



BLACKWATTLE BAY CAMPUS

# Bay Side

## March 2018 Issue

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### Upcoming Events – Term 1

Wednesday March 21	Diversity Day
Tuesday March 27	One Concert Balmaina Campus 6.00-8.00pm
Thursday March 29	Japanese School Visit
Friday March 30 – Monday April 2	Easter Break
Tuesday April 3 – Friday April 13	Year 12 Mid Course Exams

## Principal's Report

Term 1 is always a busy time at Blackwattle with the arrival of a new batch of students ready to take on the challenge of senior study. Despite increased numbers in Year 11 (over 400 students) it has been very pleasing to see how quickly this cohort has settled into their new routines. Teachers report classes are calm, busy and purposeful with many students signing up for activities and opportunities beyond the classroom. There has been a marked increase in the number of students interested in joining leadership programs such as Ambassadors and SRC and many students are participating in extra curricula sporting and cultural events. Our Year 12 cohort is busy with assessment tasks due in the next couple of weeks and mid-course exams looming at the end of the term.

### Fantastic HSC Results 2017

Blackwattle Bay students again achieved very impressive HSC results as a group and on an individual basis. I would particularly like to acknowledge the outstanding work of our teaching staff that put in many hours after school, on weekends and during holidays to support and mentor students through the challenges of the HSC. I would also like to thank you the parents and carers for your support of your child's education. Success in the HSC is very much a three way partnership between the student, the parents and the school and this was evident from the many positive comments I received at last year's Year 12 Graduation and at College Presentation Day.

### Highlights of the 2017 HSC results include:

- 175 results (12%) in the top band 6
- 585 results (36%) in the second band 5
- 48% of all results in the top 2 bands
- 73% of all results in the top 3 bands – a fantastic achievement!

Individually there were some outstanding results:

Congratulations to our DUX Imogen Biggins who achieved an ATAR of 99.9 the highest ATAR ever at Blackwattle Bay and who was awarded the All-Round Achiever in the HSC. Imogen achieved a Band 6 in 12 units, was also placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state in Modern History and 18<sup>th</sup> in the State in Biology.



Congratulations also to runner up DUX Deaglan Godwin who achieved an ATAR of 99 and was awarded All- Round Achiever, gaining band 6 in 11 units.

Other notable achievements included: Cattleya U-Yhaipat who was placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the state for Tourism Travel and Events, Eva Sikes- Gerogiannis who received a Top Achievers award and was placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the state in Society and Culture and Thomas Lawes who was placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the state in Mathematics.

Congratulations as well to the 51 students who achieved two or more band 6 results, a fantastic effort!

### Welcome to New Staff

This year Blackwattle is fortunate to have a number of new teaching staff. I would like to welcome: Ms Rachael Hill who is taking up a newly created position, Head Teacher Wellbeing, Ms Julie McBride who replaces Steve Goldsmith as Head Teacher TAS, Ms Megan Dunn, Maths teacher, Mr Barry Adamson, English teacher, Mr Steve Smith, Special Education teacher, Ms Jenny Su, Maths and Biology teacher, Mr Eric Wong who replaces Ms Christine Saunders as a Physics teacher, Ms Helen Frougas who replaces Ms Sue Bancroft for two terms in TAS, and Christine Georgas in the HSIE faculty.

**College Presentation Day**

One of the highlights of the year is our College Presentation Day held each February at the Sydney Town Hall. This is always a happy, joyous occasion when the whole College comes together to recognise student achievement in all three campuses. This year well over two thousand students, parents and staff joined a smattering of politicians, community members and education personnel to recognise and applaud student effort. One of the highlights for me was the Acknowledgement of Country delivered with such pride and confidence by two Blackwattle students, Maja Allam and Beau Syron. It is always a thrill when our HSC prize winners and Dux are announced but what I find equally exciting is to hear stories from students who are pleasantly surprised with their HSC results and to hear their plans for the future.

