



Balcatta Bulletin

Issue 4 2015

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Welcome

I can't believe how quickly my first year as the Principal of Balcatta Senior High School has gone.

Like each term, this term has also been very busy and productive for students and staff alike. We have experienced the Year 12 Graduation, the Year 11 final assembly, reward excursions, dance performances, art exhibitions, camps and exams. These activities occurred in addition to the normal learning programs and this has ensured that our students have been able to access a rich and diverse range of activities provided by the school.

The end of an academic year is always a good time to reflect on all the wonderful things that have happened and the ways the staff have worked exceptionally hard to assist all students to reach their potential and achieve the results they deserve. I congratulate the staff and commend them for their professionalism and efforts to provide a stimulating and secure learning environment for all our students.

I must also acknowledge the outstanding expertise and effort of my two Associate Principals, Helen Maitland and Stephen Pestana who have worked tirelessly to improve all aspects of the school and its professional community.

I recently had the pleasure of attending my first Year 12 Graduation ceremony and I was very impressed by the students' level of maturity. I congratulate the Dux of the school Pariya Ghanbari for her outstanding results which were an inspiration for all our students. She is also a charming young woman who, I am sure in years to come, will bring distinction to the school. I also congratulate the Vocational Education Dux, Lian Tandoc, and all those other students who received awards and commendations. A full list of the prize winners appears in an article in this Bulletin. Well done to you all.

I also thank all of the staff members, and especially Jo Keep who, assisted by other staff and some very willing student helpers, organised the graduation and the dinner/dance that followed at the school.

The Awards Ceremony for the Year 11 students who have finished their studies for this year was, for the first time, held in the school's refurbished library. I was especially pleased to be able to congratulate and award the Dux of Year 11 to Khai Nguyen, and academic awards to some of our brightest students. It is also exciting to see our Year 11 students, who will take on the leadership role in the school in 2016, being acknowledged for their academic and vocational achievement.

The Year 12 students completed their schooling in November and some will be, no doubt, anxiously awaiting the release of their ATAR results. We wish all students every success as they move from school into the workforce, further education and training, or enrolment in a university course. We hope that they will continue to think fondly of their life at school, the friendships they made here and the wonderful academic, sporting and cultural opportunities that were available to them at Balcatta Senior High School.

The school would not be able to function as effectively without the wonderful support of the School Council members under the leadership of Helen Notis, the enthusiastic and dedicated efforts of our energetic P and C members, and I thank them sincerely for their commitment.

I would like to thank all parents for your efforts and support for the school in 2016 and take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Lesley Street



2015 & 2016 Prefects



Our Top Year 11s

Year 12 Presentation Ceremony

An important milestone in the life of the Year 12 students as it acknowledges their successful graduation from school and their transition to university, further training or employment.

This year's presentation ceremony was held at the Victory Life Centre on December 1st. The presentation ceremony is an important milestone in the life of the Year 12 students as it acknowledges their successful graduation from school and their transition to university, further training or employment. More than 350 parents, families and friends attended the event to witness their sons and daughters graduate from the school and receive their graduation folios.

The atmosphere on the night was very warm and enthusiastic as staff members, families and friends came together to support and congratulate the graduates and those who received academic, sporting and special awards for leadership, community service, achievement, excellence and awards for Vocational Education and Training.

In her address, the Principal, Lesley Street, told the graduates how impressed she was by their maturity, their compassion and their strong sense of social justice. She said she hoped that the important things they had learned in their schooling were to value imagination and creativity, not to take their education for granted and to leave the school with the qualities of empathy, respect and humility which would stand them in good stead for their future in whatever job or profession they entered.

Pariya Ghanbari was awarded the Best and Brightest ATAR Dux and was also the recipient of the inaugural Anna Kristancic Award for outstanding achievement. Unfortunately Lian Tandoc was unable to be present to receive the award of the Best and Brightest VET Dux.

