

# Balcatta Bulletin

## 2023 Semester 2 Reflections



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# From The Principal

Semester 2 highlighted a number of firsts for our school community, including:

- Year 10 student Charlie MacPherson-Lee was announced as a member of the WA Student Council.
- The return of our first whole school athletics carnival (which has not been possible due to the build and COVID-19). Students were dressed in their house colours and participated in a range of events.
- Year 7 and Year 8 students entered the Prime Minister's Spelling Bee with our students advancing to the State finals.
- Success in the "Australian Geography and History Competition". Students performed well with a number achieving Distinctions (top 15% of all students across Australia) and High Distinctions, which placed them in the top 10% of all Australian students.
- The Year 10 HASS students produced a video titled "Winners News Now", was selected as a WA finalist, which resulted in them winning the "People's Choice Award" for the Australia-wide competition 2023 Tax, Super and You.
- Our Interschool Athletics team was placed second overall (which was our best performance in a number of years). Award winners on the day were Daniella Santich (Year 9 Champion Girl) and Almozamel Hussein (runner up Year 11/12 Champion Boy).
- Eleven Year 10 students under the guidance of Mr Attey entered the Mix 94.5 Masters Milk Carton Regatta. The students designed and built the boat named "Moo Moo Sharks", which was announced the winner of "People's Choice Award for Best Design".
- Cultural Enrichment experiences provided the opportunity for our students to partake in excursions which facilitated connections with Indigenous peers from different schools. Students were engaged in various cultural aspects such as art, storytelling, career and pathway exploration.
- Year 8 students participated in the "Prime Minister's Innovation Challenge". The students used design thinking to develop initiative solutions to local issues and developed a QR code which contained useful information for the incoming Year 7 students.
- The P&C held their first quiz night event. This was a great success with over 100 parents and staff participating and raising \$3,125.58.
- The inaugural "Craft Market" showcased the work from the Education Support students, who have been working throughout the year, showcasing their creativity and dedication, on a range of enterprise craft projects.

## Year 12 Class of 2023

This year we farewellled our largest cohort of Year 12 students on Friday 27 October at the Octagon Theatre, University of Western Australia. The program included our school choir singing the Acknowledgement of Country and a dance performance. This is a significant milestone event for the students and their families where we, as a community, acknowledge the completion of 12 years of schooling. Congratulations to our Year 12 students. We wish them the best and encourage them to always give their "personal best" and strive to reach their dreams.

The Year 12 student leaders Jessica Betti and Sonam Leksell proudly represented the school and students, always upholding our school values of Respect-Unite-Excel.

## School Opportunities and Events

Throughout the semester, students from all year groups participated in a range of events (of which some are exclusive to Balcatta SHS). Many of these events have been shared on our various social media platforms; Balcatta Update, Facebook, Instagram, our website and this issue of the Balcatta Bulletin Reflections. A number of the

events demonstrate a commitment as an Act-Belong-Commit school, as we actively promote mental health and well-being. A snapshot of some of the events during Semester 2 include:

- "Write a Book in a Day" showcased students' creativity and their determination in producing a book in 12 hours whilst raising funds for childhood cancer.
- Arts Festival Week which included a whole program of activities such as Book Week, with staff and students dressing up as their favourite character, art activities, dance and music performances.
- Students showcased their talents through the annual Gifted and Talented Visual Art Exhibition, Choreography Nights ("Carpe Noctem") and End of Year Dance ("Ignite") performances, and the annual music performance ("Groove Gala").
- National Science Week included a wide range of events across lower school classes.
- Careers Opportunities actively undertaken by a number of students, including "Try-a-Trade", excursions to TAFE and universities, as well as a number of students from Years 9, 11 and 12 attending Perth's Skill West Career and Employment Expo, which exposed students to an array of educational and professional pathways and the opportunity to interact with industry experts.
- Our student representatives/leaders assisted at sporting events, transition program, Year 5 Academic Challenge and National Science Week.
- Participating and organising activities such as annual Health Expo, Science Fair, House events and competitions.
- Student councillors actively promoting mental health and well-being initiatives.
- Numerous incursions and excursions which provided enrichment and extension opportunities for students.

On Thursday 19 October, Balcatta SHS was recognised by the Department of Education and the Minister for International Education, Hon David Templeman MLA. Mr Templeman met with members of the Department of Education Principals Advisory Group to discuss the importance of their role in the Western Australian international education sector. These schools provide education to international students at the beginning of their educational journey in WA, who then become important members of the school community and graduate well-prepared for future study. Mr Templeman presented a certificate to Balcatta SHS for being an Endorsed Provider of International Education.

There have been so many special and significant highlights this semester and I would like to thank the staff who have initiated these opportunities.

Finally, I acknowledge and thank the members of the School Board and P&C Association. These members are all volunteers who give their time. I value their input and perspective in shaping the direction of our school to improve student outcomes. I wish to personally thank and acknowledge Chair of the Board, Mr Kevin Fraser who announced that he is retiring from this role.

As we finish another school year, I wish all staff and students a relaxing and restful break and look forward to a successful 2024 for all.

Helen Maitland  
Principal



**Front Page Picture: Finn Holman (Dux ATAR), Mrs Maitland and Jeryn Huntley (Dux General)**

**Back Page Picture: Education Support Program Craft Market**



# Our People

## Nadya Igusti

Nadya attended the Gymnastics Australia National Clubs Carnival 2023 on the Gold Coast from 18 September to 22 September 2023. She won two gold medals (ball and club routines), a bronze medal (ribbon routine), fifth place (hoop routine) and an All-Around Trophy as a Level 9 National Champion. Well done, Nadya!



## Stuart Middleton

Stuart Middleton works for the Department of Education at Balcatta SHS and leads the grounds maintenance team.

Since Balcatta SHS pool was redeveloped, Stuart has been involved in the pool maintenance.

Stuart's work ethic and attention to detail ensure our pool and plant are safe, clean and organised. Royal Life Savings Society of WA's (RLSSWA) first audit of the pool resulted in a score of 86% with the second audit being 92%. Congratulations, Stuart, on your Aquatic Safety Advocate Honour Award presented by Ali Harding and Warren Goodwin of RLSSWA.



## Jay D'Ercole

Jay D'Ercole was selected by his Muay Thai boxing gym at Legends Academy to compete with the junior fight team. He flew to the Gold Coast in Queensland to compete at ISKA Nationals from 9 August to 14 August. Jay did well for his first state fight and has learnt so much from this experience. Well done, Jay!

## Mix 94.5 Masters Milk Carton Regatta

The Mix 94.5 Masters Milk Carton Regatta was held on Saturday 18 November at Hillarys Boat Harbour. The following Year 10 students worked hard on constructing the Balcatta SHS "vessel" – Edoardo Russell (captain), Alina Chaudhry, Garima Choudhary, Annie Frencham, Elishah Gavanzo, Amy Kim, Steven Le, Diti Patel, Faith Patrick, Kazandra Posada and Ashleigh Sharman. Over the last few months, the team "Moo Moo Sharks", under the guidance of Mr Miles Attey, designed and built their vessel from the donated Masters milk cartons. The team raced for the chance to win some big prize money and bragging rights as the newest Mix94.5 Masters Milk Carton Regatta champion. The "Moo Moo Sharks" vessel, commandeered by Edoardo Russell and Steven Le, was launched into the depths of the

## Daniella Santich

Congratulations to Year 9 student, Daniella Santich, who was selected to represent Western Australia in the 2023 Soccer 18s Girls Championships. The team competed at the School Sport Australia National Championships in Canberra from Sunday 10 September to Friday 15 September 2023.

Some of the best players around the country competed in the tournament, doing both their states and schools proud. The WA 18s State girls were outstanding, with a great 3-0 win against the SA team and two draws against the Vic and Qld teams. Whilst the WA team played extremely well, they lost two games, with narrow margins of 0-1 against ACT and NSW. The overall champions, NSW, whose team included approximately eight Young Matildas' players.

Daniella, at 14 years of age, was able to be as competitive as them without a problem.

Great organisation and care by SSWA coaches and staff who made it an incredible experience. Well done, Daniella!



beach at Hillary's Marina to take out the winning place, only to be disqualified at the finish line due to a contentious launch. Whilst the students were disappointed with the decision, they were quick to congratulate the newly-announced winners and genuinely shared in the spirit of the event. Within minutes, the People's Choice Award for Best Design was announced. First place winners with a prize of \$5,000 went to the "Moo Moo Sharks", who shared the prize money among themselves.

