



BLACKWATTLE BAY CAMPUS

Bay Side

September 2018 Issue

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Upcoming Events

Friday, 28 th September 5.00pm-7.00pm	Year 12 Graduation – Sydney Town Hall
Monday, 15 th October	Day 1 Year 12 Learning Conference
Tuesday, 16 th October	Day 2 Year 12 Learning Conference
Monday, 22 nd October	Bligh Zone Touch Gala Day
Wednesday, 24 th October 10.30am 2.00pm	Aboriginal Student Transition Music 1 & 2 Composition Workshop

Principal's Report

Farewell Year 12, We Will Miss You!

Year 11 students bid farewell to Year 12 students at a joyous assembly held recently in our school hall. This was a significant occasion for both year groups, for Year 12 it was their last formal assembly before graduation and for Year 11 it signified their transition into Year 12 after the holidays.

Year 12 students have made their mark in so many ways, it has been lovely to watch them grow and mature over the short time they spend with us at the Senior Campus. They have organised and led initiatives like *Wear It Purple Day*, *Write a Book in A Day*, the *Winter Sleep Out for the Homeless* and many more. They have contributed to our College band programs, sporting challenges, debating and public speaking competitions both at Blackwattle and at the Junior Campuses and have generally been inspiring role models for the Year 11 cohort.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing student leaders, Davy Chung, Minna Kilpelainen, Zofia Francis and Liam Bourke for representing the school so well and being great role models to our students. I would like to congratulate our newly elected leaders, Maddie Fox, Simon Peyrachon, Dylan Godwin and Lia Perkins, I am certain they will do a wonderful job in their new roles. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Year 12 Year Advisors, Narelle Daniels and Shane Pascoe who have supported our students so well in all their endeavours.

HSC Excellence

A couple of weeks ago we received some exciting news regarding HSC Drama performances. Oscar Bernauer, Lola Collingbourne and Felix Lovedays' Group Performance "Control" has been selected by HSC markers from the NSW Educational

Standards Authority for possible inclusion in On Stage, a showcase of exemplary Drama performances. Oscar Bernauer's monologue from *Equus* was also selected for possible inclusion. This is a wonderful achievement



for our students and their teacher Mr Leo Sorbello. It was with great pride that I attended a recent Vocational Education function to cheer on Year 12 student Ryan Gandiaga who was awarded an Excellence Certificate for work placement. Ryan completed two work placements this year, one of which was at the prestigious Rockpool Restaurant. Ryan has decided to continue with his TAFE course in Hospitality and we wish him every success in the future.

Deadly Kids Awards

One of the highlights of my year is attending the annual Deadly Kids Award held in the Great Hall at the University of Technology. Beau Syron in Year 12 was nominated by his teachers and it was lovely to see him receive his award in front of very proud parents, teachers, school principals and education executives. This year's ceremony was tinged with sadness as we remembered the truly wonderful work of Aunty Fay Carroll, who sadly passed away a few weeks ago. Aunty Fay was an "institution" in our community. In her role as Aboriginal Education Advisor, she mentored and supported countless numbers of Aboriginal children initially at Glebe High School and later in the College. She was a sought-after speaker and presenter at numerous official ceremonies including Blackwattle Graduation, NAIDOC celebrations and at College Presentation Day. Aunty Fay was a much-loved friend to many of our staff and an inspiration to me personally. Her smile, warmth, sense of humour and tremendous work ethic will be missed by all.

School Validation

Recently our school underwent the Department's External Validation process which is mandatory for all Government schools. This involved a school team making judgements about our school's performance on a range of measures and collecting and submitting evidence to a pair of external validators to verify our claims. This involved a considerable commitment of time and the goodwill of three wonderful staff members; Chantelle Phair (Deputy Principal) who led the team, Kerry Foulkes (H/T English) and Barbara Calder (H/T Special Education). It was very gratifying that the external validators agreed with our analysis that Blackwattle is performing exceptionally well in many areas including our academic results, personalised approach to learning, the comprehensive feedback we provide for students, the staff's commitment to professional learning and the attention we pay to student voice and student wellbeing. The panel complimented the team on the detailed nature of our evidence and the clarity of its presentation. A great result, we should be proud!

Action Plan to Improve Attendance

Student absences and student lateness to class particularly in the morning continues to be a major concern to our staff. Regular attendance and punctuality to school is essential if students are to achieve the best possible outcomes in the HSC. With this in mind, we have reviewed our attendance procedures to provide a more consistent approach to improving attendance across the school. From next term student attendance data will be scrutinised weekly and students placed in three Attendance Zones; Green, Amber and Red. Classroom teachers will monitor the Green Zone (students with attendance of over 85%) and will have conversations with students who miss a class or are absent for consecutive days without a parent/carer explanation.

