

4 September 2013

## **SACE music student offered a place at esteemed Jazz Academy**

Year 12 music student Tom Ghea's dreams have come true after he was offered a place to study Jazz Performance at the Generations in Jazz Academy at Tenison Woods College in Mount Gambier.

The academy accepts only a small number of high school graduates each year, giving them the opportunity to study under some of Australia's elite musicians.

A passionate musician, Tom is currently studying as many music subjects as possible as he works towards completing his South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) at Woodville High School.

His Year 12 subjects include Musicianship, Solo Performance, and Ensemble Performance.

His SACE Research Project was also music focused – he gained an A+ for analysing and emulating the music of American jazz saxophonist and composer Joshua Redman.

Tom said his heart just about skipped a beat when he was offered a place at the Academy.

“Getting into the Academy has been one of my aspirations since I found out about it in Year 9 when I first went to the Generations in Jazz Festival in Mount Gambier and saw the band perform,” Tom said.

“That was an incredibly inspiring trip – it showed what is achievable in music at a young age and it encouraged me to work hard to better myself as a performer and musician.”

With regular practice, Tom's musical and performance abilities have improved greatly – in three years he has gone from beginner to being able to perform at an A standard in his Solo Performance SACE subject.

“I put this down to being at a school that supports music so much - playing with people who are better than me, and having lots of opportunities to play in the school's big bands and concert bands as well as small jazz ensembles.”

Tom will complete his SACE by the end of the year before starting at the Academy in January, where he intends to spend “almost every waking moment” playing his saxophones or studying some other aspect of music.

After completing a Diploma of Music in Jazz Performance at the Academy, Tom hopes to gain a place in the Bachelor of Music program at the Elder Conservatorium in 2015.