



# Balcatta Update

5 May 2023

## From the Principal

Term 2 commenced for students on Wednesday 26 April. Staff commenced on Monday 24 April and completed a comprehensive School Development program, which included information and workshop sessions including Teacher Led Communities (TLC). TLCs are developed by staff and are based on an action research model with a focus on improving student outcomes. Each of the TLCs has a different focus and will employ different strategies. The aim is for staff to share ideas, strategies and information based around data, to improve the learning experience. Other workshops included Classroom Observation, Student Services processes and staff input into Public School Review information collection, as well as Learning Area time.

On Friday 28 April we held our first formal ANZAC Day service since 2018. Our local Member for Balcatta, Mr David Michael MLA and Mr & Mrs Utting from the Morley and Bedford Returned Services League were able to join us. The Student Councillors led the service which included poem readings of "For the Fallen" and "In Flanders Field" as well as insights into the service of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Australia's Armed Services. Mr Michael outlined Australia's involvement from World War I, and the conditions the service men and women had to endure and the importance of ANZAC Day.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. I outlined the impact this conflict had on the Australian community.

Mr Phillip Utting assisted Year 12 Student Prefect Jessica Betti with the laying of the wreath.

We have a couple of staff changes this term and I would like to welcome the following staff:

Marita Rozario - Associate Principal for Years 8/9 (backfilling for Daniel Drummond while he is on Long Service Leave)

Claire Piesse - Career Practitioner

Christine Bogunovich – English/HaSS teacher

Dimi Martino - Generalist teacher

We are hosting nine pre-service teachers across HaSS, Health & Physical Education and Mathematics Learning Areas with another six commencing in Term 3.

This week we held our first meeting of the newly-formed P&C committee, a very dedicated group of parents who volunteer their time and proactively advocate for Balcatta SHS.

The P&C Committee for 2023 is:

President – Stacey Litchfield

Vice President – Anna Kuhlmann

Secretary – Frank Alvaro

Treasurer – Phillip Saraceni

I encourage all parents to support the P&C and welcome you to the next meeting on Monday 19 June, commencing at 7.00pm at Balcatta SHS.

Helen Maitland  
Principal

## News

### Girls on Track

On Friday 28 April, ten Year 9 girls were given an exciting opportunity to participate in a free excursion at CARCO.com.au Raceway (formerly Wanneroo Raceway) as part of the Girls On Track program. The event included several activities, such as behind-the-scenes tours, sitting in a race car, and using a rattle gun to screw and unscrew the tyres of a race car.

The girls also had the chance to build an electronic Lego car and learnt about traction and how simple modifications can increase the car's speed. They were also given a tour of the garage by one of the race team leaders and had the opportunity to watch the cars racing around the track from an observation deck.

During the event, the girls learnt about the various jobs/careers involved in the racing industry, such as engineering, racing, mechanics, media and operations. The program is part of the Girls On Track STEM program, which aims to inspire young teenage girls to pursue a career in this industry.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the event and hope to experience similar opportunities in the future.

### UN Youth State Conference

UN Youth Australia is a national youth led organisation which aims to educate and empower young Australians on global issues. They run a broad range of educational programs which give students a deep understanding of social and political issues the world faces today. Three of our students: Ashleigh Sharman, Samten Zangmo and Jaeger Peters attended the three-day 2023 State Conference with the theme being *Conflicts in the Modern Age*.

The students participated in several activities, including a range of informative and interactive workshops and participated in the Model UN debate where they represented various countries. The students had the opportunity to meet and talk with Siriana General, USA Consul General; Hon Simone McGurk, Minister for Training; Daryna Zadvirna, 2022 Journalist of the Year; John Kargotich, UN Civil-Military Coordinator; and Imogen Kane, Australian Youth Representative.

The students reported they had a great experience.

### Year 9 Career Taster Program

A group of Year 9 students attended a Careers Conference at Joondalup Resort on Wednesday 3 May. They were able to engage in a number of careers workshops and information sessions from professionals in the Innovation in Industry workshops, showcasing the application of STEM in their chosen career themes. The companies making presentations included Australian Defence Force, DFES – Fire, AMA Nursing, Community Health and Cyber Security.

### Student Achievements

Congratulations to Cerise Nel who has been selected as an athlete on the 2023 Acrobatic Gymnastics WA Gymnastics State Team. As part of the selection, Cerise will be required to attend the 2023 Australian Gymnastics Championships from 17 May to 22 May 2023 at the Gold Coast Sports & Leisure Centre

## Balcatta Update

in Queensland.

Congratulations to Tegan Ellis, Year 7 who has been selected as an athlete on the 2023 Aerobics Gymnastics WA Gymnastics State Team. Tegan will be required to attend the championships from 13 May to 17 May 2023 held in the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Congratulations to Ben Ellis, Year 10 who has been selected as an athlete on the 2023 Men's Artistic Gymnastics and Acrobatic Gymnastics WA Gymnastics State Teams. Ben will be attending the championships from 5 May to 21 May held in the Gold Coast, Queensland.

We wish Cerise, Tegan and Ben all the best.

### Telethon Kids Institute Presents Girls in Science

From growing phage in the labs for treating cystic fibrosis to improving the health outcomes of remote aboriginal communities, working in science can look very different to different people.

Join us at our Girls in Science event and hear from four Telethon Kids Institute scientists and researchers as they discuss their personal and career journeys which led them to where they are today.

Make sure to bring along your burning questions and enjoy the opportunity to pick their brains about what a career in science really looks like – no topic is off limits.

The event will be held on Wednesday 17 May. Be there from 5.00pm for 5:30pm start at Scitech, City West Centre. Book your free tickets at [events.telethonkids.org.au](https://events.telethonkids.org.au).

## P&C News

We are always looking for new members to join us and help make positive decisions which contribute to the school. Don't be shy, even if you have never been to a P&C meeting before. We would love to meet you and know you are keeping informed about the school.

You can receive further updates from our P&C Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com.au/balcattashs>. "LIKE" our Facebook page to keep up to date with reminders or send us a message on topics you would like to have raised at the meetings. Alternatively, you can message us via email on [pandc@balcaattashs@gmail.com](mailto:pandc@balcaattashs@gmail.com).

Stacey Litchfield  
P&C President

## Important dates

8-9 May	Year 10 OLN Catchup
8 May	Year 12 Externally Set Task (EST) – Computer Science
10 May	5.00pm School Board meeting
11 May	Year 12 EST – Accountant & Finance
11 May	Year 8 Lightning Carnival
12 May	NAP Science Literacy Study in Library
<b>15 May</b>	<b>School Photos – all year groups (students must be in school uniform)</b>
<b>16 May</b>	<b>School Photos – catchup and Year 12 group photo (students must be in school uniform)</b>
16 May	Year 12 EST – Mathematics Essentials
16 May	6.00pm Year 10 (Year 11 in 2024) Parent Information Event – Course Counselling
17 May	Year 12 EST – Health, Outdoor Education, Physical Education Studies, Media, Dance, English, EALD
18 May	Year 12 EST – Food Science Technology
19 May	Year 12 EST – Art
22 May	Year 12 EST – Building & Construction