



# Balcatta Bulletin

## Issue 4 2019

### Highlights

#### Page 4

G&T Art 40th Anniversary

#### Page 6-7

Year 12 Presentation Ceremony

#### Page 8

Shaun Tan – In Conversation

#### Pages 9

Kevin Castensen Retires

#### Pages 12

Year 7 Academic Extension

#### Page 16 -17

Year 9 Outdoor Recreation Camp



# From The Principal



This has been another very memorable year for Balcatta Senior High School. The new build commenced and it has been amazing to see the progress as our new buildings take shape. We had the special 'sod turning event' as well as the Premier announcing a major State Government Department of Education funding maintenance program on our new build work site. The build has brought some challenges to our school operations, but fortunately there has been no major impact on delivery of student learning programs.

## Study Perth

We were invited to be part of the State Government's International Education Strategy 'Study Perth' which positions us to take international enrolments. Our school, along with a number of others, is being marketed to students in various international countries. We hope to welcome a number of overseas students into our school where we believe they will enjoy not only the courses and facilities but the many cultural groups that make up our school population.

## Year 7 Academic Extension Program

This year we successfully commenced the Year 7 Academic Extension Program, a select entry program which focused on building our future ATAR pathway. We have many excellent students in this program and look forward to their ongoing contribution and success in all the activities, both in classes and extra curriculum participation during the coming years.

## 40th Anniversary Celebrations

The school celebrated a significant milestone in 2019, the 40th anniversary of our successful Gifted and Talented Visual Art program. The celebrations included an evening in conversation at the City of Stirling with Shaun Tan, 1991 graduate, distinguished alumnus, illustrator, artist and Academy Award filmmaker and Lyn Diciero, Editor and Publisher of the Artist's Chronicle. The Saturday celebrations included a display of the school's art collection and students' art works in the Ron Murphy gallery. A highlight of the Saturday celebration was the presentation of the inaugural Shaun Tan Emerging Artist Award to Year 12 student, Torren Whisson. This award was presented by the Chair of the Board, Ms Helen Notis to Torren in recognition of her creative talent, skill and ability.

## Year 12 Presentation Ceremony

We farewelled the Year 12 Class of 2019 at the Presentation Ceremony on Thursday 28 November. This year the event was held at the Octagon Theatre, University of Western Australia. It was a very special event, as we celebrated and acknowledged each Year 12 student. There were many highlights of the evening,

but one of the most special was the heartfelt messages from the Year 12 Form teachers. All of the messages were different but the common theme was the respect and care that the Form teachers shared. This group of Year 12 students were very ambitious and talented and upheld the school values of Respect, Unite and Excel. I would particularly like to acknowledge our Head Prefect Suhasi Patel, ably supported by Ana Denona, Hassan Hassan, Elroy Gelok and Simon Legacion for all their work in representing the school and the student body in 2019. Congratulations to all our special award winners and course award winners. The Year 12s are ready for the next part of their learning journey, and as a school community we wish them all the best.

## School Events

It has been another busy year in which a number of students represented the school and showcased their leadership qualities to our commitment as an Act-Belong-Commit school. Some of these events include:

- STEAMtrain Tour (groups of students performing at our local primary schools)
- ANZAC Care Packages
- Year 7 Camp
- Interschool Athletics carnival
- Gifted and Talented Art Ambassadors
- Peer Mentors
- Debating
- Dance Concerts
- Numerous Art Exhibitions
- Music concerts – choir and guitar events
- Science Fair
- EnviroArt Exhibition
- Year 7 Academic Extension: Halloween event
- Opti-MINDS Challenge
- Primary School transition activities
- Innovation Showcase
- Health Studies Expo
- Numerous excursions and incursions

I would like to personally thank all staff for their commitment towards such activities and their dedication and passion in the delivery of an engaging curriculum. Finally, I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank all members of the School Board and P&C. They are a very committed and supportive group who always have the needs of the school and our students pivotal to their decision-making.

Helen Maitland  
Principal



Mrs Maitland with ATAR Dux, Suhasi Patel

# From The School Board Chair



It has been an honour and a privilege to serve on the Balcatta Senior High School Board during 2019 and to support our school in its commitment to achieve positive outcomes. I would like to acknowledge the parent and community Board members who have generously given their time over the last twelve months by their support, encouragement and dedication to the students of Balcatta Senior High School (BSHS). Their rigorous line of questioning and input towards our school's reporting, policies, procedures, programs and initiatives have been greatly appreciated.

Together we can make a meaningful contribution to the development of our school and have an important influence on the direction of BSHS. By sharing our expertise and knowledge we provide support to our Principal and strengthen the school's capacity to achieve better outcomes for our students in the future. I would like to highlight that the Balcatta Senior High School P&C which is an integral part of the Balcatta community. It provides a forum where parents and carers can develop an understanding of the operations of our school, discuss issues pertaining to our school and support our children in their educational journey. While the P&C and the Board exercise different functions it is important that they operate in complementary ways to be an effective forum for discussion and decision-making.

In my capacity as Board Chair, I had the privilege to represent the Board on the panel to select the Principal of Balcatta Senior High School. I was very pleased to announce that Mrs Helen Maitland was recognised for her achievements as a leader and successfully won the position of Principal for Balcatta Senior High School.