## WA Student Council meeting

Members of the 2023 WA Student Council have come together to help tackle one of the biggest issues among their peers.

Student Council ambassadors had the unique opportunity to sit down and chat with 2023 Australian of the Year, Taryn Brumfitt. The students met with Ms Brumfitt to discuss body image issues which are affecting students and what they think would help make change within their school communities across the state. Ms Brumfitt's insights and experiences provided invaluable guidance and helped combat the students' concerns.

Year 10 student Charlie MacPherson-Lee sees her role on the council as a platform to amplify the voices of often overlooked students. *"Anything to do with student mental health and just making sure students across the board in all of WA are heard is the big thing for me," Charlie said.*

The council provides a platform for the student ambassadors to represent their peers and themselves, and to have their say in education policy.



## Cultural Enrichment Experiences

Throughout this semester, Balcatta Senior High School students participated in a range of cultural experiences. These initiatives opened doors for students to partake in excursions that not only facilitated connections with Indigenous peers from different schools but also facilitated immersive engagements in various cultural facets, such as art, storytelling, career and pathway exploration, and other engaging activities.

### Yanchep National Park Cultural Day

The Follow the Dream Outreach Program extended an invitation for students to participate in a captivating cultural appreciation event hosted at the Yanchep National Park. Guided by Uncle Noel Nannup's captivating stories, they actively engaged in activities fostering a deeper connection to their heritage. Spear throwing demonstrations unveiled traditional practices, while yarning circles became spaces for sharing narratives. For Indigenous students, it was a chance to connect with their cultural roots and fellow peers.

### The University of Western Australia

The University of Western Australia offers a range of programs and initiatives dedicated to encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students to complete their Year 12 education and consider pursuing higher studies at university.

The School of Indigenous Studies (SIS) Outreach Programs offer firsthand glimpses into university life. Through interactive sessions, meeting tertiary student role models, and discovering various courses, students navigated decisions about their academic future with guidance from university staff.

Balcatta had the privilege of sending seven students to attend both the Year 8 Discovery Day and the Year 9 Djinanginy Day.

## UN Youth Summit

On Monday 11 September, students attended the UN Youth Summit at the Constitutional Centre of WA. The conference was run by UN Youth Australia, which had the purpose of increasing civic engagement in young people and raising awareness of global issues. The focus of the Summit was on the forthcoming referendum on the Voice to Parliament. During the session, they learnt about Australia's obligations under the UN Declaration of Rights for First Nation's People, the Uluru Statement of the Heart and the process of undertaking a referendum.

### Year 9

Oscar Clare, Luke Koay, Epiphany Kondo-Morcom, Adela Maldonado Revegino, Oliver Nowicki

### Year 10

Alina Chaudhry, Garima Choudhary, Leena Meel, Kazandra Posada, Ashleigh Sharman.



These experiences served as a great introduction to university life, immersing students in a spectrum of hands-on activities. Additionally, students were equipped with information regarding university entry pathways and gained insights into the comprehensive support available for Indigenous students at UWA. Moreover, these events facilitated connections among students from different schools, fostering new friendships grounded in shared aspirations.

*"I had a good time and found the sessions interesting. I really liked the science experiments especially the wet cloth that was totally water resistant. NASA uses this technology when sending astronauts to space. The lunch was even better - SUBWAY!!"*

Written by Seth Rogers, Year 9 student.

These initiatives have provided an exciting preview of upcoming opportunities at Balcatta Senior High School designed to support the aspirations of our Aboriginal students.





# Events

## Year 12 Presentation Ceremony

On Friday 27 October, we acknowledged and celebrated the Year 12 Class of 2023 at the Octagon Theatre, Nedlands, on their successful completion of 12 years of schooling. This was a massive undertaking to organise, and thank you to all staff who contributed to this significant milestone event for the Year 12 students.

The evening showcased special performances from our School Choir, Specialist Dance students (including Year 12 students Veronika Eres and Joko Narra) who performed "Rescue" and Year 11 student, Lakeisha Arifianto (together with former student Sabrina Tengku) performing a musical piece.

Thank you to our special guests who presented awards, Hon David Michael MLA, Michael Yates (NMEMO), Petty Officer Benjamin Hale (ADF representative), Ray Findley (President, Rotary Club, Osborne Park Branch), Stacey Litchfield (P&C President) and Kevin Fraser (Chair of the School Board). Other special guests included Greg Taylor (Rotary Club, Osborne Park Branch), Councillor Karlo Perkovic and School Board members, Clive Barstow, Chris Hatton, George Ognenis, Carli Sanbrook and Phillip Saraceni. A special mention to former staff members, David Curtis and Arul Niroshan who also attended the ceremony.

Congratulations to the following Special Award winners:

**Senior School Special Commendation Award** – Utsah Nakarmi  
**North Metropolitan Education Regional Office Commitment to Excellence Award** – Finn Holman

**ADF Future Innovators Award** – Finn Holman

**ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award** – Jessica Betti

**Stan Perron Award** – Ra Sze

**Sportsperson of the Year Award** – Almozamel Hussein

**Ampol Best All Rounder Award** – Jessica Betti and Finn Holman

**Principal's Recommendation for Outstanding Achievement Award** – Finn Holman

**General Dux Award** – Jeryn Huntley

**ATAR Dux Award** – Finn Holman

## Year 10 River Cruise

On Wednesday 29 November, Year 10 students with Good Standing enjoyed a Swan River cruise on the Captain Stirling with Captain Cook Cruises. The celebration marked the end of Year 10 and the transition to senior students of the school. The students were amazing and thoroughly enjoyed themselves with the DJ playing some really popular tracks which got the students on the dance floor. There was also a photo booth to capture their memories of a good night out. Thanks to the Student Services team for their organisation and to staff who attended.



We wish all our Year 12 students the best for their future endeavours and look forward to hearing about the next part of their learning journey. Good luck to the ATAR students sitting their final WACE exams. It is also the end of the Balcatta SHS journey for a number of our families. Thank you for your support of the school over the years.



PO Benjamin Hale presented the ADF Future Innovators Award to Finn Holman

PO Benjamin Hale presented the ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award to Jessica Betti



Ray Findley presented the Stan Perron Award to Ra Sze

Stacey Litchfield presented the Sportsperson of the Year Award to Almozamel Hussein





## Primary School Art Competition

On 18 September, Year 5 and Year 6 students were invited to enter artwork into our annual Primary School Art Competition. This year the theme was "Portraits". Renowned artist and tutor Natalie Zuchetti served as the judge for the competition, expressing astonishment at the exceptional work from the five participating schools. Impressed by the talent displayed, she anticipated a promising influx of budding artists hoping for a future presence at Balcatta Senior High School.

The quality of the artworks was amazing. Congratulations to the following award winners:

### Balcatta Primary School

Year 5 Merit Award – Dallas M  
Excellence Award – William M  
Year 6 Merit Award – Janani R  
Excellence Award – Dhairya P

### Osborne Primary School

Year 6 Merit Award – Dirk S  
Excellence Award – Pema W

### Takari Primary School

Year 5 Merit Award – Xavier K  
Excellence Award – Mila T  
Year 6 Merit Award – Leo J  
Excellence Award – Solomon P

### Tuart Hill Primary School

Year 5 Merit Award – Evie H  
Excellence Award – Jayden W  
Year 6 Merit Award – Elijah J  
Excellence Award – Chloe C

### West Balcatta Primary School

Year 5 Merit Award – Allegra P  
Excellence Award – Daniel M  
Year 6 Merit Award – Mark V  
Excellence Award – Malia Y

Principal's Award – Chinyama K, Year 5, Tuart Hill PS  
People's Choice Award – Molly W, Year 6, Tuart Hill PS



Principal's Award - ChinyamaK, Year 5 Tuart Hill

People's Choice Award - Molly, Year 5 Tuart Hill PS

## Year 5 Balcatta Academic Challenge

On Friday 24 November, the annual Balcatta Academic Challenge took place. The purpose of the Balcatta Academic Challenge is to promote Balcatta Senior High School as a school of choice for talented students and to provide primary school students with the opportunity to experience academic extension and enrichment activities across a variety of learning areas.

The challenge is 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. Fifty Year 5 students participated five challenges which spanned across all Learning Areas and earning students' points for their schools. West Balcatta earned the most points and was presented with the perpetual trophy. Every student displayed excellent teamwork, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



West Balcatta PS team awarded 1st place with Allegra Petropulos accepting the perpetual trophy

Takari PS team awarded 3rd place with Nadiira M accepting the prize



Osborne PS team



Tuart Hill PS team



# on News

## Orientation Day

On Tuesday 28 November, the air at Balcatta Senior High School was buzzing with excitement as a sea of approximately 150 Year 6 students eagerly stepped into the future during the much-anticipated Orientation Day for the incoming Year 7 class of 2024. Students from 50 primary schools attended wearing huge smiles and displaying a palpable sense of adventure.

