The 2017 fee structure was approved unanimously at the General Meeting of the company held last night.

The approved fee structure will continue to ensure our school is able to aim for a modest surplus, within acceptable guidelines, for the year ahead.

As a school, we have been blessed with the financial stewardship of those going before us, and we now continue to diligently manage our income and expenses to ensure both our long and short term objectives are met.

Once again, the government funding of independent schools has featured prominently in the media. The school’s current government funding makes up around 60% of our operating revenue, so any negative movement in proposed funding arrangements would have a significant impact.

The existing government funding arrangements will continue until the end of 2017, with talk of changes to the model from 2018 onwards.

We would encourage you (as parents and constituents) to contact your federal member of parliament, (for most of us - Mr Craig Kelly), and to voice your concerns about any proposed negative impacts on our school funding. Our members of parliament do enjoy hearing from us, and their websites makes this an easy task to do.

Continue on page 2
From page 1

The continuing uncertainty of the funding model, along with the rising costs of expenses, make it a challenge to present a fee structure which strikes the balance between providing affordable, high-quality education, and being good stewards of the resources we have been blessed to oversee.

The fee structure presented and approved last night used the education CPI as a base, and along with prudent cost control, resulted in a modest budgeted surplus for 2017.

The table below details the fee structure for 2017.

The discount for second and third children has reduced slightly while the discount for the fourth and subsequent children remains unchanged. Some time was spent last night discussing the discount structure and our ongoing commitment to aim for “responsible generosity”.

The laptop program will continue to be rolled out next year to students in Years 7 and 10 with the laptop fee for those students remaining at $600.

In summary, the school has been preparing itself for the funding challenges that lie ahead, and also the proposed capital works outlined in the school building master plan. Several smaller projects have been completed this year and a few are about to commence.

An independent financial performance survey by Somerset Education (for the 2015 year) shows that our school appears to be very efficiently run and that “financial risk appears relatively low for your school”. Other key indicators show that, when compared to independent schools of a similar size, we are tracking very well.

So while there are many uncertainties in life, we are thankful to God for His continuing blessing and provision to our school. At this point we have a healthy balance sheet and are in a good position to make progress on aspects of the building master plan.

We also want to thank Business Manager Mr Peter Watters and his team for diligently managing the financial affairs of the school.

As the year draws to a close, want to thank those who have kept their accounts up to date this year and we do encourage families to ensure their financial commitments for 2016 are on target. If any families are experiencing difficulties in this regard, please don’t hesitate to contact Peter as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Board, executive and staff, we thank you for your continued support, and look forward with anticipation to what lies ahead in 2017.

### Shire Christian School Annual Fee Structure

| 1. Junior School (Kinder to Year 6) | $6,895 |
| 2. Secondary School (Years 7 to 12) per annum | $7,845 |
| 3. Sibling Discount per annum | $600 |
| 4. Shire Prep fees: per day | $47 |
| 5. Additional Fees | |
| Application fee per student | $100 |
| Enrolment confirmation fee | $200 |
| Enrolment bond per family | $1,000 |

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### Years 11, 7 & Kinder 2017: Fittings

**It’s time to organise uniform fittings for Year 11, Year 7 and Kinder students.**

**Fittings are now taking place, by appointment only.**

Senior students can be assisted during recess/lunch breaks on Tuesday and Thursday. Payment or a deposit is required at the time of fitting.

**TO BOOK A FITTING APPOINTMENT:**

**Mrs Michelle King**  
**Phone:** 9532 1065  
(Leave a message if there is no answer. Your call will be returned the next trading day.)  
**Email:** shire@ranier.com.au  
**Online bookings:** www.ranier.com.au

**Normal Trading Days (During School Terms):**

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am to 2pm

**Payment**  
Cash / Eftpos / Visa / Mastercard (1.5% credit card surcharge applies)
Reflecting on the Scriptures

To help me be a godly Christian leader, I have a set of memory verse cards in a small plastic box on my desk. Looking through some of these verses from time to time reminds me how the Lord expects me to conduct myself day by day. At the beginning of what promised to be a particularly demanding day recently, I read and reflected on the following verse:

