



Balcatta Bulletin

Issue 1 2019

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From The Principal

Welcome to the first Bulletin for 2019. I would especially like to welcome the parents and caregivers of students new to the school as well as those who have had their children at the school for some years. It is always a delight to share here the many achievements, activities and events of our Balcatta Senior High School community.



Our vision as an Independent Public School is to Build for the Future. What this means is that we have high expectations for success for all our students in all their classes and extracurricular activities. We have high standards for our teachers and their performance, and that all students are treated with care and respect in a safe and welcoming environment. Our core values of Respect, Unite and Excel underpin everything that we do.

This year we were delighted to welcome our new group of Year 7 students into the school. We were particularly impressed at how quickly they have settled into their classes and are building important positive relationships with their peers and teachers. Our school offers many opportunities academically, socially and in physical activities. We hope that all students will take the opportunity to work hard and to the best of their ability. Our curriculum and extra-curriculum activities offer all students the chance to work and succeed in safe, supportive and engaging classrooms.

We also especially welcome those students who were successful to join of our selective Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program. In 2019 one of our Year 12 Visual Art students, Torren Whisson, was one of only two from Western Australian and one of sixteen students nationally to win a prestigious Art National Scholarship to attend a Summer School program at the National Gallery of Australian in Canberra.

Student Success

Our 2018 academic results were strong and we are very proud of the successes of our students. In the ATAR courses 19% of our students achieved a rank of 90 or above compared to 8% in 2017, a remarkable achievement. There was also an increase in the 80-90+ range from 18% in 2017 to 34% in 2018. Our median ATAR score jumped from 69 in 2017 to 75.5 in 2018. In the field of Vocational Education and Training, 80% of our students completed a Certificate II or higher, six students achieved a Certificate of Merit and impressively, Judith Pazhooparambil was awarded a VET Certificate of Excellence in Retail and Personal Services, an outstanding result.

ATAR 95+: Jimmy Chen

Certificates of Merit: Melissa Adley, Jimmy Chen, Muna Jibril, Leilani King, Cynthia Pham and Rozhan Pour Ahmadi.

Student Leadership

Student leadership takes many forms and it is an important part of our Balcatta Senior High School community. We have prefects elected by the student body, student peer support leaders and student councillors who are a central part of this group. They represent the school at many important events during the year. There are also many opportunities for all students to gain leadership experience in school functions and events. I had the

pleasure of interviewing the Year 12 prefects and found them to be an impressive group of young men and women with a range of impressive leadership qualities and experiences. I have no doubt that these prefects will enhance the school and provide leadership and important role models for all students in the school.

The prefect team includes Ana Denona, Elroy Gelok, Hassan Hassan and Symon Legacion with Suhasi Patel elected as Head Prefect. We look forward to working with them this year, seeing them performing important roles with pride and upholding the school values of Respect, Unite and Excel.

Community Events

Each term there are many opportunities for Balcatta SHS to acknowledge community events. To date we have acknowledged 'National Action Day Against Bullying and Violence'.

The call out to our school community for items to make up ANZAC care packages has been overwhelming with so many parents and staff making donations.

Earlier this term we invited parents of Year 5 & 6 students from our local intake schools to tour the school and attend an information session that showcased our facilities as well as updates about our new build which should commence in April 2019.

Academic Performance

Towards the end of the first term is always a good time for students to reflect on their work habits, achievements and successes during the term in both academic and extracurricular pursuits, and to consider ways that they can improve and take advantage of the many opportunities available.

Interim reports on student progress were sent out during the term and parents invited to discuss their children's progress and achievement in Term One. Each year we receive positive feedback on how helpful these reports are in helping making parents aware of how their children are progressing at school both academically and socially.

Our Years 10 to 12 students recently completed their Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA). Students need to achieve a pass in these assessments if they have not achieved Band 8 or higher in the NAPLAN Year 9 tests. Success in these tests will ensure that they can meet the literacy requirements for graduation in Year 12. The school continues to offer additional support to prepare students for these assessments, and monitor and help those who require assistance to meet the required literacy and numeracy standards in Years 10, 11 and 12.

