



# Balcatta Bulletin

## Issue 1 2017

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## From the Principal

Welcome to the first edition of the Bulletin for 2017. The year has begun successfully and I would like to welcome new and returning staff to Balcatta Senior High School. I made a special point at the start of the year encouraging all students this year to aim to achieve their personal best at all times, and reinforced our core values of Respect, Unite and Excel.

At Balcatta Senior High School, we are committed to providing an engaging, challenging and creative curriculum in an innovative and inclusive learning environment, and with student achievement and pastoral care embedded in our school community.

The school was recently granted Independent Public School (IPS) status. This status recognises that the school is best placed to make the important decisions for our students in consultation with our community.

### Student Success

Congratulations to our 2016 Year 12 students on their results which followed the excellent trend of recent years. There were many successes: 100% of our students achieved a Certificate II or higher and ATAR English attained the status of being one of the top performing schools in the state. An attainment rate of 98% was also achieved.

Special mention must be made to the students who were acknowledged by School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) for the following awards:

Certificate of Distinction: Sonja Drljaca, Caitlyn Richworth, Ysraelle Tan

Certificate of Merit: George Arman Carpio, Joanne Chen, Rembrandt Dayoc, Ira Fortun, Riki Morrow, Nicholas Notis, Prabodya Ponsuge, Dean Tus.

We wish our 2016 Year 12 students all the best with their future pursuits.

### Student Leadership

We welcome our new student leaders for 2017. I had the pleasure of interviewing all Year 12 Prefects and was very impressed with their commitment to the school and their enthusiasm and positive attitudes. Our Head Prefects are Domonique Barone and Matthew Milner, ably supported by Wilson Chalwe, Sarah Hashimi and Kate Surace. They will continue the excellent tradition of student leadership at Balcatta Senior High School.

### Community Events

We have held a number of events this term, especially the Pool Parties, which provided a great chance for parents to meet staff.

The school hosted special events including the Gifted and Talented Parent Information Night which was well-supported, and included a presentation from Year 12 student Shannon Muggeridge who outlined student perspectives. On 15 March, the school offered families a presentation on ThinkUKnow Cyber Safety. This program educates parents, carers and teachers on how people are using technology, the challenges they may face online and how to help them overcome these in a safe and ethical way. The presentation was delivered by a local law enforcement member and an industry volunteer.

### 50th Anniversary Celebration

The school proudly celebrated and acknowledged 50 years of excellence in education on Saturday 25 March. The anniversary was a successful event with a large number of alumni and staff attending. Events such as this remind us of the long standing commitment Balcatta Senior High School has demonstrated in providing a high quality education in the community, the ongoing strength of our selective Gifted and Talented Specialist Visual Arts Program, our Specialist Dance Program, and the ways in which we have fostered social and academic challenges and leadership opportunities to all our students. The attendance of many of our past alumni is testimony to the special place Balcatta Senior High School has played in their lives and careers. It was a great opportunity for all who attended to recognise the achievements, to reminisce on the history of the school and to remember the highlights of their time at the school. I would personally like to acknowledge the working party that had many meetings in planning for this event; the P&C Association for their financial contribution; and the special assistance from staff member, Kerry Kostov, for taking on the role of events co-ordinator. See page 14/15 for photos.

### Academic Performance

Term 1 is a busy time for both teachers and students. All Learning Areas are well into the academic year, covering the syllabus content and having the students undertake a range of assessments.

Interim reports recently sent out provided parents with feedback on how their child was performing to date. Parents are welcome to monitor their child's progress and discuss any concerns with the school. The school always welcomes positive feedback from parents on students' academic, sporting and social successes, and that which acknowledges and celebrates the work of our excellent teachers.

Year 10 to 12 students recently completed the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA). OLNA assesses skills described in four levels of the Australian Core Skills Framework. The skills are those regarded as essential for individuals to meet the demands of everyday life and work. We prepare all students to meet the literacy and numeracy demands in the 21st century. Students need to achieve a pass in the OLNA tests if they have not achieved Band 8 or higher in the NAPLAN Year 9 tests to ensure they are awarded a WACE at the end of Year 12. The school continues to provide additional support for those students at risk of not achieving the required standard in Year 10, 11 or 12.

