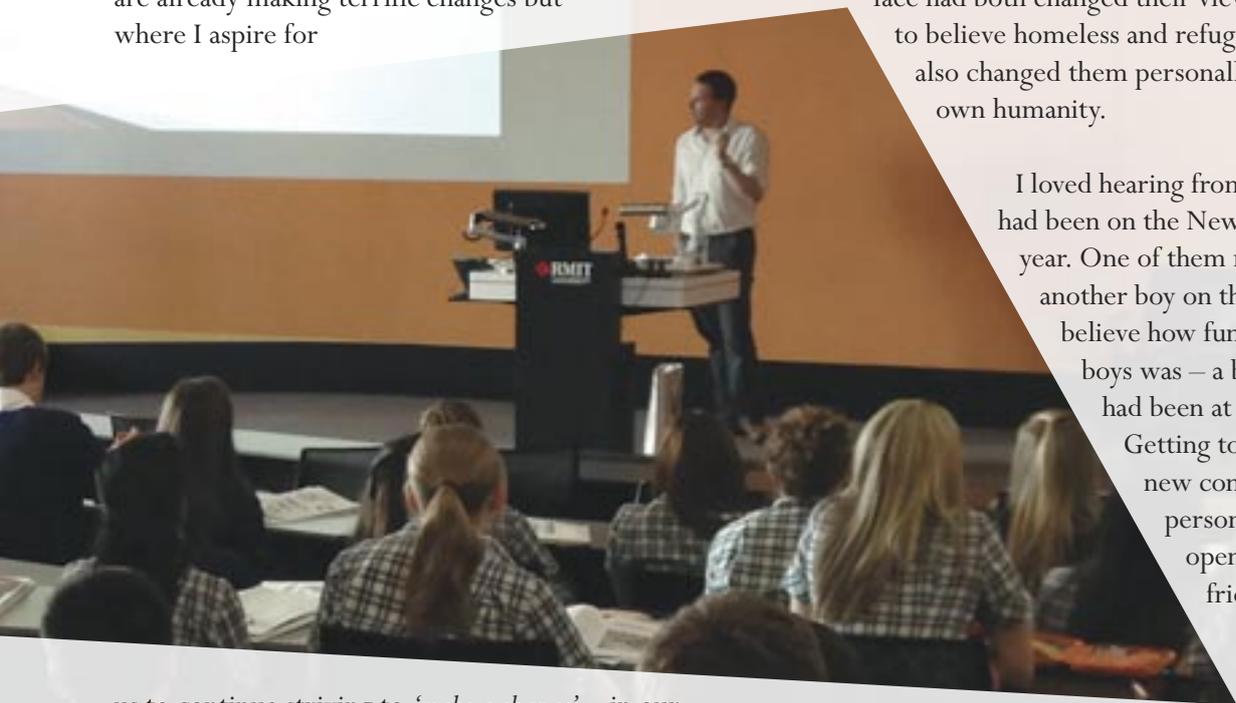


season as well as the number of nominations and awards achieved at the Guild Theatre Awards only served to confirm the quality of this production. The ongoing achievements of our music ensembles in the Royal South Street Eisteddfod are further indications of the excellence achieved in the Performing Arts.

But these points are not the only area of 'making a change' on which I would like to focus. Making a change in curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students should be the annual goal of every good school.

Instead I wish to concentrate on an area where we are already making terrific changes but where I aspire for



us to continue striving to 'make a change' – in our community.

I believe that we have become far too ready to accept as truth what we hear in the media, see on the TV, or hear in the street or the car park; rather than questioning whether the stories we hear are true.

**So what do we do about it?**

I believe we start with each other - each person in our community – by making sure that we don't listen

to gossip about others that we know, or believe messages that we hear, without actually meeting with that person face to face.

Last year, I was inspired to hear of a parent in our Junior School who – along with some other Overnewton parents and students – spent a day talking to and providing food for some of Melbourne's homeless. Another parent recently told me that she is reducing her working week so that she can continue to spend one day a week working with refugees. In both instances, the parents commented that meeting the homeless or the refugees and talking to them face to face had both changed their view of what we are led to believe homeless and refugees are about, and also changed them personally in terms of their own humanity.

I loved hearing from some Year 11s who had been on the New Zealand trip last year. One of them reported to me that another boy on the trip could not believe how funny one of the other boys was – a boy with whom he had been at school since Prep. Getting to know that boy in a new context and through personal experience opened his eyes to a new friendship.

Taking the time to talk to each

other is the change that I believe we are beautifully positioned to make, and the change that we need to make if we are going to build our community to be the best community that it can be.

*Jim Laussen, Principal*



Background image: Senior students attend the new initiative, Ready, Set, VCE Day held at RMIT with guest speaker Dr Marcus Robertson.