A kaleidoscope of experiences awaited these young minds, and Balcatta SHS made sure it was nothing short of extraordinary. The day kicked off with a grand welcome, setting the stage for what was destined to be a thrilling plunge into the secondary school universe.

Imagine being a Year 6 student thrust into an environment so different from the familiar primary school routine. Here, the students were not just spectators, they were active participants in a dynamic and diverse curriculum. They were not merely navigating the corridors, they were embarking on a journey through the labyrinth of Science, English, Foods, HASS, Art, Maths and Phys Ed, all wrapped up in a tapestry of fun, excitement and interactivity.

Divided into groups, each led by an enthusiastic teacher and flanked by the vibrant presence of Year 7 and Year 8 ambassadors, the students dived headfirst into the activities with a chance to meet future teachers. The day unfolded like an adventure novel, with each chapter more captivating than the last.

As the school corridors echoed with laughter and the hum of eager chatter, the students seamlessly acclimated to the rhythm of secondary school life. Navigating their way through the school, courtesy of their dedicated Teacher Leaders and spirited school ambassadors, the students not only discovered the physical layout of their new academic home but also cracked the code of the mysterious timetable that will guide their days in 2024.

But the day was not all about textbooks and classrooms. The future Year 7 cohort was treated to a crescendo of artistic brilliance, courtesy of the school's music, drama and dance virtuosos, Holly Budalich and Kaldren Jatsho (Year 9), and Siddharth Das (Year 10) who, with their musical wizardry, cast a spell on the students. The Year 8 Specialist Dance students didn't just perform, they painted poetry in motion. The Year 7 Drama students showcased a circus of talents which left everyone in awe.

A resounding success, the day was also about respect, camaraderie and the forging of new friendships. The students embodied the essence of leadership, showing respect not just to the staff but to each other as well. Balcatta Senior High School is now eagerly counting down the days to welcome these Year 7 pioneers into their fold in 2024.

A special thanks to the Year 7 and Year 8 student ambassadors, the unsung heroes of the day. Their excellent leadership paved the way for a seamless transition, ensuring every Year 6 student left with a heart brimming with excitement and a head full of dreams about the incredible journey awaiting them in the corridors of Balcatta Senior High School.



Arts activity - Edible Colour Wheel Project



Health & Phys Ed activity



Dance Performance



Escape Room activity

Science activity



# Career Practi

## Skills West Career Expo

Perth Skills West Career and Employment Expo was held on Friday 28 July at the Perth Convention Centre and proved to be an excellent opportunity for our students to explore future career prospects. With 49 enthusiastic Year 9 students and 62 ambitious Year 11 and Year 12 students in attendance, the event showcased a wide array of educational and professional pathways.

The expo served as a valuable platform for students to interact with industry experts, vocational training providers and institutions from various fields. From information technology to healthcare, engineering to hospitality, the event catered for diverse interests, ensuring every student found something inspiring.

Students engaged in informative workshops, hands-on demonstrations and meaningful discussions which fuelled their future aspirations.

For the Year 9 students, it was a chance to discover their passions and interests early on and explore potential career options. They eagerly participated in hands-on activities and engaging presentations which sparked their curiosity and ambition. The Year 11 and Year 12 students focused on refining their career choices and networking with representatives from leading companies and universities. The expo allowed them to seek guidance on their desired career paths and explore employment and further study opportunities.

Overall, the Skills West Career and Employment Expo encouraged our students to make informed decisions about their future careers. These events play an important role in shaping the aspirations of our students and bridging the gap between education and real-world opportunities.



## Exploring Hospitality and Tourism Careers: A Memorable Excursion for Year 9 Bilingual Students

On Wednesday 20 September, Perth City came alive with curiosity and enthusiasm as 26 Year 9 bilingual students embarked on a memorable excursion to delve into the world of Hospitality and Tourism career opportunities. In collaboration with students from Warwick Senior High School and Greenwood College, this joint adventure promised a day filled with exploration and insights.

Their journey began at the iconic Bell Tower, a symbol of Perth's history and a beacon for tourists from around the world. Here, our students had the unique privilege of a guided tour which unravelled the tower's storied past. The highlight of the excursion was the opportunity to ring the historic bells themselves, which resonated with both history and the joy of discovery.

A meeting with the General Manager of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel awaited our students, offering them an exclusive look behind the scenes of this renowned establishment. The encounter shed light on the enticing world of luxury hospitality and the potential employment opportunities which awaited those who aspire to provide impeccable service in the industry.

The next stop on our journey was the Perth Mint, a place where currency production and gold processing are elevated to an art form. Our students witnessed first-hand the meticulous craftsmanship behind the creation of coins and bars. The experience left them with a newfound appreciation for the precision and skill which contribute to Perth's global tourist appeal.

Council House, the heart of Perth's civic administration, offered our students a glimpse into the workings of local government in promoting tourism and ensuring a welcoming city for visitors. They had the honour of hearing from Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas, who shared his perspectives and experiences in city governance. Our students were treated to insightful presentations from key players in the industry, including Tourism WA, The City of Perth, The Australian Hotels Association and Business Events Perth. The sessions provided a deeper understanding of the hospitality and tourism sector and its diverse career opportunities.

The excursion was a wonderful chance for our students to explore various facets of the hospitality and tourism industry. It allowed them to gain exposure to potential career paths, foster their curiosity and connect with professionals who are already making their mark in the field. Such experiences are invaluable in helping our students shape their futures.

We look forward to witnessing the continued growth and aspirations of our students as they embark on their career journeys, inspired and informed by this exceptional day of exploration.





# itioner News

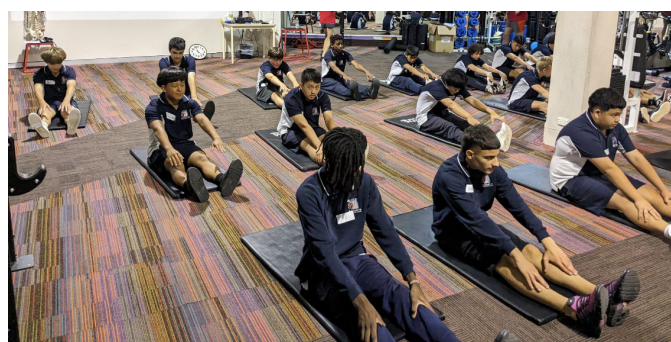
## Accredited Course in Early Career Discovery

On Friday 10 November, Year 9 students engaged in a rewarding experience at the Northbridge TAFE campus. Participating in hands-on activities, students were given the choice to delve into either jewellery-making or a fitness-based career taster, providing a first-hand look into potential vocational paths.

In addition to these activities, students successfully concluded their assessments for the course in Early Career Discovery. This accredited qualification is designed to expose students to a range of career possibilities early on, aiding them in making well-informed decisions about their educational journey beyond Year 10.

The initiative, aimed at empowering students to shape their academic and post-secondary choices, demonstrated considerable success. Our students thoroughly enjoyed exploring the TAFE campus and gaining valuable insights into diverse courses and pathways available for their future pursuits.

This enriching experience not only broadened their horizons but also provided them with concrete insights into potential career paths and further training opportunities available at TAFE.



Students participating in the Career Taster in Fitness



Students attended the Career Taster in Health-Taking Care

## Exploring Horizons: Year 9 students Journey through Career Tasters and Discoveries

As we approach the year's end, it is time to reflect on the Year 9 students' incredible journey, especially in exploring various career paths. Throughout the year, the students delved into around 13 career taster sessions and experiences, which complement the continuous career insights, sessions and information presented by their teachers in their classrooms every day.

We have seen many students venture across Perth, visiting different TAFE campuses, training centres and exhibition centres. They immersed themselves in diverse career experiences, from the Resources Technology Showcase in Term 1 with Mrs Anderson to the Year 9 Careers Conference at Joondalup, Automotive at Midland TAFE, Hair Styling at Balga TAFE, Exploring Hospitality and Tourism Careers in the City of Perth and The Perth Skills West Career and Employment Expo at the Convention Centre.