### Looking to the Future

After the recent State election, Balcatta Senior High School will be well-positioned to upgrade many of its facilities. During the election campaign, the Labor Party Policy indicated that Balcatta Senior High School would receive a \$50 million upgrade. This will give the school an opportunity to renew many of its facilities, and we look forward to some exciting plans working with our school Board, staff and the community for future development or redevelopment.

Helen Maitland  
Principal



## Senior School News

### Head Prefects Announced

Balcatta Senior High School Head Prefects for 2017 are Domonique Barone and Matthew Milner together with Wilson Chalwe, Sarah Hashini and Kate Surace as part of the Prefect team. We wish them a successful and productive year.



**Our 2017 Prefects**

### Prefects Mentoring Role on the Year 7 Camp

On Thursday 23 February 2017, Mrs Jo Keep had the pleasure of taking five amazing Year 12 Prefects to the Year 7 Camp. A 12-seater minivan was hired for the day and they had a 7.00am start to make the most of the day in Dwellingup. It certainly felt like they hit the road running as, the minute they arrived, they joined in on the rafting session with a brilliant group of Year 7 students. Matt and Wilson showed off their prowess whilst Domonique and Sarah had a raft filled with numerous insects that certainly tested their patience. Mrs Keep and countless Year 7 students fell in the mud upon arrival and exit; however, their fits of laughter were enough to keep them all going.

Next stop was some orienteering, followed by the Year 12 Prefects taking a nostalgic stroll with Ms Blitvich to find the original cabin in which they stayed during their Year 8 camp way back in 2013.

After an enormous gourmet lunch catered by Ms Terry and the Year 11/12 Hospitality students, another session of mud rafting ensued, followed by the zip line activity with all the Year 12 Prefects very capably assisting the Year 7 students, and finally having a go themselves. The highlight was Rogan Anderson's descent.

Finally, with a visit to the Tarzan rope, Wilson kept us entertained and Kate was not afraid to show the boys how it should be done. The group departed at 6.00pm, with a pit stop in Byford, which meant everybody arrived back to school very tired, but satisfied, at 8.30pm.



**Wet & muddy, but still smiling**

## Student Councillors Elected for 2017

Year 7 – Adzi Zein, Lily Karamfiles, Kaitlyn Pope

Year 8 – Tabitha Mathew and Alvin Pham

Year 9 – Lily Johnston and Neeyanta Nakarmi

Year 10 – Joshua Barron and Symon Legacion

Year 11 – Habib Sultan, Isabella Gage, Robert Kolie, Ana Rychlak and Simon Naumoski



**Year 11 Student Leaders**



**Kate & Domonique working hard on the zip line**



**Matt & Wilson teach rafting**



**On location at Nanga Bush Camp**

# World Challenge



**The welcome end of a long hard trek**

The 2016 Balcatta Senior High School World Challenge saw seven Balcatta students teaming up with seven students from St. Patrick's College in Townsville, Queensland and venturing through the South East Asian countries of Laos and Cambodia. This three week student-led expedition not only gives students the opportunity to broaden their travel horizons but helps develop leadership, resilience, compassion and a global conscience for the young people who choose to experience it.

Our expedition began in Laos with a couple of days acclimatisation in Vientiane, the nation's capital, then a two day bus trip to Pakse, with an overnight stop in Savannakhet. Pakse is where we began our trek in the jungles of Xe Pian National Park which was, at times, like scenes from "The Jungle Book". Our local guides for the trek were our hosts on the last night and they made us feel more than welcome in their rural village by sharing their homes, introducing their families and learning 'The Cup Song'.

Next stop was a scenic destination in Laos called Si Phan Don on the Mekong River near the Cambodian border. Si Phan Don is an island network with spectacular waterfalls and traditional river life, mixed with an alternative tourist industry.

After an interesting journey into Cambodia, which involved meeting the President of Laos at the border crossing, we made our way across northern Cambodia to Siem Reap and the Angkor

area. Along with visiting night markets and the local circus, this stop gave us the opportunity to explore the temple ruins of Angkor Wat by bicycle. The one day bike tour enabled us to not only see the main temples, but also explore other temples and villages in the area only accessible by foot or bicycle.

From here we departed for Cambodia's capital city, Phnom Penh for a night, then onto our sister school in Treng Trayeueng.

