



# Balcatta Update

August 2017

## From the Principal

I have returned to Balcatta after working for the last six months at a private K-12 school in Casablanca, Morocco. It was a wonderful opportunity to live and work in a very different culture but it is very nice to be back at Balcatta Senior High School. I would like to pay tribute to Helen Maitland who did an outstanding job as relieving principal while I was away. I also wanted to thank Helen Hawley who took on the role of Associate Principal and did an excellent job. I am very pleased that Tessa Curtis has won the position of Associate Principal at the school and will replace Stephen Pestana who was appointed to the Foundation Principal's position at Ellenbrook North Secondary College.

Last week, the Minister for Education the Hon. Sue Ellery MLC and the local member for Balcatta, David Michael MLA, visited the school to discuss a significant upgrade of the facilities at the school. As part of their election promises the Labor government has allocated \$50 million for this planned upgrade. I look forward to working with members of the School Board and the school community to plan the exciting improvements to the facilities at the school.

This week staff from the Facilities Program Delivery Branch also visited the school for initial discussions around the scope of the major upgrade.

Although we are only a few weeks into the term there have been a number of exciting extra-curricular events have already occurred. These include both Dance and Art activities that are outlined in this update.

I am looking forward to seeing our senior school students at the ball on 11 August at the Pan Pacific Hotel. I urge the students involved not to be distracted as Term 3 is a very important term

especially for our upper school students who should be taking advantage of the extra classes offered by our staff, both before and after school, to help them maximise their grades.

In a few weeks we may need to run an election to fill possible vacancies on our school board. I will forward more information to parents after the next board meeting.

Lesley Street  
Principal

## News

### Outstanding Achievement

Torren Whisson, one of our talented Year 10 students in the Specialist Visual Arts Program, has been selected as a finalist in this year's 13-15 age group in the prestigious Young Archie Competition for budding artists. The competition is judged by the NSW Art Gallery. This accolade is a superb recognition of Torren's talent and we know that her painting was selected as one of only five finalists from over 2000 entries across Australia. Her oil painting of war veteran Herbert Harrison was entered on her own initiative and painted largely out of school time. She also received support from our Art tutor Mark Tweedie. Her work will be exhibited in the Art Gallery of NSW in conjunction with the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes exhibition. This is an outstanding achievement and we hope that Torren goes on to become the winner of this national competition.

### 'Synthesis' Student Dance Performances

On Thursday and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July students from the Approved Specialist Program in Dance presented "Synthesis", a student choreography performance in the Performing Arts Centre at the school. The evening was a wonderful and varied repertoire of dance items showcasing the excellent

## Balcatta Update

work of Year 7-12 students from the Specialist Dance Program. What made the performances even more remarkable was that the event, choreography, choosing the music and costumes, lighting and stage management was done by the students themselves. Three of our very talented Year 12 Dance students Domonique Barone, Jamie Montgomery and Rhiannon Nicholas directed the event and were assessed on their management, organisation and direction of the entire program. Students in Year 7-11 were assessed on their performances. Congratulations to all dance students involved and especially to the Year 12 leaders for two wonderful concerts.

### Success in the Visual Art World

Three of our talented Visual Art students have had their work featured in this year's prestigious 15<sup>th</sup> Annual St George's Art exhibition in St George's Cathedral.

Year 11 student Greer Medley's work, *Refractions*, explores the importance of expressing and normalising emotions, whether positive or negative, and tackling negative emotions that may help to prevent mental illness in adolescents.

Year 12 student Shannon Muggeridge's work, *Cradle*, is a self-portrait reflecting the calmness and serenity of our public face compared to the side we hide away.

Year 11 student Lily Routledge's work, *Escapism*, is a self-portrait exploring the way in which people 'jump into books' as a form of escapism from the world around them.

To have our students represented in this exhibition is testimony to their talent and the excellent work of our teachers in the Visual Arts Program at the school. Congratulations to all students involved.

This year the City of Stirling invited students from the Gifted and Talented Art Program to create a banner to celebrate the school's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary school as part of local government week. The banner has been selected to be displayed in either St Georges Terrace or Adelaide terrace during local government week in August.

## From the P&C

It has been a busy time for our small but dedicated P&C team who supported the Dance Program last week by serving refreshments at the interval during both nights of 'Synthesis' Dance Concerts. The tea and coffee were very welcome by members of the audience as both nights were cold and rainy. The P&C also arranged to conduct a raffle which was drawn on the Friday night and approximately \$400 was raised to benefit our students. Thanks to everyone involved in arranging this raffle and for supporting our talented dance students.

The next meeting of the P&C will be Wednesday August 9 at 7.30pm in the staff room and we would be delighted to see new parents attend. We realize that everyone is busy so we try to ensure our meetings finish by 8pm.

## Course Selection

Over the next two weeks students in year 10 and 11 senior will need to select their courses for next year. Counselling will be conducted by the associate principals Mrs Maitland and Ms Curtis, Vet coordinator, Mrs Middleton and Mrs Keep and Mr Curtis year coordinators. More information will be available later in the week.

## Reminder

For various reasons sometimes we need to contact parents and caregivers during the day so it is important that we have contact details that are up to date. Last week, we had a student who needed to go to a doctor but the contact details were out of date and it was very difficult for the student concerned. These days we often change mobile providers and phone numbers, so please make sure you contact the school office on 9345 8200 to advise us of any changes.

## Important dates

9 August 2017	Whole School Photos
11 August 2017	School Ball (Pan Pacific Perth)
15 August 2017	Photos Catch-up and Year 12 Group
31 August 2017	Whole School Athletics Carnival
25 September 2017	Term 3 Holidays
2 October 2017	Year 12 Exams