“And whatever you do, whether in word or indeed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” - Colossians 3:17

Giving thanks to God, whatever our circumstances or emotions might be, is fundamental to living a life honouring to God. I think we all have a lot to be thankful for in relation to our school. We have teachers who love the Lord and love our students. They want every child to achieve to the best of his or her ability and our teachers are happy to receive feedback on their work. We have people employed in non-teaching roles who graciously and skilfully do their work, whether that is maintaining the school grounds, working in the finance office or answering the school phones. Praise be to God that he is drawn so many committed and gracious people to our school.

A staffing appointment

In my last newsletter article, I mentioned that Mrs Sue Robinson decided not to continue as our Prep – 2 coordinator in 2017. Sue has been a very capable and dedicated coordinator and I’m thankful that she will continue at the school as a classroom teacher. I’m very pleased to advise you that Mrs Liz Arthur has accepted this role. Liz is a thorough and talented teacher with a lot of excellent ideas for the education of our youngest students. She also is able to make great ideas a tangible reality so that children will directly benefit from her leadership and initiatives.

Our new website

The school is pleased to be launching its new website this weekend. I trust that you find the layout and formatting appealing and the information interesting. I had hoped that the new website would have gone live before now; however, as we considered how best to communicate with our school community, a lot of fresh ideas bubbled to the surface on how we can do this most effectively. Therefore, it wasn’t as simple as removing the old website and replacing it with a new one. During the course of the year the executive has reviewed a range of software and web based programs with the objective of ensuring that our information and communication is as clear and straightforward as possible.

We particularly reviewed our use of Edumate. Partly because of some substantial technical difficulties relating to Edumate’s connection to the school’s finance and accounts package, I have decided that the school will transition from Edumate to a new education management system called Seqta. A great deal of research went into making this decision and I am very confident that it will be well received by parents, students and staff. I contacted over 15 schools who currently use Seqta and all of the reviews of the product were glowing. The only thing I find a little annoying about Seqta is the spelling of the company name!

Transitioning from one learning management system to another takes time and I am committed to doing this progressively to try and ensure that all stakeholders in the school can adapt to this change with a minimum of difficulty and then start enjoying the benefits that Seqta has to offer. Seqta has three broad modules: attendance, pastoral care and school reports. We will continue to use Edumate as we transition to Seqta during the course of next year. We intend to start using the attendance module first and then pastoral care.

I will keep all stakeholders in the school informed with specific information they need to access Seqta during the course of 2017.

Because of the complexity of producing student reports, the first school report using Seqta will not be generated until early 2018. I would like to engage parents,
From page 3

students and staff in a discussion on what we want to see in school reports during the course of next year in preparation for using Seqta the year after.

I have previously shared with parents my intention to create a parent portal on the new school website. When we conducted our thorough review of Edumate and decided to purchase Seqta, I decided not to create a parent portal on the website yet because a lot of the functions that would have been put onto

the website portal can be effectively achieved in Seqta. I would like to get everyone in the school community on board with Seqta and then determine what sort of school website portal might be helpful.

After the substantial amount of feedback I received from the parent survey last year about the effectiveness of how we communicate with parents, I was motivated to provide our school with the highest possible standard of communication. I trust that you will appreciate these changes and find them helpful.
Last Sunday at our church we sang, “Jesus put this song into our hearts”. I’m not sure if we started off a little bit too fast, but the tempo increases with each verse and by the time we got to the last verse it was quite challenging to keep up with the words - and to refrain from dancing!

The other verses are, “Jesus taught us how to live in harmony”, “Jesus taught us how to be a family”, and “Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing”. I still have the tune haunting me.

It also set me thinking about what it means to be part of God’s family . . . that ‘Jesus taught us how to be a family’.

David wrote: “Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds - his name is the LORD - and rejoice before him. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; …” (Psalm 68:4-6a).

