jason Tamos (Visual Arts). This is an outstanding achievement by these students to have their work recognised as being of the highest quality to showcase.

Congratulations also to the 2014 Titration Team (Chemistry). The GRC Oatley team was the highest placed NSW state school at the national competition. The competition involves a great commitment and many hours of practise and preparation. I thank the team members and the staff for their hard work in attaining such an achievement.

Recently all year 12 students completed the road safety program-“U turn the Wheel”. The presentation of the day is a joint venture between the Rotary Club, NSW Police and Ambulance, NRMA, Trent Driving School and a number of other community and local youth organisations. Thank you to all the organisations involved. U turn the Wheel is now delivered in all Sutherland Shire schools. This area has experienced a 30% reduction in road accident related casualties in the 17 -24 age group. My thanks to the P and C who subsidised the day allowing a reduction of the cost paid by students from \$10 to \$5. This is one of the many great programs that operate at the school due to the support of the P and C. I encourage all parents to pay the P and C levy as the funds are a vital factor in providing extra programs and resources for students.

<http://vimeo.com/111590356>

*Special Guest Speaker at the “U turn the Wheel” Day stresses the importance of safe driving*

Congratulations to our Support Unit students for their involvement in School Spectacular 2014. Their performance was great and the students enjoyed meeting new friends and having a wonderful experience that they will always remember. The whole school is enjoying the photos of the performance that are now being shown on the screens throughout the school. Thank you to the staff who supported the students with very long hours of rehearsals and the 3 days of performance.

Two special teachers leave us at the end of 2014 for retirement. Mrs Angelika Splittgerber, Head Teacher TAS, and Mr Wayne Armstrong, Science teacher. We thank them sincerely for their commitment to the students of GRC Oatley. We wish them a happy, healthy and long retirement. Ms Classa Martinuzzi will be taking up the position of relieving Deputy Principal at GRC Penshurst next year. We wish her all the best.

Personally, I thank the students, staff, parents and community for 5 wonderful years at GRC Oatley. GRC Oatley is such a special school in so many ways and I will always have fond memories of my years here. A school is not the buildings or walls but the people within and I have been blessed to meet so many wonderful people in my time here. It has been an absolute pleasure to be Principal of GRC Oatley and I know the school will continue to soar and go on to bigger and better things.

I wish all our community a safe and happy holiday and many hours relaxing with family and friends.

**Deidrei Bedwell**

## White Ribbon Day

White Ribbon Day is recognised internationally as the United Nations Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women. White Ribbon Australia is a national program aimed at men in order to educate and help them stand up against violence against women. For three years Oatley Senior Campus have embraced this cause.

The young men who prepared our program spent the previous seven weeks meeting, learning and planning for this day. But I am confident that these young people all recognise the need to demonstrate white ribbon behaviour every day, every term and every year for the rest of their lives.

We were again fortunate to have Mario Fenech, NRL White Ribbon Ambassador. Out of all his many options, he again chose our campus to spend time with and to again reinforce his message that ‘good men don’t hit women’. Another great bonus was to have ex-Oatley student and Sydney United FC player, Mr Ibrahim Haydar, to speak at our assembly. I have asked Ibrahim’s permission to include his speech in this newsletter.

White Ribbon at Oatley is not just about breaking the silence on all forms of violence and harassment against women. It is also about a community of people showing care and reflecting on ways to make life better for other members of our community.



**Ibrahim MUSTAPHA** *passionate speech about White Ribbon*

I will conclude with the words of our College Principal, Ms Spittles: After all that work and preparation, "many young men are stronger and young women are safer".



**Kevin Wright**  
**Head Teacher Welfare,**  
**December 2014**

<http://vimeo.com/112774614>

*Students from Hurstville Georges River College show their support for White Ribbon Day*

<http://vimeo.com/112774615>

*Antwan SAMAAAN reads the White Ribbon Oath and students line up to sign the white ribbon to pledge their support for eliminating violence against women.*

## Chinese students commitment to White Ribbon

White ribbon has had such an impact that students at our school have taken the time to translate the message into different languages. Natalie He prepared this message for her community:

白丝带日

学校福利社教师兼活动发起人，Kevin Wright 老师荣幸地被邀主持白丝带日活动，并得到各科老师，学校职员，学生及广大学生父母和大众团体的大力支持与帮助。

所以什么是白丝带日呢？这次活动的目的是教育大家正确地了解到对妇女的暴力可以有很多形式，有时不止是对身体的暴力，还有对精神上和心理上的暴力。这次活动提供了一个让男生为反暴力站起来发言和表示支持反暴力的平台，因为谁都不因该无视社会对女性的暴力，无论你是受害者，抑或旁观者。