Another exceptional recipient was Nikita D'Souza who was awarded the Balcatta Senior High School Sportsperson of the Year Award, the Caltex All Rounder Award, the Joan Ewers Community Service Award. She shared the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership and Team Work Award with Alisa Jakupovic.

The Curtin University Principal's recommendations were given to Peter Milner and Michael Vu and the University of Western Australia's Excellence Award went to Nihanth Devarapalli. The Senior School Special Commendation Award went to Taylah Lee, the Commitment to Excellence Award to Lauren Hislop and the Edith Cowan University Balcatta Senior High School Scholarship to Mari Spanja.

Congratulations to all of these students for their outstanding achievements in 2015.



ATAR Dux Pariya Ghanbari with Mr Pestana and Ms Street

Another highlight of the evening included the valedictory speech of the Head Prefects Alisa Jakupovic and Peter Milner in which they spoke warmly of the very cohesive and inclusive Year 12 group and how they had supported each other so well during the year.

The ceremony was hosted by Mrs Joanne Keep, the Year 11 and 12 Coordinator, who did a fantastic job with the support of Sonia Hatzis in organising the presentation ceremony. Joanne delivered the valedictory speech to the Year 12 graduates. In her speech she provided a snapshot of the students' 5 year journey through the school and spoke of how well the students participated in school activities. She expressed her special joy at working for two years with such a diverse, harmonious and inclusive group of young people.

In a Balcatta tradition the new prefects for 2016 Niamh Carey, Cain Wilson, Andrey Sabile, Tash Shetty and Muhammad Mohammed Firdaus were presented with their badges by the 2015 retiring prefects. We thank this year's prefects for the outstanding leadership and commitment they have displayed during their term in office. We are confident that this new group of young people will represent the school with distinction as did their predecessors.

Following the presentation ceremony graduates attended a celebratory dinner dance at the school which was superbly and professionally compered by DJ Matt Milner, a Year 10 student councillor. The evening was a great opportunity for students to be together as a group for the last time and to have a relaxed and fun-filled evening after the presentation ceremony.

Year 12 Subject Awards

The Art Department presented awards to Madison Carruthers for Design – Photography Stage 1 and Renee Lloyd for Dance –Stage 2.

Business Education and Computing awards were presented to Madison Carruthers for Certificate 3 Business and Dominic Welch for Certificate 2 Information Digital Media and Technology.

The Design and Technology Award for Certificate 2 in Visual Arts (Wood Focus) was presented to Erica McGregor.

The English Department presented 5 awards in their department to Pariya Ghanbari for English EALD, English Stage 3 went to Alisa Jakupovic, English Stage 2 Kira Huntley, English Stage 1Y to Nikita D’Souza and English Stage 1X went to Dion Millias.

Health and Physical Education awards went to Dion Millias for Physical Education Studies Stage 1 and Riahanon Vincent was presented with an award for Certificate 2 Sport.

Home Economics presented awards to Dyan Cristobal for Certificate 2 in Hospitality, Lian Tandoc for Food Science Technology Stage 1A/B and Erica McGregor for Certificate 2 in Retail Makeup and Skin.

Alisa Jakupovic won the award for Modern History Stage 3 – Humanities.

Maths Department presented awards to Pheobe Deng for Mathematics Specialist 3C/D, Nihanth Devarapalli and Pariya Ghanbari shared an award for Mathematics 3C/D, Alana Agostino won the Mathematics Stage 3A/B award. Stage 2C/D award was presented to Xavier Kedgley Ethan Dominy won the award for Mathematics Stage 2A/B and Arlind Nimani won the award for Mathematics Stage 1D/E, the Psychology Stage 3 Award went to Lauren Hislop

Awards were presented to Pariya Ghanbari for Chemistry, Stage 3, Michael Vu for Physics Stage 3 and Lauren Hislop for Human Biology Stage 3.

Vocational Education & Training Awards went to Sarah Ottaviano for Workplace Learning Stage 1C/D and Lian Tandoc for Authority Developed Workplace Learning Endorsed Program.