Many of us find ourselves blessed to be in happy, well-functioning nuclear families; but for others of us there are difficulties or tensions in that area, some irreparable. Our local Church ought to be a ‘family’ where we find opportunity to serve other ‘family’ members and to be served by them.

Mark records an incident fairly early in Jesus’ ministry: “A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, ‘Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.’ ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.’” (Mark 3:32-35).

Jesus extends the idea of family to include the whole community of believers - and that ought to be where we find comfort, support and security in an unfriendly, often hostile, world.

Our School also is a ‘family’. It was set up to be an extension of the nuclear family - a collaboration of parents of like mind, seeking to encourage and help one another in the God-given responsibility of nurturing their children.

Forty years ago the founders didn’t envisage the school growing beyond an enrolment of 500 so that we wouldn’t lose the sense of family; we are now heading towards twice that number and, praise God, we can still feel we are part of this family!

But Jesus took the concept even further than this; he ‘taught us how to be a family’ with our brothers and sisters all around the world. This is especially relevant as we read and hear about the way believers are being treated in other countries under regimes that actively oppose the claims of Christ and the spread of his Gospel.

They are part of our family in Christ and are depending on us to support them at the throne of grace as they face unimaginable persecution, hardship and suffering. As the song that is still haunting me from last Sunday puts it: “different faces, different races, he made us one”!

Changing the metaphor slightly, Paul reminded the Christians in Corinth that the whole Church is like the human body and “if one part suffers, every part suffers with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26a).

At school, as at home, we can encourage each other to be outward looking to all the other members of our ‘family’ - and we saw a truly amazing expression of this last term in the response to the ‘Samaritan’s Purse’ shoebox appeal!

Praise God for the unity we have in Christ!
“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” – Psalm 27:1

- Praise God who is our light and our salvation.
  Praise Him for Jesus through whom we have salvation and assurance.
- Pray for clear recall, calm nerves and perseverance for the Year 12 students currently sitting their HSC exams.
- Pray for all the school orientation mornings still to come: Prep and Year 7. Pray especially for students and families who are new to the school and may be feeling overwhelmed or anxious.
- Thank God for the teaching and administrative staff at our school.
- Pray for the students who are seeking to know God more and have a heart and passion for the Lord.
- Pray for the students who are experiencing anxiety, learning difficulties, friendship problems, financial stress or illness.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for families and students in this world of social media and technology.
- Praise God that He is good and loving and hears our prayers.

Art Rules

Year 12 Visual Arts

Joel Hampson’s HSC Visual Arts Body of Work has been selected for exhibition at Art Rules 2016, Hazelhurst Community Gallery Gymea.

This exhibition showcases the artistic talents of a number of students across schools in the Sutherland Shire and St George area.

We would like to congratulate Joel on his diligent efforts and creative concept that has enabled it to be selected for exhibition.

Please visit the gallery sometime if you can during the school holidays, from the 10th of December until the 22nd of January 2017 to see Joel’s sculptural photomedia work: “Behind Closed Doors”. - Mrs Libby Jackson

Joel Hampson: ‘Behind Closed Doors’
This Monday and Tuesday we had our first ever Year 4 and Year 5 Camp at Deer Park Youthworks Centre. The camp was a tremendous success! Parents brought their children to the camp site, with 80 parents remaining for a presentation on *Raising Resilient Children* by Kylie Warry from The Resilient Doughnut.

The children had a fantastic, action packed time participating in activities such as bush walking, water slide, canoeing, raft building, abseiling, visiting the mangroves and a low-ropes course. During the Christian Discovery session, children were reminded that Jesus conquers sin, He brings forgiveness and that we can learn from our mistakes.

I was extremely encouraged to hear that everybody had done and learnt something new, and that many children had achieved something that they thought they would never be able to do.

Isn’t it great that our children can have these learning experiences with their peers in a supportive Christian environment.

Read some of the students’ reflections on the camp, with some pictures on page 13.