Year 7 Academic Extension Program

This year also marks the first year of our selective Year 7 Academic Extension program. This program aims to accelerate students through the curriculum and provide extension activities working with like-minded peers across English, Mathematics, Science and Social Sciences with a focus of developing creativity, problem solving and critical thinking. There are also many opportunities for students to learn beyond the classroom including National and International Competitions, debating, the Electronics Club, Book in a Day and the Optiminds Challenge.

The Coordinator of the Year 7 Academic Extension Program is Tessa Whiting and it is her role to facilitate academic opportunities beyond the classroom and enrichment opportunities for all students across the school. Kristina Hoy is the Academic

Extension mentor as well as their Science teacher. Other teachers in the program are James Cutler (Mathematics), Emily Austin (Humanities and Social Sciences) and Sharlene Sookraj (English).

Gifted and Talented Visual Art Celebration

Save the date. 2019 is the 40th anniversary of our special, selective Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program at Balcatta Senior High School. This program has a long, distinguished creative history at the school and has many eminent graduates from the program in the community and across Australia. The anniversary celebrations will be held at the school on Saturday 2 November 2019 from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Past students of the program are invited and encouraged to register their interest at <https://baltashs.wa.edu.au/gifted-and-talented-40th-anniversary-celebration/>. We would particularly like past students who have memorabilia, photos or other interesting mementos from their days at Balcatta Senior High School as a Gifted and Talented Visual Art or Special Arts student, to please email the details to: baltashs@education.wa.edu.au.

I look forward to working with the School Board, staff, parents and caregivers in a productive partnership so that together we can provide the best possible environment for our students in which to learn and achieve.

Helen Maitland
Principal

SCSA Awards

Congratulations to our School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) award winners for 2018.

VET Certificate of Excellence

The VET Certificate of Excellence is awarded to eligible students who are in the top 0.5 percent of candidates who complete the (AQF) VET Certificate II or higher in each national industry area in their final WACE year. Congratulations to Judith Pazhooparambil who was awarded the VET Certificate of Excellence for her outstanding achievement in the Retail and Personal Services industry area. Judith was one of 19 students across the state to receive this award. This is a fantastic result for Judith's hard work. Judith will be studying Commerce at Curtin University.



Judith Pazhooparambil with Mrs Maitland

Certificate of Merit

Six students achieved a Certificate of Merit award for consistent school achievement. These awards are given to eligible students who achieve 150-189 points in their last three consecutive years of senior secondary WACE enrolment. Congratulations to the following students who received these awards: Melissa Adley, Jimmy Chen, Muna Jibril, Leilani King, Cynthia Pham and Rozhan Pour Ahmadi. We are very proud of our students and their results.



Merit Award and 90+ Club recipient, Jimmy Chen



Merit Award recipients, Leilani King and Rozhan Pour Ahmadi

Acknowledgement of Service

At the end of the term we say goodbye to Jenny Young and Adriana Pugliese from the school canteen. On behalf of the staff and students, I would like to thank them for their many years of amazing service to the school. Jenny started work as a volunteer mum, appointed in 1995, then Manager in 1998, and this year completed 24 years of dedicated service. Adriana also began as a volunteer mum in 1998, appointed in 2006 and has completed 13 years of outstanding service. They both said that the highlights of working in the canteen were the laughs and fun they had with volunteers, and especially watching the young students blossom into young adults over the years. Both explained that they had excellent relationships with the principals and staff of the school and will certainly miss the students. Jenny is moving on to seek further opportunities and Adriana, who is awaiting her first grandchild, is looking forward to new and exciting challenges. We wish them both well.



Jenny Young and Adriana Pugliese

Our People

Lions Club Youth of the Year

Suhasi Patel was nominated last year by Amy Blitvich for a Lions Club Youth of the Year award.

The first round of the process was an interview in front of a panel of judges at the Mirrabooka Community House. After the interview, there was an open 'press conference' section, where each candidate was asked two unseen questions in front of a larger audience. Suhasi then had to present a five-minute prepared speech. She chose the subject of gender equality for this section.

Two awards were presented - an Overall Winner and a Public Speaking Award. Suhasi won the Public Speaking Award and, on 9 March, she competed against other award winners from other council areas.



Suhasi Patel, winner of Lions Club Public Speaking Award

Dave Callan Featuring Rove McManus in XXV

Ex-Dance students Brianna Caracciolo and Rafaela Lico, along with McKenzie Goldsmith (who completed her Teaching Practicum at Balcatta SHS) joined forces recently to perform in the show 'XXV' as part of the Perth Fringe Festival 2019. Our Balcatta alumni performed alongside Dave Callan and Rove McManus at the Heath Ledger Theatre.