Helen is a collaborative and effective leader who always ensures 'our students are at the heart of everything we do'. I have known Helen to be a generous and selfless leader who always puts BSHS and the community at the forefront of her decision-making. She is a strong advocate for BSHS and always upholds our values of Respect-Unite-Excel. Her commitment to our students, staff and community is an excellent combination for a successful school.

As 2019 draws to a close, Balcatta Senior High School has successfully completed its third year as an Independent Public School.

The \$50 million expansion and upgrade of BSHS commenced in earnest during April 2019. I am extremely proud of this development and firmly believe that the school is well-positioned

to continue its journey of improvement and become a school of choice. Along with our refurbished heritage listed and traditional buildings, the upgrade will include state of the art facilities to accommodate over 1,000 students by 2025. The expected completion date is 2021.

As part of the 40th Anniversary celebrations of the Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program, I had the privilege of attending the Art Awards Exhibition 2019 at the City of Stirling. This special event coincided with an 'in-conversation' interview with acclaimed artist and illustrator Shaun Tan which traces his career trajectory from the BSHS Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program. My congratulations to all staff who assisted with the preparations for this successful event, which was well-attended by students, past and present, and Board members.

The Board were advised that BSHS would be preparing for the Public School Review which was scheduled for 21 November 2019. In consultation with the School Board Public School Review Working Party, community and parent Board members were invited to provide feedback and comment on key areas of community involvement and governance. The key areas of self-assessment for BSHS include teaching quality, learning environment, leadership, relationships and partnerships, use of resources, and student achievement and progress.

Overall the Board has been satisfied with the planning, implementation and execution of various strategies set out in our 2017-2019 Business Plan. There is confidence in the Board appropriately and regularly being involved in the progress and review of the school's strategic direction. The Board will support our Principal and school during the next phase in the journey of improvement looking towards upward trends in teaching quality and student outcomes.

Along with my fellow Board Members I had the pleasure to attend the Year 12 Presentation Ceremony on 28 November. Well done to our students on their graduation and congratulations to the award recipients. On behalf of the Board I wish the graduating class of 2019 every success in their future.

I would like to acknowledge our teachers and support for their hard work and efforts throughout the year and thank them for supporting and helping our children reach their potential. I wish everyone a safe and restful break and look forward to being part of an exciting and successful year for BSHS in 2020.

Helen Notis  
Balcatta Senior High School Board - Chair





# 40th Anniversary of the Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program

On 2 November we celebrated 40 years of our Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program with a planned event held at Balcatta SHS. We had a great turn out with current and ex Gifted and Talented Visual Art students in attendance. Special guests in attendance were Mr David Michael MLA, School Board members, Helen Notis and Chris Hatton as well as P&C President, Georgie Dragicevich-Knight.

As part of our celebrations, the inaugural Shaun Tan 'Emerging Artist' Award was presented and awarded to our Year 12 Gifted and Talented Visual Art student Torren Whisson.

Guests were able to stroll through a number of galleries including the Ron Murphy Gallery which displayed our students' artwork. An exhibition was set up in our staff room for guests to view our very own art acquisition and 40 x 40 Art Exhibition created by current and ex-tutors which was themed for our 40-year celebration. A memorabilia exhibition showcased the Gifted and Talented Visual Art students' awards, events and news over the past 40 years. We were lucky to have one of our past students Gina Kitchen bring in some photos and a dress she made in 1979 as part of the Specialist Art course at our school, in commemoration of Western Australia's 150th Anniversary. We had our Gifted and Talented Visual Art students demonstrating portrait painting.

Refreshments were available with the proceeds going to our sister school in Cambodia. The Angkor Project is a collaboration between the Western Australian Department of Education (DoE) and the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport that builds sister school relationships to enhance the education of students in both Cambodia and Western Australia.

Overall it was a successful day where ex-students were able to catch up with each other and reminisce.



Judy Allsworth and Pattie Thorpe, Year 8 students in 1979



Torren Whisson and her mum, Renee Whisson



Ari Gillespie, Ms Murning, Kody Mason and Reece Cahill



Cards for sale, designed by Year 7 students



# Transition News

## Orientation Day for Local Primary Schools

On Wednesday 27 November, Year 6 students entering Balcatta SHS as Year 7's in 2020 were invited to attend an Orientation Day. With assistance from our Student Councillors, the students were split into groups and taken on a guided tour of the school followed by a quiz.

Four groups of students were then taken to their first class. The classes comprised of Music with Mr Daniel Rees, Home Economics with Ms Sharon Holmes, Science with Ms Linda Henry and Mrs Kristina Hoy, Mathematics with Mrs Vig, Mr James Cutler and Mr Ehsan Warasi, and Design & Technology with Mr Hal Schmiedte. After lunch, the students headed to the gym for a Physical Education lesson and then a dance performance by our dance students.



Eloise Vlatko-Rulo and Zara Isliki demonstrate a science experiment



Physical Education lesson for primary school students



Balcatta PS students eating lunch

## Balcatta Academic Challenge

On Friday 29 November, the Balcatta Academic Challenge took place. The purpose of the Balcatta Academic Challenge was to promote Balcatta Senior High School as a school of choice for talented students. The challenge provided Year 5 students from our local intake primary schools with the opportunity to experience academic extension and enrichment activities across a variety of learning areas.