Most recently some students visited Balga TAFE for Plumbing and the Mt Lawley Campus for Health Care. The students completed their Course in Early Career Discovery which involved three sessions at school and a final session at the Northbridge TAFE campus participating in a mixture of career tasters. There will be two more excursions before the end of the year; the Civil Construction and Bricklaying & Carpentry Try-A-Trades three-day programs.

There have been numerous highlights throughout the year, from students ringing the bells at the Bell Tower to witnessing gold being poured at the Perth Mint. Some mastered braiding, crafted boom boxes from pipes, made personalised items such as key rings and tote bags, and some met Perth's Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas.

Nearly 90% of our Year 9 students took advantage of the chance to explore TAFE campuses and participate in the career tasters. Congratulations to each student for maintaining a high level of professionalism and actively participating in the sessions. Many lecturers commented they were among the best students they have had coming through their classrooms.

A sincere thank you to staff and teachers for their support throughout the year and to those who accompanied the students on these experiences.

We hope this year of early career discovery and experiences has been rewarding for all, assisting in making informed decisions about future subject choices at school and career paths. May curiosity about careers continue, leading students to meaningful experiences and practical insights into the world of work.



Students attended the Career Taster in Plumbing



# Education Support Program News

## Recycling of food waste

Our Education Support students have worked very hard this year to collect food waste from the Cafeteria and Food Technologies Department and turn it into a very prosperous vegetable garden. We have diverted over 400kg of food waste from landfill in 2023.

What began as one tiny worm farm has expanded to four fully functioning healthy worm colonies - resources from donations. Our compost tumblers have been working overtime. Thanks to some generous donations, we have procured more to support the heavy demand. The garden has expanded with donated garden beds and soil, topped up with compost we made and aged over the recent holidays.

We sold all of our worm tea last term for a gold coin donation and used the money raised to maintain the food waste systems with compost conditioners and worm bedding.

The program was initially funded with a grant from the City of Stirling.

Among the offerings were charming scrunchies, heat packs, 'ouchie' bags, festive Christmas wreaths, potted plants, refreshing lemonade cordial and delectable handmade truffles. The students also crafted unique Christmas ornaments, adding a touch of holiday cheer to the event.

What made the day truly special was the overwhelming support from parents who came to witness the fruits of their children's labour. The market served not only as a platform for showcasing the students' creativity but also as a testament to their hard work and commitment. Parents were visibly proud of their children's achievements, and the joyous atmosphere resonated with a sense of community and accomplishment.

Equally heartening was the presence of mainstream staff members who took the time to visit the learning hub and appreciate the efforts of the ESP students. It was an opportunity for mainstream staff to witness first-hand the dedication and progress made by our ESP students throughout the year.

The Enterprise Market was not just a showcase of products; it was a celebration of inclusivity, determination and the power of collaboration. The ESP students demonstrated that with the right support and encouragement, they could create meaningful and high-quality products which resonated with a wider audience.

The success of the event goes beyond the monetary gains made from product sales; it highlights the invaluable skills, confidence and sense of accomplishment gained by the students involved. These skills will undoubtedly serve them well in the future, both personally and professionally.

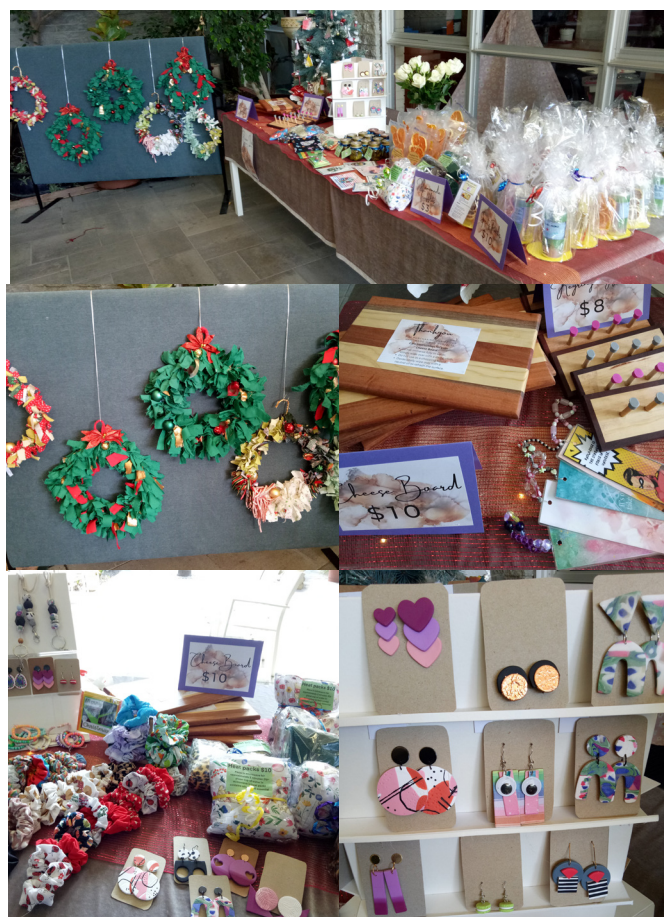
We cannot wait for the next big market in 2024.



## Celebrating Hard Work and Creativity: Enterprise Market by Education Support Program

On Friday 8 December, an air of excitement and accomplishment filled the air as students showcased their entrepreneurial spirit in an Enterprise Market organised by the Education Support Program (ESP). The event was a culmination of months of hard work and dedication by students who had put their skills to the test, crafting an array of delightful products.

The atmosphere was buzzing with energy as students proudly presented an assortment of handmade goods, ranging from pickles and dehydrated fruits to cheeseboards and wooden keyring holders. The creativity was evident in every product, showcasing the diverse talents within the ESP community.





# English Learning Area News

## Write A Book In A Day

On Monday 28 August, selected Years 7 to 10 Academic Extension students participated in an exceptional challenge to “Write a Book in a Day”, showcasing their creativity and determination. For 12 intensive hours, from 8.00am to 8.00pm, the budding authors planned an entire book, complete with front and back covers, chapters and illustrations. They collaborated in their teams to work within certain parameters, pouring their imagination onto the pages, and crafting captivating tales from scratch. The endeavour was not only a test of their writing prowess and teamwork, but also a meaningful contribution, as the day aimed to raise funds for child cancer research. Their dedication resulted in not just completed books, but also a heartfelt effort to make a difference. Thanks and acknowledgements to the sponsors and our talented writers for their commitment and compassion.



## Book Week

Book Week was a whirlwind of literary excitement. The library had a “Blind Date with a Book” display, where students eagerly selected their wrapped books based on hints on the wrapping paper. The selection of books was carefully curated by our school’s very own “Pages & Tea Book Club”. Daily quizzes tested the students’ knowledge of books, sparking friendly competition and encouraging exploration of various genres. The highlight of the week was Friday’s dress up day, which coincided with Wear It Purple Day and the Arts Festival “Inspirational Figures” dress up. It was fantastic to see beloved characters and contemporary figures, such as Sherlock Holmes and Adam Sandler, during the lunchtime parade outside S Block.



## Scribblers Festival Writing Workshop

On Wednesday 25 October, the Year 7 Academic Extension students attended two writing workshops presented by Gavin Aung Than and Lev Grossman at the Perth Town Hall. On Thursday 26 October, the Year 8 and Year 9 Academic Extension students attended two writing workshops presented by A.J. Betts and Gary Lonesborough. These workshops provided valuable insights into the art of storytelling and allowed the students to broaden their horizons and gain valuable writing skills. The students were also invited to participate in a number of activities and stalls held by Scribblers, including creating a podcast episode at the Conversation Caravan and viewing the art exhibit in the Council House. The students then participated in a scavenger hunt at the City of Perth Library, an opportunity to test their literary knowledge and discover different stories within the stunning library.



## Prime Minister’s Spelling Bee

Mrs Sookraj and Miss Duong entered two Year 8 teams and one Year 7 team in the Prime Minister’s Spelling Bee competition. This was an online competition open to all Australian schools. The first round was a competition against all WA schools. Teams who made it to the top level advanced to the State/Territory finals held between Monday 28 August to Friday 1 September. Teams who finished in the top level of the State/Territory finals, qualified for the National Finals.

Mrs Sookraj is proud to announce eight of our students have advanced to the State/Territory finals on Friday 1 September in the Year 7 and Year 8 categories. Congratulations to the following students:

Year 7: Morgan Nowicki.

Year 8: Patricia Arazo, John Luxford, Andrew Bozich, David Klimoski, Howra Al Mansori, Julia Kim, Daisy Roberts.