Ex-Balcatta Dance students - part of the Perth Fringe Festival

New Staff



Alex Winch
HaSS and Digital
Technologies Teacher



Hayley Malcolm
Home Economics
Teacher



Ethan Warasi
Mathematics and
Science Teacher



Emily Austin
English and HaSS
Teacher



Hillel Solomon
Science and
Mathematics Teacher

Student Services News

Year 7 Transition

On Thursday 21 February, we were joined by the Year 7 students and parents for the annual Balcatta SHS Pool Party & Parent Information Night. This year, as a slight variation on previous years, we have combined the pool party and the Parent Information Night on the same evening. Whilst the students were totally absorbed in the pool, some staff met with parents in the Performing Arts Theatre to introduce ourselves and our programs. The numbers were very healthy as the PAT was full to the brim. The presentation was brief but informative and covered topics such as positive education, developing effective habits, Year 7 camp and others. There was a strong sense of community and engagement at the event with some good questions asked and ongoing conversations around schooling. I believe parents/carers got a good sense of what to expect and how things will proceed for the early days of secondary schooling for their children.



Peer Support Excursion

On Friday 1 March, the Year 11 and Year 12 Mentor leaders attended a training day at Craigie Leisure Centre. The Peer Mentor program is designed for the Year 11 and Year 12 students to expand on their leadership skills, while being role models to Year 7 students. This will ensure the Year 7 students will have the support of older students who will be available to assist their transition to high school life.

The day was packed with fun and engaging team-building and leadership-designed activities. The leaders had time to work through their Peer Mentor booklet which included different activities. They finished the day with a 'newspaper fashion show', in which they had five minutes to create an outfit and select a representative to model their masterpiece.



Newspaper fashion show

'Sideeffect' - Youth Substance Awareness Education

On Tuesday 26 March, our Year 8, 10 and 12 students were presented with a very powerful message by delivering a personal story of tragedy. 'Sideeffect' is a non-profit organisation for youth substance awareness. The organisation was started by its founder, Rodney Bridge, after the death of his beautifully talented and generous son, Preston. Preston died at the age of 16, after taking a synthetic form of LSD in February 2013, during his school ball after party. Following his family tragedy, Rod found out that the LSD substance was made up of 25i-nBome as well as a shopping list of other synthetic drugs. Preston lost his life that night based on one choice, and had he known what he was taking, he would have made an entirely different decision. 'Sideeffect' was born out of that understanding, that our youth need to be educated on substance use and be empowered to make informed decisions, with the help of parents, teachers, and their community.

Their message was clear. Many young people think they are invincible but use of the latest chemical substances may have a devastating effect on their lives and the lives of those around them. In using personal stories and real life situations, our students were encouraged to have conversations and make informed choices to minimise harm. Both students and parents should take the time to visit their website:

<https://sideeffect.org.au>



Sideeffect CEO David Hobbs and Rodney Bridge



Events Around

Eleanor's Story

Our Year 10 HASS and Year 11 Modern History students were lucky to see one of the performances being held at Fringe World Festival 2019.

"Eleanor's Story" was written by Ingrid Garner.

Ingrid performs the internationally acclaimed theatrical adaption of her grandmother Eleanor Ramrath Garner's award-winning memoir, detailing her youth as an American caught in WWII Berlin. During the great depression, when she is nine, Eleanor's family moves from her beloved America to Germany, where a new job awaits her father. But war breaks out as her family is crossing the Atlantic, and return to the US becomes impossible. Eleanor struggles to maintain stability, hope and identity in a world of terror and contrasts.



Actor and author Ingrid Garner

'Thrive' Excursion

On 7 March our Year 7 students attended the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre to attend 'Thrive', which was hosted by Everyday Leader. 'Thrive' was created to assist students with a positive transition to high school. They inspire young people to enter high school with the skills, knowledge and inspiration to thrive during transition. Everyday Leader wants to empower young people to be the best authentic version of themselves. They believe every young person has the ability to flourish and their well-being is at the heart of that. Their goal is to create an environment where fear and failure are seen as nothing more than brief rest stops on the journey of life.