GRC Oatley Senior Campus 荣幸地举行了白丝带日活动于11月25日（官方白丝带日。老师，朋友，家人都可以通过这个活动了解白丝带日的意义。许多男生更是抓住了这次难得的机会，对大众发起了反对对妇女暴力的誓词。而这次活动的意义远远深于男生们完成了这样的壮举，更多是关于让女生能深刻地了解这样的行为对女性的影响并且普及这方面的知识。

这次活动取得了巨大的成功。两间学校的学生都踊跃参加这次的活动，但更可贵的是白丝带活动的本质和意义会由学生们一直传承下去。

It translates as

So what is White Ribbon Day? It is an event that acknowledges and recognises the wrongs in committing violence against women. The idea behind the campaign is to recognise and promote awareness that violence does happen to women, and that the effect is just as devastating as the physical violence. It also allows men to feel supported in speaking up against violence towards women and that no one should feel ignored, whether they are the victim or a bystander.

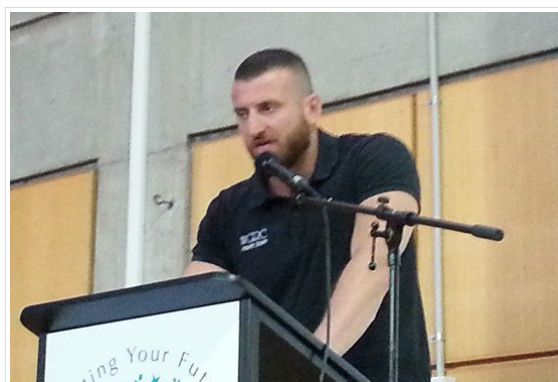
GRC Oatley Senior Campus was proud to hold their White Ribbon Day event on the 25th November during the school's assembly (the official White Ribbon Day). This allowed students, teachers, family, friends and the community to connect through an understanding of what White Ribbon Day means. During this event, many male members in the audience took up the chance to take an oath/pledge to make a public statement against violence towards women. This was such an achievement for not only the men, but for the women who were receiving acknowledgement in issues that impacted them so strongly.

The event was a tremendous success with a large turnout of both school and non-school staff, but more importantly the principles and values behind the White Ribbon campaign will endure for many years through the students.

**Translated by Natalie He**

## Mr Ibrahim Haydar "White Ribbon Speech

Good Afternoon to everyone here today.



Before I begin I would like to thank Mr Wright and his White ribbon committee here at GRC Oatley for allowing me to briefly speak to you all about the value of this day, this organisation and the importance of the message and values it represents.

White Ribbon, as most of you know is an organisation which was created by men and led by men to put an end to violence against women.

So what is violence against women?

It is any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm, directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects a woman, disproportionately.

Is it ok for a man to abuse a woman because of his physical superiority, or because she's simply a woman, ABSOLUTELY NOT! Violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable. It is important for the young men here in front of me today to understand that white ribbon day isn't just an organisation highlighting the alarming injustice and violence against many women around the world, it is an organisation which educates you and informs you so that you, yourself, can stand up against any violence you see directed towards women.

Some of you may be thinking what are the chances I may somehow see an act of abuse or violence towards women, let me give you some alarming statistics on how prevalent violence and abuse against women is:

Close to half of all women (40%) have experienced violence since the age of 15

Just under one third of women (29%) have experienced physical assault

Since the age of 15, one third of women (33%) have experienced inappropriate comments about their body, one quarter (25%) have experienced unwanted sexual touching, and one in five (19%) have been stalked.

These statistics are unfortunately statistics about women in Australia. This needs to change.

To the young men here today, we all have a mother, a grandmother, a sister, a cousin an aunt and friends we care about dearly. But we don't need to even know the woman. It is our duty to protect these women by showing them the respect they deserve. Abuse comes in many different forms, as you just heard through the statistics I mentioned. Some of us may not realise that the things we say towards women could actually be considered as verbal abuse. We need to be mindful of these things before we speak.

Just as importantly, it is our duty to speak up against any violence we see towards women. Being silent only allows for the perpetrator to get away with and even continue with their abuse. It is not good enough to just swear the oath against violence towards women; it must be shown in our actions every single day of our lives, towards all women we ever come in contact with.

White ribbon day is a great day for society. Yes it highlights the problems society has with the large amount of abuse and violence towards women, but it also demonstrates the

importance, the value the love, the care men have towards women. It demonstrates that we are willing to stand up for women when it may seem difficult for them to stand up for themselves. My plea to the young men in front of me today, do not remember this issue once a year. Remember it and act upon it every single day of your lives. The minute you walk out of this hall, make sure that these values are instilled in your mind for as long as you live.

Smart men say no to violence, strong men say no to violence... good men say no to violence.

Vera Nazarian once said - A woman is human. She is not better, wiser, stronger, more intelligent, more creative, or more responsible than a man. Likewise, she is never less. Equality is a given. A woman is human.