We spent four days working with the staff, students and school community members of Treng Trayeueng High School, supplying electricity to classrooms, upgrading computers and printers, painting outdoor furniture, playing sport and teaching in classrooms. This was a life-changing experience for all involved, and this contact has developed a strong relationship between our schools which will hopefully continue to grow.

With these experiences behind us, we spent the last days in Phnom Penh visiting the war memorial sites of S21 and the Killing Fields. Although these places are quite melancholy to visit, they are important in gaining a greater understanding of this country's history. There were various strong emotional reactions from this experience.

With three weeks of amazing and life-changing experiences in our minds, we spent the last afternoon enjoying local food, laughing and sharing reflections of our journey on the banks of the Mekong River.



**Airport smiles as we set off**



# Cambodia/Laos 2016



Si Phan Don

## A Student's Perspective on the World Challenge by Shannon Muggeridge

I went on the World Challenge expedition never having left the confines of Australia. The longest I had ever been away from home was a week, and even then I had my best friend with me. When I stepped onto the plane from Perth to Bangkok, however, I had no-one. Of course, I was surrounded by the other students and had the support of the leaders, but I had no family, no real friends (yet) and I had absolutely no idea what to expect. All in all, I was terrified. Knowing that I would be spending three weeks in another country was exhilarating and petrifying at the same time. The trip itself could not have been any more different than how I expected it to be. The trip was astonishing, better than I had ever dared hope it would be. The people we met, the places we went and the experiences we had were unlike any I had ever experienced; unlike anything I ever thought I was going to experience.

Being in a country where no-one speaks the same language as you, where the money is different and, most importantly, where there is a completely different culture to our own, was mind-blowing. The trip really opened my eyes to the honest beauty in the world, and the honesty and good there is in people all over the world. If someone asked me how this trip impacted me, I could never in a thousand years find the words to describe it. It was everything, it was an experience that I will take with me for the rest of my life, and an experience that I would not have changed for the world.



Angkor Temples



Overnight stay in village



Start of trek



Our sister school Treng Trayung High School

# Year 7 Orientation Camp

On Wednesday 22 February, Year 7 students boarded a bus to Dwellingup's Nanga Bush Camp for a three-day camp. The purpose of the camp was to unite the new Year 7 group and welcome them to our school community by practising teamwork, leadership skills and sharing new experiences together. Many memories and new friendships were forged.

Upon arriving at the camp, located in the secluded bushland of our state's South West, students discovered there was no mobile or internet reception at the campsite. The digital detox was definitely a shock to many though it helped everyone connect with nature, and each other, in a more meaningful way. Students quickly settled into their shared accommodation and met the local camp manager who highlighted some of the more unusual features of Nanga.

After a quick lunch, we were off on an extended bush walk which really tested our fitness and determination. Even if it was tough and challenging, the students never complained. The day was finished off with a swim and a movie night, thanks to Ms Blitvich. Most students fell quietly to sleep that night after a big day.

Day 2 began with an early wake-up call from Mr Castensen's 'interesting' taste in music. Students joined staff for a walk at dawn where they spotted some local flora and fauna (including a 'sleeping' kangaroo and a giant mushroom on a log) before returning to camp for breakfast (with a visit from a particularly cheeky, toast loving kookaburra), and getting organised for a big day of activities. Throughout the day, the Year 7's rotated through canoeing, rafting, bush walking, zip-lining, drum beat and craft activities.

On Day 3, we once again woke to the magnificent voices of Pavarotti and Domingo. After a quick breakfast, we were back into our activities before an early lunch and camp clean-up. It was soon time to board the coach for a sleepy trip home. This fantastic opportunity could not have taken place without the efforts of Ms Val Terry, our cook, and her able band of Year 11/12 helpers who ensured students were fed with wholesome and delicious homemade treats. Mr Mitch McCreery and Miss Kristina Balic, our raft experts; Ms Sharon Holmes, with her African drums; Mr Cameron Farmer, a 'jack-of-all-trades' and a real daredevil on the flying fox; and Ms Amy Blitvich, our technical expert and another 'jill-of-all-trades'. Special thanks to Mrs Joanne Keep and the Year 12 prefects who came down for the day on Thursday, Mr Rod Blitvich who also visited and took a thousand photographs of kids having fun, and the crazy Mrs Michelle Murning with her wacky creative talents. Thanks especially to Mr Kevin Castensen, Year 7/8 Coordinator for putting it all together, and to all the staff back at school who wanted to come but couldn't.