Congratulations and well done to all our Subject Award winners.



Dion Millias with Mr Birkett



Nihanth Devarapalli with Mr Entwistle



Nihanth Devarapalli with Mr Pestana



Renee Lloyd with Mrs Keep

Year 11 Presentation Ceremony

It was very pleasing to see so many parents attend the Year 11 Presentation Ceremony to see their children receive awards and congratulate all those who have successfully completed their Year 11 studies.

This year, for the first time, the Year 11 presentation ceremony was held in the newly refurbished library. It was good to see many parents in attendance to witness the Year 11 students being congratulated for successfully completing their studies.

The Dux award goes to the student achieving the highest scores based on their Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) results for Year 11. The Dux for 2015 was Khai Nguyen who achieved outstanding results in his ATAR subjects of Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and English as an Additional Language. He is currently on track to join the elite "99 Club".

The Edith Cowan University Scholarship was awarded to Muhammad Mohammed Firdaus and the Senior School Commendation award was presented to Andrey Sabile. Both of these students were appointed to the School Council to represent the voice of students. The Chair of the School Council, Helen Notis, praised both of them for the excellent job they did this year and for the very comprehensive reports they provided to Council at each meeting.



Our top scoring ATAR Year 11 students pictured with Mrs Keep, Mr Pestana, and Ms Street

A number of other awards were also presented during the ceremony including the top five Academic Excellence awards to George Carpio, Sonja Drijaca, Riki Morrow, Khai Nguyen and Ysraelle Tan.

The Respect, Unite, Excel Award is presented to two students nominated by the staff who have displayed the values of the school: the pursuit of knowledge and commitment to achievement; self-acceptance and respect of self; respect and concern for the rights of others; and social, civic and environmental responsibility. The worthy recipients of the award for Year 11 2015 are Niamh Carey and Ebony Hayes.

In addition to the special awards many other students were the recipients of subject awards. All the students are to be congratulated for their efforts during the year.



Our Year 11 award winners

'Precipice'



A super busy year for the Specialist Dance Course culminated in our annual showcase of the year's work.

The End of Year Specialist Dance Performance, 'Precipice' 2015 was held on Friday 20 November at the Dolphin Theatre, University of Western Australia.

This year, students were given more of an opportunity to choreograph, and those that wished were able to do so successfully, and in a safe and supportive environment.

Ms Martin expressed her special thanks to Mr Setzinger and Mrs Stevens for assisting with supervision backstage and for the photography on the night.

Finally, to our departing Year 12's who returned one month after finishing school to perform - you embody the Balcatta Senior High School values of Respect, Unite and Excel. You have grown into caring, responsible young adults. We wish you well for your future. We remind you that sometimes what seems to be the end is only the beginning of another exciting journey.

Everyone at school will miss you.



Humanities

Once again it has been a busy and productive year for the Humanities Learning Area. Students have been involved in a wide range of activities designed to enhance their communication skills.

Year 8 and 9 students have produced some delightful picture books this term. Students had to study the elements of a picture book, and then create one for a teenage audience. They needed to address issues that are of particular concern to adolescents. Most students edited their work carefully and produced beautiful work.

Poetry was the focus for Year 7 students who have produced some fine anthologies. Students produced several forms of poetry including Haikus; Shape poems; Limericks; Cinquains and Free verse style to create their illustrated anthologies. A number of anthologies were displayed in the library for the Year 6 Orientation day and evening.

One of the year 10 classes produced some exquisite Gothic Graphic novels. Students had to select and read a classic gothic novel such as Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, then in groups, they designed and produced a graphic novel depicting the main elements of the graphic and gothic genres. The novels were beautifully written and illustrated using a variety of media including water colour, inks and computer graphics.

Before school tutoring has continued this term with several students taking advantage of the opportunity to improve their skills, especially in the lead up to exams. We strongly encourage all students to make use of this free opportunity during next year. Head of Learning Area, Ms Curtis expressed her thanks to Ms Williamson for her work in this role.