### Silver Awards
- Alexander Lianos
- Evie Poppett
- Abbey McGrath
- Hannah Dott
- Jake Mellor

### Bronze Awards
- Michael Costa
- Charlie Macpherson
- Sam Poppett
- Andrew Cooper
- Bethany Russell
- Noah Wiseman
- Matthew Rolland
- Jaydan Kepu
- Evie Poppett
- Abbey McGrath
- Annalisa Hunter
- Bailey Macarthur
- Ezekiel Hulskamp
- Clayton McKay
- Neve Walker
- Hannah Barry
- Zara Kotobalavu
- Henri Rutgers
- Jake Mellor
- Tiana Nelson
- Keona Lau
- Amelia Athavle

### Kinder Orientation
It was a great pleasure and a privilege to welcome our new Kindergarten families for 2017 to our school.

The first orientation morning was held last week and the second on this past Wednesday. Both mornings went extremely well as our Kindergarten teachers met the parents and students for next year’s classes.

The students loved playing in our newly refurbished playground area and then completed some fun activities with their teacher.

The parents attended an information session about our school led by Mrs Sue Robinson, Mr Brett Hartley and myself. Pictures on page 2.

### Free chickens
Two hens and a chicken coop free to a good home. Friendly hens who lay an egg a day each, would love to come and live with you. Contact Christine Wright at school if interested.

### Items in Community Corner of the newsletter are placed at the discretion of the School. However, the School does not endorse any such item.
All students are reminded to Tap on and Tap off at the beginning and end of each trip with their Opal Cards when travelling to and from school. If students don’t tap on and tap off, services may be cancelled due the lack of recorded patronage.

Pray for Nathan, the Barry family

As many people in our community are aware, Nathan Barry (Year 10) is currently being treated for cancer. Please be praying for Nathan and his family at this time. Please also be praying for the doctors and others who are supporting Nathan and his family.

People who would like to provide support to the family are welcome to do so by writing to the following email address:

barryfamily.scs@gmail.com

Students from the Year 8CF pastoral care class have been sewing bags to donate to The Beauty Bank, based in Taren Point. Mrs Denise Dolan, Operations Manager of The Beauty Bank, visited on Friday 21 October to receive the 55 bags the students had made. She gave a brief talk to the girls as to how The Beauty Bank serves the community, caring for those who have fled domestic violence situations and helping them feel cared for.

Year 8CF will continue to make more bags for the Beauty Bank until the end of the year.
At the end of Term 3, Year 8 got to experience a slice of Medieval European History at Shire Christian School. Presenters from Rampant Entertainment came to our school to give the students insights into Medieval European cultural and ways of living.

Year 8 learnt about their dress, weapons, culture, entertainment and family life. Part of their experience was to hold medieval weapons like swords and spears, and wear helmets. Some students had the opportunity to dress up in Medieval European outfits.

One of the highlights of the day was the chain mail relay where four students in each team had to take turns running while wearing chain mail and then swapping the chain mail with other students in the team.

At the end of the day, a jester showed Year 8 some of the ways that jesters entertained people in Medieval Europe.

All in all, Year 8 enjoyed the day experiencing the culture and have come away with a much deeper appreciation of that time in history.

Mr Matt Miller, Head of HSIE
This term Camp Australia is partnering with Oxfam Australia to bring lots of smiles to 7,500 primary children in Bangladesh.

We are creating friendship bracelets, bookmarks and decorating calico bags to give to these children.

This will encourage our children to see themselves as Global Citizens who can contribute to a peaceful, just and sustainable world and to be compassionate and show God’s love to those in need.

If you would like more information about our before and after school care program, please contact Julianne on 0439 921 943.
Getting to Know Nursing

Notre Dame “Getting to Know Nursing”: Tuesday 8 November, 6pm-7.30pm (Registration from 5pm), School of Nursing, 160 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst (cnr Victoria Street).

Get to know what it’s really like to study Nursing at Notre Dame. Attendees will have the opportunity to find out more about nursing as a profession as well as about the pathways into Nursing. Parents and friends are welcome to attend.

