

MACKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

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YEAR 12 2014 FAREWELL

Dear Year 12, Parents and Community,

At the end of last term we celebrated the successes of Year 12 and farewelled them at their Graduation Assembly, where they also received their portfolios. This special edition of the newsletter contains the fantastic speech by Tavis and Sam to the school, as well as some photos from the ceremony.

We wish Year 12 all the best for their exams, and look forward to their Formal Dinner.

Erica Lyne
Principal



SPEECH BY TAVIS HALL AND SAM ROBERTON AT THE YEAR 12 FINAL ASSEMBLY ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18 2014

Sam: We don't know half of you half as well as we should like, and we like less than half of you half as well as you deserve. We were asked to give the year 12 poem, which is a tradition here at Macksville High.



Tavis: Two people come up and list all the members of year 12 in a poem, and a defining feature of each person. We gave that a go, and apart from the fact that neither of us can write a poem, we realised that we couldn't find 118 different things to say about 118 different people.

Sam: For example, we tried doing Max. This is what we came up with. His name is Max Vernon.

Tavis: He is a person.

Sam: He can be really thick.

Tavis: But at least he's got a face.

Sam: Eventually we gave up and decided to talk about what comes naturally to us: Lord of the Rings.



Tavis: In 2009 we left our comfortable Hobbit holes in the Shire and ventured out into the world of the "Big Folk". We weren't sure what we were doing or where we were going. All we knew was our quest: to smash the One Ring – the HSC.

Both: One test to rule them all. One test to find them.
One test to bring them all and in the darkness bind them.

Sam: On our journey we came across many perils, but with our trusty wizard Mrs Mendham to guide us, we came through safely. When we first set out, we thought the road would be an easy one. However, we were wrong. Day one of year 7, we came across an enemy far more evil than we had ever encountered before. The Naz'gul. Or in the common tongue, "homework".



Tavis: We survived this peril. But only just. The only cure to the sting of the Naz'gul is by use of an ancient Elvish technique, which involves playing lots of computer games, sleeping, and eating. We went through year 7, 8, and 9, until we finally arrived at the last term year 10 – Rivendell.

Sam: We thought our journey had come to an end, but we couldn't have been more wrong. Sauron, AKA the Board of Studies' evil presence lingered over the lands, and we had no choice but to carry the Ring into the fires of Mount Doom. Some of us weren't even sure what we were doing. As Pippin said when the Fellowship were about to leave for Mordor, "Right! Where are we going?"



Tavis: We journeyed onwards, until we came to our next obstacle. In the Mines of Moria, we lost our faithful wizard companion, Mrs Mendham in a battle with a foul beast of ancient magic. Sad, lost, and left to our own devices, we wearily trudged along. However, our wizard's journey had not come to an end. She was sent back to us, in the form of the white wizard. Mrs Hughes.

Sam: Right now the Fellowship is about to split, and go our separate ways. We must carry the Ring on our own from here on out. It sounds easy, all we have to do is walk into Mordor, up to Mount Doom, and throw the ring inside. However, one does not simply walk into Mordor. You can't sit your HSC exams without studying.

Tavis: Well you can.

Sam: Well don't.

Tavis: We've almost reached Mount Doom. The hardest part of the journey is yet to come, and we may be tempted to give up and not throw the Ring into the fire. But it's almost over. Although it would have been a lot easier if some eagles had just flown us here in the first place.



Sam: We will return home from mount doom and some of us will catch a boat to the white shores of university, and others will stay and live in the shire.

Tavis: We drew a graph because graphs are good, especially when you draw them in your English trial. Here we have a graph of belonging versus time, and as you can see, as we've gone through school, it's grown exponentially.

Sam: Alright, now we've rambled on about lord of the rings, we're going to be serious for a minute. Throughout our high school years, we've grown incredibly close to the people around us, and had countless good times. We've created relationships which will last the rest of our lives, forged through the sharing of stress and positive experiences. School has had its ups and downs, but we will always remember it as a great time where we met amazing, wonderful, and unique people.



Tavis: On our way, we've been helped by fantastic and dedicated teachers, who put up with us, even though we'd never do our homework, or skipped class to play ping pong. So we'd like to thank every person here today, the teachers, the parents, and our fellow students, for being here for us all the way through and not giving up on us. We hope that we can make you as proud as we are to call you our friends and family. And remember, if you ever find yourself on a quest to destroy Sauron's One Ring and save Middle Earth, you have my sword.

Sam: And you have my bow.

Both: And my axe.