Thankyou

## I Witness Exhibition

Earlier this year, Year 11 and Year 12 Visual Arts students were lucky enough to spend an afternoon with Australian contemporary artist and filmmaker, George Gittoes at Hazelhurst Art Gallery. On exhibit was the first major survey in Australia of Gittoes' work. The exhibition, *I Witness*, presented a chronological display of Gittoes' paintings, drawings, and artist diaries from the fields of war, as well as installation and film, created throughout his 40 year career. The exhibition documented sites of cultural conflict including Nicaragua and the Philippines in the 1980s, Rwanda, Cambodia and the Middle East in the 1990s, and more recently Pakistan, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

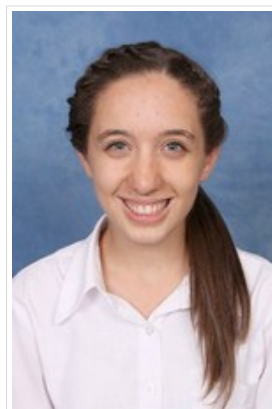
George Gittoes spoke about his experiences in such wartorn places and explained how his artistic practice has developed over the years, providing great insight into the role of the artist in the world.

**Stephanie Kentwell**  
**Art Teacher**

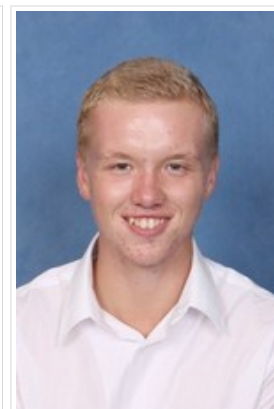
## 2015 SRC Executive

Congratulations to all students who tried out and were successful for the SRC 2015.

School Captains:



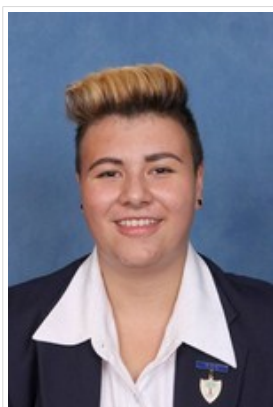
*Terri-Anne Samios,*



*Daniel Crowder*



Vice Captains:



*Veronica Guardala*



*Jason Ha*

SRC President:



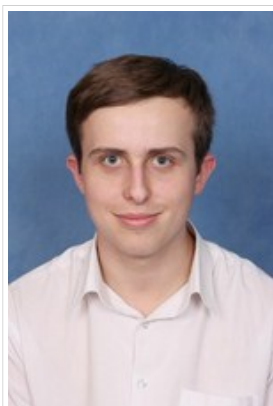
*Cara Bancroft*

SRC Vice President:



*Tiana De Silva*

SRC Secretary:



*Ryan Swift*

SRC Treasurer:



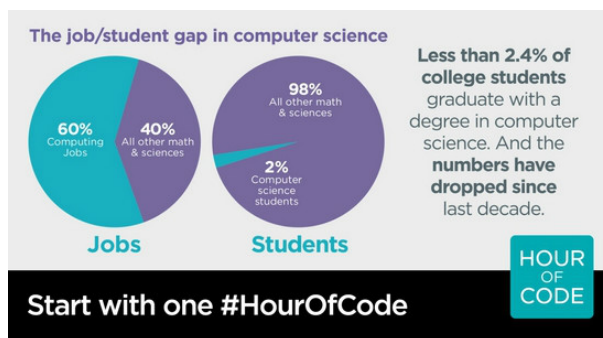
*Valeria Perez*

Year 12 SRC:

Kristen Diskoros, Stephanie Savidis, Stefanos Ekhmekdjian, Ben Muffett, Olivia Fong, Katherine Antonopoulos, Elaine Tong and Jesse James Donlevy

**Rebecca Jamieson**  
**SRC coordinator**

## GRC Oatley will be hosting the Hour of Code



### What is the Hour of Code?

**A one-hour activity.** Students of all ages can choose from a variety of self-guided tutorials, from kindergarten on up.

**A spark to keep learning computer science.** Once students see what they create right before their eyes, they're empowered to keep learning.

**A global movement** reaching tens of millions of students in 170+ countries. Tutorials are available in over 30 languages.

### Why computer science?

Kids are constantly using technology today, but how many are learning to build it? Every 21st-century student should have the opportunity to learn Computer Science, yet fewer schools teach Computer Science or Programming than 10 years ago. The basics help nurture creativity and problem-solving skills, and prepare students for any future career.

The **Hour of Code** takes place around the world during the period December 8-14, 2014. This is **Week 10** at GRC Oatley.

Students will be advised of the date and time set for **GRC Oatley's Hour of Code**.

**Anthony Allsion**  
**Heat Teacher Vet**