Students with attendance of less than 85% will move to the Amber Zone. This group will be supported by the Head Teacher Wellbeing and the two Deputy Principals who will inform parents and place students on attendance monitoring cards. Students with an attendance of less than 75% will be identified as Red Zone students and will be supported initially by the Deputy Principals and in some cases by the Principal. Parent and student meetings will be organised to discuss further improvement strategies. Students will receive detailed explanations of this system in the Learning Conference next term.

A Sad Goodbye

Many of you know that I will be taking up a new appointment as Principal of Newtown High School of the Performing Arts next term. I have had the privilege of being the Principal of Blackwattle Bay Campus for the last six years during a time of unprecedented educational reform and change. Being a Principal has been the most rewarding and at times challenging job I have done. I have been incredibly fortunate to work with a wonderful staff, and very supportive parents. As for the students, I cannot speak highly enough of their talents; they are warm, funny, creative, smart and confident young adults. It has been a joy to get to know them and to have been part of their educational journey.

Unfortunately, I am not able to thank everyone who has supported me in my time at Blackwattle and in the College. I would, however, like to pay tribute to my two wonderful Deputy Principals, Jan Cuke and Chantelle Phair for their unstinting support and wisdom, also to our Administration Manager Susanne Love for her calm, steady guidance and delightful sense of humour and finally to Judy Kelly who has been the most wonderful colleague, mentor and friend to me over the years. Goodbye Blackwattle!

Message from Year 11 Deputy

Year 12 2019 Learning Conference

Since 2008 Blackwattle Bay Campus has coordinated a learning conference at the start of the Year 12 academic year. This year the conference will be held over two days, starting on 15 October. The transition between Year 11 and 12 is the final and most important transition point for students across NSW. The P and C and the school provide some funding for this event and the Students Ambassadors research and evaluate previous conferences as well as surveying present students to ensure student voice is represented in the conference.

This year's conference focus is titled "NOT AROUND THE TWIST". Our students went back to their childhoods to decide on the song and theme for the conference. Teachers are a very important part of the conference as they plan and deliver many of the sessions guided by student demand. This year students will participate in sessions on Study Skills, research, avoiding plagiarism and writing for success in the HSC. There are also sessions to cater for them in the future including managing and planning income and wealth, interview techniques and writing a cv. Well-being sessions include baking chocolate brownies and some competitive but fun physical activities which will complement the two-day conference. Students will receive a conference package including many helpful resources for the HSC and exams. Lunch will be provided on Day 1.

A special thanks to the members of the organising committee for the many hours they spent on developing such a great program for all students. Students must attend school on Monday 15 October by 8.30am to collect their conference packages and complete registration. A big thank you to our teachers who have willingly agreed to plan and deliver sessions.

A Year 12 Parents Information session has been organised for Monday 29 October at 6pm. Useful information about the HSC will be provided as well as a presentation by the University Admissions Centre. This an important meeting to attend with your sons and daughters to further your understanding of the HSC and the calculation of the ATAR.

Jan Cuke – Year 11 Deputy Principal

SRC Winter Sleepout

The Winter Sleepout is an event which aims to raise awareness of homelessness in Australia. On any given night in Australia 25,827 people under the age of 19 years are homeless. Within this group 15,827 are under the age of 12 years. To help raise funds to fight the issue of teen homelessness and support those in need, the SRC organised a winter sleepout on one of the coldest nights of the month in the school library.

The Year 11 students demonstrated excellent collaborative skills as they worked as a team to prepare dinner for over 40 people. The pasta which they cooked was well received by our Year 12 students and the teachers who attended this event. As bedtime drew near students and teachers found their area of residence in the library. To immerse themselves in the full experience of being homeless a few students toughed it out on the floor. It is safe to say, that after this event, many participants have found a new sense of appreciation for their own beds and have developed a greater empathy for people who are homeless.



Thank you to all the students who participated in the sleepout and Ms Ma for her assistance in organising the event. A special thanks goes to Ms Phair, Ms Hawkens and Ms Hill for giving their time to participate and to Ms Georges, Ms Cuke and Mr Condon for making appearances and showing their support. Ms Dunn was also very generous, raising the spirits of our students by providing them with ice cream!

Mr Eric Wong - SRC Co-coordinator, Teacher Science Faculty.

