



Balcatta Bulletin

Issue 3 2016

Highlights

Page 3
New Council Members

Page 7
Skills Expo

Page 8
Athletics Carnival

Page 11
Local Author Visits

Page 12
Year 9 & 10 Excursions

Page 13
Year 11 & 12 River Cruise





Welcome

As most of you know I spent Semester 1 as the Upper School Principal at an international School in Hangzhou, China. This was a wonderful opportunity to be part of an entirely different system for an extended period of time. I enjoyed my time at the school in China and was impressed by the way all students embraced their learning opportunities and the importance they placed on doing well in their studies.

I was impressed by the fact that many students gave up their lunchtimes to re-sit tests and try to improve their results, even by a few marks. The annual fees charged at this private school ranged from AUD \$25,000 to \$40,000. I am pleased to be back at Balcatta and would like to thank Stephen Pestana who was principal during my absence, Helen Maitland, Associate Principal and Kath Criddle who took on Stephen's role as Associate Principal. It was good to know the school was in very good hands while I was overseas.

As Term 3 draws to a close I have looked back on what a busy term it has been for staff and students alike. As you look through this edition of the Balcatta Bulletin, you will see that both individuals and groups of students and staff have been engaged in a wide variety of activities including debating, art exhibitions, athletics carnival, river cruises, excursions, visiting speakers and dance concerts, to name just a few.

Academic pursuits have not been forgotten and students have been involved in some interesting Inquiry Based Learning in their Science, Mathematics and Woodwork classes. In addition, some students have been involved in Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA) testing.

This term saw the release of the latest NAPLAN results for all students in Years 7 and 9. Overall, we were very pleased with the results, especially with the Year 9 results which show that we add value and our students performed at or above what are termed "like" schools. These are schools who share similar characteristics to us. As expected, we have individual students who achieved Band 10, the highest band, and those who have achieved below what would normally be expected for their age.

We do have a group of students in both Year 7 and Year 9 whose results indicate they are performing below expected levels, so we have instituted strategies to assist them in improving their results. Given the recent changes to the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) it is important that both students and parents understand that, in order to graduate from high school, students must pass the OLNA test. There are multiple opportunities for students to sit the test in Years 10, 11 and 12. Students who achieve Band 8 in the Year 9 NAPLAN test are exempt from having to sit the OLNA test.

Earlier this term Helen Notis, chair of our Council, Stephen Pestana, Associate Principal and I had the opportunity to present our case to become an Independent Public School to a panel from the Department of Education. We expect the results of this very competitive process to be known later this term. We are very keen to be granted this status as it would give us additional opportunities and autonomy to make decisions at the local level to better meet the needs of our school community.

On behalf of all staff I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 12 students success, not only in the "mock" exams to be held during the September holidays but also in the ATAR exams which begin on Friday 23 September 2016 with the practical exams.

Lesley Street
Principal



Congratulations to the Year 12 Semester One Academic Prize Winners



Ms Street pictured with Elizabe Visser

New Council members

The school is delighted to announce that several new community members have recently joined the School Council. Each of our new members adds a wealth of valuable expertise and experience to the work of the Council.

Margaret Banks

Margaret brings extensive expertise in education, employment services and corporate governance from her background in the WA and NT Education and Training Systems. Margaret has also provided consultancy services in Fiji and Brunei and has held positions in the Executive Service of the Australian Government Public Service, Canberra. She currently works as a consultant, and Reviewer of Independent Public Schools and In Registering non-Government schools. She sits on two other Boards of 'not for profit' organisations. She has a passion and commitment to the important role schools play in providing excellence in learning and a safe and happy place for students to attend.

Chris Hatton MLA (Member for Balcatta)

Before being elected to State Parliament, Chris was a teacher and President of Balcatta Senior High School P&C. His wife Pina, is a teacher at West Balcatta Primary School and all of their children attended both West Balcatta Primary School and Balcatta Senior High School. He is passionate about the importance of education as his family has benefitted greatly from attending these strong local schools and being part of the wider Balcatta community.

Professor Ted Snell

Professor Ted Snell is a renowned artist, arts educator and author, who has contributed to the national arts agenda through his many board roles including Chair of Artbank, Asialink and Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council. Currently, he is Director of the Cultural Precinct of the University of Western Australia. He is currently art reviewer for The Australian and a regular contributor to local and national journals.