## Kanika Rawat

"I enjoyed our long bushwalk! It was mostly talking, so I enjoyed it. The food was better than I expected. The Year 11's and 12's did a great job in cooking with Ms Terry. Camp was a great chance to make new friends, and I'll never forget what a wonderful time I had."

## Eloise Vlatko-Rulo

"Camp was an unforgettable experience and I adored my time at Nanga. The first walk we took was just beautiful. I would do it again. The swim was so relaxing. I could just swim and relax by the sparkling river. I loved soaring through the air on the rope and flying into the cool water."



Rafting down the Murray River





**Colourful evening activities**



**Time out for a group smile**



**End of a busy day - movie time**



**Forest drum beats**



**Students displaying their creative talents**



**We've been rafting - it was fun!**



**A team meeting in mid river**



**Year 7 Nanga 2017**



## Pool Parties

During Weeks 4 and 5, we have featured our combined year group pool parties. The evenings have been beautiful with warm, balmy conditions and the pool area looking fantastic.

Under Mr Birkett's watchful eye, staff and students have cooled off in the pool, splashed and had a good time with their families and friends.

Enjoying free pizza or a sausage sizzle, staff and parents took the opportunity to meet and mingle in an informal way. These activities have been a wonderful opportunity to showcase the school, particularly to new parents and students. We thank all staff for their attendance and organisation, and all parents and students who took up the opportunity to attend.



**Our Year 7/8 community enjoying the evening**

## Swimming Carnivals

Each year in term one, Balcatta Senior High School holds a number of swimming carnivals for each year group. The swimming carnivals cater for serious swimmers but also encourage as many students as possible to participate in what is a fun and enjoyable carnival day. The carnivals are a great way to foster school spirit, and a chance for the school community to come together to encourage and celebrate the sporting achievements of the students.

Following the carnivals the school celebrates the champions, and all those who contributed as participants and supporters to make the carnival days the wonderful events they were.

## Champions

Year 7: Girl: Aimee Parker. Boy: Adzi Zein

Year 8: Girl: Liliana Stjepanovic. Boy: Caleb Petchell

Year 9: Girl: Tatiana Stjepanovic. Boy: Thomas Walsh

Year 10: Girl: Chloe-Bree Schmiedte. Boy: Matthew Tennant

Year 11: Girl: Alicia Gregg. Boy: Tyler Ambrose

Year 12: Girl: Rebekah Davids. Boy: Rogan Josh Anderson

Students were also awarded house points for the competitions and the tally at the end of the carnivals is shown below.

## House Points

Year	Fire	Ice	Water
7	141	133	140
8	38	154	95
9	137	148	138
10	2	135	83
11	52	31	2
12	2	21	2
Total	372	622	460



**Kate Surace, Wilson Chalwe and Domonique Barone**



**Sarah Hashimi and Domonique Barone**



**Year 7s Adzi Zein and Madison Ward**



**Year 8s - Jacqlin Parker, Sedrena Ormsby, Liliana Stjepanovic, Mrs Hawley**



**Having fun in the pool**



**Emily Gibbons & Anastasia Skordas**



**Year 9 Champions, Tatiana Stjepanovic and Thomas Walsh**



**Ms Curtis with Year 9 Champions**



**Aliyah Nieass, Josephine Simon & Ally**



**Year 7&8 Pool Party**



**Ms Curtis, Thomas Walsh, Adam Salter-Williams, Rocco Panetta**



**Striving for the finish line**



## Balcatta Ranked Second Top Public School In Maths Competition

The Have Sum Fun Competition is an exciting Mathematics initiative that uses a quiz-night format. Teams of six students race against the clock to solve four intense rounds of eight challenging problems. Teams can only have a maximum of three students of the higher year level. For example, in the Year 11/12 competition only three year 12's are allowed in the team.

Mr Arul Niroshan and Mr Liam Petchell travelled to Hale College with Alicia Gregg, Ryo He and David Huang, representing Year 11's and William Chiew, Riya Amin and Chintu Devarapalli, representing Year 12's, and participated in this competition on Friday 10 March. The competition, organised by the Mathematical Association of WA, was challenging, but our students did very well. They ranked second out of the public schools teams behind Perth Modern. From the 33 teams competing, Balcatta students came 13th. This was a great achievement and we are very proud of our students.