New School Leaders for 2019

Blackwattle Bay Campus is pleased to announce its new school leaders for 2019. They are Maddie Fox, Dylan Godwin, Lia Perkins and Simon Peyrachon.



Our new 2019 School Leaders.

Girl's Netball Champions!



Angela Hatumale, Samantha Iglesias, Taylor Seery, Melisa Unat, Drew Grant, Jacinta Fletcher, Minna Kilpelainen, Akanisi Loga-Tarogi, Pearl McCarthy.

In 2018 our girls qualified to play in the final 8 series of the NSWCHS Girls Netball competition at Menai on 30 July for the first time. This was a fantastic effort and reflects the talent that these girls have in netball.

After defeats to Woollooware and Kirrawee they defeated Lucas Heights to place 7th in the Sydney East School Sport Association.

Our Year 11 Girls also participated in the Bligh Zone Netball Gala Day where they play against the 8 schools in the inner city. The team of Angela Hatumale, Sam Iglesias, Taylor Seery, Melisa Unat, Drew Grant, Charlotte Crouch and Kiarra Croke won all their games and defeated Strathfield Girls in the final. Bligh Zone Gala Champions!! Well done!

NSWCHS Athletics 5 6 7 September SOPAC Homebush

Congratulations to James Olson Keating Gold medal B16 1500m in time of 4:15.50 and Spyridon Korras 9th in B17+ Shot Put 5kg event. Well done to James and Spyridon.

Excursion to The Blue Mountains

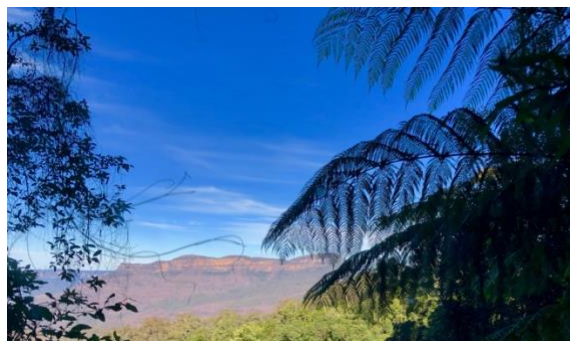
This term students and teachers at Blackwattle Bay Campus had the fantastic opportunity to host a group of exchange student from Japan.

Our ambassadors assisted the students on their day trip to the Blue Mountains, exploring the national park, and its attractions including the Three Sisters, the Scenic Cableway and the world's steepest railway. The group was comprised of 30 students in total, and included our school ambassadors, Japanese exchange students and their Blackwattle buddies, our international students and four teachers. This was a great opportunity for the ambassadors to represent our school and introduce the students from Japan to the vibrant bushland in the Blue Mountains region.

One of the highlights of the trip was the group preparation, involving all participants, of an "Australian-style" lunch. At lunch we also learnt about of the Aboriginal history of the Three Sisters.

Our day culminated with an adventure through the suburb of Leura Mountains during which we were treated to many spectacular sights.

Dylan Godwin – Student, Blackwattle Bay Campus.



Sydney Secondary College Instrumental Music Program

The last few weeks have been exceptionally busy and rewarding for our IMP ensembles.

Starting with Week 7, all Year 7 (and some Year 8) students participated in the Primarily Fun music workshops with over 120 primary musicians from our local primary schools. The ensembles from these days (Band, Strings & Percussion Ensemble) then joined our ten regular ensembles to perform at Music in The Park on Saturday September 8th. It was an excellent day of quality music, complete with a BBQ, coffee, cake, gelato, raffle, prizes and more. Well done to all involved!

As if that wasn't enough for one weekend, our Intermediate Big Band and Jazz Orchestra also performed at the Leichhardt Public School Fete on the Sunday. Phew!



Week 8 was also a busy one, with HSC music performances on Tuesday and Friday. Chamber Orchestra (our senior string group) supported Year 12 IMP cellist Lilli Taranto for her HSC performance on Tuesday, and Jazz Orchestra (our senior jazz group) supported Year 12 saxophonist Benji Kelso for his HSC performance on Friday. Well done to Lilli and Benji, we wish you the best in your future music making!

Week 9 will see our Year 7 and 8 string players perform at Balmain campus as part of the Peninsula Engagement Program, and Week 10 will see our Wind Orchestra perform at the Year 12 Graduation ceremony at Sydney Town Hall. To cap it all off, Jazz Orchestra will also be performing at Manly Jazz Festival the very next day. What an excellent term it's been!