2018 ADF Gap Year Intake


AIE Open Day

- Saturday 19th November
Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation and visual effects at the AIE Open Day. http://www.aie.edu.au/openday

Australian Veterans’ Children Assistance Trust Scholarships (Closes 31st October) 2016

$3,000 to $5,000 per year for up to four years for tertiary study. You must be the child or grandchild of a person with operational service or three or more years continuous full time other service. http://www.avcat.org.au/scholarships/

Careers

Mrs Robyn Buchanan
Careers Advisor

As a joint P&F and Junior School initiative, we will be hosting an AMAZING ME Personal Development Education Seminar for families with students in Years 4, 5 and 6. The seminar provides information to children and families about bodies, babies and puberty.

The presentation will focus on sex education and puberty and will run over two separate sessions.

Session one, called Bodies and Babies, will run from 6.30pm to 7.20pm, for Years 4 and 5 students who are either new to the school or did not attend this session last year. We will then break for supper.

Session two on Puberty will run from 7.40pm to 8.30pm for Year 5 and 6 students. The last session is optional for Year 6 students if they attended last year.

Our AMAZING ME educator, Rowena Thomas, is a Christian Primary School Teacher who has had many years’ experience in this area.

The parents, students and staff who have attended in previous years, found her very engaging and informative and were encouraged as Rowena gave the presentation from a clear Christian perspective.

Depending on numbers, the presentation will be held either in the Hall or TLC and will cost $20 per family attending one session and $25 per family attending two sessions.

Your booking and payment can be made via trybooking.com: search for “Shire Christian”, then click on the “Amazing Me Seminar” heading and the session/s you are attending, along with your child’s name and class.
The school will be renovating the admin building in the last few weeks of this term and over the Christmas holidays. We are creating separate adult and student reception areas inside the building, to help us more effectively manage inquiries from various members of our school community.

The current admin building will be closed and fenced off from Monday 7 November until the week before students return in January.

A temporary reception area will be created in the Secondary Library, which will be accessible through the first set of doors closer to Allies Rd.

Junior School parent volunteers who usually use the photocopy room in the administration block to sharpen pencils, will be able to do this in the IRC. Since there will be no access to a photocopier for the rest of the term, parents will not be required to do photocopying.

We trust that parents won’t be unduly inconvenienced during the construction. - Mr Brett Hartley

Account statements now sent via email

Mr Peter Watters, Business Manager

Starting this term, your account statement will be sent out via email.

The cost to print, fold and send statements by Australia Post has increased considerably, so automating this process will help us to reduce costs.

Another benefit is that your statement will be delivered the same day it is prepared.

Statements will be sent to your family’s nominated account contact email address. Please look out for this email in the coming week.

If you do not receive your statement, please check your junk mail folder before contacting the school. If you wish to change the email address we have on file for your account, please do not hesitate to contact the Office.

Throughout this year, the Junior School has been the recipient of Sporting Schools Funding, a recurring Government grant used towards offering coaching clinics during Sport and PE lessons and that can also be used to purchase sporting equipment to assist in the teaching of these sports.

Using this funding, we have purchased Basketball resources, Cricket equipment and Hockey Kits that are all ready and waiting to be utilised.

Students have already begun using some of this shiny new equipment!
Ruby: My favourite part of the camp was the water slide. You could go in twos or ones and at the end you would nearly sink under the water.

Sophie: The camp was lots of fun! We went on the waterslide, canoeing, on the low ropes and abseiling! It was also really fun to spend time with our friends and learn about Jesus!

Charlotte: My favourite part of camp was abseiling because I conquered my fear of heights, even though I had a rough start. I also enjoyed the Christian Discovery talk as we learnt more about Jesus and to treat each other the way we would like to be treated. Overall I really enjoyed camp, so thank you teachers for organising this wonderful opportunity.

Zander: On 24-25 October, we went on a camp. There was canoeing, abseiling and low ropes for Year 5 only. There was a waterslide and a mini-Olympics. We had lots of fun. Also we went on a hike on the first day and had lunch: a wrap with chicken nuggets. For dinner we had lasagne and for dessert we had crumble and custard. For breakfast we had cereal and pancakes. Our lunch was a roll with meatballs.