The Challenge was designed to encourage local intake primary schools to select and enter their high achieving students to compete on behalf of their school to win the prestigious perpetual trophy, to be displayed at their school for one year.

Two teams of five Year 5 students from each primary school participated in the Academic Challenge and will also receive an invitation to apply for the 2021 intake of the Academic Extension program. Students competed in four challenges that spanned across all learning areas. For each challenge, students earned 'points' – Takari 2 earned the most points at the end of the day and was presented with a perpetual trophy for the Balcatta Academic Challenge. Prizes were also awarded throughout the day for students and teams who demonstrated excellent team work, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



Students building their towers



Tuart Hill PS students



Winners - Takari Team 2

# Year 12 Present

On Thursday 28 November the school farewelled the Year 12 students at a Presentation Ceremony held at the Octagon Theatre, University of WA. The evening celebrated twelve successful years of education for 90 students, and was an important milestone that acknowledged a new chapter in their lives.

It was a very special evening and the staff, families and friends were all united in their support of our graduates. In her Principal's address, Helen Maitland suggested to the students that they should remember the various stages of their school days which helped them develop into who they are today. Celebrate your future successes, whatever form it may arrive in, take opportunities in life and try to make a positive difference in the world.

Thank you to Year 11/12 Coordinator, David Curtis for putting this event together, Aliyah Nieass, Year 10 student who presented the Acknowledgement to Country and to Alison Martin, Dance Coordinator with her Year 9 and 10 students who performed '16 Shots'. The dance performance was choreographed by Year 10 students, Tshering Thinley and Sonam Tshogyel. The Year 12 Form teachers, Ms Julia Hughes, Mr James Cutler, Ms Maria Manera and Mrs Kristina Hoy gave personal speeches and presented the students with their folders. Special thanks to our guest presenters for their participation on the night.

We had a look back on some English essays written by some of the students when they were in Year 9. This provided some great entertainment for the audience.

On behalf of the entire school community, we congratulate the Subject and Special Award winners who received certificates, gift cards and financial scholarships from various universities.

## Special Awards

Suhasi Patel was the recipient of the ATAR Dux Award and Izel Fortun was the recipient of the VET Dux Award which was presented by Mrs Helen Maitland, Principal.

Thomas Vlatko-Rulo was the recipient of the Balcatta Senior High School Sportsperson of the Year Award presented by Mrs Georgie Dragicevich-Knight, President of the P&C Association.

Elroy Gelok was the recipient of the Senior School Special Commendation Award presented by Mr David Michael MLA, Member for Balcatta.

Suhasi Patel was the recipient of the Joan Ewers Community Service Award presented by Mr Julian Vinciullo, Principal of West Balcatta Primary School.

Jesse Susac was the recipient of the Caltex All Rounder Award presented by Deputy Mayor Bianca Sandri of the City of Stirling.

Harvey Ma was the recipient of the Commitment to Excellence Award presented by Mr Mattison Staples, North Metropolitan Regional Education Office.

Torren Whisson was the recipient of the Anna Kristancic Outstanding Achievement Award presented by Ms Helen Notis, Chair of the School Board.



**Mr David Michael MLA presenting Elroy Gelok with Special Commendation Award**



**Mr Mattison Staples presenting Harvey Ma with Commitment to Excellence Award**



**Deputy Mayor Bianca Sandri presenting Jesse Susac with Caltex All Rounder Award**



**Matthew Tennant receiving ADF Long Tan Award from Sgt Joel Juratowitch**



**Torren Whisson receiving Visual Art ATAR Top Student Award**



**Mrs Sookraj presenting Suhasi Patel with English ATAR Top Student Award**



# ation Ceremony

Torren Whisson was the recipient of the Edith Cowan University Excellence Scholarship presented by Ms Tessa Curtis, Associate Principal.

Iman Sultan was the recipient of the University of Western Australia Principal's Citizenship Award presented by Mrs Audrey Smith, Associate Principal.

Harvey Ma and Amanda Ramirez were the recipients of the Curtin University/Principal's Recommendation Award presented by Mrs Helen Maitland, Principal.

Matthew Tennant was the recipient of the ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award presented by Sgt Joel Juratowitch, 10 Transport Squadron, Operations Sergeant.

Jesse Susac was the recipient of the Australian Super Award for Excellence in VET presented by Dr Peter Reynolds, Engagement and Transition Manager, North Metropolitan Regional Education Office.