For more information on the SSC IMP, please visit www.sscimp.com



Farewell from the School Leaders 2018

Wow. What a busy year we've had so far. There have been so many fun filled events that students from our school have participated in, as well as organizing the events themselves. Ambassadors have been working hard to promote the school by helping to set up many of the school's major events throughout the year, ensuring that our school has maintained a great profile within the local community.

We also held our signature school event, "Splendour at the Bay", during which we were given a day off to relax and release some school stress. There were activities that everyone could participate in such as the "Colour Run" (during which we took so many aesthetic photos), "Bubble Soccer", "Have-A-Rant" (which consisted of many, many hilarious rants from students), the photo booth (which captured the sweet, sweet times our fellow students had on the day). We also had a sausage sizzle provided by the teachers and a gelato stall that made everyone's day just that little bit cooler. Our favourite events were the Year 12 v Year 11 Tug of War (which we obviously won, sorry Year 11's), and the Student Leader's v Teachers Bubble Soccer Match.

Congratulations to Jacinta who scored a goal a few seconds the whistle blew for the start of the round, & Liam for bumping Ms Alonso outside of the field (hope you're okay Ms).

We've also officially opened up our uniform shop where pre-owned uniforms will be available for purchase. This shop will be run by the VET Retail students. We can't wait to see people visiting the shop soon! Isobel Barry, a school leader from 2017 came up with this idea. She came up all the way from Melbourne to officially cut the ribbon and open this store. Thank you to Oscar Donlevy for performing music during the morning tea. Thank you also to VET Hospitality students, retail classes and the P&C for making this happen.

Our musically talented friends recently went off to Pioneer's Memorial Park for Music in the Park. It proved to be a massive success despite the weather. Our eight dedicated Year 12 students who have contributed for the past 6 years to the college, finally graduated from the Instrumental Music Program.

Zofia and Minna, two of our school leaders were lucky enough to attend the state parliament house for a leadership program for International Women's Day. They were joined by representatives from high schools across NSW to learn from some of the leading women in our state and country.

They listened to an inspirational speech from Aminata Conteh-Biger, who founded her own not-for-profit organisation, helping and education women in Sierra Leone in childbirth and maternal issues, saving countless lives. They were also allowed to sit in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Chamber where they could observe the way that the Parliament of NSW functions.

Enough about our Year 12's, Year 11 Ambassador members were responsible for organising and carrying out the "Day at Blackwattle" program for Year 10 students from both Leichhardt and Balmain campuses. They all did a great job guiding and touring the students around the Year 10's future school. Proud of you guys!

Since this is our last opportunity to write for the newsletter, we would like to thank the school for giving us these opportunities to represent the school to the community and publishing Minna and Davy's faces all around Sydney (oh, and Zofia's binder). We'd most of all like to thank the teachers of Blackwattle Bay for taking care of us and teaching us how to be responsible, amazing adults for the next generation. But for now, we've got to get back to studying for our HSC (we're almost done!!). Good Luck to our future school leaders. Until next time.

The BWB School Leaders



"Passing of the baton" Year 12 school leaders hand over to our new school leaders for 2019.

News from the Visual Arts Faculty

What a great term it's been to get creative, take risks with drawing techniques and still follow through a process. In small groups our Year 11 Visual Arts students collaborated to make large scale ink drawings using all types of objects including truck toys, feathers, branches and jewellery.

These very large tapestries of drawings were then reassembled into a sequence of images selected by the group. This was followed by the group making selections of various areas of the drawing upon which students drew first with their dominant then their non- dominant hand. The resulting images were used as the beginning of prototypes for sculptures.

This was a very enjoyable experience which freed our students to reimagine possibilities with accidental shapes made into intentional objects.

Marissa Zaknich - Teacher Visual Arts and Photography, CAPA Faculty



Experimental drawings by Year 11 Visual Arts students.