# Humanities & Social Science

## Waste Audit

On Wednesday 11 October, students in the HASS Academic Extension class conducted a "waste audit" on the school grounds. The waste audit was led by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation - Waste Sorted Schools Program.

Additional information can be found at - <https://www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/wss/>.

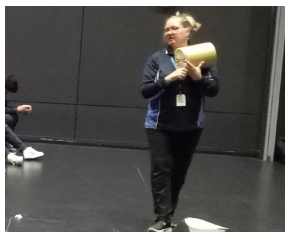
The waste which was audited seemed to be primarily from the canteen or Food Technologies classroom, with not a huge amount of everyday student waste. We counted 80 snack wrappers and 16 Ziplock bags and pieces of plastic wrap. This accumulates to approximately 40,000 soft plastic items being sent to landfill each year. Unfortunately, there are currently no recycling options for these items, so avoidance is the best option. Some of the things you can do to try and reduce lunchbox waste is to promote the benefits of buying in bulk including receiving more of the snack, saving money, and reducing soft plastics to landfill.



Different types of waste found in the audit

## Water Corporation

Students in Year 7 Humanities and Social Sciences have been studying Geography this term. On Wednesday 30 August, representatives from the Water Corporation visited the school to make a presentation to students in Year 7 about water use and supply in Perth. They learnt from where WA sources its water and the challenges in maintaining our water supply, given the challenges being faced due to a growing population and climate change. Students were encouraged to rethink their shower time, with students receiving a 4-minute shower timer to help them do their part to maintain this precious commodity.



## Geography Competition

This year, as a part of the Academic Extension program, students in Years 7 to 10, together with over 700 schools across Australia participated in the Australian Geography Competition. Students who achieved a Distinction in the competition were in the top 15% whilst those who achieved a High Distinction were in the top 10% of students. Seven students in Years 7 to 10 achieved a High Distinction and eleven students achieved a Distinction.

### Geography Competition winners:

#### Year 7

Distinction: Morgan Nowicki, Natalie Gagg

#### Year 8

High Distinction: Oscar Muller, Luca Ludvik

Distinction: Svikriti Sharma, John Luxford, Annie Lai, Patricia Arazo

#### Year 9

High Distinction: Adela Maldonado Revegino, Epiphany Kondo-Morcom, Oliver Nowicki

Distinction: Eva Boylan, Chiara Riolo

#### Year 10

Distinction - Leena Meel, Shea Meyers

High Distinction - Steven Le, Alina Chaudhry

## History Competition

Students in Years 9 and 10 were further challenged by participating in the Australian History Competition in which seven students achieved a Distinction and one student receiving a High Distinction. This is a fantastic result.

### History Competition winners:

#### Year 9

High Distinction: Reza Hasny

Distinction: Rangjung Dorjee

#### Year 10

Distinction - Jasmin Caccetta, Annie Frencham, Leena Meel, Edoardo Russell, Evan La Galia, Dylan Rooney.



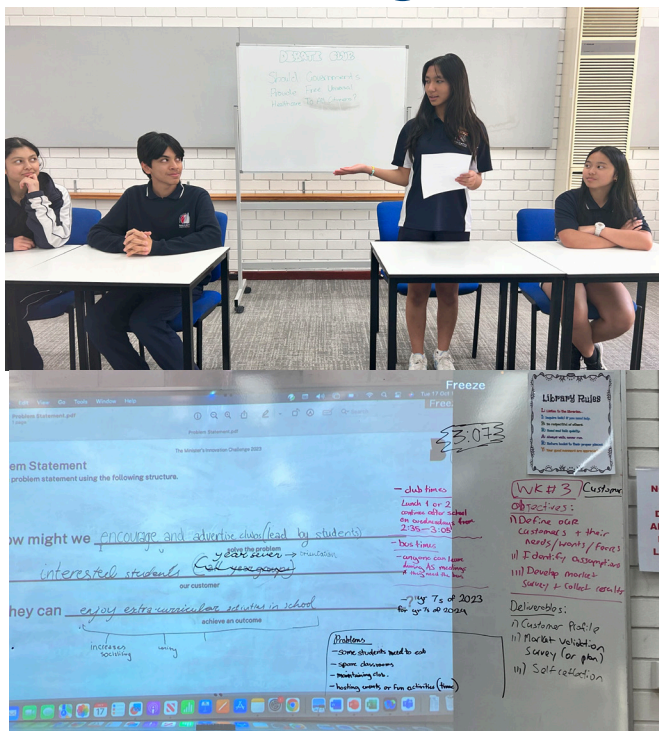
Year 10 Geography winners



Year 10 History winners



# nce Learning Area News



## Minister's Innovation Challenge 2023

The first five weeks of Term 4 brought together 30 schools from around Western Australia, all competing for the esteemed Minister's Innovation Challenge 2023. The challenge is a significant initiative which showcased the innovative and exciting education system in Western Australia and provided an opportunity for Year 8 students to develop their problem-solving, collaboration and communication skills while addressing local problems. This year the challenge was contested by schools spanning the full length and breadth of Western Australia. The formidable team representing Team Balcatta SHS included Makayla Tran, Tsheyang Lhazom, Dashnyl Josol, Sebastian Bretti and Dipali Rawat.

Throughout the challenge, each team worked with an industry mentor to firstly identify a local issue or problem and secondly, apply design thinking processes to develop innovative solutions. Team Balcatta focused their attention on future Year 7 students at our school, in the quest to better equip them with the tools to successfully navigate the often-daunting journey from primary school through to high school. The problem articulated by Team Balcatta was "how might we initiate and advertise student lead clubs for future Year 7 students coming into high school to promote a sense of community and connectedness". The Team's solution to this problem was to "establish a process where new Year 7 students can meet like-minded peers and engage in healthy extra-curricular activities". Although the proposal developed by Team Balcatta did not feature in the top three entries, the fantastic idea was rolled out to the Year 7 students of 2024 to strengthen the sense of community and connectedness within our school.

## Super, Tax and You Competition

Year 10 students entered the Super, Tax and You Competition during the last week of Term 3. The competition was open to students across Australia and required students to develop a creative project talking about tax and super. In the Senior (Year 10–12) category, the topic was "What are the most important things you need to know about tax and super to be work ready?"

Congratulations to Year 10 students, Jasmin Caccetta, Nadya Igusti, Ashleigh Sharman and Jessica Thompson, who won the Senior High School - People's Choice Award in the Super Tax and You Competition for 2023.

The video entry "Entry 8: Winners News Now" can be viewed on the following link - <https://taxsuperandyou.gov.au/finalists2023>.



## Technologies News

### Year 9 Coding and Robotics Remote Control Race

Congratulations to the following Year 9 students for taking out places in the annual self-created and coded remote control car challenge. Students used a range of recycled craft supplies from REMIDA WA, plus electronics and microprocessors, to construct their radio controlled vehicles.

#### First Place:

Team: Redhead  
Adam Yappo

#### Second Place:

Team: RYO-Makpen  
Jigme Palden and Chimi Wangyel

#### Third Place:

Team: Prime XA7  
Jamphel Tshering and Jimi Yoezer





# Health & Physical Education

## Volleyball Competition

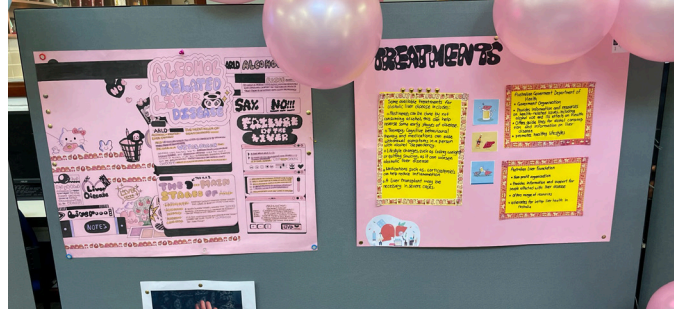
On Friday 28 July, the Junior Girls' Volleyball team was invited to compete at the Champion of Champions Volleyball Competition held at Warwick Stadium. The Year 9 girls played against the best teams from other schools volleyball teams from other schools and proudly represented Balcatta SHS to a high level of sportsmanship and talent. The team displayed incredible camaraderie and gave their best effort on the day. With a very close final between third and fourth against St James Anglican School, the girls placed fourth in the competition. We look forward to having the team continue to represent Balcatta SHS in future volleyball competitions.