## Year 12 Subject Awards

Ms Jamie Arkeveld, Head of The Arts presented the Arts awards to the following students:

Torren Whisson – Visual Arts ATAR

Joel Gizzarelli – Design – Photography General

Suhasi Patel – Certificate II in Visual Arts (Photography Focus)

Christian Rodriguez Rivera – Certificate II in Music

Mrs Sharlene Sookraj, Head of English & Humanities presented the English awards to the following students:

Setareh Mogharebin – English as an Additional Language/Dialect ATAR

Ma Camille Lavapiez – English as an Additional Language/Dialect General

Suhasi Patel – English ATAR

Jesse Susac and Carolina Coloma Montero – English General

Mr Arul Niroshan, Teacher in Charge of Mathematics presented the Mathematics awards to the following students:

Hugh Zhang – Mathematics Specialist ATAR

Hugh Zhang – Mathematics Methods ATAR

Jesse Susac – Mathematics Applications ATAR

Ma Camille Lavapiez and Johnny Le – Mathematics Essentials General

Mr Rod Blitvich, Head of Science presented the Science awards to the following students:

Suhasi Patel – Chemistry ATAR

Amanda Ramirez – Human Biology ATAR

Iman Sultan – Physics ATAR

Brian Anthony Gavano – Psychology ATAR

Andrew Lim – Psychology General

The Technologies awards were presented by Mr Warren Grellier (on behalf of Mrs Deb Middleton, Head of Technologies) to the following students:

Andrew Lim - Applied Information Technology General

Jesse Susac – Certificate III in Business

Kate Vu – Certificate II in Business

Izel Fortun – Certificate II in Information, Digital Media and Technology

Izel Fortun – Building & Construction General

Fromi Mohammed – Certificate II in Hospitality

Harvey Ma – Food Science & Technology General

Jesse Susac – Vocational Education and Training award for Authority Developed Workplace Learning Endorsed Program.

The Health and Physical Education awards were presented by Ms Kristina Balic (on behalf of Mr Geoff Birkett, Teacher in Charge of Health and Physical Education) to the following students:

Jesse Susac – Physical Education Studies

Natasha Hoseini – Health Studies General

Hannah Okumu – Certificate II in Sport Coaching



**Harvey Ma receiving Curtin University of Technology Principal's Recommendation Award**



**Amanda Ramirez receiving Curtin University of Technology Principal's Recommendation Award**



**Christian Rodriguez Rivera receiving Cert II in Music Top Student Award**



**Ms Balic presenting Hannah Okumu with Cert II in Sport Coaching Top Student Award**



**Year 9 and 10 dance students performing '16 Shots'**

## Shaun Tan – In Conversation

On 1 November 2019, to help celebrate Balcatta Senior High School's 40th Anniversary of our Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program, Shaun Tan, Australian author, artist and film maker, was in conversation with Lyn de Ciero, editor of the Artist Chronicle at the City of Stirling Annual Arts Exhibitions. Shaun discussed his works and his journey from high school graduation to becoming an Academy Award winner and winner of many state and national awards. An appreciative audience of invited guests, including Mr David Michael MLA, Ms Helen Notis, Chair of the Balcatta Senior High School Board, representatives from the City of Stirling, students and staff from Balcatta Senior High School, artists and members of the public were present at the City of Stirling on the night.

Shaun Tan is a distinguished alumnus and ambassador of Balcatta Senior High School from which he graduated in 1991. While at school he was known as the "good drawer" and "the most talented artist", despite in his own words being the "shortest guy in the school". He was a student of Balcatta's Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program and, after school, undertook teaching himself the art of book illustration. Asked in the Year 12 Year Book for 1991 what he hoped to achieve in life he replied, "Enlightenment, conceptual breakthrough and a reason for electric can openers!"

While at school Shaun enjoyed reading, writing and illustrating poems and stories and spent a lot of time drawing dinosaurs, robots and space ships. He was attracted to anything related to monsters, outer space or robots. He also started painting and drawing illustrations for science fiction magazines and horror stories. He said that he was mostly influenced by the short stories of Ray Bradbury, and that visually, was probably influenced more by the designs than the storylines in movies and television. Finally, after facing some rejections, Shaun had a breakthrough and his first illustration was published in 1990 in a magazine called 'Aurealis'. Shaun went on to study Fine Arts, Literature and History at the University of Western Australia from which he graduated in 1995.

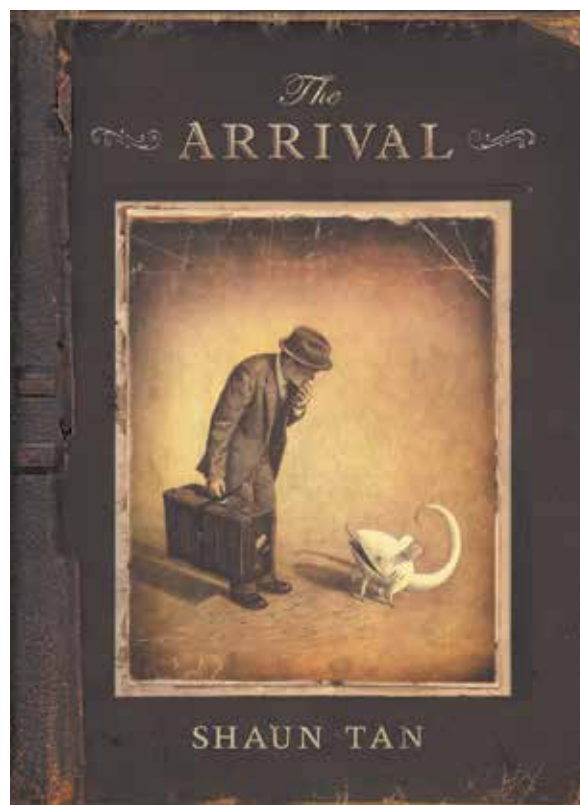
From 1992 to 2011 Shaun Tan was honoured with 45 awards and prizes and achieved national and international success with his work. He received worldwide acclaim as an illustrator and author of such works as 'The Red Tree' and 'Tales from Outer Suburbia'. His illustrated work 'The Arrival' is an international best seller and won multiple awards, including both the Western Australian and NSW Premier's Book Awards and the Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year. In 2011 he won an Academy Award for 'The Lost Thing', a 2011 animated film adaptation of a 2000 picture book he wrote and illustrated. In the same year, he received the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, a prestigious international prize for children's and young adults' literature. In 1992, he won the International Illustrators of the Future Contest, the first Australian to achieve this award. There is also an award named after him by the City of Subiaco. Children with excellent artistic skills are eligible to enter this competition.