The English Department has once again participated in the Pre-Service teacher program from Edith Cown University, Murdoch and the University of Western Australia. As a learning area English ensures the students are provided with a range of opportunities to experience the full gamut of school life from a teaching perspective. The advantage for the school is that we are exposed to trends in university education.

The school also hosted two Switch teachers. This program equips primary teachers to with the specialist curriculum knowledge required to teach in a high school setting.

In a new initiative Mr Ramsay's Year 12 ATAR History class and Ms Williamson's Stage 3 ATAR English class came together to provide students with the opportunity to identify the links between the two subjects. This allowed students to build capacity in their preparation for ATAR examinations.

Ms Manera's Year 8 students produced a series of colourful photos on the topic 'clouds'. These were used as a learning tool for a Year 2 class from Campbell Primary School in Canning Vale. Ms Manera is hoping to extend this type of learning exchange with some of Balcatta Senior High School's local primary schools next year.

Our People

Maths Stalwart gives 25 years to Balcatta



Hayden Scott, Sean Neville, Mr Manes, Bianca Kihara and Denielle Cristobal.

This year the school is farewelling a longstanding and popular staff member who has decided to put away his calculator and leave his quadratic equations to one side.

Joe Manes has decided to retire from full time teaching at the end of 2015 after teaching Mathematics at Balcatta Senior High School for 25 years. Joe is an exemplary teacher who has built a strong and extremely positive reputation as a teacher based on his skills, expertise and capacity to effectively impart knowledge to young people. He leaves behind a rich legacy of having helped thousands of young people experience success in their study of Mathematics.

Joe's ability to establish excellent rapport with students of all ability levels has meant he has, on several occasions, successfully undertaken the role of Year Coordinator for students in Year 9 and Year 10. A measure of the esteem in which Joe is held is that every student in his Year 11 Mathematics class this year signed a petition asking Joe to reconsider his retirement and stay on at the school as their Year 12 teacher.

He has been a wonderful asset to the school and the teaching profession and although we wish him well for the future, we are very sorry to see him leave the school.

Award named after retiring Principal



Anna Kristancic became Principal of Balcatta Senior High School in 2003. Prior to this she spent many years as Deputy Principal here. During her time Anna has overseen many changes in education policy and curriculum innovations.

She initiated a strong emphasis on pastoral care programs for students and was a champion of the Gifted and Talented Art Program and the Dance Program.

Anna has now made the decision to retire. She is looking forward to travelling and spending more time with family and friends.

Anna Kristancic

In recognition of her excellent service to the school, a new perpetual award called the Anna Kristancic Award for Outstanding Achievement has been introduced and was presented to Year 12 student Pariya Ghanbari at the recent Year 12 Graduation.

Vale Joan Ewers



Joan Ewers

Since an article in last term's Balcatta Bulletin, it is with regret and great sadness that we learned that Mrs Joan Ewers, who worked in the canteen over many years, had passed away. In recognition of her exceptional 48 year relationship with the school, Ms Street, presented the Joan Ewers Community Award to Year 12 student Nikita D'Souza. This Award is for a student who has significantly contributed during their time at this school.

Dux success stories



Mr Pestana, Pariya Ghanbari and Ms Street

We are extremely proud of being a school that has students from many varied cultures and backgrounds. Our school values of Respect, Unite, Excel are exemplified in this year's Best and Brightest ATAR Dux, Pariya Ghanbari. Pariya came to the school in February 2012 from Iran. Her first language was Farsi and she had limited English. During her time here Pariya completed a demanding program of study in Physics, Chemistry, Specialist Mathematics, Mathematics 3C/D and English as an Additional Language with outstanding results. Next year she plans to study Medicine at the University of Western Australia.