## Year 11 Health Expo

On Friday 5 August, the Year 11 Health General students presented the annual Health Expo in the school library. In the weeks leading up to the big day, students spent time researching and creating a stall which promoted their chosen health issue. They set up the library presenting a vibrant and engaging hub of activity as over 800 students immersed themselves in the interactive activities and educated themselves on modern health issues. Issues such as vaping, various sexually transmitted infections, marijuana use, road safety, menstruation, social media harms, eating disorders and alcohol abuse were displayed and discussed. As part of their stalls, the students were required to create ways in which to engage their audience. They did this by including activities such as problem solving, Family Feud, darts, wheel spinners and a period pain simulator in their displays.

The students should be very proud of the engaging and relevant Health Expo they set up and presented. There was no rest for the entire day as group after group of visitors came through the expo. It was wonderful to see visiting students asking questions and getting involved in the stalls. The Health Expo will run again in 2024 as we look to expand on this wonderful initiative to make it bigger and better next year. Well done Year 11s.





# tion Learning Area News

## Whole School Athletics Carnival

The Whole School Athletics Carnival returned this year after a break due to the new build and the subsequent poor condition of the oval. The weather was perfect and the atmosphere was electric. During the weeks leading up to the main event, which was held on Thursday 31 August, students competed in pre-carnival events such as discus, high jump, 800m and 1500m track events. Students spent the day on the oval competing in track, field and novelty events. Events were structured to encourage students to compete while having a lot of fun with the friends. Everyone who finished an event received at least one (1) point for their House which and towards their personal efforts to become the champion boy or girl for their year group. Students dressed in their House colours and costumes and were able to compete in many events and activities such as long jump, sack race, Izzy Dizzy relay, triple jump, tug-o-war, leader ball, shot put, 100m, 200m and 400m.

Thank you to Geoff Birkett for organising this huge event and to staff for their assistance. Students were well-behaved and very much engaged for long periods, particularly in the novelty events, whilst the traditional events saw a mix of intense competition and a "give it a go" attitude.

### Champion Girls and Boys

#### Year 7 Girls

1st Emily Frencham  
2nd Sasha Rowland  
3rd Jade Burnett

#### Boys

Taylor Jalla  
Bank Biakhunthod  
Arda Aytemur

#### Year 8 Girls

1st Charli Patrick  
2nd Hazel McCallum  
3rd Nikita Taylor-Sandes

#### Boys

Enzzo Velez  
Tenzin Kedah Chogyel  
Carlo Deluca

#### Year 9 Girls

1st Daniella Santich  
  
2nd Rigsel Wangchuk  
3rd Chiara D'Alessandro  
Leah Visser

#### Boys

Matthew Santich  
William Frencham  
Jordan Duong  
Calais Lye

#### Year 10 Girls

1st Annie Frencham  
2nd Ashleigh Sharman  
  
3rd Faith Patrick

#### Boys

Steven Le  
Riley Lee  
Jamie Macapagal  
Matthew Lewis

#### Year 11 Girls

1st Minaida Peters  
2nd Princess Guipo  
3rd Yassmin Ahmed

#### Boys

Dylan Pike  
Thomas Robinson  
Tyler Ugle

#### Year 12 Girls

1st Tiana Crompton  
2nd Tamara Josevski  
3rd Amalin Trajkoski

#### Boys

Jerome Pazhooparambil  
Almozamel Hussein  
Levi Susac

### House Points

Aurora 1,854  
Artemis 1,755  
Poseidon 1,640  
Zeus 1,570



## Interschool Athletics Carnival

The Balcatta SHS athletics team was place second overall at the Interschool Athletics Carnival where they performed exceptionally well. Daniella Santich (Year 9) won Champion Girl in Year 9 Division and Almozamel Hussein (Year 12) was runner up Champion Boy in the Years 11/12 Division. Congratulations to the students and staff who attended, with a special thank you to the five Year 12 boys who came back to school to compete.





# Science Learning

## Space Boot Camp

During the July school holidays, Bipran Adhikari and Oliver Nowicki (Year 9) and Steven Le and Leena Meel (Year 10) attended the Space Boot Camp held over three days, from Wednesday 27 September to Friday 29 September. Students attended workshops such as Zero Gravity and Access to Space, Make Your Own Rocket with UWA Aerospace, Plants for Space workshop and Who Owns The Moon – Space Law and Conundrums. Panel discussions were held with industry experts from NASA, Woodside and Fugro SpAARC. This unique opportunity was sponsored by the Fogarty Foundation.

### The following account was written by Steven Le:

*"At the Space Boot Camp we engaged in activities across all three days of the camp. Each day was filled with different activities and things to do, with free food provided on each day. The first day included building small bottle rockets, which we launched on the lawn, we did these in groups. Across the second day, we did numerous more things, with lots of speakers coming in to talk about their professions. We even had a time where we could ask people with experience (some having worked on satellites that are orbiting the moon) things of interest. The second day also included a trip to the Woodside Robotics Lab to visit NASA's Valkyrie Humanoid Robots, Spot and Valkyrie. The third day was the best as we got to go up north to the European Space Agency's West Australian Deep Space Network in New Norcia to look at the giant satellite dish stationed there. This was used to communicate with different satellites, including one orbiting the sun. After this, we went to UWA's Zadko Observatory and Space Situational Awareness Node in Gingin where we had a quick review of the observatory and gravity discovery centre. Overall, it was quite fun, but it had quite a number of speakers coming in to talk about their experiences".*



## Big Science Competition

At the end of May, Years 7 to 10 students competed in The Big Science Competition which is one of the biggest international science competitions. It is an easy way to challenge students and track their performance against state and national averages. Competition questions are aligned with the Australian Curriculum (Science). Students received a certificate indicating their performance and schools will receive comprehensive reporting on student results compared to class, school and national averages. There are four paper levels which correspond to each year level.

The following students were awarded a Credit (top 30% of the international competition) for their year level:

Year 7: Morgan Nowicki

Year 8: Alexandra French, Ivan Marjanovic, Alias Mortada, Gorjan Saltamarski

Year 9: Joshua Boyce, Rangjung Dorjee, Jaime Jalla, Kaavya Maniktala, Sayre Nagpal, Oliver Nowicki, Chiara Riolo

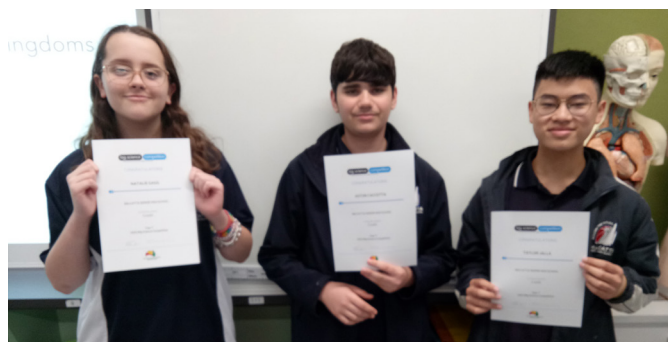
Year 10: Jasmin Caccetta, Alina Chaudhry, Evan La Galia, Steven Le, Shea Meyers, Anthony Nasteski, Kazandra Posada

The following students received a Distinction (top 15% of the international competition) for their year level:

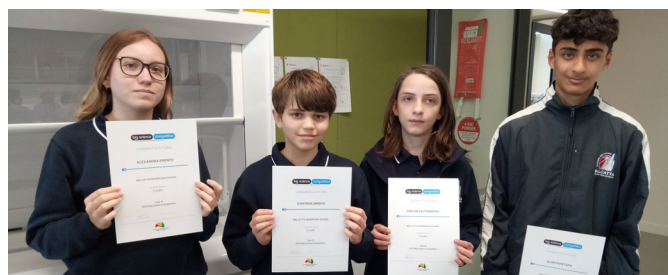
Year 7: Aston Caccetta, Natalie Gagg, Taylor Jalla

Year 9: Mitchell Burnett, Reza Hasny

Year 10: Harry Le Sueur, Leena Meel, Edoardo Russell



Year 7 Distinction winners



Year 8 Credit winners



Year 9 Distinction winners

Year 10 winners



# ing Area News

## Perth Big Ideas Challenge

On Monday 7 August, Ms Dewi, Miss Christopher and 30 Year 9 students from the Academic Extension and Aspirant classes attended the Perth Big Ideas Challenge hosted at Bloom: Centre for Youth Innovation. This event was designed and led by Future Anything's experienced educators to explicitly develop students' enterprise thinking and human-centred design skills. Congratulations to the teams who participated, with special mention to our winners: Bell Goodridge, Cerise Nel and Vivienne Antal.

