In the last week of holidays on the 12th – 15th of July, the Peninsula School Sailing Team competed at Albert Park against 21 other schools from over Australia. 5 schools from the home state Victoria, 2 from NSW, 3 from Queensland, 4 from Western Australia, 3 from South Australia and 5 Tasmanian schools. This event was the Nationals for schools teams racing, which Peninsula qualified for previously at states against the other Victorian schools. The team consisted of 7 students, Rhett Gowans, John Radnell, Tyrone Gowans, Stan Austin, Sean Kebbell, Jack Purcell and Kristian Tipovsky. Due to an injury sustained the day before the regatta Kristian had to withdraw from the regatta, but still came to every day to show his support. The team arrived in the bus each morning and attended morning briefings which informed us about the days racing and any vital information we may need to know for that days racing. There were three and a half dedicated days for racing and the last day was designated for a finals series between the top four schools. On the Thursday, the first day of racing, it brought light winds and we started well winning the first two races, we then lost one and won one leaving us at the days end at 3 wins and two losses, which was very respectable. Heading into the Friday, we were placed 10th, which was a great start to the regatta, Friday brought much of the same, light winds. We did not do as well we hoped, taking on some of the ladder leaders, we lost five races in a row, before winning the last race of the day. At the half way mark, we were placed 15th, with 4 wins and 7 losses. The Saturday, was a good day for us winning the first two races of the day, which brought us back to 6 wins and 7 losses, we had one more race left and we lost it against a high quality sailing school from Tasmania, that rounded up the second last day of racing and we were placed 17th. The last day came quick and the team had all thoroughly enjoyed themselves at their first Schools Nationals Teams Racing Regatta, we ended the day on a high winning our last race which left us at 7 wins and 10 losses, which was a very commendable effort by all the team and were all very happy with the result. We finished the regatta in 15th place out of 22 teams and were the 3rd placed Victorian team which was a great result, seeming we were one of the youngest teams at the event. We ended the day watching the finals series, which Christ Church Grammar School won against St Micheals. The team would like to thank all the support given to us by our coach Mr Humphris who has supported us and driven us to training each Tuesday night after school and all the regatta’s we’ve attended and all the parents for all the support they gave us throughout the season, we look forward to further improve our season next year and achieve more positive results.

Rhett and John