Congratulations to all students for their effort and achievement and my sincerest thanks to Relieving College Principal David Allen and to staff from all three campuses for a superb job in organising a wonderful event.

**Year 11 Parent Welcome**

It is always a pleasure to meet new Year 11 parents and to showcase our beautiful school at the Welcome to Parents evening hosted by the Blackwattle P&C. Recently, over a hundred parents gathered in the courtyard to meet and mingle with fellow parents and many of the executive and other staff from Blackwattle. It was particularly pleasing to hear very positive comments from parents about the new campus and how well their students were responding to increased expectations and responsibilities.

Parents are encouraged to contact Year Advisors Ms Rachael Alonso (surname A-F) Mr Matt Condon (surname G-M) or Ms Jess Hawken (surname N-Z) for assistance with any concerns or enquiries. Parents are also reminded to download the Skoolbag App for alerts and messages and to use the Parent Portal on the schools website for additional information.

Best wishes for a great school year.

Sharon Roberts

Principal

# *Society and Culture Awards*

Ms Bridget Cleaver receives a Certificate of Excellence from the Society and Culture Association. This certificate presented at an Awards Ceremony at the State Library is in recognition of Ms Cleaver's teaching and mentorship of her student Eva Sikes- Gerogiannis who was placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the State in Society and Culture.

Congratulations to Eva and to Ms Cleaver!





# SRC Valentine's Day Assembly

On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 a special whole school assembly was held by the School Representative Council (SRC) for Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day serenades to a number of students were delivered with great humour by our principal, Ms Roberts, and our librarian, Mr Pascoe and were greeted with laughter and enthusiastic applause from the large audience.

Thank you to the wonderful SRC members for their organisation and commitment to the event and also to Ms Ma and Ms Phair for assisting them.

Mr James Mansfield



## ***Drama at Blackwattle Bay 2018***

Drama is off to a good start this year with HSC Drama students working on their Individual Projects which consist of seventeen Performance Monologues, two Short Films, a Director's Folio and a Portfolio of Theatre Criticism. Family and friends of our students will have a chance to see these performances at the HSC Drama Night early in Term 3 on Thursday the 2nd of August.

We are delighted that two of our students, Lola Collingbourne and Felix Loveday, have auditioned for and have been accepted into the NSW Public Schools Drama Company and will perform in the Arts Unit's production of "*Yerma*" by Federico Garcia Lorca. The play will be performed at NIDA from the 20th to the 22nd of June.

We also have an enthusiastic group of students in Year 11 Drama who have started their studies in acting, improvisation and theatre styles. They will perform self-devised theatrical pieces at the Year 11 Drama Night which will be held on Wednesday the 4th of July.

These students will be attending theatre performances this year as part of the Drama excursions component of our program but we encourage all Drama students to attend the theatre regularly to be informed and hopefully inspired to create the best possible drama performances.

Leo Sorbello

# VISUAL ARTS CLASSES GET EXCITED ABOUT ART EXPRESS

Visual Arts students have viewed ARTEXPRESS at the Art Gallery of NSW. The Year 12 students have completed their first task, the beginnings of their body of work. We are looking forward to the HSC Visual Arts Exhibition later in Term 3, opening night 7 August. The Visual Arts Bodies of Work completion and hand-in date is Monday 3 September.



ARTEXPRESS is an annual exhibition of exemplary artworks created by students for the HSC in Visual Arts. The works represent a broad range of subject matter, approaches, styles and media including painting, photomedia, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, graphic design, documented forms, textiles and fibre, ceramics, time-based forms and collections of works.

ARTEXPRESS represents the high standards and diversity achieved by Year 12 Visual Arts students in New South Wales schools. View Art Express at the following venues.