Our students were treated to a unique, action-packed day with many presentations and a mixture of community groups, entertainment and sporting activities.



Roll call for Year 7s

Visit by Indigenous Artist

On Friday 22 February, the Year 8 students received a visit from Mr Kevin Bynder, Indigenous artist and educator who spoke about his design processes and ideas. Mr Bynder's artistic flair and design earned him the privilege of being the chosen designer for both the West Coast Eagles and Port Adelaide guernseys for the Indigenous Football Rounds in 2018. He has been an artist for 17 years. In 2016, his designs were chosen for Western Australia's Men's and Women's State Aboriginal teams for the National Indigenous Cricket Championships. Mr Bynder's designs were also chosen for the guernseys for the 2018 AFL Sir Douglas Nicholls Indigenous Round. These guernseys were designed in conjunction with each club's unique culture and history. The inspiration for the art was centred around a sense of 'place, people and time' with associations directly related to the teams. The students were captivated and keen to hear more, as Mr Bynder explained his artworks and showed his ability on the didgeridoo. Students wrote letters of thanks to Mr Bynder.



Mr Fraser, Mr Bynder and Akeisha Reid displaying his designs



A display of Mr Bynder's artwork

National Action Day against Bullying and Violence

On Friday 15 March, our school participated in the National Action Day against Bullying and Violence. Students were provided with wallet cards and wristbands which promoted this event. During form classes, students had the opportunity to take part in activities to promote awareness and a variety of posters were placed around the school.



and The School

Debating

On Wednesday 13 March, we commenced our first round of debating at Hale School. Balcatta SHS have five wonderful teams competing, three Years 7/8 teams and two Years 9/10 teams.

Novice Balcatta 1 – Mali Frazer, Jordan de Beer and Amani Hashmi (Year 8)

Novice Balcatta 2 – Pooja Sharma and Kaiser Htat (Year 7), Chloe Marsh and Aakanksha Dayma (Year 8)

Novice Balcatta 3 – Lucas Agostino, Boni Hockley, Jye Rigby and Gemma Holman (Year 8)

Junior Balcatta 1 – James Edwards, Sadie Nicholson and Bhavana Joshi (Year 9)

Junior Balcatta 2 – Kanika Rawat, Rachel Chon, Gabby Velez, Izahy Fortun and Lauren Holman (Year 9)

We had three teams debating in the Novice competition. The debate topic was 'Alcohol Should Be Banned'. We had two teams that were negative and one affirmative. Two of the teams won their debates.

In the Junior competition, the teams were debating the topic, 'We Should Legalise Pill Testing at Festivals' with one team debating the affirmative and the other negative. In these debates, we had one winner.

On Wednesday 27 March, our three Novice teams participated in their second debate for the competition. They had the difficult topic of 'This House Regrets the Australian Media's Focus on American Politics'. Two teams debated in the negative and the other in the affirmative. Two teams won their debates, and the other team had a very close match. Thanks to those who turned up to support our students.

All the students did a great job and represented the school well. For some of the students, this was their first time debating and they were so brave to stand up and give it a go. The next rounds will all be held at Hale School, Wembley between 6.00pm and 9.00pm and are scheduled on Wednesdays - 15 May, 29 May and 12 June. All staff, parents/guardians and students are welcome to attend to support our students.



Novice Balcatta 1 team



Junior Balcatta 2 team

'Have Sum Fun' Maths Competitions

During Term 1, we had some of our talented mathematicians compete in the 'Have Sum Fun' Maths competition organised by the Mathematical Association of WA. On Friday 15 March, we had a team of our senior students from Years 11 and 12 compete at Hale School. They did very well, coming 20th out of 40 teams.

The following week on Friday 22 March, teams from Years 7 and 8 competed at Aranmore Catholic College and Years 9 and 10 competed at Woodvale Secondary College.

The students worked very hard in these competitions, which took the format of a quiz night. They held their own in some very tough tie-breakers and problem-solving questions. It was wonderful to see the students understand how challenging and rewarding mathematics can be in real life.

Congratulations to the students for their persistence, efforts and hard work.

Years 7 and 8 students: Matheus Barone Major, Ahmed Wario, Kathleen Gesmundo, Jigme Dorjee and Shine Sharma.