We were delighted to have Shaun share his experiences and promote the 40th anniversary celebrations at the school, and were pleased to be able to present the inaugural Balcatta Senior High School Shaun Tan Emerging Artist Award to Year 12 student Torren Whisson. Torren received a certificate together with Shaun Tan's book titled 'Tales from The Inner City' and a personal note. Torren's work is highly creative and, as a talented young artist

working in a range of media, she has received local, state and national recognition, commendation and prizes including being a finalist in the Young Archie Award, the St George Art Exhibition, META Award, The City of Stirling Art Competition, the Lester Prize, and most outstanding at the Outside the Frame Award. She is indeed a worthy recipient of this award and we extend our congratulations to Torren and wish her well in her future artistic pursuits.



Shaun Tan 'In Conversation' with the audience



Illustrated work 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan



## Kevin Castensen Retires

Kevin Castensen has served with distinction at Balcatta SHS for 31 years. He commenced his career at Pinjarra DHS in 1973 and over the next 14 years taught at Scarborough SHS, Greenwood SHS and Woodvale SHS.

Over his career Kevin has been a Deputy Principal, HoLA Science, Program Coordinator Student Services, Youth Education Officer and Year Coordinator. In 1988 Kevin transferred to Balcatta SHS.

For the majority of his time at Balcatta Kevin has been a valuable contributor both in the Science Department and especially in the area of Student Services where he worked as a Year Coordinator for a long period. Kevin has also been an active member of the School Council/School Board for the last decade.

Kevin combined his love of the outdoors with his dedication to developing relationships with his students through his involvement in and organisation of countless student camps. Hundreds of students have fond memories of attending his many camps.

Komandant Kev's camps would begin before sunrise (a shock to most) with the gentle strains of Luciano Pavarotti echoing through the morning air at a deafening 120 decibels! Whilst still wiping the sleep from their eyes, his students would stumble through the Dwellingup bush on their morning walk. After a hearty breakfast, Kevin would then lead them through a program of outdoor activities that were an enriching and often never before experienced encounter. Kevin worked hard to provide staff with the opportunity to build relationships at these camps and his students were better people for having participated. After a hard day of bushwalking, climbing, canoeing and team building Kevin would then take them on an evening bushwalk, hoping to ensure a good night's sleep for all. After lights-out, Kevin would then throw his swag in the communal area (no quiet bedroom for him!) and act as policeman, often into the early hours of the morning, to ensure excited children would eventually sleep. Kevin's staff admired him for his ability to endure interrupted sleeps and aching joints and still push on with his responsibilities as Camp Leader.

Kevin has been a respected and valued contributor within the Science Department where he taught ATAR Biology along with Lower School Science. Kevin is respected and well-liked by both his colleagues and students.

We would all like to wish Kevin a well-earned retirement.

Balcatta SHS is a better place for your valued service and you will be sadly missed.



Kevin Castensen

## AFL Secondary School Ambassador

Congratulations to Kirsty Johnson who has been acknowledged with a Certificate of Recognition as School Ambassador for AFL and WAFL.

In 2018 Kirsty engaged the Subiaco District and Local Junior club in her Health Expo event which saw 600 students engage in AFL activities provided by the district and local club. The Expo also included activities via football and the benefits it has on healthy living, emotional and mental well-being, social connectivity, education and diet.

Kirsty has motivated students academically by incorporating football into her classroom programs and lessons. This has seen students take a greater interest in their class projects, assignments and work. Kirsty's class projects and physical education lessons educate students on the key messages of healthy living, mental health, social connectivity, positive community engagement and importance of education. Students have identified the links between these key messages and AFL.

Kirsty has also played a major role in allowing the district and local club to promote the AFL within the school helping link students to community football opportunities via new promotional strategies such as the Health Expo and Freo House Footy competition. Kirsty has also continued to use promotional strategies such as the 'Go for 2 and 5' throughout her physical education and health studies classes. Well done on this wonderful achievement!



Kirsty Johnson proudly displaying her Certificate of Recognition at Optus Stadium

# Community News

## Woolworths Earn and Learn

Our Parents and Citizens Association arranged for our school to take part in the Earn and Learn promotion by Woolworths. Our community, school staff and students collected Woolworths stickers to raise money to purchase educational equipment for our school. With the money raised, we were able to purchase equipment for Mr Witcombe's Coding and Robotics class.



