

# BALCATTABULLETIN

BALCATTASENIORHIGH SCHOOL  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS  
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## Respect - Unite - Excel



# From the Principal

Once again it has been a very busy term for students and staff with NAPLAN tests, carnivals, the ANZAC Day assembly, exams, school tours, excursions and dance performances as well as the normal learning programs. While we are very keen to ensure students have access to a wide range of extracurricular activities we are also committed to making sure the students maintain their focus on their studies to ensure they achieve their potential.

Maintaining a strong focus and establishing a sound study program is especially important for our senior students who are entering a crucial phase of their schooling. We recognise that it can be a stressful time and there are a number of ways that we can support students if they are finding life difficult. Please feel free to contact the student services team, one of the associate principals or myself if you would like to discuss any issue relating to your child's education.

On Friday, 5 June 2015 I had the privilege of attending the School Ball. The ball, held at the Pan Pacific hotel, had as its theme A Night in Paris and the ballroom was decorated accordingly with table centrepieces featuring models of the Eiffel Tower, candles and flowers. I must commend Nikita D'Souza who designed the beautiful invitations for the ball. It was a magnificent night and I offer my congratulations to Jo Keep, Year 12 co-ordinator and the prefects for their outstanding effort in organising the Ball.

The students, who were all dressed superbly, looked wonderful and had a fabulous time dancing the night away. As this edition of the Bulletin will go to press before we receive copies of the professional photographs the ball feature will appear in the next edition. Just to whet your appetite a photo of the invitation and one at the ball taken on my iPhone are featured in this edition.



Students pose in front of the Eiffel Tower



Earlier this month a number of school tours were held to allow prospective parents the opportunity to look over the facilities at the school and hear from the executive team about the academic, social and leadership programs the school has to offer their children. Each tour was led by two student ambassadors who were able to answer firsthand the many questions the parents had about the school. I would like to offer my thanks to the many staff and students who interacted with the parents during the eight mornings the tours were held. My personal thanks go to Mrs Maitland for her organisation of the tours and to student ambassadors Brianna Patrick, Isaac Milner, Edwin Boampong-Appiah, Stephen D'Souza, Phoebe-Lee Schmiedte, Tyler Fleming, Shannon Muggeridge and Matthew Milner for their outstanding efforts.

We were delighted when the Hon Peter Collier MLC, Minister for Education announced in April that the State Government had made available significant additional funding for school chaplains. At a press conference, held at the school, Minister Collier informed us that the school would receive extra funding for the next two years to make up for the Australian Government's reduction in funding.

This will allow us to increase the number of days we have a chaplain available to assist students. As you know Joanne Allery is our chaplain one day a week and she will be joined by Tosari Thomas for two days a week from the start of semester 2. The role of the chaplain is to provide guidance and support to students concerning relationships, bereavements and crisis situations.

Lesley Street



Nikita D'Souza with her ball invitation

## Back to school



**Rachael Py and Jonathon Nowers from ECU and Bree Clarke and Adam Davies from UWA.**

The school has partnered with three universities in Western Australia and over the next few months eighteen 'prac' teachers or pre-service teachers, will be working at Balcatta Senior High School. Some of these pre-service teachers started early in term two and will stay for the whole term, while others will only be with us for a week or two. The length of time is determined by the university.

The 'prac' teachers bring new ideas to share with teachers and students - ideas which are based on the latest educational research. The teachers at Balcatta have had many years in the classroom so the pre-service teachers gain practical help about how to implement educational theory and so allow their ideas to become operational. This is a two-way process and everyone wins. Students also enjoy having access to another educator in the room.

Lyn Bodycoat, Coordinator for Pre-service Teachers, believes this is another example of the school's commitment to being a Professional Learning Community.

## Ancient Greece at Balcatta

On the last day of Term 1, Mr Manera's Year 7 Humanities students transformed their classroom into an ancient Greek Agora or market. The event was a fun and exciting way for students to conclude their studies about ancient Greece. Based on what they had learnt during the term the students had to set up a variety of stalls, offering similar samples of products and services to those that would have been on offer in 750 BC.