Holly: Camp was so much fun! It was a great time to bond with friends. The activities for Year 5 were canoeing, abseiling and low ropes.

James: Camp was so fun! First we did low ropes. Low ropes are a series of obstacles that are low to the ground and have to do with ropes. Then we did canoeing. It was so fun because we did race challenges and one person’s canoe capsized. Then we went on a waterslide. On the last day we abseiled. The camp was extremely fun and exciting.

Hannah: The highlight of camp for me was abseiling because I found it fun to walk down a vertical wall. I also liked the Christian Discovery that was performed by Ben.
Fun-filled Movie Night

Our new Playground Movie Night was a huge hit! With a fun-filled atmosphere and delicious popcorn, it was a night to remember. Thank you to everyone who came and joined in the fun!
**Independent schools critical to the NSW economy: new report**

A new study commissioned by the AISNSW Institute estimates the contribution made by Independent schools to the New South Wales economy to be more than $7.6 billion annually, in addition to supporting more than 53,000 jobs each year.

The report Economic Significance of Independent Schools to the NSW Economy was undertaken by AEC Group – a global consultancy firm that specialises in economic modelling – and found that in 2013-14 NSW Independent schools:

- contributed $7.68 billion to NSW Gross State Product (GSP)
- supported jobs for more than 53,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees
- contributed approximately $4.5 billion in employee wages and salaries, and
- saved the Australian and NSW governments approximately $2.1 billion in expenditure.

Independent schools accounted for 1.7 per cent of the total contribution to GSP by all industries in 2013-14, with the $7.68 billion comprised of more than $3.3 billion directly through activities such as operations and capital expenditure, and more than $4.3 billion through flow-on demand for goods and services.

The sector directly employs almost 25,000 full-time employees and another 28,000 FTE jobs are supported through flow-on activity attributable to Independent schools – greater than the contribution made by coal mining to NSW.

Independent schools contributed about $4.5 billion in employee wages and salaries, representing approximately 2 per cent of total wages and salaries paid to NSW workers.

**Savings for the Australian Government**

The report estimates the 190,000 students enrolled in Independent schools in 2013-14 saved the Australian and NSW governments around $2.1 billion in expenditure with $1.7 billion of this being recurrent (annual per student) costs and around $400 million in infrastructure costs.

The quality of teaching and learning in NSW Independent schools was also found to contribute to the NSW economy through enhancing the educational outcomes of students.

AEC Group estimates this contribution to NSW GSP to be in the order of $431 million.
What’s on

HSC Exams until Friday 4 November: please pray for our students

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<th>Secondary</th>
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<td>CSSA Primary Tennis Gala Day</td>
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<td>CSSA Cricket Gala Day</td>
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<td>Year 4 Bounce Program</td>
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<td><strong>Thurs 3 Nov</strong></td>
<td>Amazing Me Seminar for Years 4, 5 &amp; 6 @ 7-9pm</td>
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<td><strong>Fri 4 Nov</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mon 7 Nov</strong></td>
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<td>Year 3 Swimming Program</td>
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<td>Year 4 Bounce Program</td>
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<td><strong>Thurs 10 Nov</strong></td>
<td>Kinder Excursion to UOW Discovery Space</td>
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<td>Years 9, 10 &amp; 12 Drama The Bald Soprano (6-10.30pm)</td>
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<td>School Group Tour from 9.15 am</td>
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<td><strong>Fri 11 Nov</strong></td>
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<td>CSSA Softball C'ships Melbourne - Nathan Howarth (until Thu 17 Nov)</td>
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<td><strong>Thu 17 Nov</strong></td>
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<td>Year 9 Science Cosmology Speaker</td>
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<td><strong>Fri 18 Nov</strong></td>
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<td>All My Own Work (Year 10)</td>
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<td>Year 12 Formal from 6pm</td>
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