Mr Witcombe's Year 9 Coding and Robotics class

## City of Stirling Recycling Presentation

On Friday 18 October our Year 10 students were presented with information on recycling from Vanja Marjanovic, a Waste Education Officer at the City of Stirling. The presentation covered major waste and litter issues, and featured examples of ways to recycle in our local environment. Students were provided with sufficient knowledge to make informed decisions, ultimately contributing to the Council's vision to reduce waste in our local community.



Year 10 students with Ms Vanja Marjanovic

## Foodbank

As part of Act-Belong-Commit Week last term, Balcatta SHS hosted a School Food Drive by calling on all parents/guardians and students to help tackle the growing issue of hunger in Western Australia by asking for food donations (non-perishable items only). Some examples of food donations included food cans (fruit, vegetables, meals, etc) and long-life items (UHT milk).

Hunger remains a largely hidden crisis in our state, yet an estimated 480,000 West Australians went without a meal some time over the past year. Every day people of all ages are dealing with the anguish and despair of not knowing where their next meal is coming from. Many will have no food for their children.

Last year, Foodbank WA provided more than 6.1 million meals to people in need via its network of charity partners and schools. While the majority of food was rescued and surplus from the food and grocery industry, Foodbank WA also needed to purchase food to try and meet the ever-increasing demand throughout the state.

This was a fantastic way for students to learn about food insecurity and the importance of giving, and every donation really does make a huge difference to the most vulnerable members of our community. The donations collected will also help ensure Foodbank WA has a variety of food available in its warehouses every day.

Foodbank WA and Balcatta SHS are very appreciative to those who donated.



Harry Dos Santos Babic and Miguel Jacinto with Mrs Maitland



Mrs Maitland with Sebastian Foran and Hope Baird



# Curriculum News

## Choir Performance at UWA

At the end of Term 3, our choir students, directed by our very own choir and vocals music teacher Bronwynn Sprogowski, joined 10 other school choirs in coming together to support Mental Health Week 2019. The students performed 'Stand by Me' which was recorded and edited professionally by the talented students at the University of Western Australia.



## World of Maths

As part of 'World of Maths' week on 26 and 27 September, our Years 7, 8 and 9 students took part in 17 colourful hands-on maths activities during their maths class. The activities were set up in the gym and were large enough for students to get involved with solving problems from given situations and discover or identify mathematical concepts and ideas. Students were given activities that included problems and tasks in the strands of number, space, measurement, graphs, statistics and logical thinking and sequencing. They were allowed to take as much time as they needed to solve problems for each activity.

'World of Maths' is very enjoyable and makes students want to think. It helps develop skills necessary to work in small groups as an effective way of learning mathematics, and allows students to interact, which can boost confidence and promote positive attitudes towards mathematics. The students found the various activities enjoyable and they were very engaged.



Ms Sprogowski conducting the choir

## Year 7 Poster Competition

During the last week of Term 3 and over the holidays, the Numeracy Committee ran a poster competition for the Year 7 students. The format was that the students were to create an A4 sized poster that highlighted the use of Mathematics in other subject areas, or even just in everyday life.

The posters were collected during the first week of Term 4. The Numeracy Committee then judged these posters and awarded three separate \$5 canteen vouchers to the Year 7 students who designed the best posters. The winning students were Holly Menna, Eva Veljanoski and Kya Cross. All the posters will be laminated and displayed around the school within the coming weeks. Well done to all the students who participated!



Hands-on activities helping students to develop their skills



Winners - Eva Veljanoski, Holly Menna and Kya Cross with their posters



Students developing their problem-solving skills

## Year 7 Academic Extension Halloween Project

On Tuesday 30 October our Year 7 students in the Academic Extension Program were given the challenge of putting on an event that was both educational and entertaining for all students in Year 7. The theme – Halloween.

Working in small groups, the students created a room filled with a historical timeline of the evolution of Halloween and its associated traditions; a display of spooky poems written by the students themselves, as well as some traditional poems read aloud, accompanied by well-researched biographies on their authors. The Science task force put on a show using their knowledge of dry ice and non-Newtonian liquids to create 'oobleck', frozen bubbles and some very spooky floating ghost bubbles.

A cardboard graveyard, painted banner and colour-themed decorations greeted students as they began the event. Numeracy skills were put to the test in games that required estimation and calculations. Congratulations to Pooja Sharma for having the closest guess in the 'How heavy is this pumpkin?' competition and to Devin Smith for closely guessing 'How many items were in the jar'.

With a scary music track playing, costumes and some very competitive apple bobbing, all students were engaged and entertained at the event. The students in the Academic Extension Program should be proud of their planning and organisation – the community spirit here at Balcatta is soaring high.



Science task force member  
Leon Iannetta



Kya Cross, Lucy Wallis and  
Kalani Kaiser in costume



Mattheus Barone Major putting on a Science show

## Remembrance Day Project

As part of our Remembrance Day commemoration, our Year 9 students took part in a project-based learning task about World War I. They had some assistance from some of our Year 11 students.

Year 9 students were asked the question: How do we remember?

To tackle this question, five learning areas were involved in the process – HaSS, English, Certificate II in Retail Cosmetics, Photography and Design & Technology.

HaSS classes researched Australia's involvement in WWI on the home front, significant battles and conditions. Students collected and deconstructed primary sources. Through this analysis, students focused on the use of portraits and letters found in the Australian archives and homes.