Mr Niroshan with our fantastic team

## English

We have started the year with a bang in English! Our Year 11 and 12 English ATAR teachers have been engaging in team teaching, and creating options for students in workshop-style tutorial classes. Year 12 ATAR students recently produced and performed plays from the text they are studying in class for a recent assessment. The presentations were outstanding, revealing not only that students had an excellent knowledge of the play, had written some innovative and impressive scripts but also revealed the latent dramatic talent and exceptional oral skills of many of our Year 12 ATAR students.

This term, the Year 7 students have worked on introducing themselves to teachers through a letter, and Year 11 EAL/D students have recently performed very well in their second task – an oral presentation about a custom from their country or culture of origin. Well done to all involved.



William Chiew and Tiana Vaatuitui performing their play

## Dance Workshop

On Friday 17 February, the Specialist Dance program had the pleasure of hosting dancers from our State's flagship contemporary dance company, CO:3.

Mitch Harvey, Russell Thorpe and Talitha Maslin led the Year 10 and Year 11/12 groups through some class exercises and a section of repertoire from their upcoming show "Frank Enstein."

The workshops were a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn techniques first-hand from professional dance artists.



Performing section of repertoire



Our Specialist Dance students with host dancers

## Dance Academy Webinar

Our Year 7 Specialist Dance students were fortunate enough to take part in an Australia-wide web linkup with the Australian Children's Television Foundation during Week 8 this term. Dance Academy is an Australian film based on the TV series of the same name. Alicia Banit stars in both the series and the film, and both are directed by Joanna Werner. During the hour-long webinar, students from all around Australia were able to submit questions, and listen to Alicia and Joanna discuss film, television, auditions, acting, and dance.



Year 7 Dance students taking part in web linkup



# Administration



**Tessa Curtis – Associate Principal, Years 7-9**



**Helen Maitland**



**Donatella Bono- LOTE (Italian)**



**Tara Jackson - English and HaSS**



**Nisha Joseph - Education Assistant**



**Cameron Farmer - Education Assistant**



**Chantelle Edwards - Mathematics**



**Melody Ross - Education Assistant**



**Sherree Tomlinson - Gifted and Talented Coordinator**



**Deborah Middleton VET Coordinator**



**Joshua Perling - Mathematics**



# on & New Staff



Principal



Helen Hawley – Associate Principal, Years 10-12



Deborah Cole  
English and HaSS



Margaret Wims - Business



Tessa Whiting - Science  
and Mathematics



Education Assistant



Jaye Christie -  
English and EAL/D



Kristina Balic Health & Physical  
Education & Dance



Priya Kumar - Mathematics and  
Science



Anne Jones - Home Economics



Jonathon Giles - Art  
and Photography



# Our Artists Enthused

## Parent Information Night

On Thursday 2 February 2017, Balcatta Senior High School hosted the Gifted and Talented Parent Information Night. This was attended by over 100 parents who were informed about the Gifted and Talented application process by Mark Terry from the Department of Education. They were given a brief overview of our Gifted and Talented Visual Arts Program.

Shannon Muggeridge, a Year 12 student, did a fantastic job outlining a student's perspective of the Visual Arts Program, and Torren Whisson and Harriet Williams, Year 10 students, were great guides.



**Torren Whisson, Shannon Muggeridge & Harriet Williams**

## Gifted and Talented Visual Art

The Gifted and Talented Visual Art students have started this year with enthusiasm and motivation to explore new and challenging art making programs with 8 tutors on board. The artists that we have working alongside our students consist of existing tutors and new art tutors who have joined our 2017 innovative Art program. Tutor Mark Tweedie has returned for his fourth year. He has been working with students to develop skills in the basics of portraiture. Each week they have been introduced to different acrylic and oil painting techniques. The students have developed a variety of different ways to capture the human face. Mark has been able to cater for the wide range of original styles and different abilities amongst our students. The weekly workshops have been developing students' understanding of form, proportion and guiding them through the steps needed to paint a face.

We have Kate Haug back and she is working with a group of students on landscape painting. In these workshops students are working on creating an interesting and inventive landscape painting using acrylic paints. During the first few weeks they have focused on colour mixing, and experimenting with ways of applying paint and learning techniques for creating different textures. They have been looking at a wide variety of landscape artists for inspiration, and will be painting on location outside within the landscape for their final painting.

