



# Balcatta Update

3 May 2024

## From the Principal

On Friday 26 April we held our formal ANZAC Commemoration Service. Our local Member for Balcatta Mr David Michael MLA and Major David Harbison of the Australian Army were able to join us. The Student Councillors led the service which included reflection of the importance of Gallipoli and acknowledging the role of Australia in peace-keeping missions, specifically East Timor. This year marked the 25th anniversary of Australia's involvement to help East Timor gain independence.

The service included poem readings of "For the Fallen" and "In Flanders Fields" and the laying of the wreath by Mr Michael and Major Harbison.

I had the pleasure of attending the Law Society of WA's Mock Trial competition at the WA Supreme Court on Tuesday 30 April. This was the students' second mock trial and they competed against Lakelands Senior High School. The students from Year 10 and Year 11 are required to work together as a team to prepare their case. They worked well and clearly were well-prepared and applied their critical thinking skills. Congratulations to the students, Mrs Barker and Mr Gribbon who have been supporting the students.

We have a couple of staffing changes in the Administration office:

- Mrs Sharon Beccarelli, Manager Corporate Services has a secondment to Butler College until the end of Term 3. Mrs Kim White is backfilling in this role.
- Ms Cathie Bonner, Associate Principal Year 7 and Education Support, has won a position at State-Wide Services as a Principal Consultant (recruitment process is underway to backfill this position)

I would sincerely like to thank Cathie for her work in the role as Associate Principal. Her leadership and care of the students is exemplary. We wish her the best in her new role.

Helen Maitland  
Principal

## News

### NAP Opt-In 2024 Assessment in Science Literacy

On Tuesday 21 May, Year 10 Science students will participate in the NAP Opt-In Assessment in Science Literacy provided by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) direct to schools nation-wide. The assessment will provide the school with information on Year 10 students' performance in relation to national standards in Science Literacy. We will be provided with reports looking at school and student performance which can be used to inform teaching and learning.

### Year 8 to Year 9 students going into Year 9 and Year 10 in 2025

During Week 4, Year 8 and Year 9 students will be attending 2025 course selection presentations where they will be informed of the course selection process for the different learning areas.

Students will be given a personalised course selection form which needs to be completed and signed by you as parent/guardian and returned to the administration office in Amelia Street as soon as possible, with the latest date being Friday 7 June 2024.

Students are requested to discuss these choices with parents. It is suggested that prior to the presentation, you and your child view the [Year 9 and Year 10 Course Selection Descriptions 2025 booklet](#).

### Year 10 students going into Year 11, 2025

During Week 4, the Year 10 students will be attending 2025 course selection presentations to start the process of selecting their courses for Year 11 in 2025. On Thursday 9 May, we will be having a Parent Information Event in the Performing Arts Theatre commencing at 6.00pm. It is suggested that prior to the presentation, you and your child view the [Year 11 and Year 12 Academic Handbook 2025](#).

Bookings for Year 11 in 2025 course counselling interviews will be conducted between Thursday 20 June and Friday 19 July (excluding school holidays and Monday 15 July). Parents will be able to access [SOBS](#) from **9.00am Monday 17 June** to make appointments (25 mins timeslots) with either Tessa Curtis, Dimi Martino, Jane Balcombe or Miles Attey. **Students must bring their personalised Year 11 Course Selection form to the meeting.**

### Congratulations

Year 7 student, Anika Forbes and Year 9 student, Lorien Forbes will be representing Western Australia at the Artistic Swimming National Championships in Brisbane from Wednesday 1 May to Tuesday 7 May.

Year 8 student, Maya Szarnyasi, a member of the West Coast Splash Synchronised swimming team will be competing in the 2024 Hancock Prospecting Artistic Swimming National Championships in Brisbane from Thursday 2 May to Monday 6 May.

Year 11 student, Nadya Igusti will be representing Western Australia in the Australian Gymnastics Championships in the Gold Coast from Thursday 16 May to Wednesday 22 May.

We wish them every success at the competitions.

### Uniforms

Most of our students adhere to our school dress code. I am seeking your assistance to ensure your child always adheres to the school dress code.

Reminder: Leggings must be navy blue only and can only be worn with shorts or skirts over the top. Leggings cannot be worn as an item on their own. Footwear must be closed-in shoes/sneakers (Ugg boots and Crocs **are not** suitable footwear).

Balcatta Senior High School's uniforms are supplied by Tudor Uniforms, with uniforms ordered on-line 24 hours per day via their website: [www.tudorschooluniforms.com.au](http://www.tudorschooluniforms.com.au)

# Balcatta Update

## WA Student Assistance Payment

The State Government announced the [WA Student Assistance Payment](#) which is an initiative offering a cost-of-living payment for every student in Western Australia to provide financial relief and assist families with their children's schooling.

Click on this [link](#) to make a claim. **PARENTS ONLY (as claimant) are to submit the claim.** To be eligible for the payment, parents will require a valid WA Student Number (WASN). This 8-digit number can be found on Student SmartRider cards, school reports (including NAPLAN, Interim Reports, Semester Reports and your child's Contributions and Charges (fees) statements.

## Saver Plus

[Saver Plus](#) is a FREE 10-month matched savings and financial education program funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services and delivered by The Smith Family. The program aims to help participants to learn how to better manage their money and develop long-term savings habits.

Saver Plus is available to anyone who is eligible across Australia.

Eligible participants learn money skills and receive up to \$500 to help with their school expenses.

- 10-month program (commence at any time)
- Save \$50 a month for 10 months and receive \$500 towards educational costs

- Complete up to 10 hours of Virtual workshops called MoneyMinded (support provided)

*If you save \$50 a month for 10 months, ANZ will double it. The money helps you with school costs. Income, eligibility and participation criteria apply. More information at [www.saverplus.org.au](http://www.saverplus.org.au).*

## Health News

### Year 10 Immunisations Rescheduled

Year 10 School-Based Immunisation Program 2024 vaccine ([Meningococcal](#)) is available to all Year 10 students and is scheduled for **Tuesday 11 June 2024**. No immunisation will be given unless a consent form has been registered.

Please see below link to the new online consent form – [consentpublic \(health.wa.gov.au\)](https://consentpublic.health.wa.gov.au).

## P&C News

The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 10 June commencing at 7.00pm in Admin. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to receive an invitation link, please send your request via email to [pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com](mailto:pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com).

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact us either via email to [pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com](mailto:pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com) or message us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com.au/balcattashs>. Ideas and comments are always welcome.

Stacey Litchfield  
President

## Important dates

6 May	Years 8 to 10 Course Talks for 2025 (for students) in PAT
8 May	5.00pm School Board meeting
9 May	6.00pm Year 10 (for Year 11 in 2025) Parent Information Event in PAT
14 May	Year 7 Lightning Carnival (Consent and payment via Consent2Go is due by Friday 10 May)
23 May	4.00pm Education Support Program School Tour