### The following account was written by Bell Goodridge:

*"When we arrived at the Big Ideas we were introduced to Nicole Dyson. She gave a presentation on innovation and then the activities started. We formed groups and created annotated diagrams of a product that would solve a problem. Next, we brainstormed. We were given sticky notes and told to think big and think wild. We wrote down any problems we could think of and covered the table with sticky notes. From these problems, we had to pick one we were passionate about and find others who chose the same problem. In the new groups, we researched previous solutions using Artificial Intelligence (AI). In the final challenge, we had 30 minutes to make a one-minute presentation with a prototype. I decided to try and fix the hospital environment for children. I made picture books that were career and fantasy-themed, and most importantly customisable. I won the challenge along with another group who made fake fish controlled by phone that would clean the ocean. It was a fun and busy day and I'm glad I had the chance to go."*



## National Science Week

The theme for National Science Week 2023 was "Innovation: Powering Future Industries". With a wide range of events across our lower school classes, it was a great way for students to demonstrate their creativity and ingenuity. On Tuesday 15 August, Ms Dewi's Year 9 Academic Extension class led Year 5 students from four of our local intake primary schools through a range of activities to experience a variety of science experiments. The experiments taught students that science experiments can be attempted at home using simple ingredients. The Year 5 students had a fantastic time making honeycomb, dry ice experiments, making ice cream without a freezer, magic milk, hidden messages on toast, etc. Our Year 9 Academic Extension students were very positive ambassadors for our school and did an amazing job in demonstrating these experiments which was reflected in how captivated the Year 5s were throughout the event.

Multiple classes across the Year 7 to Year 10 cohorts also participated in National Science Week by creating water filters which were judged on their design process, water quality, closest to neutral pH and efficiency of filtration.

Students across a range of year groups participated in a "Hydrogen: Fuel of the Future" escape room which involved multiple themed challenges for the students to solve within their groups. The students managed to escape before lunch which was a relief to many.





# Science Learning

Mr Burgis' Year 8 Science class was involved in a 'Dance with Digital Human' session run by CSIRO. The session showcased how technology is being applied to sport science to help athletes perform at their best. Students heard from the CSIRO scientists about artificial intelligence and motion capture techniques to transform humans into digital humans. They contributed to the session by "bopping along" as they learnt the National Science Week dance from Dizzy, the digital dancer, inspired by robots.

Ms Lucas and Ms Williams took their Year 8 students to Scitech on Friday 18 August to celebrate National Science Week. Events continued the following week with the Scintillating Science Quiz (run by Murdoch University) being held on Wednesday 23 August for our Year 9 and Year 10 Academic Extension students.

## Year 8 Academic Extension - It Takes a Spark Grok Academy STEM Conference

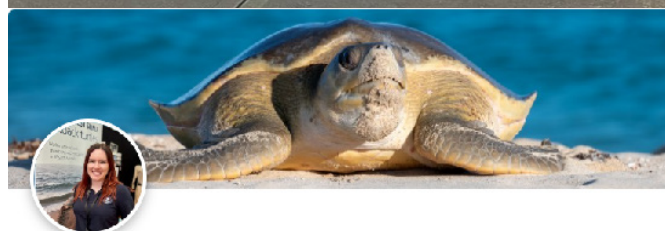
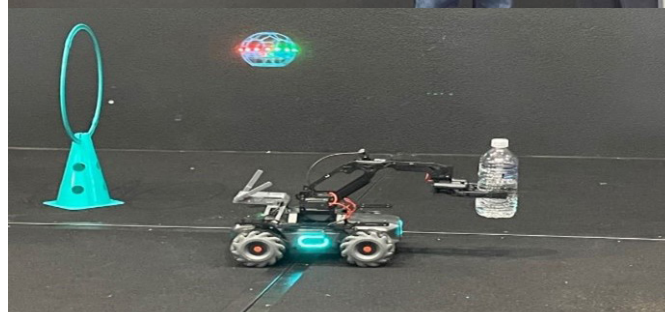
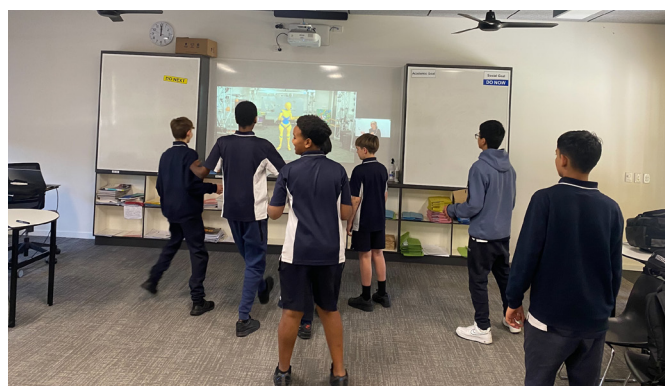
On Wednesday 20 September, the Year 8 Academic Extension students had the privilege of attending a STEM conference brimming with a multitude of activities. The conference provided an enthralling and immersive experience, offering a diverse range of hands-on experiments, interactive exhibits and engaging key-note presentations by local inspiring leaders in STEM. With each activity, the students were able to explore different scientific concepts and disciplines, igniting their curiosity and fostering a love for science.

From flying drones to building marshmallow towers, the students were actively involved in every aspect of the conference. The interactive exhibits allowed them to witness scientific principles in action, while the demonstrations provided them with practical knowledge and skills. The conference not only broadened their scientific horizons but also encouraged critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration. Overall, the event served as a catalyst for the students' passion for science, leaving them inspired and eager to continue their scientific journey.

This article was written by Rachel Cenci and Daisy Roberts.

## Year 10 Marine Turtles and Climate Change Incursion

On Tuesday 7 November the Year 10 students had the valuable opportunity to enhance their understanding of climate change, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Clodagh Guildea, the Project Officer for Science Communication and Education within the North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program. Assisted by Dr Malindi Gammon, a dedicated Research Scientist, the students gained a deeper insight into the complexities of climate change. While this experience enriched the students' knowledge of marine turtles and climate change, it also underscored the importance of involving the next generation in critical environmental issues. Clodagh Guildea's enthusiasm for science communication and education, in conjunction with Dr Gammon's expertise, had a profound impact on the students' educational journey, empowering them to become future stewards of our planet.





# Area News Cont.

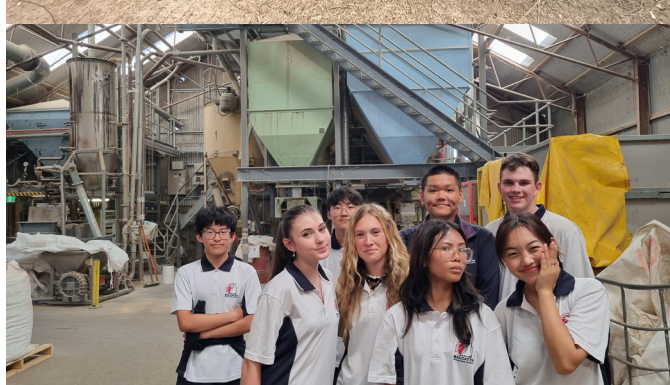
## Cultivating Futures Excursion

On Monday 16 October, Mr Brigg's 10.2 Science class and Ms Dewi's 10.3 Science class attended the Cultivating Futures excursion. The purpose of this excursion was to improve students' awareness of the career options in agriculture. We were introduced to Jaime and Lilly from CQUniversity in Queensland who facilitated activities to discuss the agricultural challenge, sustainable development goals, skills and career pathways. They informed and introduced us to the different parts of the agriculture industry, including their own journeys, while contradicting common assumptions about the industry's unskilled rural and low paid jobs.

Students in Mr Brigg's class visited the CBH (Co-operative Bulk Handling) Group Metro Grain Centre and Faber Vineyard. At the grain centre, a manager took students on a tour inside offices and laboratories, informing students on procedures conducted and the variety of grains produced in Western Australia. Students visited onsite where they watched trucks unloading tonnes of harvest. Later at the winery, the owner took students on a leisurely walk across his crops of grapes. Students were taken on a tour inside their factory where hundreds of wines were created and packaged. The owner discussed the yearly process of harvesting, crushing, fermenting, pressing, stabilising and tasting the wine to quality standards made in the comfort of his own home.

Students in Ms Dewi's class visited the Department of Fisheries in Fremantle. Upon arriving, we were greeted by a scientist who guided the students around the research centre and explained what they did on a daily basis and the purpose of the research centre which is to grow a particular type of fish at a given time under a controlled environment to improve rate of success. The fish are then sent to different companies who sell them to members of the public. We also visited the Specialty Feeds in Glen Forrest where we were introduced to another scientist who took us around the factory where they make and package food for research and zoo animals. These foods are made for different purposes to suit the animals' needs. Overall, the excursion was a fun, insightful and educational experience.