This year's Best and Brightest Vocational Dux was awarded to Lian Tandoc who, successfully studied Stage 3 English as an Additional Language, Stage 2 Mathematics, Stage 2 Psychology and Stage 1 Food Science and Technology with very pleasing results. She also successfully achieved five National Qualifications, including Certificate IV in Business at Polytechnic West (Thornlie Campus) in the evening and at school, she completed Certificate II in Information; Digital Media and Technology; Certificate II in Hospitality and Certificate I & II in Business. In addition she was accredited with 515 hours of Workplace Learning in Retail. Next year she hopes to study a Business Course.

Year 10/11 River Cruise



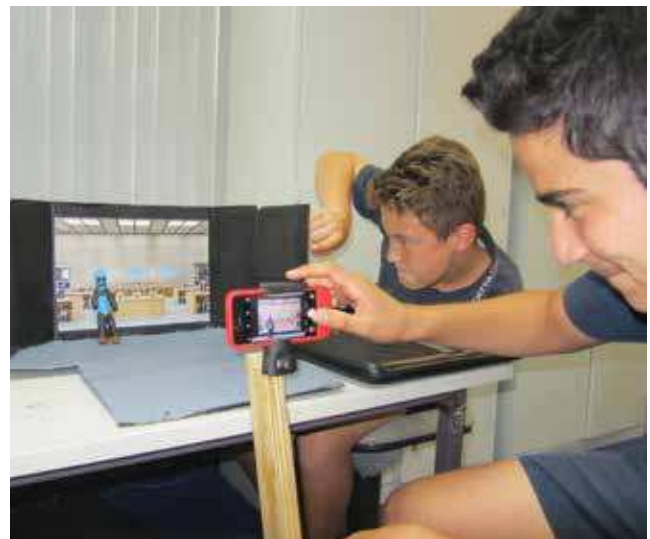
The boys looking sharp

On Tuesday 24 November, Year 10 and 11 students enjoyed a night out on the Swan River. The weather was favourable and the river provided the perfect backdrop. Students were dressed impeccably and danced the night away as we cruised from Barrack Street Jetty to Fremantle, taking in the sights and lights of the city. All had a marvellous time although some reported sore feet the next day.



Girls just want to have fun!

Year 8 Multimedia



Jesse Susac and Ruben Sassine

Ruben Sassine recently demonstrated his resourcefulness during the making of a Claymation animation in Mr Witcombe's Multimedia Graphics class. His group wanted to use a smart phone to capture the still photographs in the stop motion animation.

The problem was that regular camera tripods do not hold smart phones well so he designed and constructed his own stand. The stand is depicted in the photograph. His fellow group member Jesse Susac, along with Ruben, also constructed the set of the animation from a cardboard box using paint and computer printouts.

This was an excellent example of student ingenuity combined with technological expertise.

Access Marine Education Program 2015

This year the Access Marine Education Program saw six students receive their Recreational Skippers tickets. They then participated in a day's Seatrek to Carnac Island. After two weeks of in class theory the students passed this test. They then undertook the physical swimming test in the river at the Marine Education Boatshed in East Fremantle.

After passing these tests, students proceeded through all their practical tests in the boats, from berthing at the jetty, following marine navigation leads and completing man overboard drills. All of these skills were put to the test during the day long Seatrek to Carnac Island which occurred in Term 4. The new skippers navigated their way from the Marine Education Boatshed, through Fremantle Harbour, across the top of Cockburn Sound to Carnac Island.

Arriving at the Island the students anchored a few metres off the beach then swam ashore to see the seals sunbaking, and explore the island. After having lunch the group embarked on the return journey to East Fremantle, again passing through the harbour where they were dwarfed by various large ships berthed there. This was a rewarding and unique experience for all involved.

Mr Schmiedte extended a huge thank to our instructor Guy Harrison, and the other staff at the Marine Education Boatshed for making this program possible for the students in the Balcatta Senior High School Access Program.



Returning to Fremantle across Cockburn Sound



Anchoring at Carnac Island: Daniel, Jacob, Blake, Xavier and Hayden



Heading downriver for the ocean

Year 6 Orientation Day

Balcatta Senior High School students were very enthusiastic when showing off their school. They had lots of information and stories to share with the incoming Year 6's to prepare them for their new life as a high school student in 2016.