In addition to creating a menu based on Greek dishes the students were offered samples of traditional Greek food. The fashion stall featured a range of clothing and fashion accessories, as well the opportunity for students to peruse a book of fashions of the day. The art stall showcased some of the beautiful paintings and art work of Ancient Greece. Students put in an enormous amount of effort into making sure the classroom and atmosphere mimicked that of ancient Greece, and we are very proud of their efforts.



## Dancing up a storm

Alison Martin, Dance Coordinator was delighted when the Balcatta dance students were invited to perform as part of the entertainment lineup for the inaugural Balga Connect event. The event was presented by the City of Stirling on Sunday 24 May 2015 at Barry Britton Reserve.

Our Year 11 and 12 students, and some lower school male dancers, performed three pieces alongside the singers, drummers, and many other performers who featured at the event.

Our students were great ambassadors for Balcatta Senior High School, and gladly gave up their Sunday in order to perform.



# Beauty Training Clinic opens

On Monday, 4 May 2015, the staff and students involved in Certificate II in Retail Make Up and Skin Care were very excited to open the Balcatta Beauty Training Clinic to the school community.

Students, parents, teachers and industry partners were invited to the formal opening and enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon tea to celebrate the launch of our live-works clinic where students will practice their skills.

As part of this national qualification delivered, in association with Central Institute of Technology, each student is required to perform up to twelve manicures, pedicures and make up applications. In order to encourage customers we have made sure prices are very low and we already have several regular customers who are taking advantage of this great service.

Central Institute of Technology monitors our delivery to ensure high quality service to our customers and to make sure successful completion of the program results in our students being awarded a nationally recognised industry standard qualification.

Currently, students have been trained in performing manicures and pedicures. They are able to provide these services at a price of \$5 for a manicure or pedicure available on Mondays from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm. Please call to book an appointment. In Term 3, students will be able to provide make up services to the public, too. We hope to see you soon!



**Brianna Parker & Muna Ibrahim**



**Emily Burney & Cristina Martinez**



**Jomburu Sworo & Jessica Marcial**

# Our People

In each edition of the Bulletin we plan to highlight the achievements of current students and staff as well as let you know how former students and staff are going. Many of our ex-students have gone on to interesting and fulfilling careers in a wide variety of professions. I am aware that we have a professional dancer, lawyers, doctors, actors, computer engineers and small business owners among our alumni. If you know of someone you think should be featured in the Bulletin please email me at [Lesley.Street@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Lesley.Street@education.wa.edu.au) so I can contact them to arrange for them to be featured in a future edition.

## Pat says goodbye

In early May, after seventeen years as Associate Principal at Balcatta Senior High School, Pat Serrell retired from the Department of Education. Pat said she had really enjoyed her career as a teacher and an administrator and had especially appreciated the opportunity to work across the state in both country and metropolitan Western Australia.

She said she would miss interacting with the students and staff and would be keeping in touch with the many friends she had made during her time at the school. Pat was farewelled by her colleagues at a special morning tea. In lieu of a present she had asked her colleagues to donate money to a family in Nepal that she had been supporting for several years. The family had lost their home in the recent earthquake and Pat was busy trying to raise funds to help them rebuild their home.

Pat said she was keen to continue to work with our sister school in Cambodia and was hoping to undertake volunteer work in the community. At the recent School Council meeting chairperson Helen Notis moved a formal vote of thanks to Pat for her outstanding contribution to the school over so many years. Good luck for the future.



**Pat Serrell**



**Helen Maitland**

## New Associate Principal appointed

The school is delighted to announce that Helen Maitland has been appointed as Associate Principal following the retirement of Pat Serrell. Helen has been at the school since February and has already made a significant contribution to school life. She comes to us with extensive experience in student services, curriculum and whole school planning.

Helen has responsibility for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. She encourages parents to contact her on 9345 8225 if they would like to discuss any aspect of their child's schooling.

## Masters world champion

While Associate Principal Stephen Pestana has been at Balcatta for 11 years, not many people know that as well as being an exceptional administrator he is also a fine athlete who has represented Australia in Masters Hockey.

In his youth Stephen played A Grade Hockey. Over his long playing career Stephen has had the opportunity to play against hockey greats such as Ric Charlesworth.