Front Row, left to right: Margaret Banks (community member), Helen Notis (Chair), Stephen Pestana (staff member), Lesley Street (Principal), Chris Hatton MLA (community member)
Back Row, left to right: Lara Broomfield (parent member), Matthew Milner (Student Council member), Shannon Muggeridge (Student Council member), Trudie Dwyer (parent member), Karen Paull (parent member), Anna Sanzogni (staff member), Kevin Castensen (staff member).

Absent: Helen Maitland (staff member), Svetlana Naumoski (community member), Professor Ted Snell (community member)

Debating success

Debate Teams

On Wednesday, 29 June 2016, the Junior and Senior Debating Teams participated in their final debates of the ordinary round.

Both teams were well supported by their families and student colleagues on the night and looked very sharp in their blazers and ties. Thanks to Ms Sanzogni for ensuring these were always available for our teams.

The Junior team scored an impressive win against Hale School. The students representing the Junior team (Year 9 and 10) were: Tamara Barron, Robyn Bennett, Macy Brown, Alicia Gregg, Leilani King, Nathaniel Mesfin, Lily Routledge, Ana Rychlak and Ashlea Green (Year 11).

The three first-time speakers in the Senior Team from Years 11 and 12, Domonique Barone, Sarah Hashimi and Oonagh Nally with Reece Cahill as chairperson, were given moral support by Behrad Hosseinzadeh Oroumi, Sophie Moeinisam, Hukmina Isse, Loren Perkov and Hannah Turko. In addition, six parents and family members came to watch them, as well as the Junior Team.

Unfortunately, the Senior team came second to a very tough Mt Lawley SHS team, but they are really excited about the competition next year and all had a taste of what is to come.

It has been wonderful to see how organised, collaborative and enthusiastic the members of the Balcatta SHS debating teams are and equally wonderful to see our dedicated parents attend each round. It has been an exciting and challenging competition. Congratulations to all participants.

Thanks also to Ms Curtis, for all her hard work getting these teams up and running.



Senior Debating Team at work



The successful Junior Debating Team

Our People



Reece Cahill and his self-portrait

Arts tutor, **Mark Tweedie**, who works on Saturday mornings with our Gifted and Talented Visual Arts students has made the finals of the prestigious Black Swan Prize for Portraiture. This initiative, by the Art Gallery of WA, has seen 40 finalists selected to have their work on display at the Gallery. The competition features many forms of portraiture including photography, painting, video and sculpture. Mark's work, pictured below is a painting of a family friend. We wish Mark success when the winner is announced in a couple of weeks



Mark Tweedie's portraiture entry

Nikita D'Souza, 2015 graduate and ex-prefect, has just starred in the two week season of "Grease the Musical" at the Regal Theatre, Subiaco. She starred in the coveted role of "Cha Cha" in the major "Hand Jive" dance-off scene.

Nikita is currently studying at the Australian Performing Arts Network (APAN). A graduate of our Specialist Dance Program, Nikita has previously starred in events such as Channel 7 Christmas Parades. Nikita will be performing in the upcoming Australian Dance Festival in Sydney and will take part in this year's Telethon in October.



Grease is the word! Nikita D'Souza

Congratulations to Year 12 Gifted and Talented Visual Arts student, **Reece Cahill** on winning first prize in the "Outside the Frame" Art awards for his self-portrait. The City of Armadale hosts these prestigious annual awards which are open to upper school students from throughout the Perth metropolitan region. His work was selected from more than 70 entries which is an excellent indication of his creativity and talent.

Science Laboratory Technician, **Lisa Anderson**, is heading off to Kolkata, India in November this year. This is her second trip to India and, as she does on all her overseas trips, she will be taking donated clothing and other goods with her to assist those in need. Lisa will be visiting the Mother Teresa Centre as well as some of the poorer areas of the city. Lisa is a valuable member of staff who has been at Balcatta Senior High School since 2007. Prior to this, she worked at Canning Vale College, Kelmscott Senior High School and Southern River College. If you have any clothes, especially those that would fit small men, please bring them to the school so Lisa can take them to India.