Oriantaion is an important event in the school calendar. Both students and parents need to be familiar and comfortable with the routines, expectations and structure of the high school. This year we conducted a number of events for both students and parents.

The highly successful 'Big Day In' was held again this year and involved students from our local primary schools coming to Balcatta Senior High School for a fun day of team building games and challenges.

Later in the term students enrolled to attend Balcatta Senior High School in 2016 returned to take part in a full day of curriculum based learning activities. After a brief welcome to the school, students were placed in the care of the Year 8 student ambassadors for a treasure hunt/fact finding tour of the school. All the major aspects of the school grounds, key people and school procedures were covered during this activity.

Our students were very enthusiastic in showing off their school and had lots of information and stories to share with the incoming Year 6's to prepare them for 2016.

Following a hearty morning tea from the canteen, students were able to attend classes in Art, Science, Cooking, Drama, Forensics and Mathematics. Interestingly, these classes were conducted by enthusiastic Year 9 students who completed a range of demonstrations showing what happens in each of these areas of the school.

The afternoon session commenced with a enjoyable games session in the pool. The pool will be the venue for swimming lessons for the incoming year 7 students during term one. It was terrific to see all these excited students having fun during this activity.

Year 7 and Year 8 students from Balcatta's Special Dance program presented a dance display for the Year 6 students in the afternoon. When we consider that some of these Dance students have only been in the program for nine months it was remarkable to see their skills and abilities in performance.

The day concluded with answers to the treasure hunt and quiz. The staff wished the Year 6 students a happy and safe Christmas holiday and said they were looking forward to welcoming them back to Balcatta Senior High School in the new school year.



Students under the watchful eye of Mrs Bartley



Budding chefs at work



Fun in the pool

Year Sixes Buzz After Science Lessons From Balcatta Year Nines



Our Year 9 Chemistry Gurus

For the first time this year, as part of the Orientation program a selected group of Year 9 students acted as Peer Tutors to the visiting Year 6 students.

During the Year 6 Orientation day a group of Year 9 students became teachers for the day and two of our Science Teachers, Ms Hoy and Mr Guretti, stepped aside to let these students take the lessons. For two hours, nine of Mr Guretti's wonderful students ran Chemistry demonstrations for four rotating groups of Year 6 students.

The Chemistry in action they witnessed included chemical reactions with colour changes, the effects of heating metals and manufacturing 'slime', a non-newtonian substance. The students were enthusiastic about the experiments and the peer tutors.

Not only did our wonderful students run safe and interesting Chemistry demonstrations, they also engaged in discussion and interactions with the Year 6s. Our role models were Alicia Gregg, Muna Jibril, Leilani King, Seth Leech-Broomfield, Kayla McGlade, Kevin Nimeno, Reese-Marion (Reese) Williams, Melissa Adley and Judith Pazhooparambil. This was a wonderful way to welcome and engage our Year 6s in the study of Science.

We offer our congratulations and thanks to this special group of Year 9 students.



The Year Sixes enthralled by the demonstrations

Gifted and Talented Visual Arts Shine Again

Such a successfully run program wouldn't be possible without the wonderful parent support the program receives.

A successful and special way to celebrate a fantastic year of creative art making by our Gifted and Talented Visual Art students is the staging of the annual Art Exhibition. This prestigious event has been held annually to showcase the students' exceptional talents.

The exhibition was held on Wednesday the 21st October 2015 at the school in the Ron Murphy Art Gallery. The Gallery was full to capacity with the Gifted and Talented students, their families, some future students, Balcatta staff and the Saturday morning art tutors.

Chris Hatton, MLA, Member for Balcatta, officially opened the exhibition. As in past years a large group of members from the Rotary Club of Balcatta were in attendance to present their annual award. Other special guests included principals and staff from local primary and high schools who also attended to celebrate the amazing efforts of our very talented Visual Art students.