## **Art Gallery of NSW**

26 January – 25 April

## **Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre**

17 February – 15 April

## **The Armory, Sydney Olympic Park**

13 March – 6 May

**Denise Nicola - Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts**



# Japan Exchange Program 2017-18

## Natasha Dalima

As many of the students here at Blackwattle Bay know Jonathan Skelton and I had the wonderful opportunity to go to Japan for three weeks through the LABO exchange program in December to January. I stayed in the Mie Prefecture, in the small city (of around 270 000 people) of Tsu, which is two hours from Nagoya. In the three weeks we met many people and experienced many things that are so different from Australia.

Once you get out of the airport one of the first things that really 'screams' Japan are the train lines. There are so many train lines, connecting all the cities together, as if the entire country is just one city. You really can't experience everything Japan has to offer in only three weeks.

My host family was extremely kind and tried to make my stay as comfortable as possible. As they are mainly an agricultural family, I saw more of the farming side of Japan.

It was really interesting, especially as a city kid, learning how to harvest broccoli and cabbage. But because of this, I didn't get to experience school life like the majority of the people who go to Japan on exchange.

For me, the best part of the trip was the Winter Camp which was held a week into the exchange. This camp is mainly tailored to children to experience Western culture and practise English.

I met many people there, including some New Zealand exchange students. The Japanese kids dance to English songs, sometimes translated into Japanese and learn to speak better English, while the International kids try to teach them English as well as improve their own Japanese. Much of the Japanese I learned was at this camp.

Of course, Jonathan and I did more than just improve our Japanese and learn about Japanese culture. However, you'll have to chat with us for more information, we can hardly put all of it down into words! It was an amazing experience and if anyone taking Japanese Beginners or Continuers is offered this same opportunity I would highly recommend it!





## Jonathon Skelton

During the summer holidays, I was fortunate enough to travel to Japan and experience Japanese life and culture through the LABO exchange program. For three weeks I stayed with a Japanese host family in Nagoya, immersing myself in family activities and school life while continuing to develop and practise my Japanese language skills. Although I have visited Japan before, this was the first time that I felt I was able to connect with the culture and people, developing friendships and creating memories that I will continue to treasure for a lifetime.



Every day I was amazed by the level of kindness and generosity that my host family showed toward me. Whether it be their persistent effort to interact with me and share unique cultural and linguistic insights, or their willingness to drive me all the way to Osaka to meet another Japanese friend of mine. Although at first the younger siblings seemed somewhat distant toward me, a stranger from a foreign country, as a result of playing games together one evening and always trying to interact with them using my Japanese, they quickly warmed to me, treating me like their older brother.

I truly admire my host brother, especially for his patience and persistent effort to introduce me to new and unexpected events, such as the time I had to figure out how to work my way halfway across Nagoya by myself to meet a friend of mine moments before the train departed! But I honestly could not have wished for a more generous and compassionate friend.

Another central aspect of the exchange program was Japanese School. For one week, I was given the opportunity to attend school and participate in afterschool club activities. Together we were a part of the track and field club, however I also had an opportunity to participate in the tea ceremony club. Although I could not understand most of what was being said during my classes, I enjoyed the daily interactions with the other students and their efforts to push me beyond the limits of my language proficiency and knowledge. A dull moment was never to be had around my new friends, even in moments of silence. My fondest memories are from the time I spent with others during club activities. The excitement and enthusiasm which they showed when we talked together and their continual encouragement for me to persevere right until the end was always appreciated. It was encouraging to see the level of dedication Japanese students have for their club activities, especially for anything involving sport. Students train religiously almost every day, including on weekends and during the holidays.



For 4 days during the second week, my host brother and I, together with numerous LABO students from across Japan, went to Nagano as part of the LABO Winter Snow Camp. While we were there we engaged in cultural exchange activities, such as dances and helping to teach English alongside other Australian exchange students.

Overall, by the end of the experience, I no longer felt as if I were a foreigner observing Japan and its culture from afar, but that I had integrated myself into Japanese society and could finally truly appreciate Japan and its people for who they truly are. I am very grateful for this experience and look forward to the next time I can meet everyone again. Without perseverance and constant effort to explore life beyond one's comfort zone, opportunities and experiences like this that arise, are only lost and left to wither if not explored. I highly recommend the LABO exchange program to anyone who is looking to immerse themselves in Japanese life and improve their language skills while developing everlasting bonds of friendship.