Lisa Anderson taking clothing to India

Raquel Barone, our 2013 Head Girl, has returned to Balcatta SHS but this time as a staff member. A third year Occupational Therapy student at Curtin University, Raquel is undertaking part of her professional practicum at the school this term. During her time here, Raquel will liaise with staff in Home Economics, Science and Design & Technology to investigate occupational practices.



Raquel Barone, our 2013 Head Girl

Art News

Another successful year as nine students have their work selected for the Young Originals.

Young Originals Exhibition

Our Gifted and Talented Visual Arts students have achieved some more fantastic results. We continue our proud tradition of being successfully exhibited for our talented students. This year over 180 submissions were received for the Young Originals Exhibition, of which 70 artworks were selected. The following students and Coordinator, Michael Kimbar, are to be congratulated on their successful entry this year:

The exhibition was held 11 to 24 of August at Edith Cowan University, Mt Lawley Campus, Spectrum Project Space. This competition was only open to students attending Public Secondary Schools.

Year 8

Cameron Croucher, Meg Bradsell

Year 9

Tamara Barron, Harvey Ma

Year 10

Scarlett Coley

Year 11

Bianca Kihara, Ari Gillespie

Year 12

Kody Mason, Joshua Figliomeni



Our successful Young Originals artists



Lesley Street with Chris Hatton MLA and Regional Executive Director, Paul Meacock

Primary Schools Art Competition

The local intake primary schools, Balcatta, West Balcatta, Osborne Park, Takari and Tuart Hill, were invited to participate in the Year 5 and Year 6 Portrait Competition. The students were given the challenge to "create an interesting and colourful portrait that best describes the feeling of excitement". This is a new initiative for the school and it was designed to foster links with our local intake schools. We were delighted with the response and had so many entries we had to restrict each school to selecting their top 20 entries. The successful works were exhibited in the Ron Murphy Gallery on 16 August 2016.

The exhibition was a huge success and the artwork looked fantastic. The response from the school communities and families who attended was very positive and all agreed the competition should continue next year.

Thanks for the wonderful contribution and hard work of Michael Kimbar, Mark Tweedie, Michelle Murning and Natalie Zuchetti, who worked together to frame the artworks and curate the exhibition. Well done to the Hospitality team for the wonderful array of food.

Congratulations to the following students:

Certificate of Excellence:

Year 5 - Lara Silvestro (Takari PS)

Year 6 - Al Aksonsiri (West Balcatta PS)

Certificate of Commendation:

Year 5

Walid Bagdadi (Takari PS)

Het Bava (Tuart Hill PS)

Ansh Ramola (Osborne PS)

Olivia Deleonardis (West Balcatta PS)

Harrison Andreou (West Balcatta PS)

Year 6

Xavier Chaudron (Tuart Hill PS)

Hannan Isse (Balcatta PS)

Ryan Carle (West Balcatta PS)

Sherri Casey (Osborne PS)

Giovanna Sturniolo (Takari PS)

People's Choice Award:

Year 6 - Sherri Casey (Osborne PS)

Year 6 - Qash Khairul (Tuart Hill PS)



Chris Hatton admires student work

Dance News

Thank you to former Balcatta SHS Dance student and now educator, Kristina Balic, for seamlessly coordinating the Specialist Dance Program during Term 2. Kristina's first-hand knowledge of the workings of the Dance Department were put to valuable use during her time here as the Coordinator.

Choreography Nights

An epic two evenings of dance held on 28 and 29 July, embracing many different styles and cultures, "Abstract" was a great success.

All students in the Dance Program are required to develop, choreograph and perform an original work each year. I was extremely pleased to see some of our students voluntarily choreograph and perform extra solos and duos in styles of dance that are uniquely their own. As an educator, I take great pride in our students' performances, particularly when they feel safe enough to step out of their comfort zone and experiment with their own new artistic ideas.

Our Year 12 students, each year, are tasked with a great deal of the technical, planning and production aspects of the show and without their tireless work prior to the event as well as backstage, this show would not have been the success it was.

On the performance nights, our students demonstrated a great sense of team cooperation backstage to ensure an excellent show on stage.

Thanks go to Phoebe-Lee Schmiedte (Year 11 student), for taking the Choreography Night photos.