**This article was written by Ashleigh Sharman (10.2) and Tandin Zam (10.3)**





## Specialist Dance Program

### "Carpe Noctem Choreography Nights"

Our Specialist Dance students were ready to 'seize the night' with their annual Choreography Nights held on Thursday 24 August and Friday 25 August. Tickets sold out for both nights. Students were engaged in intensive project-based tasks for several weeks and put together a show guaranteed to entertain.



Year 10 Mia Veljanoski performing "Take Me To Church"

### "Ignite" Dance Showcase 2023

On Thursday 19 October and Friday 20 October, the Specialist Dance students performed in our annual End of Year Dance Showcase. The performances were a culmination of the year's technique and choreography work and gave the students further opportunities to work in a professional theatre setting.



Years 11 and 12 Contemporary students performing "Ebb/Flow"



Year 9 Commercial Jazz students performing "Move"



Year 7 Hip Hop students performing "Old Skool"



Year 10 Contemporary students performing "Soulmate"



Year 10 Broadway Jazz students performing "Everybody Cancan"



Farewell to Year 12 Dance students, Veronika Eres and Joko Narra



# s News

## Music Program

### Guitar Festival

The WA International Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival is an annual event hosted by the Classical Guitar Society. It provides a unique opportunity for ensembles in primary, secondary and tertiary education (both public and private) to perform in a formal environment and receive feedback on their performances. The festival was held at Carine SHS on Saturday 19 August and Sunday 20 August.

The following students were awarded an "Excellent" certificate:

Year 7: Natalie Gagg, Katie Krekora, Taylor Jalla, Yurino Kobayashi, Hannah Gavanzo

Year 8: Kai Percival, Allegra McGee, Tsheyang Lhazom

Year 9: Jaime Jalla

Year 10: Elishah Gavanzo, Matthew Lewis.

### Choral Festival

On Saturday 2 September, the WA Public Secondary Schools' Choral Festival was held at Churchlands SHS. The festival was open to public secondary school choirs, under the direction of Instrumental Music School Services teacher, Ms Bronwynn Sprogowski.

The following choir students attended:

Year 7: Tamara S Chhetri, Melissa Foomani, Harlee Laver, Isabelle Summers, Abbey Vanderheeg

Year 9: Madeleine Glasson, Epiphany Kondo-Morcom

Year 11: Hannah Sharma, Angelica van der Westhuizen.



Students participating in the WA International Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival



Students participating in the WA Government Secondary Schools' Choral Festival

## Gifted & Talented Visual Art Program

### Art Exhibitions

**META 2023 North Metropolitan Central Gallery - 18 July.** Art, design, photography from the next generation – an insight into the hearts and minds, dreams and fears of talented Years 11 and 12 students from WA schools. This is a very competitive and selective process. Congratulations to Elora Atkins-Webb (Year 11) and Jeryn Huntley (Year 12) whose art pieces were accepted for this exhibition.

**St George's Cathedral Art - 20 July.** This is the 20th year of this premier annual event in art education, attracting schools from all sectors. The artwork of Elora Atkins-Webb, Lilia Atkins Webb (Year 11) and Jessica Betti (Year 12) were featured in this exhibition.

**Drug Aware "Hypervision" - 21 July.** This is an annual exhibition promoting the creative expression and talents of young people aged 15-25 years from across Western Australia. Isabella Bunter (Year 10) and Jaime Jalla (Year 9) were finalists whose artworks were accepted for this exhibition.

**City of Nedlands "Emerge Youth Art Awards" - 22 July.** This exhibition offers young artists the unique opportunity to showcase their artworks in a professionally curated exhibition at Tresillian Arts Centre. Ten of our students from Year 8 to Year 12 had their work selected: Taylor Fellows (Year 8); Holly Budalich, Vivienne Antal and Joshua Boyce (Year 9); Annie Frencham, Jaime Macapagal, Charlotte Muller and Diti Patel

(Year 10); Asher Beard and Jessica Betti (Year 12). At the awards ceremony, the judges made a commendable mention to Asher Beard for his self-portrait piece.



META Exhibition - Self-Portrait by Jeryn Huntley, Year 12



**The Young Originals – Online gallery:** an annual exhibition in its fourteenth year hosted by WA Secondary School Executives' Association (WASSEA). Delivered in partnership with the Department of Education, the Sangora Education Foundation and Edith Cowan University School of Arts and Humanities. The exhibition celebrates visual art programs delivered across Western Australian public schools and promotes the talents of our young artists and designers. Congratulations to Sierra Tylor-Gregorio (Year 10) and Jessica Betti (Year 12) whose artwork was selected to be part of this exhibition.



META Exhibition - artwork by Elora Atkins-Webb, Year 11



The Young Originals artwork by Sierra Tylor-Gregorio, Year 10



Jessica Betti, Year 12 with her artwork in the Young Originals Exhibition

## Annual Gifted and Talented Visual Art Exhibition

The annual Gifted and Talented Visual Art Exhibition featuring the artworks of our Gifted and Talented Visual Art students was held on Wednesday 1 November in the Ron Murphy Art Gallery. In a dazzling display of creativity and passion, exhibition proved to be an outstanding success. The event not only showcased the incredible artwork our students crafted throughout the year but also featured a breathtaking Wearable Art Fashion Show, where students paraded in their own stunning creations. The exceptional talent of our students was on full display, highlighting the remarkable results of their hard work and dedication. The exhibition served as a testament to the endless possibilities that arise when passion meets artistic skill. The heart of this success lies in the Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program, a nurturing environment where students are encouraged to explore diverse mediums and freely express their creativity. Their artistic prowess was further enhanced by the guidance of our dedicated teachers and the inspiring atmosphere of the Saturday morning sessions. Under the wonderful mentorship provided, our students flourished, producing outstanding work that captivated all who attended the exhibition.

The exhibition not only celebrated the culmination of a year's worth of artistic endeavours but also emphasised the importance of fostering creativity and passion within our school community. It was a testament to the incredible potential waiting to be unlocked and shared with the world that resides within each student. As we reflect on this extraordinary event, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to its success. The talent, dedication and passion exhibited by our students serve as a beacon of inspiration for us all. We eagerly anticipate witnessing their continued artistic growth and future accomplishments.

Congratulations to our gifted artists, whose brilliance illuminated our school and left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of experiencing their exceptional work. We look forward to more awe-inspiring creations in the future as our students continue to thrive in their artistic pursuits.

Top performing students were acknowledged as follows:

### Awards of Excellence:

Miya Do (Year 7), Ava Grzelec (Year 8), Annabell Goodridge (Year 9), Annie Frencham (Year 10), Elora Atkins-Webb (Year 11), Jeryn Huntley (Year 12).

**Shaun Tan Emerging Artist Award:** Sierra Tylor-Gregorio (Year 10).

Congratulations and farewell to Year 12 students – Danny Antal, Eli Barr, Asher Beard, Jessica Betti, Kaitlyn Butson, Kai Dunbar, Jeryn Huntley and Riscia Vinta.

Acknowledgement for the planning of this event goes to Sherree Tomlinson, our Gifted and Talented Visual Art Coordinator, The Arts Learning Area and Home Economics Department.





# s News



## Monet in Paris

On Wednesday 22 November, the Year 7 and Year 8 Gifted & Talented Visual Art students attended the Grand Ballroom at the Crown to visit the immersive art experience: Monet in Paris: The French Impressionists Alive. The students engaged with the creative world in ways they never imagined in our bespoke touring venue. They walked through the Parisian street scene, wildflower room and waterlily room to experience the Sensory4 Gallery, where a multimedia presentation continuously played in a loop running for 48 minutes. They exited via the winter corridor, reading the Impressionism Timeline and onto the bridge over the lilies to the foyer and Le Bistrot.



## Young Illustrators

On Thursday 30 November, the Year 9 Gifted & Talented Visual Art students spent the day in the inspiring, heritage listed venue and grounds of The Literature Centre, where artists shared their skills, techniques and industry knowledge in process-based workshops linked directly to the curriculum.

Students gained the following experiences from the program:

- Exposure to new artistic styles and ways of working.
- A renewed vision for their creative work.
- Increased confidence in their abilities and potential.
- Practical techniques they can apply to visual storytelling.
- A new group of like-minded peers from different schools.







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