Darren Hutchens is working on an urban art project with the students. The students will learn the basics and more advanced skills of street art and experimenting with different mediums and techniques. The students went on an excursion on Saturday 25 February to Perth to view some street art by local and international street artists for inspiration. The students returned being highly motivated to create their own street art works. Photographer Christoph Canato is the tutor for the creative contemporary photography class. Students of all levels in digital photography are being exposed to different skills and techniques in working with a camera to create interesting and original composition. They have been experimenting with a wide

variety of different subject matter and are being extended with Photoshop processes.

Michelle Murning is working with students on a wearable art project. Students are exploring and experimenting with various materials, and are being challenged in designing and garment constructing in a conscientiously artistic and unconventional manner. Students have explored animal totems and ancient culture to create an entire garment consisting of headpiece, shoes and jewellery. Students will learn fundamental techniques and skills such as pattern making, natural and synthetic dyeing and learning hand stitch and machine sewing.

Year 7 students are working with tutors Eden Lennox and Rhett Jones on foundation drawing workshops where they are developing skills using a variety of drawing mediums and materials. Drawing is the foundation of all art, hence Year 7 students are participating in these workshops.



**Yr 8 Melina Hosseinzadeh Oroumi portrait painting**



**Greer Medley & Lily Routledge working on urban artwork**



**William Chiew colour mixing**

# Art Exhibitions

## Northern Perspectives 2017

On Friday 24 February, The Gallery at the Wanneroo Library and Cultural Centre held an exhibition named Northern Perspectives 2017. This is an annual event in the Arts calendar and provides Year 11 and 12 students the opportunity to exhibit their work in a world class gallery environment. Ms Jamie Arkeveld, the Head of Learning Area, Arts attended with Kody Mason, an ex-student of Balcatta Senior High School and current student of Digital Design at Curtin University, and William Chiew, a current student of Year 12 ATAR Visual Arts.

Northern Perspectives encourages applications to the exhibition in a variety of mediums. The 2017 exhibition featured 41 entries across a range of categories: painting, drawing, etching and mixed media, 3D (sculpture and ceramics), textiles and wearable art and digital and included photography. The exhibition is extremely well curated and gives students insight into the ways in which exhibitions are mounted and displayed to the public in professional galleries. The entries in the exhibition came from 14 schools within the cities of Wanneroo, Joondalup and Stirling. Our students were also able to analyse the work of talented students of other schools from across the region. This is just one of the many extracurricular exhibitions in which our talented Arts students participate throughout the year. Balcatta students were represented on the first three pages of the Exhibition catalogue and this is testament to their creative talents across the various Arts categories featured in this exhibition.



**Northern Perspectives**



**William Chiew**



**Kody Mason**

## 62 Faces

The Gifted and Talented 62 Faces Exhibition was launched on Friday 3 March at YMCA HQ in Leederville. A number of parents, students, staff and School Board member, Ted Snell, attended the opening. Years 5 and 6 Young Masters students from the Balcatta Saturday morning classes and their parents, as well as Ms Jamie Arkeveld, Mrs Helen Maitland, Ms Tessa Curtis and Mr David Curtis, were also in attendance at the launch.

The 62 Faces exhibition showcases portrait drawings by the Gifted and Talented students. All of these portraits were completed in less than one hour (and for the Year 7 students, only 30 minutes), under the tuition of Mark Tweedie.

The students' work is outstanding considering the limited time in which they had to draw the portraits. Each portrait is unique, of high quality and reminds us of the talents these students have in the visual arts area. The exhibition was so popular that the school has been asked to extend the viewing season. Invitations have been extended to the contributory primary schools to attend as part of the Arts Department's wish to celebrate the work of Gifted and Talented students, and also to encourage talented students in the primary schools to consider applying for a place in 2018 in the exciting, selective Gifted and Talented Visual Arts Program.