Yr 11 performing "Words"



Yr 10 Boys performing "The Lads"



Yr 10 performing "Pain Is Beauty"



Yr 7 performing "Water Under The Bridge"



More Choreography Night class



Yr 8 performing "Doll House"

Skills Expo

Skills West Expo Excursion

On Friday 12 August 2016, a large number of Year 9 and 10 students attended the Skills West Expo at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC).

The PCEC was filled with students from the many metropolitan and regional schools who attended the Expo. They were there to gather information and speak directly to representatives of Universities, State Training Providers, Defence Forces and Private Registered Training Organisations about possible future career pathways. Students enjoyed interacting with representatives from university, state training providers, trade colleges and private registered training organisations.

The exhibition of science, the defence forces, bricklaying, film and hospitality proved very popular with students who enjoyed the wide range of activities and taste-testing opportunities.

A group of happy and very well behaved students gathered for the return bus ride to school laden with gift bags, brochures and photographs. It was a very worthwhile experience for students and teachers alike.



Chloe-Bree Schmiedte and Talia Litchfield



Alexander Collins, Uki Nikacevic and Jack Goode

Jade Lewis



Jade Lewis pictured with Year 9 students Katia Folau and Monique Hodgkinson

On Tuesday, 9 August 2016 well known motivational speaker Jade Lewis visited the school and spoke to students in every year group about her life story. At age 15, Jade was a gifted athlete and a good student who was disciplined and working hard to achieve her goals. As a result of being invited to a "rave party" when she was 16 she succumbed to the lure of drugs and she became a heroin addict. A dysfunctional and volatile relationship followed which led to low self-esteem and her life spiralled even further out of control.

After being arrested on drug related charges Jade realised she had to do something to change her life. She entered and graduated from the Teen Challenge WA program in 1999 with a new direction, new confidence and a new positive way of living. Jade along with her husband Tristan has since dedicated her life to helping people of all ages and walks of life to make positive changes to their own lives. Jade is the founder of Jade Lewis and Friends Inc, a not for profit organisation and the Yellow Ribbon Project for Second Chances.

Through her seminars, presentations and keynote speeches Jade has been responsible for motivating thousands of school students around Australia. She has educated parents and young people about the dangers of drug abuse. She has also been responsible for inspiring successful leaders and many business groups with her incredible story and positive attitude. The students who listened to her story were genuinely impressed by her honesty and her passion to make a difference. Jade's autobiography titled "Golden Haze – Jade's Story" is available from the school library.



An attentive audience

On Thursday 1 September, a perfect sunny day, we held our whole school Athletics Carnival. This is the one day each year that the whole school gets together for a mixture of socialising, competing, exercising and playing games.

Entering the competitions are by choice and all students who have a go at any event, score points for their House. Most students did a fair bit of huffing, puffing, running, jumping and throwing on the day.

Each athletics event had a novelty event attached to it were fun, have a go and have a laugh were the main principles. Students certainly displayed lots of energy on the day many choosing to rap away during the lunch hour with the visiting DJ. Other students chose to exercise their brains playing giant Chess, Connect 4 and Snakes and Ladders. Some of the extra energy may have come from calories at the cake stall and sausage sizzle. There is a serious side to the competition with elite performers being recognised and Champion Boys and Girls earned medallions.

Athletics Carn

Athletics Carnival Results

House Points:	Water	1,474	Fire	1,08
Champion Boy:	Year 7	Patrick Stone	Year	Robe
Champion Girl:	lailie Bosen		Sona	Came
	Year 10		Emilie	Year
Champion Boy:	Robert Kollie		Jacob	
Champion Girl:	Micaela Resurreccion		Danie	



Waiting for the announcement of the winners



Effective relay changes are vital



Looks l



Sprinting home for the team



A smooth change in the relay



We v



Super-Heroes



100m dash



Tug of v

Carnival 2016

7 Ice 1,086

8
 art Lankester &
 m Norbu Wangchuk

eron Croucher &
 e Graham

11
 b O'Halloran
 lle Venables

Year 9
 Thomas Vlatko-Rulo

Aluel Lual

Year 12
 Amadou Tejan-Jalloh
 Kayla Hogg



like fun!



