



# MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL

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*MGHS promotes and values a spirit of Learning, Optimism and Enjoyment*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **NCDW 'CELEBRATION OF CAREERS' - a hit at MGHS**



National Career Development Week (NCDW) occurred from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May and MGHS held a number of competitions for both students and staff to enter. The school was also selected as a 2010 NCDW Lead Event, one of three South Australian NCDW "Lead Events". The Career Development Centre was also a Lead Event. A coup for Mount Gambier!

Over 90 entries in total were received for the 4 competitions. The 3 student competitions were:

1. *What Career is This?* A display in front of the library of 10 occupations.
2. *Solve the mystery of the jobs MGHS staff had before they began working in a school!* Quiz sheet had 15 staff and 15 occupations for students to match up.
3. *Design a Poster or Business Card for your dream job!!!!*

The final competition was for staff to enter and asked staff to reflect on their time in schools and write an entry on the *'best moment in your teaching career to date or while working in a school'*.

The school was also fortunate to have the services of Ali Auld and Emma Handford from the Career Development Centre. They were in the school at lunchtime for two days to give students advice and help with their resumes, as well as general information about taking a gap year. Elouise Dukalskis and Sam Jones both attended the lunch sessions and said, *'our discussions with the CDC staff helped restructure our resumes in order to make them more appropriate for our ideal employer. We also gained new information on planning ahead with expressions of interest to secure a job for when it's needed'*.

MGHS staff certainly had a variety of jobs before they became teachers or school support staff. One example that students did not tend to guess was Mr Roulstone worked as a clerk for Qantas. Stage 1 Manager Sheree Whitmore said, *'the staff jobs quiz was a hit with students as there was a great deal of conversation about the variety of careers listed. The students were quite surprised to think that people can have more than one career and that those careers can be vastly different'*.

There were some fabulous entries from students who entered the Business Card competition, with a number receiving highly commended and honourable mentions. Year 11 student Rachael Hoath commented, *'making and designing our own business card was a good idea, as it got us thinking about what we want to do in life'*. Ben Gilbertson (Year 10) said, *it was great for us to show what we can do and what we like at the same time'*.

Due to the overwhelming popularity of the competitions, it was decided to award recognition at a number of levels. There were 52 participation, 11 highly commended, 14 honourable mentions and 6 winners. The winners were;

Competition 1 – Lucy Lock (10), Kirby Vassallo (10)

Competition 2 – Samuel Jones (12), Cameron Smith (10) and Nick McInerney (10)

Competition 3 – Hannah Fabish (11)

Competition 4 – Graeme Roulstone, Althea Inglis, Ben Heathcote, Tim Dyer (all staff)

Principal Peter McKay personally congratulated students for their efforts and presented them with their prizes. The efforts of the other students who participated were also formally recognised within the school. Winners received a \$20 gift voucher, plus a hat or t-shirt and stationary pack, honourable mentions received a movie pass and stationery pack, highly commended recipients received a stationery pack and the participation group received an item of stationery. Staff received their prizes at a Staff Meeting and one staff member read their winning entry. Due to the number of entries, only the winners have been named.

VET Coordinator, Samantha Brown said, *'it was fantastic to see so many students take the time to enter the competitions. The week certainly created interest and discussion about jobs and careers and had students thinking about jobs they would like to consider as future career pathways'*.

Thankyou to all students and staff who entered the competitions, as well as the staff who supported the week with occupations for the quiz or getting their students involved in the quizzes. A special thankyou to Emma and Ali from the Career Development Centre, as well as Sue Mann and Shirley Roulstone for their support in organising the displays.

Peter McKay, Principal said, The National Career Development Week provides an excellent forum to link these training programmes with future career pathways. I am grateful for Sam organising the event here at school and congratulations to all staff and student participants".