## Sport's Report

### NSWCHS Rowing Championships 26 February 2018.

Fantastic results from the 9 students we had competing in 2018.

Maxine Franz 2<sup>nd</sup> Championship Women's Single Scull.

Tal Lewis 2<sup>nd</sup> Championship Men's Single Scull.

Oscar Tierney, Cameron Ogilvie, Benedict Brenner, Tal Lewis, cox Lara Mendez 3<sup>rd</sup> Championship Men's Coxed Quad Scull.

Cameron Ogilvie, Benedict Brenner 3<sup>rd</sup> Championship Men's Pair.

Oliver Ryan, Cosmin Nitu, Cameron Ogilvie, Benedict Brenner cox Lara Mendez 3<sup>rd</sup> Championship Men's Coxed Four.

Oscar Tierney, Finn McKendry, Lee, Migdalias 2<sup>nd</sup> Men's Under 16 Coxed Quad Scull.

Congratulations on these great results.



### Bligh Zone Swimming Enfield Aquatic Centre 26 February 2018

Congratulations to Frances Smith who was both G17 Age Champion and the Female Swimmer of the Meet.

Congratulations also to Kim Shi B16 Age Champion and Finn Purcell B17 Age Champion.

Blackwattle was the champion school in both boys and girls 16-17 years senior division.

We had fantastic results with the following students placing first in their events:

Frances Smith G17 1<sup>st</sup> place in 200fs, 50 Breast, 100fs, 50fs, 50 back, 50 fly.

James Olson-Keating B16 1<sup>st</sup> place in 200fs, 50 breast.

Finn Purcell B17 1<sup>st</sup> place in 200fs, 100fs, 50fs, 50 back.

Kim Shi B16 1<sup>st</sup> place in 200fs, 50 breast, 50fs, 50 back, 50 fly.

Daniel Sun B17 1<sup>st</sup> place in 50 breast.

1<sup>st</sup> place in B Open Medley, B16 4 x 50fs, B17 4 x 50fs, G17 4 x 50fs.

1<sup>st</sup> place in both Boys and Girls 6 x 50 all age relay with swimmers from Sydney Secondary College.



Our 13 student officials did an outstanding job in difficult wet conditions and effectively worked as part of a team to enable this meet to function. Their efforts added significantly to the success of the meet.

### **Triathlon**

Congratulations to James Olson-Keating for placing 1<sup>st</sup> in Perth in a National Triathlon event held on Sunday 4 March. James is an outstanding young athlete who put the disappointment of the NSW All Schools Championships behind him. He has a very bright future in Triathlon.



### **Boys Stuff RUOK.... a mental health and wellbeing initiative**

Our Boys Stuff RUOK program has been running on Thursday mornings during period 1 this term. The program aims to build connections among our male students at Blackwattle campus and to support their mental health and wellbeing. It involves our students in a 10km bike ride around the harbour foreshore, providing an opportunity for them to engage in meaningful discussions with their peers. Students who would like to be involved in the program should email [peter.c.george@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:peter.c.george@det.nsw.edu.au).

**Peter George**

**PDHPE Faculty**





## ***Uniform Shop Opening Soon!***

Year 11 and 12 VET Retail students have been busy this term setting up the Blackwattle Recycled Uniform Shop. This initiative was inspired by our 2017 Year 12 students who decided to donate their good quality uniform items back to the school at the end of their HSC, for re-sale to current students who wish to purchase second hand uniform items to supplement their wardrobe. Retail students have been working on fitting out the shop this term and organising the donated stock. The grand opening will be held at the end of this term and students are encouraged to visit the shop to purchase any uniform items they require. The shop is located at the bottom of C block, near the TAS workshop and the VET Retail and Business Services classroom.