Years 9 and 10 students: Elise Beirne, Shreyas Ganguly, Kaida Law, Nathan Hamilton, Kanika Rawat and Bhavana Joshi.

Years 11 and 12 students: Suhasi Patel, Hugh Zhang, Iman Sultan, Neeyanta Nakarmi, Igor Pavkov and Ryan Morton.



Year 11/12 Maths students



Year 11/12 teams working hard at Hale School

Artists in Residence

We were privileged to have renowned Australian artists Simon Gilby and Gina Moore as our artists in residence. They were here to work primarily with the Gifted and Talented Visual Art students, giving talks on their work, as well as providing information on the sculptural and installation work they are developing for the new build. The Gifted and Talented Visual Art students and staff enjoyed interesting presentations on both the artists' work histories and an explanation of how the design ideas for the Balcatta SHS artworks are being developed.



'Entitlement' - artwork by Simon Gilby



Simon Gilby addressing the students

Northern Perspectives 2019

Northern Perspectives 2019 is an exciting exhibition showcasing artworks by 2018 Year 11 and Year 12 Visual Art students from the Cities of Wanneroo, Joondalup and Stirling. Two of our 2018 Year 12 students, Leilani King and Greer Medley, have their artwork displayed.



Artwork by Leilani King



Artwork by Greer Medley

Sculpture by the Sea Exursion

On Wednesday 13 March, our Year 7 Gifted and Talented Visual Art students enjoyed exploring the annual outdoor sculpture exhibition, Sculpture by the Sea on Cottesloe Beach. It was a very inspiring and fun experience for students to engage with beautiful and thought-provoking art installations.



Year 7 students with sculpture titled 'Getting There'



Students with sculpture titled 'Rolling the Earth'

Torren Whisson – Art Scholarship

Congratulations to our Gifted and Talented Visual Art student, Torren Whisson of Year 12 on being a recipient of the National Summer Art Scholarship for 2019. Torren was one of sixteen students from around the nation, two from each state and territory, chosen to participate in the National Summer Art Scholarship in January 2019 in Canberra. The scholarship program was a unique opportunity for Torren to engage with the staff at the National Gallery of Australia, as well as other arts professionals, artists and her peers from around the nation.



Torren Whisson

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

On Thursday 28 February, as part of the Arts curriculum, our Year 7 Art students participated in a puppet building workshop presented by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre. They learnt how different types of puppets are controlled, how they move and how to make these puppets using spare parts. Students worked individually or in groups and gathered objects such as food containers, cardboard boxes, pipe-cleaners, wool, bottle caps, plastic cutlery, keys from keyboards, and many other 'discarded' objects. The students will use the puppets they created during the year for Drama. They will create a character from their puppet, giving it a voice and deciding how it should move and work as a group to create a short puppet show.



Puppetry display



Karma Choden and Neegu Lhamo



Jake Almajar



Callum Hull



Luke Skordas

Health & Ph

During Term 1, we held our annual swimming carnivals for all year groups. Students were encouraged to participate in what were fun and enjoyable days. Each race was followed by a novelty event which gave all students the opportunity to be involved, have fun, exercise and earn points for their House.

We hope students made the most of this opportunity to have a 'splash' as we will be saying goodbye to the pool for the next two years due to the school upgrade.

Total House Points

1st:	Water	442
2nd:	Fire	399
3rd:	Ice	267

Year 7

Champion Boy: Max Hua
 Runner Up: Tennyson Dragicevich
 Champion Girl: Olivia Taylor
 Runner Up: Alivia King

Year 8

Champion Boy: Harrison King
 Runner Up: Martin Di Giovanni
 Champion Girl: Suné Nel
 Runner Up: Kiara James / Mali Frazer

Year 9

Champion Boy: Jordan Kitanovski
 Runner Up: Adzi Zein
 Champion Girl: Madison Ward
 Runner Up: Alexandra Hull

Year 10

Champion Boy: Nathan Hamilton
 Runner Up: Thomas Bekkers
 Champion Girl: Lili Stjepanovic
 Runner Up: Katerina Rufov