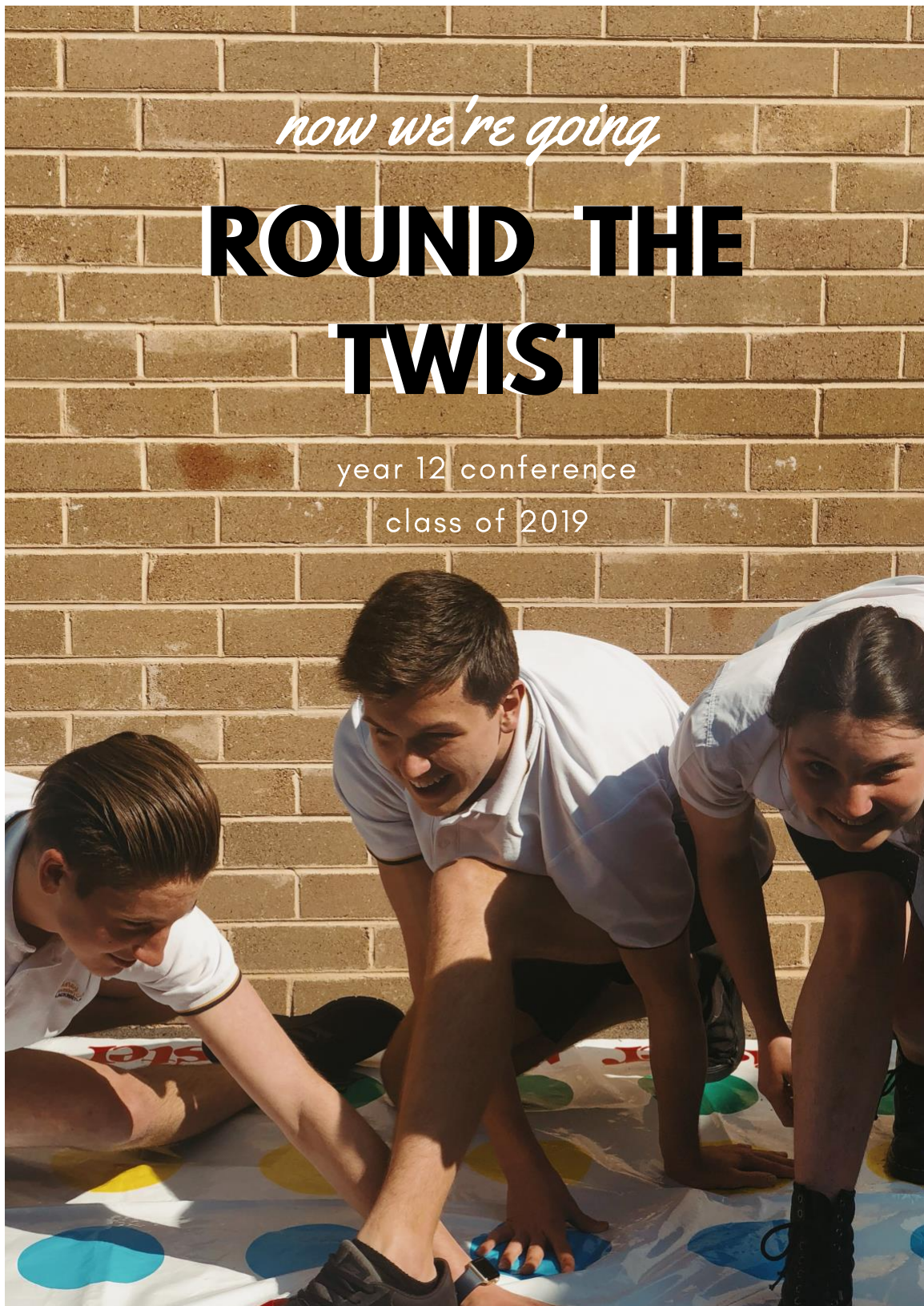


Our Blue Mountains Adventure



During Term 2 in Week 5 our International students, along with students visiting from Japan and our student ambassadors, were involved in an excursion to the Blue Mountains to explore the landforms of this unique environment, such as the Three Sisters, and to learn about the area's history from Indigenous rangers. The day started with Karaoke on the bus from school to the Blue Mountains. Following the lead of Mr Santoro, International Students, our Japanese student visitors and our school ambassadors had fun singing pop songs in multiple languages. The songs kept the students awake and energetic all the way to the mountains. Students were able to experience both the Scenic Railway and Scenic Cableway. After taking millions of photos they then enjoyed a bushwalk in beautiful sunny weather. Although we had to be divided into two teams at some stages during the excursion, students made use of the waiting periods using them to taste Australian honey and eucalyptus lollies. Students were treated to a self-serve lunch at Echo Point and also worked in an organised assembly line to produce different types of bread rolls which were delicious. At Leura Village our students had a chance to explore the town and its signature ice-cream. The day, of course, concluded with more Karaoke on the way back to Blackwattle Bay campus. Student visitors and our International students also swapped emails so they can stay in contact with each other in the future.

**International Student Coordinator Ms Chang Liu,
Teacher LOTE Faculty.**



Year 12 Major Works Wood