**Year 12 Kristie Kopellis**



**Year 8 Aliyah Nieass**



**Year 10 Torren Whisson**



**Year 8 Jordan Dordieski**



# Balcatta SHS 50th Anniversary



**Helen Maitland, Helen Notis & Georgie Drageicevich**



**Helen Maitland with our first student Adrian Jose**



**Past staff and students**



**Catching up**



**Taffy Rosser, Anna Kristancic & Gary Dinsdale**



**Dino Manalis, Terry Miliankou, Annette Baltovich, Jo Keep**



**Back where it all started**



**Cutting the cake**



**Getting ready for the group photo**



**Happy to be here**



**50 years**



**Beth Harcourt, Michelle Gauntlett & Jamie Arkeveld**



**Smiles at catching up**



**50 years on**



# ry Celebration



nd students



the cake



years



of Prefects



Our 2017 Prefects



Nathan Setzinger & Jocelle Co



Year 9 Dance



Standing room only



Dance performance



Dino Manalis, Ric Danti, Gary Dinsdale  
Rod Blitvich, Kevin Castensen & Doug Walsh



Year 9 Dance girls ready to perform



Artist at work



Jenny Young hugs an old friend



Our Hospitality students at work



# Our People

## Pre-service teachers

Balcatta Senior High School works with Edith Cowan, Murdoch and Curtin Universities to provide Pre-service teachers with the opportunity to complete the practical components of their qualification. All Learning Areas in the school have the chance to work with these university students and provide a range of valuable experiences. We asked one of the pre-service teachers, Mr Diepveen, who is currently working in Science in Ms Hoy's classes, a few questions about his time at Balcatta.

1. What inspired you to take up studying to become a teacher?

"I've been surrounded by many inspiring teachers throughout my life, most notably my mother and father, so it's in my blood you could say. Teaching is something that I find very rewarding and I hope to inspire many young men and women in the future."

2. What are the main focus areas of this practicum?

"Personally, I hope that through my experiences at Balcatta, I am able to improve my classroom management skills and enhance my ability to engage students in science."

3. Describe some of the challenges and rewards you have experienced a pre-service teacher.

"I find it challenging to maintain student engagement and interest for extended theoretical (non-practical) lessons. I find that there is nothing more rewarding than when a student thanks you for your teaching efforts."

4. What are your career goals in this profession?

"I hope to inspire young people to pursue their dreams in not only science but in life in general. I feel that it is a teacher's role to help young people to fulfil their potential."

We hope they enjoy their time at Balcatta SHS and look forward to working with them in the future.



**Students involved in group studies**



**Students experimenting**

## Paul Kristoff

Paul graduated from Balcatta Senior High School in 2000, and after 8 years of studying law and commerce and working as an accountant, he decided to move to London to live, work and travel. When Paul moved, he started a personal blog, 'The City Lane', with the aim of keeping his friends and family back in Perth up-to-date with his adventures. Over the years, Paul's writing and photography improved, and the website started to get noticed by people other than those he knew. Eventually, Paul had opportunities for his 'organisation' and 'team', from people who had no idea it was a one-person show. Success breeds success, and before long The City Lane really did have several people involved in creating content. Today, The City Lane, based in Melbourne also has branches in London and Chicago, and a strong social media presence which complements the website. It has given Paul an outlet for his creativity, given him the chance to eat amazing food and has allowed him to travel the world. The City Lane has also started to make money for Paul too. In May 2016, he reduced working at his management consulting day job from five days down to three. If all goes to plan, The City Lane could soon be Paul's full-time job.



**Paul Kristoff**



**Food blog**



**Travelled the world**

## Skye Lankester

Skye is a Year 7 student at Balcatta Senior High School. Skye has been selected as a member of the WA State Team for the 2017 Australian Athletics Championships to be held at the Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre in NSW from 26 March to 2 April 2017. Skye worked exceptionally hard for her selection by competing in the State competition, winning gold in 80m Hurdles, silver in 100m Sprint and silver in 200m Hurdles. We wish her every success in the national championships.