Year 12

Champion Boy: Thomas Vlatko-Rulo



Tennyson Dragicevich, Year 7



Suné Nel, Year 8



Timekeepers with Mr McPherson



Alivia King and Olivia Taylor, Year 7



**Kiara James and Mali Frazer
Year 8**



**Martin Di Giovanni and
Harrison King, Year 8**



ys Ed News

Years 7 and 8 Pool Party

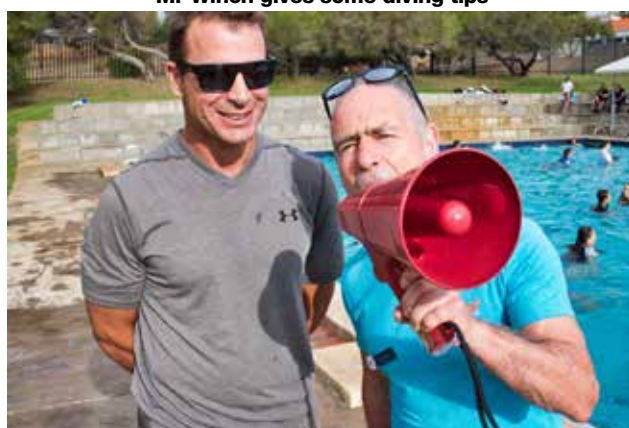
On Thursday 21 February, the Year 7 students held their inaugural pool party together with Year 8 students and family members on a perfect sunny afternoon. Under Mr Birkett's watchful eye, staff and students cooled off in the pool, splashing around with their families and friends. Everybody enjoyed a sausage sizzle prepared by the P&C Committee and staff members, taking the opportunity to meet and mingle in an informal way. These activities are a wonderful opportunity to showcase the school, particularly to new parents and students. Thanks to the staff for their attendance and organisation, and all parents and students who took up the opportunity to attend. This is also the last opportunity to hold such an event due to the pool being closed during the school upgrade over the next two years.



Mr Winch gives some diving tips



Happy BBQ chef, Mr Solomon



Mr Taseff and Mr Birkett



Ms Austin and Ms Notis (P&C) preparing hotdogs



Fun in the pool



Ms Austin, Mr Aird, Mr Solomon and Ms Whiting



Making a splash at the Pool Party

World Challenge Tour 2018



From 20 November to 11 December 2018, Year 10 students, Evangeline Armstrong, Georgia Ellis, Holly Fitzpatrick, Lily Johnston, Aleshia Mavlian, Neeyanta Nakarmi, Isabella Pezzali and Chloe Skordas embarked on an unforgettable journey to Vietnam and Cambodia. This is their story:



"The trip consisted of three phases; a five-day trek, a visit to our sister school and a rest and relaxation phase. We started our journey in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, where we became familiar with the intense city buzz of Vietnam's most well-known city. We explored Ho Chi Minh for three days where we took part in a 'voluntourism' workshop to learn about ethical volunteering and tourist practices and then on to the Vietnamese War Remnants Museum. After an eight-hour bus trip, we arrived in Da Lat to prepare for our five-day trek. Da Lat was one of our favourite cities to visit because of the French architecture, the exciting night markets and the welcoming people.

After spending the night in Da Lat, we began our five-day trek, which was one of the toughest, but most rewarding experiences we have taken part in. Our trek guides were some of the funniest people we have met and they kept us in high spirits when we felt too worn out to keep going. Each day we feasted on banh mi, fresh pineapple and peanut butter Oreos. There was a lot of mud, sweat and tears but completing the trek made all of our preparation worthwhile.



After the trek, we travelled back to Da Lat to have a long awaited shower and to wind down from the intense emotional and physical journey we had just experienced. That evening, we took some time to further explore the gorgeous city we were in and went to the iconic Da Lat Crazy House. It was an intricate design of crazy buildings, which also doubled as a hotel.

Next stop was the famous coastal city, Nha Trang, which we were told would have beautiful beaches. Unfortunately, due to the typhoon that had just passed, the beaches were not as crystal clear as we had expected but that didn't stop us from enjoying the beautiful scenery.

We then took an overnight train back to where we started. We boarded the train around 8.00pm. Each little carriage room had four bunk beds in it. It was a very exciting and new experience which none of us had ever done before. We arrived in Ho Chi Minh at 3.00am and watched the sunrise over the Saigon River. While in Ho Chi Minh for the second time, we ate at local restaurants, visited the Independence Palace and a Buddhist converted Hindu temple.