Sack race giggles



Recognise anyone?



won!



Heave-ho!



Mr Schmiedte lends a hand



war fun



Concentration aids performance



And we salute you Captain America!

Other athletes who performed well included:

Champion Boys 2nd Place: Markus Gopcevic (Yr 7); Micah Prestipino (Yr 9); Sarawut Thaweesap (Yr 10); Behrad Hosseinzadeh (Yr 11); Kelvin Strachan (Yr 12).

Champion Boys 3rd Place: Sean Yazbek (Yr 7); Filip Minic (Yr 8); Johnny Le (Yr 9); Tyler Ambrose (Yr 10); Arnav Singh (Yr 11); Michal Rusin (Yr 12).

Champion Girls 2nd Place: Sarah Al-Shuweli (Yr 7); Latoya Smith-Charman (Yr 9); Alicia Gregg (Yr 10); Jessica Cameron (Yr 11); Dana Hansen (Yr 12).

Champion Girls 3rd Place: Katerina Rufov (Yr 7); Katie Graham (Yr 8); Theodora Simovic (Yr 9); Brianna Patrick (Yr 10); Oonagh Nally (Yr 11); Prabodya Ponsuge (Yr 12)

The Athletics Carnival is one of the highlights of the school year. Staff and students work closely together to ensure that the day runs smoothly. Our best athletes have a chance to shine and everyone comes together to support the school.

These elite performers will be selected to represent the school next term at the Interschool Athletics Competition held at the State Athletics Centre.

What's Been Happening?

Maths classes invade library to investigate data relating to driving styles.

Who Are Better Drivers - Women or Men?

On the final Thursday and Friday of term 2, all the Year 8 Maths classes accompanied by their teachers, invaded the library. The purpose of this friendly invasion was to use data to scientifically and impartially answer the age-old question 'Do women or men drive better?' In record time, the library was abuzz with intense discussion as the students, guided by their teachers, worked in groups to manipulate and analyse data using their electronic devices. What conclusion did they come to? Both women and men drive well but in different ways. Women concentrate better while men have faster reaction times – put them both together and we have the perfect driver!

Mr Pestana, who visited the library while the students were working on this task, commented on the fantastic vibe and how wonderful it was to see such a large number of students (110 to be exact) working collaboratively and totally engaged in such a complex task. Well done Year 8 Maths classes and their teachers.



Let's get the facts straight

Building a positive relationship with the primary school and providing students with a taste of what they might experience at our school.

Year 6 Transition Program

Year 6 students from Tuart Hill Primary School have been attending a five week English/HaSS transition program at Balcatta SHS. The students learnt the skills of formal debating (including note-taking, research and speaking skills) and held a Grand Final at Tuart Hill Primary School in the last week of Term 3. Some members of our Balcatta SHS Junior Debating team (Robyn Bennett, Ana Rychlak, Macy Brown, Lily Routledge, Alicia Gregg, Nathaniel Mesfin and Scarlett Coley) helped with the program by sharing their expertise with a small group of students. The aim of the program was to build a positive relationship with the primary school and provide students with a taste of what they might experience at Balcatta SHS. Each of the sessions held was well received and the students were keen to practise their skills at the final. The teams debated the topic - "That children should be allowed to have mobile phones at school".



Thinking hard



Lively discussion



Students on task

Author Visit

Local author Anne Davies visits English class

After finishing the novel *Wrath*, our Year 9 class had the privilege of meeting West Australian author, Anne Davies. Students had completed a study of the novel and used this as a basis for developing a set of questions for the author.

One student noted: "I absolutely loved having the author in for a visit as the book was very interesting. I always sat there wondering why Anne Davies wrote a book about a teenage boy fighting for second chances and redemption after murdering his loved ones. However, it all became clear when Anne Davies came out to our class. She said the reason behind her writing was based upon a true story with the purpose of encouraging teenage boys to read. I personally, found her presence very inspiring and her personality was so open, that many students asked her questions and were very engaged. I was very excited to meet an author in person and have a whole hour of 'Q and A' with her."