The night began with a fashion parade featuring the work of some of our students who designed and made their outfits from recycled materials. The outfits were creative and innovative and drew enthusiastic applause from members of the audience.

The wonderful efforts of the students were celebrated with an award presentation. Each student who displayed excellence in their art classes on Saturday mornings were presented with a certificate and a selection of art supplies.

The following students were nominated by the tutors:

Term 1

Bead Making: Erica McGregor, Year 12
Photography: Kody Mason, Year 11
Portrait Painting: Joshua Figliomeni, Year 11
Wearable Art: Ivy Nguyen, Year 11

Term 2

Ceramics: Scarlett Coley and Leilani King, Year 9
Photography: Ari Gillespie, Year 10
Portrait Painting: Yufeng Ouyang, Year 10
Reece Cahill, Year 11
Sculpture: Robyn Bennett, Year 9
Wearable Art: Ivy Nguyen, Year 11



Our talented artists

Term 3

Ceramics: Cheyenne Chooi, Year 12
Mural Design: Joshua Figliomeni, Year 11
Paper Mache Figures: Robyn Bennett, Year 9
Photography: Tessa Williams, Year 12
Sculpture: Greer Medley, Year 9

Top Student

Year 7: Meg Bradsell
Year 8: Torren Whisson

Each year 'The Award of Excellence' is awarded to a Year 12 and Year 10 student who has demonstrated excellence throughout the year in all areas. The 2015 Year 10 Award for Excellence was awarded to Shannon Mugeridge who received a \$150 cheque. The Year 12 Award for Excellence went to Cheyenne Chooi who received a \$250 cheque. Both students have their names placed on the honour boards in the Art Gallery as a permanent reminder of their achievements.

The Rotary Club of Balcatta contributed to our award presentations yet again with a very generous donation of prize money. Four students that had produced excellent artwork through the year were selected for awards.

The award winners were:

1st Place: Kody Mason, Year 11
2nd Place: Vanessa Love, Year 11
3rd Place: Ivy Nguyen, Year 11
4th Place: Wilbert Tagle, Year 9

Interschool Athletics

Each year the Bevan Hill Acquisition Prize is awarded to a selected Year 12 student who is in the Gifted and Talented Program. Their work joins Balcatta Senior High School's extensive permanent art collection. The student receives a cheque for \$300. This year that prize was awarded to Cheyenne Chooi for her work titled, 'High Expectations'.

Ms Sheree Tomlinson, Gifted and Talented Art Coordinator will be taking leave in 2016. She would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, staff and art tutors for their commitment and support throughout the year. This highly successful program wouldn't be possible without such support. 2015 has been a productive year and has brought about many exciting opportunities for our students to showcase their talents in various competition and exhibitions. Ms Tomlinson feels that with sustained effort and passion our students will continue to shine and achieve even more amazing results next year.

Year 12 student Tessa Williams was recently selected to have her piece on display at the Year 12 Perspectives Exhibition. This exhibition showcases the top artwork selected from some of the best, brightest and most talented graduating high school artists in the state. Tessa's work will be displayed at the Art Gallery of Western Australia early next year.

The school extends a special message to our amazing Gifted and Talented Art students wishing them all the best for 2016. Ms Tomlinson can't wait to hear about all the amazing things you will achieve next year and she looks forward to returning in 2017.



The gallery was packed with staff, parents and visitors



Ms Arkeveldt with Tessa Williams

On Thursday 15th October, Balcatta Senior High School sent a group of finely-tuned athletes to the State Athletics Stadium. Their brief was to run as fast as they could, throw heavy objects as far as possible and jump in a variety of ways, both in distance and in height.

The students were selected from Balcatta's own school carnival after having produced good performances in their events. The team members certainly performed well, supporting each other, displaying immaculate behaviour and an extremely high standard of sportsmanship. These students made the teachers proud to be leading such a group.

Two students, Danielle Venables of Year 10 and Johnny Le of Year 8 really excelled on the day, as they were respectively nominated as Champion Girl and Champion Boy for their age group. Congratulations to them and all the members of the team who participated so enthusiastically in the carnival.