English classes identified and analysed language and content found in primary sources (WWI letters). Students then recreated their own letters from various Australian (and Turkish) perspectives of the war.

Year 11 students from Certificate II in Retail Cosmetics class investigated period hair design and make-up as part of their design brief. They then applied make-up and created hair designs on the Year 9 students to authenticate their costumes for photography purposes.

Photography classes took self-portraits and then rendered and manipulated the images to enhance their authenticity. Design and Technology classes identified types of period frames used to house WWI portraits. Students then recreated period frames to display their photographs.

The result was a fantastic compilation of students' work.



Letters created by students regarding perspectives of the war and  
self-portraits manipulated to look authentic



Books about World War I



## Community Access Program

The Education Support Community Access Program assists students in learning basic life skills. These skills include travel training, money handling, appropriate community behaviour, budgeting as well as community, road and personal safety. Under the direction of education support staff, Blake Robertson, Sebastian Foran and Leroy Sassine participated in this program every Thursday during Term 2 to Term 4 this year.

On Thursday 14 November, Sebastian Foran and Leroy Sassine together with Mrs Nicole Ward and Ms Carissa Kays, set out from the bus stop in Cedric Street and headed off to Joondalup Shopping Centre. While there, they purchased their lunch and movie tickets and caught public transport on the way back to school.



Sebastian Foran and Leroy Sassine

## Innovations Showcase

Balcatta Senior High School was one of 50 schools invited to exhibit at the Department of Education Innovations Showcase, that was held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre from Wednesday 27 November to Thursday 28 November. We were invited to showcase our Innovations in Education project, a project based learning concept to increase the engagement of students and to address global competencies including character, collaboration, creativity, citizenship, communication, and critical thinking.

Some of our school-based initiatives involving project based learning that were showcased included Science Fair, Electronics Club, Earthquake-Proof Building Challenge, Health Expo, Cyber Safety Video Infomercial, and World War I cross-curricular project. Our stall was supported by the following staff and students. Year 7 students Eva Veljanoski and Holly Menna talked to visitors about their cosmetics and bacteria growth science fair experiment. Year 8 students, Mali Frazer, Blake Beggs and Harri King presented their experiment to do with finding DNA in fruit. Staff who attended were Matthew Witcombe, Tessa Whiting, Matthew Downie, and Principal Helen Maitland.



Holly Menna and Eva Veljanoski showcase their display

## Pizza Oven Build

The Year 12 Building and Construction students, under the guidance of Mr Hal Schmiedte, began the process of renovating and installing a pizza oven and seating in the staff room courtyard. Students laid blocks for the raised garden bed and seating area on the side of the courtyard. Along the back wall area, they laid blocks for the foundations of the pizza oven and preparation bench. The pizza oven was extremely heavy to place but the students used their problem-solving skills to work out how to move and lift the pizza oven slab onto the foundations. The pizzas that have been cooked in this oven have tasted amazing. A job well done for all to enjoy in the future.



Laying the foundations



The pizza oven is now ready for baking



The final result

## Awesome Arts Festival 2019

On 16 October our Gifted and Talented Visual Art students attended the Awesome Arts Festival at the Perth Cultural Centre. The festival was aimed to inspire creativity and expression in young Western Australians through engagement with a broad range of contemporary art forms. Our students saw a world-class theatre performance and participated in a workshop.

## Big Art Day Out

Invitations were recently sent to 200 northern suburb primary schools, showcasing our school and inviting them to attend a 'Big Art Day Out' event held in our Art Gallery on Saturday 19 October 2019.

The event was a free art taster for Year 5 students, as Year 5 is when applications for the Gifted and Talented Visual Art program begin. Saturday was a great opportunity to showcase and promote Balcatta SHS and our specialist program, while showcasing how we enrich creative students' learning and have some fun. We had 60 students attend and it was deemed to be a great day with positive feedback given from students and parents.



## Gifted and Talented Visual Art Exhibition

On Tuesday 29 October Balcatta SHS held its annual Gifted and Talented Visual Art Exhibition. A very large number of parents, families, friends, students, and staff were entertained by our music students and a wearable art fashion parade.

Thanks go to Jamie Arkeveld, Sherree Tomlinson and Michelle Murning for all their hard work and the hours they spent putting the exhibition together, and also to the many other staff members who also assisted in this great community event. Thanks to the Home Economics staff and the Year 11 Hospitality students who provided first quality food and catering.

The students' artwork is of a very high quality and looked amazing. Our patron, Professor Ted Snell AM and WA artist, Simon Gilby attended the event, both acknowledging the high quality of our Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program and the relevance of art. Simon Gilby has been commissioned for the 'Art Project' as part of the new build.







## The Lester Prize for Portraiture Youth Award

Two of our Gifted and Talented Visual Art students, Melina Hosseinzadeh Oroumi of Year 10 and Torren Whisson of Year 12 were finalists in The Lester Prize for Portraiture Youth Award. Melina's painting of her brother Berhad titled, 'The Gaze' was painted in her Saturday morning art classes with tutor Mark Tweedie. Torren's self-portrait, 'Scrutinise the Surface' was the artwork she submitted to the National Gallery of Australia for the Summer Arts Scholarship, which she attended earlier this year. Such a great achievement for both girls. One of our Gifted and Talented Visual Art tutors, Torsten Knorr has been selected in The Lester Prize for Portraiture Adult Award. His painting is of Jamie Arkeveld.