Anne Davies' visit was very much appreciated by the students who presented her with a bouquet of flowers. The students had a wonderful time asking questions and sorting out their curiosity within their minds. At the end of the session, everyone had a very good idea of the content in the novel and the reasons behind the twists and turns in the story. They all left the room with a smile on their faces. We were very privileged to have Anne Davies at Balcatta Senior High School who commented that she received some very thoughtful questions. We appreciate the efforts of our English teacher, Mr Curtis who provided us with this special



Anne Davies surrounded by students

Ready, Set, Gone...

During this term, students in the Year 9 Woodwork class were busily engaged in the annual CO2 Grand Prix race.

Each student was required to research, design and build a race car made of balsa wood. They then used CO2 cartridges to power their model cars along a twenty metre track. It was important that the models they built be as aerodynamic and as light as possible as the aim was to see which racer went the fastest.

The race has been run at Balcatta SHS for five years and students try to beat the best time set by students from previous years, which was 1.4 seconds. This means that the fastest racers travel at a speed which is equal to 60 kilometres per hour.

This year the designs created were of outstanding quality and the results were some very sleek vehicles. A variation introduced by Mr Jahn this year was the running of a series of elimination races which saw Matthew Tennant emerge as the winner. Congratulations to Matthew, who will have his name engraved on the perpetual trophy and receive a \$50 gift certificate.

Year 10 Science Crash Test Dummy Project

As part of their Physics topic, Year 10 Science students investigated the effectiveness of safety features in cars. Seat belts, air bags and crumple zones were constructed and attached to wooden trolleys. The subjects were crash test dummies moulded from plasticine. The faster the trolleys raced down the ramps, the greater the crash impact. Indentations in the plasticine showed the force applied by seatbelts thus preventing the dummy from flying out of the trolley and sustaining more serious injuries.

This experiment was the final activity in a series of lessons that focused on the physics of driving and factors that affect the stopping distance and risk of injury during an accident. Combining art skills with science also taught us something else – a plasticine toupee has a much better chance of survival than the real Trump does!



Year 10 Science students at work



Donald Trump crash test dummy



Mr Jahn congratulates Matthew Tennant

Year 9 & 10 Excursions

The boat swayed to and fro as they all danced the night away...

On Tuesday, 9 August, the Year 9 and 10 students had a wonderful time cruising down the Swan River. The river was relatively calm but the boat swayed to and fro as they all danced the night away. Students looked amazing and it was a pleasure to take a wonderful group of students out to reward them for their efforts over the semester. Some ventured out to get a breath of fresh air and take it in the glorious city lights. As usual, the behaviour of our students was exemplary and we hope to host many more of these nights in the future as it was such great fun.

Year 9 Italian Excursion

Students from the Year 9 Italian class ventured out to Caffé Amico on Friday, 29 July and they were there to enjoy authentic wood fired pizzas and artisan gelato. Pizza, pasta, gelato... well not the pasta but the gelato and pizza were devoured by our hungry group. It was a great way to finish off our topic on Food and to support a local business within our community. Cooper Barden made a valiant attempt at ordering his meal in Italian and the owners were very impressed. Well done to the students, who were rewarded for their great work in Italian over the semester. We will be back again with our appetites next year.



Group hug



"Buon Appetito"



Elegance on the Swan River



Annalise Foley, Tori Hansen and Kayla McGlade



Having a great night



Year 10's Tyler Te Mana and Isaac Milner looking cool

Year 11 & 12 River Cruise

In what has become an annual event, the Year 11 and 12 students attended a River Cruise on Wednesday, 24 August 2016.

The energy levels were high and a lot of energy was expended on the dance floor. The crew were highly complementary of the maturity and excellent behaviour displayed by all students on the night.

The night was also enjoyed by our Principal, Ms Street and staff, Ms Walker, Mr Robinson, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Hatzis, Mr Schmiedte, Mrs Criddle, thank you staff for all your assistance.

Year Coordinator, Mrs Keep, thanked the staff for giving up their time to attend this event.



Rhiannon Nicholas, Sean Neville



Saffron Somers, Jamie Montgomery, Lexi Potter



Monika Naumoski, Tijana Srnic, May Wu



Year 11s getting ready to board the boat

Term Three







Judge Mark Tweedie, Harrison Andreou, Helen Maitland and Michael Kimbar at the Primary Art Exhibition