Our champion athletes



Danielle Venables cruises to victory



A supreme burst at the finish line

Year 9/10 Outdoor Education

It was an early start for some sleepy students as the group packed the school trailer at 7.30 in the morning, preparing for the departure to Boshak's Outdoor Campsite. The group headed out for three days of adventure, fun and discovery.

Students were responsible for planning their own three day menu, organising food for themselves and a partner. They were then responsible for cooking the food in pairs.

The first stop was Laser Corps in the Swan Valley, where two teams, armed with laser weapons, painted with camouflage cream and dressed in camouflage overalls set about tactical incursions into each other's bases. After about two hours of search and destroy missions, Alpha team emerged victorious. They did have a somewhat unfair extra advantage with Ninja Midget (aka Mrs Williamson) on their team.



The whole group ready for action

Later the group arrived at the campsite and began the camping adventure with a traditional Welcome to Country and an opportunity to play the didgeridoo at the meeting place.

For the next two days students took part in many different types of activities. Some of the highlights included: canoeing; raft building on the lake; orienteering; water divining; shelter building; yabby fishing and Spotlight at night.

Those who went on camp said that they had had a fantastic time. This was made possible by their excellent behaviour, team work, camaraderie and a sense of adventure exhibited by all the students.

A Year 10 Outdoor Recreation End of Year Excursion was held on Wednesday December 9, 2015. In what was a culmination of the year's activities, the class set out for an action packed day. First stop was Warwick Superbowl for a game of ten pin bowling. While no lane records were broken (or even in danger), it was a good warm up for the remainder of the day. Next stop was Darklight Laser Tag in Joondalup where the students demonstrated their combat skills. After lunch at Lakeside Joondalup, the final stop was Trigg Beach for a surfing lesson. Conditions weren't the best but the group persevered to the point where no-one left without bathers full of sand.



Water safety lesson



Brandon's dinner



Why a water safety lesson was needed

Active Parent Groups

This year has been a very busy and productive year for the Balcatta Senior High School Council. In addition to the four continuing parent representatives, four newly elected staff members, two student representatives and two new community members joined the Council. Mrs Margaret Banks, a distinguished educator and Ms Natasha Naumovski, former student and now lecturer at Curtin University were elected to Council. The Council was delighted to welcome such distinguished members to the Council.

The Chair of the Council, Ms Helen Notis farewelled three long serving staff members: Geoff Birkett, Rod Blitvich and Maria Manera. The Council voted to write to each person and thank them for their tireless work in support of the school community.

This year the Council created and ratified new terms of reference which included categories of membership, the guidelines for elections and the frequency and conduct of meetings.

During the year many issues of educational importance were discussed at Council meetings. These discussions included Associate Principal Mr Stephen Pestana's report on the National Schools Opinion Survey that showed parents and students were very satisfied with the education provided by the school; the improved performance of Year 9 students on the 2015 Naplan tests; and the targeted programs and intensive literacy programs for all Year 7 students to help them improve their results.

The Council was also informed about a number of programs and innovations being planned and introduced at the school. These included the Peer Observation Process which has commenced this year as part of the school's commitment to continuous improvement in teaching and learning, and the adoption of the Professional Learning Community.

There were also a report presented regarding a community forum with the Hon Minister for Education, Peter Collier. The forum was attended by the Principal, Ms Lesley Street, and the Council Chair, Ms Helen Notis. Issues discussed included the need for maintenance and refurbishment of some parts of the school. Ongoing discussions have been held with representatives of the City of Stirling to explore the possibility of a mutually beneficial relationship between the City and the school.

This has been a very active year for the Council who have achieved much. This could not have occurred without the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of Council members and the hard work of the Executive, teaching and support staff of the school.



Final School Council meeting 2015



Volunteers with Chris Hatton at the Christmas BBQ



P & C volunteers at the Orientation Night



Mrs Keep and the 2015 Prefects (Izzudin Verdejo not pictured)