The Lester Prize Main Awards Exhibition was held in the historic Centenary Galleries at the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth Cultural Centre from 9 November to 9 December 2019.

On Wednesday 13 November, Mrs Maitland, Ms Arkeveld and two of our Gifted and Talented Visual Art students, Melina Hosseinzadeh of Year 10 and Torren Whisson of Year 12 attended 'The Lester Prize for Portraiture' awards evening. Balcatta Senior High School was awarded the First Prize in the High School Category, Years 10-12. The prize was a workshop with an Alumni adult artist facilitator who will come to our school to work with our students. Congratulations to Melina and Torren for being selected as finalists in 'The Lester Prize for Portraiture' exhibition and to Ms Arkeveld, Sherree Tomlinson and our art tutors.



## Art in a Box

On Wednesday 6 November, the Year 7, 8 and 10 Gifted and Talented students were privileged to have curators Lee Kinsellas and Kate Hamersley from Lawrence Wilson at UWA visit our school gallery with a series of works from their collection of prominent WA Artists. Students used these as a discussion point and presented their own analysis on each work.



# Health & Phys Ed News

## Interschool Athletics Carnival

On Thursday 24 October, Kirsty Johnson, Adam Taseff and Nicole Ward took some of our elite athletes to participate in the interschool athletics carnival. We were extremely proud of their efforts. Year 9 student, Eloise Vlatko-Rulo won champion girl in her age division. Year 10 student, Jessica Santich came 3rd in her age division.

A teacher from another school presented glowing reports about two of our Year 8 helpers, Andre Alvaro and Terry Tong. She said they worked so hard, never took a break and were extremely mature and reliable. Finally, the standout student was Jesse Bolitho-Bryce. He was a superstar! He volunteered to fill in for any students that couldn't make their events, constantly asked how else he could help and tried his absolute best in everything. He definitely demonstrated school spirit in a big way.

The final result for Balcatta SHS was 7th place out of 9 schools, which is an improvement on the last couple of years.



Champion Girl, Eloise Vlatko-Rulo

## Year 9 Outdoor Recreation Camp

From Wednesday 27 November to Friday 29 November the Year 9 Outdoor Recreation students set off for Ern Halliday Camp by bike. The ride was to be a challenge for some students and a real struggle for others. The students did have a refreshing swim and cool down at North Beach before resuming their journey. There were two students who could not cycle all the way to the campsite but their perseverance grew over the next two days and both made it all the way back to school. Abby Aitkins is to be complimented for her efforts as she was reluctant to cycle at first. She cycled in both directions. The purpose of the camp was to accept challenges, analyse your feelings before and after each challenge and how you can apply those feelings to other real-life challenges. The students certainly challenged themselves and enjoyed the adventure.

The activities were varied and included abseiling, flying fox, surf lifesaving, orienteering and camp-based group work with lengthy periods of free time. The environment varied from cycling on the road and cycle ways, the sea and beach, the bush, climbing walls, roping set-up and the campsite.

Prior to the camp, students had to plan their own meals, shop and look after themselves during the camp. Meals ranged from noodles to mouth-watering meat, pasta and vegetables. Wade Homewood was the king of pancake-making.

Although the activities were about working together, there were some individual activities:

### Mini Olympics

High Jump winner – John Michael Jularbal  
Shot Put winner – Bailey Sheehan  
Discus winner – Marc Fakos  
Javelin winner – Ethan Litchfield  
Long Jump winner – Adzi Zein  
High Dive winner – Sam Narra

### Orienteering

Best Pair – Georgia Corica and Maria Rocci  
Runners Up – Skye Lankester and Madi Ward

### Flag Race Final

Winner – Marc Fakos  
Runner Up – Ethan Litchfield

If there was an award for determination, it would go to Zoe Rowland and the courageous award would go to Georgia Corica.



'Discus' throwing



Waiting in anticipation to abseil



Having a rest, ready to set off again on their bikes



# Student Services



**Year 9 Outdoor Recreation class**

## **Red Frogs – Party Safe**

On Tuesday 22 October, our Year 11 students were presented with an information session from Red Frogs education program called 'Party Safe'. Red Frogs 'Party Safe' program teaches students how to cope with situations they may be confronted with when socialising at parties and music festivals.

Presentation topics included:

- Alcohol, drugs and the Australian drinking culture
- Violence, sexual assault and criminal convictions
- Mental health including depression, anxiety and suicide ideation
- Peer pressure
- Safe partying tips and how to host a safe party
- Practical activities to engage students and reinforce messages

As part of the presentation some students participated in an experiment where they wore glasses (of differing strengths) which altered their vision and balance to show how intoxicated they were after having several standard drinks. Students had to walk in a straight line and then 'hi-five' the presenter when they got to the end. Students found it entertaining when they saw their friends were unable to walk straight and missed the presenter when trying to 'hi-five'. This was a great example for them to see how the body changes when drinking alcohol.



**Ready for beach games**



**Blake Geneve using the vision altering goggles**



**Ready to abseil**

# Term Four





# Highlights





Torren Whisson with Mrs Helen Maitland and Mr Chris Hatton