Stephen counts among his highlights playing in two World cups held in the Netherlands and the UK. Most recently he and his team members won the Trans-Tasman Cup against New Zealand and played in Melbourne.



**Stephen Pestana**

## Ex student runs his first race!

Zack Gibbs was a Year 10 student in 2013 when he commenced a School Based Traineeship in Certificate II in Racing through Polytechnic West. In a two-day per week release from school, Zack was at the race-track before dawn to work with the horses and train to become a stablehand.

Now, as an 18 year old full-time apprentice jockey, Zack ran his first race at Northam on 14 May 2015 riding Deday and finished seventh out of fourteen. Since that first race, Zack has competed in another three races with his best result so far being fourth position. Well done, Zack! It is very exciting to see Zack successfully progressing in his chosen career pathway.



**Zack at work**

# Lightning strikes

Year 7 and 8 students have recently taken part in Lightning Carnivals with a number of other schools including Churchlands, Como and Warwick Senior High Schools, Shenton College and Perth Modern School. Sports featured included netball, soccer, Australian Rules Football and basketball. Both boys and girl's teams were formed for each of the sports.

The carnivals are held to enable all students to experience playing a sport in a competitive environment. The aim is to promote fun, enjoyment and to build socialisation skills. In addition to taking part in physical activity there is a strong focus on developing self-management and interpersonal skills.

Students have to plan and prepare themselves for the big day by ensuring they bring the correct attire and making sure they have suitable protection for the weather conditions. During the events students work together following the fixtures, getting to the right events or location on time. They select their own teams and are responsible for making any substitutions. Fast play and respect for the umpire are enthusiastically fostered by the staff. The promotion of sportmanship is also a high priority.

Mr Birkett said that feedback about our students' behaviour from teachers at all venues was extremely pleasing. They commented on the excellent sportmanship they saw displayed throughout the carnivals.

Parents and teachers can also be proud of the students from Years 9, 10 and 11 who assisted in umpiring duties. This can be a thankless task that requires nerve, confidence and strong decision making skills. Reports from the venues indicated that our students performed these duties to a high level of competency.

Well done to those students and to all who participated in the carnivals. Thanks must also be extended to Mr Birkett and the staff from Physical Education who went to so much trouble to ensure the students had the opportunity to participate in the carnivals.



## Australia's Biggest Morning Tea



On Thursday, 14 May 2015, Balcatta Senior High School's three classes of Year 11 and 12 Food Science and Technology participated in "Australia's Biggest Morning Tea" to raise funds for the Cancer Council.

Students worked closely with their teachers to plan, practise and prepare a sumptuous morning tea for staff as part of the Food Science and Technology course curriculum. Together, students and staff raised over \$200 for the Cancer Council.

Congratulations to all of the students and their teachers. All three classes worked well, liaising with their teachers and peers. Strong teamwork and a positive attitude were demonstrated throughout.

Thank you to Ms Sharon Di Nucci, Ms Sandy Menagh, Ms Josephine Stephenson, Ms Val Terry and Ms Sarah Cotter.



**A wonderful spread in the staffroom**

## Year 10 students host teachers

The Year 10 Café Foods classes recently hosted a series of High Tea functions as a part of their student centred learning assessment tasks for the semester.

Students were required to plan, organise and create all elements for the High Tea. Students selected recipes suitable for the event, ordered the food, trialled the recipes and prepared all foods for the day of the functions.



**Renaz Mizori, Sachi Morrow, Denielle Cristobal and Domanique Barone host Mrs Kath Criddle and Ms Sammi Carruthers.**

The students had the opportunity to invite selected staff to attend the event as guests. Part of their assessment included hosting their guests.

A wonderful range of sweet and savoury recipes were presented by the students. The guests all enjoyed the wonderful array of dishes.

Well done to all Year 10 Café Foods students and their teachers Ms Di Nucci, Mrs Rychal, Ms Shipley and Ms Terry. It was a fantastic team effort, the Home Ec staff were very pleased with the high standard of presentation.



