



# ROSE BAY HIGH SCHOOL

OPENING THE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY

## Peer support program great for grade sevens

ROSE Bay High continues to help new students ease into high school life through its Peer Support Program.

Rose Bay High's program is an important and beneficial experience for grade sevens making the transition from primary school to high school.

Most of them find it a culture shock and it's important for them to be able to talk to an older student about any worries they may have. The Peer Support Program at Rose Bay has been operating successfully for 16 years. It's one of the best programs of its kind in the state.

It is based on the principle

that at every level and in every age group in society, people absorb information and values from each other. It is designed to educate young people so that they are more able to resist negative peer pressure, to care for one another and to follow healthy lifestyles.

To be equipped to welcome the grade sevens to their new school, the year nines who plan to participate in the program the following year attend a 2½ day training camp at Mission Afloat, Coningham. There they learn about various activities that will be beneficial to the grade sevens.

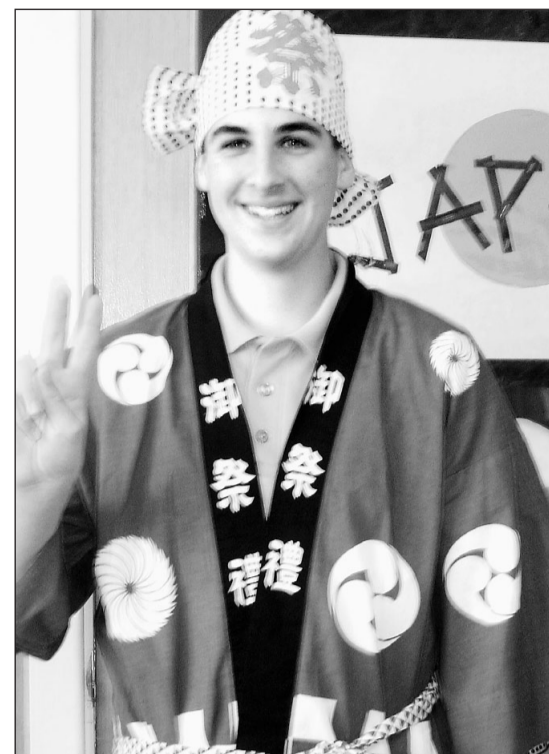
They help the grade sevens

learn about how to deal with such situations as conflicts with friends or other class members. Leaders are selected to work with a partner of their choice and are allocated a group of eight or nine grade sevens.

During first term the groups meet once a week. In these sessions the leaders take the younger students through a number of co-operative activities and written tasks, involving communication, self-image development, decision-making and leadership, intended to help develop a range of social skills. The leaders also develop greater self-confidence, planning, reflection, group management and team skills.

This year, 46 grade nine students embarked on the peer support training. They have learned of the requirements of the program and are ready to work with next year's grade sevens.

The Rose Bay High School Page was produced by Emma Salisbury, Emily Ainslie, Sarah Blackwood, Helen Bills, Paul McIntyre and Kristy Knight from the 9/10 Creative Writing class.



**SOUVENIR:** Chris Boutchard wearing a garment he bought in Japan.

## Measuring up to the challenge

THE Australian Chemistry Institute holds a titration competition every year for high school and college students around the country.

For the first time, Rose Bay High School students participated in this serious competition, entering four teams of three students each.

The statewide event was held on August 14 at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. Over 60 teams entered from a range of schools and colleges.

Rose Bay was well prepared for the event. The intense and sometimes frustrating learning curve started on July 23 and continued until the day of the competition.

For the competition the "scientists in training" donned white lab coats and less than flattering safety goggles, and practised hard, determined to do well in the tough competition which lay ahead.

Coached by fanatical titration expert, Mr Graham Armstrong, the students listened and learned patiently, waiting for our concoctions to turn that tell-

tale shade of pink. Titration is one of the finer arts of chemistry. The aim of a titrate is to find the unknown concentration of a chemical by combining it with another chemical that has a known concentration. It involves the use of hi-tech glassware, such as burettes, pipettes and conical flasks. The process is long and tiring and requires patience, precision, stamina and utmost concentration.

All the competitors admitted to feeling slightly nervous on the day, but all the hard work paid off and everybody rinsed out their glassware for the final time with relieved smiles.

The results, although slightly surprising, were extremely satisfying, all thanks to our wonderful coach. All Rose Bay teams finished in the top 15.

There was a big thank you to Mr Armstrong who taught the students everything they needed to know and even some things they didn't. He opened their eyes to the fine art of titration — even if he did seem quite shattered over the odd piece of broken equipment.



**TEAM EFFORT:** Rose Bay High students who took part in the titration competition.

## Chris enjoys Japan trip

A ROSE Bay High School student was presented with the opportunity of a lifetime when he was invited to attend the World Child Summit in Akkeshi, Japan.

Christopher Boutchard, a Grade 10 student, was one of over 200 students selected to attend the August summit.

The summit, which was the first of its kind, brought students from all over the world together to talk about the environment from their country's perspective.

Countries participating included Australia, the United States, Canada, the Russian Federation, China, Singapore and, of course, Japan. The summit was such a success it is likely to become an annual event.

It was an initiative of the Japanese who paid for most of the students' costs and gave it widespread media coverage.

Chris was also assisted with his trip by the Clarence City Council, which has a Sister City relationship with Akkeshi.

Chris said that it was a most rewarding experience and he would encourage others to take the opportunity to attend future summits.

"In addition to the work of the summit, I had the chance to go sightseeing, yabbie fishing and experience Japanese culture," Chris said.

"The biggest difference between Japanese and our culture was etiquette and how to behave," Chris explained.

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