College chess stars shine at nationals

THE Pakenham Secondary College Chess Middle Years All Girls team has placed 3rd at the 2016 National Chess Finals held at Queen’s College, Melbourne University.

The good news continues with the college’s Middle Years Mixed team finishing in 9th position nationally in a highly contested tournament with finals worked out on 28 and 29 November.

College maths teacher and chess co-ordinator Christian Ampongan said: “Our college has the most number of home grown talents that started with the ranking of zero”.

“The national standing of the college is extraordinary when you consider many participating schools have students taking private chess tuition regularly, entering their schools with significantly higher rankings,” Mr Ampongan said.

The college’s chess superstars include players Vicky Hendrick, Tibe-so Abdurro-Witago, Cameron Higgins, Rose Sollis, Esther Abdurro-Witago, Danien Kho, Yven Cole, Hayden King, Bret Handley, Sibtain Azeem and Krystal Whalley.

Vicky Hendrick, who learnt to play chess at the college during lunchtimes, has been recognised as the most improved player in her division, finishing 20th out of 134 highly competent players, and finishing best Middle Years Female player in Australia.

Teachers Christian Ampongan and Sergio De Lima have mentored and encouraged students to learn the game of chess during their lunchtime sessions.

“This year has been a stellar year for the students who have found chess a most enjoyable pursuit and dedicated most of their lunchtimes to learning and mastering the game,” languages teacher and chess co-ordinator Sergio De Lima said.

Christmas lunch ahead of break

By Aneeka Simonis


They will celebrate their birthdays over the month of December.

To all members who are not well, the club wishes you a speedy recovery and hope to see them again soon.

Club Christmas lunch will be on Monday 12 December. The club will enjoy a break thereafter until Monday 16 January 2017. The cost is $10.

On Mondays, members meet for lunch at 11.15am followed by a game of bingo.

Members can choose between craft from 10am to 2pm or billiards at 10am on Tuesday while carpet bowls will be offered at 1pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

At 10am on Thursday, tai chi will be offered to all members.

Little tatts winners were Rosemary Hanley, Betty Broderick, Gloria McNamar, Judy Brigham, Helen Cook, Lorraine Alcock, Arthur Lewis, Joan Walker, Marjorie Stephenson and Barbara Smith.

The raffle prize went to Lyn Pederson while Judy Busch took out the door prize.

Attendance: 115.