Finally, we took a bus to Phnom Penh. The border crossing took a long time but eventually we were in beautiful Cambodia. After a small hiccup with finding accommodation, we settled down and began to explore the colourful city. The next day, we visited The Genocide Museum (S21) and the Khmer Rouge Killing Fields which was an eye-opening but upsetting experience. This day was a great opportunity to learn about Cambodia's history and how they have rebuilt from this horrific event.

8 - Vietnam and Cambodia



Next was our favourite part of the trip, visiting our sister school in Treng Trayeoung, a village outside Phnom Penh. At the school, we painted some of their yard and verandah, played with the kids and used the money we have raised to buy classroom fans, library books and whiteboards. It was such a heart-warming experience to play with the kids and get to talk to them about their lives and culture. We talked with them about music, games and found their social media profiles. It was great to know that all around the world, teenagers are all the same. The visit encouraged us to keep up our fundraising efforts back at our school and made us want to visit them again some day.

After this, we spent a few more days being typical tourists in Phnom Penh, before going to Siem Reap. This signified the end of our trip. Our last few days away from home were spent going around to the local markets, visiting the Art Box Gallery, going to the Phare Circus and doing a cycling tour of the famous Angkor Wat Temple Complex. We arrived at the temples early in the morning to watch the sunrise over Angkor Wat then spent the rest of the day touring smaller more hidden away temples around the complex. This cycling tour was an interactive and fun way to see Cambodia's rich history and culture.

On the plane ride home, we were so exhausted, but reflected on the amazing time we had in a country that was very different to our own. This trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity and we would highly recommend it to everyone. It was such an inspiring and rewarding experience which we will never forget."



Year 7 Camp

On Wednesday 20 March, 80 Year 7 students embarked on an adventure to the bush in the South West. With the prospect of physical challenges, leadership and building new relationships, the excitement was high. Many new memories and friendships were forged.

Arriving at Nanga Bush Camp in Dwellingup, the students were greeted by the camp manager who gave a brief history of the camp and highlighted the do's and don'ts. With the rooming arrangements organised, we had lunch and could finally begin the treacherous orientation walk.

We started with an immediate uphill climb, with a short break at the top and leading downhill towards our first river crossing. The hill climb challenged the students and the river crossing definitely challenged the teachers, with Miss Balic having to be escorted across by the polite young Lidia Vojnovic. The river crossing was followed by a casual stroll to where we launched our rafts. This gave the students an opportunity to climb and explore the rocky surroundings, resulting in a few students getting more wet than they intended.

After a break, we headed back a little wiser and more determined. Even if it was tough and challenging, the students never complained. The day was completed with a swim and movie night. Most students fell quietly to sleep that night after a big day.



- Dwellingup



On Day 2 we began with an early wake-up call from Mr Giles' 'interesting' taste in music, starting off with Sylvester Stallone's inspirational Rocky music, followed by some dub-step to get the students moving. Students joined staff for a walk at dawn where they spotted some local flora and fauna, including a mother kangaroo with her joey and some kookaburras laughing, before we returned to camp for breakfast and to get organised for a big day of activities. Throughout the day, the Year 7s rotated through rafting, bush walking, drum beat, cooking and art/craft activities.

On Day 3, we woke to a couple of bandicoots tap dancing on our bottom floor. Having been ushered away by Mr Castensen, Mr Giles could begin his morning wake-up ritual (much to the students' dismay). 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 Mr Mitch McCreery ('Major') who organised the camp and its activities. Ms Val Terry, our cook, together with her able band of Year 12 helpers who ensured students were fed with wholesome and delicious homemade treats. Mr Kevin Castensen had the students looking for lizards to cook on a stick (jokingly); however, when they couldn't find any, resorted to cooking a damper lizard over the fire. Miss Deb Stevens and Miss Kristina Balic, our raft experts; Mr Cameron Farmer (a 'jack-of-all-trades') with his African drums, Mr Jonathon Giles our technical expert and another 'jack-of-all-trades' and Mr Alex Winch whose energy could not be matched. Special thanks to Mr Rod Blitvich and Mr Kevin Fraser who also visited and took a thousand photographs of kids having fun and causing trouble and lastly, the crazy Mrs Michelle Murning with her inspirational nocturnal speeches.





Year 12 Prefects - Ana Denona, Symon Legacion, Suhasi Patel, Elroy Gelok and Hassan Hassan