**Georgia Pope and Brianna Folley host Ms Val Terry**

# 100 Year commemoration of Gallipoli Landing

On Friday, 24 April 2015 the school held their ANZAC Assembly commemorating 100 years since the Gallipoli Landing. School Prefects Alisa Jakupovic, Peter Milner, Nikita D'Souza, Izzuddin Verdejo and Tessa Williams hosted the assembly in the presence of a number of special guests. The school welcomed Mr Chris Hatton, MLA for Balcatta, Mr Norm Wells, President Osborne Park RSL and Chief Petty Officer Jason Steward from The Royal Australian Navy. In addition, two Balcatta students Rogan Josh Anderson and Damien Maddox represented the 57 Army Cadet Unit Morley at the ceremony.

During the service each guest talked of the meaning of ANZAC Day, not only themselves, but also its connection to Australian history. They spoke of tales of mateship and the courage of soldiers who have previously and are currently serving our country in all three services. They stressed the importance for all young Australians to understand the devastating effects of war and the ongoing sacrifices made by service personnel in so many parts of the world.

Under the direction of artist Jodie Davidson our Year 9 Society and Environment and Gifted and Talented Art students made an art installation of 643 felt poppies that was displayed at the front of the assembly.



**Official party in front of flagpole**

## Year 11 student councillors

Ben Long, Jarred Alvarez, Muhammad Mohammed Firdaus and Andrey Sabile have been elected as Year 11 student councillors. They represent their peers on different occasions and take part in various activities. Muhammad Mohammed Firdaus and Andrey Sabile have also joined the School Council to represent the whole student body. This is a very important role as the School Council is an important decision making body. To date the boys have attended two meetings where they have presented a written and verbal report about the activities students have been involved in and issues of concern for students. They are outstanding representatives who are to be congratulated on their maturity and their positive approach to their role.



**(Left to right Ben Long, Jarred Alvarez, Muhammad Mohammed Firdaus, Andrey Sabile)**

## Senior School Career Expo

Year 11 and 12 students were invited to attend the Careers Expo at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC) on Friday, 15 May 2015.

The PCEC was overflowing with students from many metropolitan and regional schools who attended the Expo to gather information and speak to representatives about future career pathways.

Students enjoyed interacting with representatives from university, state training providers, trade colleges and private registered training organisations. Exhibitions of bricklaying, film and hospitality also proved very popular with students who needed to be rounded up for the return bus ride to school, laden with gift bags, brochures and photographs. It was a very worthwhile experience for students and teachers alike!



## School on Saturday

Our G & T students have been busy this term at their Saturday morning art classes. There are many competitions and exhibitions available within the wider community. All our students will be encouraged to submit artwork.

This term we welcome Emma Schrader who has joined us as a new sculptor tutor. She describes what she is doing with her group:

*The students are responding to the theme of 'Cabinet of Curiosities' through learning simple casting and mould making techniques. Students will be creating a small collection of their own curious objects, using plaster and wax. So far, we have cast body parts in plaster bandage and then went on to extend, join together or manipulate these casts to create a curious object. Students will continue to build up a collection of objects through mould making with clay and wax. In the upcoming weeks, they will decide on how to arrange and display their curious collection.*

Our year 7 and 8 students have been busy exploring and developing ideas for a collaborative mural that they will complete this term. Once the mural is finished it will be displayed on the wall near the art courtyard.

Inspiration for their artwork came from a recent excursion to South Fremantle to view public art. The students viewed an 80 metre long mural on the frontage of a furniture warehouse titled 'EAST WEST DESIGN'. Artist Graham Miles Richards is nearing completion of his labour of love Trompe L'oeil mural painting. Our students had the opportunity to meet with the artist to discuss his work as an artist. Graham has agreed to come to school in the coming weeks to offer our students advice about taking a small design and scaling it up to a large scale mural.



As a response to the popularity of the primary school 'Young Masters' art classes we run on Saturday, we now have 3 classes running this term alongside our regular Gifted & Talented classes. Our regular Art Tutors Michelle Murning, Natalie Zuchetti and Shayne O'Donnell are very pleased with the outstanding work created by the Young Masters. They also commented that they were impressed with the level of natural talent they were seeing



**Students and a tutor working together**



**Students creating their curious object**

Other projects that are continuing this term include Portrait Painting with Mark Tweedie, who just won an award for his painting at the Minawarra Art Awards. Craig Mecham is working with photography students. The Wearable Art students are finalising their costumes with Jodie Davidson. Tutor Amanda Harris is back working with a new group of students doing Ceramics.

