During Science week, several classes participated in the “Big Little g Project”. The project is an initiative of the Australian Institute of Physics, and is claimed to be one of the biggest physics experiments ever conducted. It aims to use “citizen scientists” to perform experiments with pendulums to measure the gravitational field strength at their location. By submitting our results, we are contributing to one of the most accurate maps of Australia’s gravitational field ever made.

Mr T Capaci

SCIENCE WEEK VISIT BY YEAR 10 STUDENTS TO THE SOUTHERN SUPPORT SCHOOL

As part of Science Week 2013, fifteen of our Year 10 students nervously ventured down to the Southern Support School in Howrah to demonstrate a number of science experiments to the students there. Our thanks go to: Bianca Burgess, Emily Kerslake, Kieran Byfield, Troy Britton, Alec Willing, Jacob Smith, Montrose Wilson, Caitlin Stalker, Jake Cashion, Matthew Ayres, Katelyn White, Ellen Williams, Gwilym van den Bosch, Tom Strong and Becky Moore.

As has become customary over the last few years, our students took up the challenge of presenting to and interacting with the Southern Support School students both enthusiastically and whole heartedly. It was not long before shrieks of delight and wonder were echoing around the presentation room as all students investigated the giant bubbles, the coloured pinwheels, the slime experiment, the wonders of solid carbon dioxide, chemical colour changes, effects of magnets or stroked the guinea pigs. All activities presented were well attended with possibly the giant bubbles fascinating to the greater extent, but only by a short head.

Mrs Pauline Snell, the teacher responsible for coordinating Science Week activities for the Southern Support School, always remarks on the calibre of the MacKillop students who volunteer to do these presentations, and how much their students really appreciate, not only the experiments, but the quality of interaction with our students.

Thanks are also due to Ms Rosemary Graham and Mrs Kathy Tyquin for their hard work in co-ordinating the activities from the College’s end.

Dr John Snell

ANIMAL STUDIES CLASS VISIT TO IMAS

Once a year, during Science Week, the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) opens its doors to visitors. The Year 10 Animal Studies class took this opportunity to take a look and find out what type of research happens there.

Our tour started in a large shed, filled with boats and equipment. We were given a great, interactive, presentation about the importance of oxygen in the marine environment. This presentation included an opportunity to make “Elephant’s Toothpaste”. We then moved to another shed, where research is conducted on the effect of climate change on the marine environment. Some PhD students spoke about their research and the class was able to handle some marine animals.

We then headed indoors, to look at where research is conducted on rock lobsters. We were able to look at larval stages of these lobsters as well as different larval stages of their “sea monkey” diet. We managed a quick tour of the algae labs, where there are many thousands of litres of algae being grown. Our final part of the visit was a great presentation about diving at IMAS and the equipment used.

Overall, our visit was informative as well as entertaining. Many different aspects of marine biology were discussed. All the presenters were passionate about their work and encouraging of the students to pursue marine biology as a possible career path.

Mrs Pat Graham
Quiz Night  Youth Suicide Awareness Fundraiser

Where.  Tattersalls Park
When.  Friday 15th November 2013 @ 7pm
Cost.  Tickets $50 each or $400 for table of 10 (includes catering by Relish)
Contact.  ambulance_toddy@hotmail.com or amanda@albiehouse.com.au
Bank Details.  Westpac Lions Club Sorell (bsb. 037621 account. 580860)
MC’s.  7HOFM – Mick + Jane & Quizzer of Oz. David Walch.

www.albiehouse.com.au  Lions Club of Sorell Inc