**Denise Haire**

## ENCORE 2018

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February Year 12 Music students had the opportunity to attend *Encore* at the Sydney Opera House. The event showcased the top HSC achievers in performance, composition and musicology from the Music 1, Music 2 and Extension Music courses from 2017. The event particularly highlighted to future students the calibre of performance, ensemble skills and composition required to achieve band 6 in the HSC. Blackwattle Bay was particularly proud of our 2017 HSC student Dylan Davidson who was showcased as a top achiever in the musicology component of Music 1 for his viva voce – *Examining the use of technology in creating tension and interest in modern metal music*. Well done Dylan!



### Honour list

#### Music 1 – Musicology

<b>James Burfitt</b>	Redfield College
<b>Ryan Connery</b>	Coffs Harbour Senior College
<b>Dylan Davidson</b>	Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay Campus
<b>Matthew Forbes</b>	Ardien Anglican School
<b>Alinta Furnell</b>	St Ursula's College
<b>Guy Gould</b>	Smiths Hill High School
<b>Sari Hamblin</b>	Quirindi High School
<b>Lachlan Hamilton</b>	Hastings Secondary College, Westport Campus
<b>Emily Jones</b>	Billabong High School
<b>Herwar Khoshnow</b>	Richard Johnson Anglican School
<b>Leanne Kwok</b>	Marist Sisters' College Woolwich
<b>Phoebe Marcheff</b>	Singleton High School
<b>Elliot Marshall</b>	Oakhill College Castle Hill
<b>Emma Moss</b>	Kildare Catholic College
<b>David Normoyle</b>	Trinity Catholic College Lismore
<b>Jack North</b>	Cranbrook School
<b>Chaylee Reeve</b>	Barker College
<b>Philippa Rich</b>	Loreto Normanhurst
<b>Nicholas Stillone</b>	St Ignatius' College
<b>Vivian Tran</b>	Freeman Catholic College
<b>Joshua Virgona</b>	Campbelltown Performing Arts High School
<b>Holly Watling</b>	Blacktown Girls High School
<b>Joseph Wilson</b>	Trinity Catholic College Lismore

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Guitarist Lola & Cellist Lilli enjoying the performances



# *Year 11 Entertainment turned movie stars*

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March Year 11 VET Entertainment students had the opportunity to engage with industry by visiting Fox Studios screen stages to be part of the TV audience for the Channel 9 show *This Time Next Year*. Students got to see how vision, light and sound equipment is used to film television and engage with producers, crowd ‘hype’ men, presenters, camera men and even Karl Stefanovic! They were also lucky enough to be given a “behind the scenes” tour of the studios and see the complex technology used to produce the show. The program is expected to air to Channel 9 next year so watch for our smiling faces 😊



## RISKY BUSINESS...

This term Year 11 Entertainment and Construction students undertook their construction white card training to allow them access to work sites for future work placements and jobs... Any risks? They know how to spot, assess and manage them for a safe work place. The team of students is to be commended on their achievement of the card, well done.



### **Year 11 Entertainment in their Personal Protective Equipment.**

#### **Music News**

In 2018 we have been lucky enough to have some fresh new faces in the Music faculty.

Meet the team...

#### **Gabrielle Hiu – Music 2 & Music Extension**

Gabrielle is an accomplished classical and contemporary pianist. She also has a background in musicology, an area of interest that she was able to further pursue at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Her musicological expertise will be of great benefit to our Preliminary and HSC Music 2 students.



**Jessica Thompson – Music 1 & VET Entertainment**

Jess' particular expertise lies in contemporary and jazz voice. In 2010 she got the opportunity to study voice and teaching at the University of New South Wales. In her spare time, Jess is the lead singer of a Sydney based soul band and conducts the Australian Youth Choir. Her passion lies in developing student confidence in performance.

**Upcoming Performance Evenings...**

In Term 2 we look forward to showcasing the talent of our Music students at our performance evenings. Look out for these dates:

**Term 2**

- **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 12 Music 1
- **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 11 & 12 Music 2
- **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** – Year 11 Music 1