# Year 7-10 Student Leaders



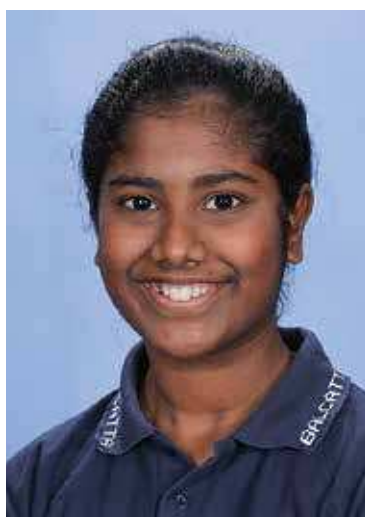
**Year 7 Lily Karamfiles**



**Year 7 Kaitlyn Pope**



**Year 7 Adzi Zein**



**Year 8 Tabitha Mathew**



**Year 8 Alvin Pham**



**Year 9 Lily Johnston**



**Year 9 Neeyanta Nakarmi**



**Year 10 Joshua Barron**



**Year 10 Symon Legacion**



# Year 9 Engag

On a recent Wednesday morning a bus load of excited campers drove out of school eagerly anticipating the Year 9 Engagement Camp. Little did they know what challenges awaited them. Mr Schmiedte drove down the Indian Ocean Drive as giggles and good-natured banter echoed throughout the bus.

By the middle of the day, our fortunes took a turn for the worst. Mechanical problems struck at the Jurien Bay pit stop. The bus wouldn't start and things were looking grim! Mr Curtis and Mr Farmer got a footy match happening on the lawn outside the police station as Mr Schmiedte contacted the RAC. For the next two hours, a mechanic worked on some electrical problems and the boys were getting worried.

The team stuck together through this adversity and finally (hours later) the bus became operational again. We motored off north of Jurien and arrived at our bush camp down a track, just behind the dunes and the ocean. The pressure was on, but the team stuck together. Willing hands unloaded the bus and trailer and the boys set to work erecting their tents as the afternoon light faded.

Finally, our camp was set up, just as the sun sank into the ocean. Green Team set to work preparing a great dinner of hot dogs, onions and corn on the cob, and a relieved team sat down to dinner, thankful that we had survived the first day trials and were finally at camp. Red Team attacked the dishes and soon everything was cleared away and the lads were then able to grab their torches and rush madly around the dunes and scrub in a full-on game of Spotlight that lasted for over an hour.

After a humorous chat around the campfire, the boys drifted off to their tents around 10pm. Little did they know that another challenge was awaiting them. Somewhere in the wee hours of the morning, rain struck! Poor Zane, Marshall and Adam had their



Starting fr



Sandboarding



Camp Cricket



Mr Schmiedte, Brayden & Jordan



Zep is happy about lunch



Group



Sandy Cape Recreational Park



Toasting marshmallows



Fun at the beach



# ement Camp



om the top



photo



Our camp



Zepplen, Brayden & Zane



A morning swim



Ross stacks it



Jarrad's all smiles



The boys



Fun at the beach

window open resulting in some rain coming into their tent and interrupting their slumbers. Next morning saw a bit of a clean-up and mopping up of puddles!

Day Two started with a morning swim at camp, then a trip into Jurien to paddle Mr Schmiedte's paddle board, and engage in jumps off the jetty into the ocean. We headed back to camp for a quick lunch then bussed north to a sheltered bay with a huge dune and protected waters. Plenty of sand boarding, paddle boarding and frolicking in the ocean took place. Jarrad and Mr Curtis tried a spot of fishing while the boys exhausted Mr Farmer by jumping off his shoulders into the water non-stop for quite a while!

Back at camp that evening, Red Team prepped dinner and then Connor and Ross cooked the tastiest chops ever on the BBQ grill. Another huge game of Spotlight followed and finally our exhausted campers collapsed in bed around 10pm.

Next morning, the team elected to pack up early and head to Guilderton for lunch and a swim on the way home. Ross, Marshall and Zane did a great job cooking a sausage sizzle for all. We jumped back into the bus and zoomed down the Indian Ocean Drive arriving back at school pleasantly exhausted at 3pm. The staff remarked what great teamwork and responsibility the boys showed by staying on to unpack the bus, return equipment and sweep the bus before heading home. Well done boys!

Camp highlights included: Best new recruits – Connor, Ross and James (closely followed by Zane, Adam and Marshall). Man of the Trip – Jordan Pigg. Mr Outdoors – Jarrad Hunton. Always there to lend a hand or show leadership – Brayden and Jordan. Such a trip wouldn't happen without high quality staff willing to give up their time and energy. We were so fortunate to have the best staff ever: Mr Schmiedte, Mr Curtis and Mr Farmer.





**Matthew Milner, Ms Tessa Curtis, Mrs Helen Maitland, Mrs Helen Hawley & Domonique Barone**