We have positions available for Term 3 for year 5 and 6 students. This is a great opportunity for younger children that are interested in the arts to build on their skills and have fun at the same time. Classes start on the 2 August from 9am to 12pm. For more information please email [sherree.tomlinson@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:sherree.tomlinson@education.wa.edu.au).

## Inspiration from the bush

The annual Gifted and Talented art camp, held at the Nanga Bush Camp near Dwellingup, was once again very successful. The camp is situated on the banks of the Murray River, nestled amongst the jarrah trees in a pristine forest. The students had a fabulous time, learnt many new art skills and created a wide variety of different artworks. It was great to see the relationships develop between the year 7 and 8 students. It was very rewarding to see that all the time and effort in planning and preparing for the camp paid off.

Year 9 student Greer Medley filed this interesting report on the camp.

On Monday 30 March, 65 of the Gifted and Talented Visual Arts students arrived at school with our sleeping bags, suitcases and huge smiles on our faces. We boarded the buses at the front of the school and then headed down to Nanga Bush Camp in Dwellingup.

The bus ride was full of laughter and excitement, as we couldn't wait to arrive at the dorms. We organized our dorm mates as we travelled down the windy roads, as we knew there would be a race to the dorms once we arrived.

The campsite is set in the middle of bush land. We were surrounded by beautiful tall trees, which were homes to many different types of birds. It was really calming to be able to clear our heads and get away from regular school life. It was wonderful to be able to create art outside the classroom and in a totally different environment. The atmosphere in the bush was really refreshing and stimulating and it really inspired us to explore different art mediums.

We also had fabulous tutors come down and teach us how to tie dye material with natural dyes, imprint clay tiles with flora, paint watercolours of the beautiful bush and draw landscapes with charcoal. We learnt a lot from our tutors and had lots of fun.

It wasn't all work and no play. We went for early morning and late night walks, had movie nights where we watched Big Hero 6, Finding Nemo and we even had popcorn.

Camp isn't only a time for drawing or painting it's also a time to meet new people who you wouldn't usually see or speak to at school. It is amazing how Art Camp can build new stronger relationships from students in all the different year groups. It was really comforting as well as it's not just like a regular school camp, because everyone in specialist art is really welcoming and we're all like one big art family.

We spent three nights and three full days at the campsite busily creating artwork and carrying out exercises to get our brains in the zone. We moved around to different spots near the camp to have a change of landscape to keep our brains fresh and inspired. Each day our groups took part in different activities, having a food break in between, prepared by the lovely teachers who stayed at camp with us. Don't worry; we helped out in the kitchen with the washing up.

This year we all had such an amazing time. Going to Art Camp is just one of the many great things about being in Gifted and Talented Visual Art program here at Balcatta Senior High School and I can't wait to see what Miss Tomlinson has in store for next year's camp!



## Art Camp mini exhibition

An informal art exhibition was held on Saturday, 16 May 2015 to showcase the wonderful artwork that was created by the Gifted and Talented Visual Art students at their recent camp to Dwellingup. It was a wonderful morning where parents had the chance to see firsthand the artwork created by the students. Saturday art classes were in full flight and the parents had the opportunity to join us for morning tea and view the artwork. The parents were very impressed with the variety and standard of artwork that had been created.

## Poppies project

After a very busy week of making poppies, the year 9 students successfully reached their target of making 643 felt poppies. The finished poppies were attached to a large mesh banner and arranged in a gradual fade from a thick to thin sea of red.

This final arrangement had pride of place at the ANZAC Day assembly that was held in the gymnasium on the Friday, 24 April 2015. This Anzac Day service was special as it is 100 years since the Gallipoli landing. The 643 poppies represented the number of Australian soldiers killed in the first five days of the conflict.

The Stirling Times were contacted about our cross-curricular Art and HASS project and they published an article and photo about the initiative. We congratulate the students involved in making the poppies for their efforts and enthusiasm whilst working on such a special collaborative art installation.





Prefects With The ANZAC Wreath