



BLACKWATTLE BAY CAMPUS

Bay Side

June 2018 Issue

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Upcoming Events

28 June	Subject Information Night
2 July	Year 11 Parent Teacher Interviews
4 July	Drama Night 6.30pm
26 July	Year 11 Vaccinations
27 July	Write a Book in a Day
30-31 July	Music 1 Performances – All Day
2 August	HSC Drama Performance 6.30pm
7 August	HSC Art Exhibition

Principal's Report

Relieving Principal – Jan Cuke

Term 2 has been an extremely busy time both academically and in the many events we have hosted at Blackwattle Bay Campus. We started the term by welcoming home our 35 students and 4 teachers who travelled through Germany, Italy and France. The highlight for most of the travellers was our attendance at the 100th anniversary of the battle at Villers Bretonoux. It was a most moving ceremony and one we feel honoured to have been able to attend. We were able to host our own Anzac Ceremony and share our experiences of our attendance at the major event in France. Thank you to the parents for supporting this worthwhile tour to Europe and to the three teachers I travelled with for their amazing coordination of the tour.

We have also enjoyed a wonderful Music Performance Season of our Year 11 and 12 Music 1 and Music 2 classes. These events provide students with a great experience leading up to their Major Performances in Term 3.

All students in Year 12 and 11 have received Progress Reviews and Reports from Semester 1 and it is important to listen to and act on the feedback received on paper and in the conversations with parents and teachers. Year 12 students will soon receive their HSC Trial examination timetables and are advised to start developing study timetables for the Term 2 holiday time as well as for the first few weeks of Term 3.

In Week 6 many of our senior students attended the College IMP Camp and it was a pleasure to observe them take on the leadership role of this program both in the sense of coordinating the activities for the 7 to 10 students as well as being outstanding role models.

They have given great service to this program and we are very proud of all the students for continuing in the IMP in the final two years.

Splendour@ the Bay was again another opportunity for our students to relax, unwind and have a fantastic day with their teachers and friends. It is important for our well-being to enjoy a day involved in fun activities and some good physical activity.

The college will soon launch our new website and it will be much easier for all parents and students to navigate. The three campuses will be linked and this will be very useful for parents with sons and daughters in more than one campus.

We have a major event coming up in week 9 where we welcome Year 10 and their parents to our campus. Subject Information Night is an information session for the new cohort of Year 11 students. It will be a very busy night and many students will be involved in classes and guiding parents and students around our campus.

It is with great pleasure we welcome Jessica Hawken as a permanent member of the HSIE faculty.

Thank you again to our P and C for filling the positions on selection panels in recent times.

Mock Trials

The HSIE Department, in conjunction with the Law Society of NSW, has graciously organised for Year 11 students to participate in a Mock Trial Competition which is held Sydney wide. The competition gives students the opportunity to enhance and deepen their understanding of the NSW judicial system and provides them with practical experience regarding the running of a court case in a true-to-life adversarial setting. The students learn skills such as advocacy, debating and problem-solving.

The year 11 Mock Trial team of Blackwattle Bay recently participated in its first competition round in which they defeated the team from International Grammar School, followed by an extremely narrow defeat to the team from SCEGGS. Team members are now looking forward to their next trial in which they will compete against students from Newtown High School of the Performing Arts which will be held in the next few weeks.

Erin Lechner Mckenzie-Craig



Back row L to R: Kevin, Izel, Charlotte, Gabriel.

Front row L to R: Amelia, Erin.

FORMER STUDENT RECOGNISED – ZARNI TUN

No mountain too high for Zarni!

Congratulations to former student Zarni Tun on being awarded a Public Education Pathways scholarship. Zarni attended Sydney Secondary College and graduated from Blackwattle Bay Campus in 2017.



Zarni Tun with the Minister for Education. Rob Stokes. at the Public Education Foundation Awards.

Former Sydney Secondary College student Zarni Tun was one of more than 230 NSW students to receive a scholarship from the Public Education Foundation.

More than 230 NSW students on Monday received scholarships valued at \$600,000 from the Public Education Foundation to help them reach their potential and expand learning and professional pathways.

Zarni Tun walks with crutches and uses a wheelchair, but that hasn't stopped him climbing Mount Kosciuszko, excelling as a rower and starting an environmental science degree at university.

On Monday Zarni received a university scholarship from the Walter and Eliza Trust at the Proudly Public! Celebrating Excellence in Public Schools awards night at Sydney Town Hall.

He will use his scholarship to buy a new laptop to further his interest in music and photography and fund field trips and textbooks.

Zarni's cerebral palsy affects his legs and upper body "but I like to be as independent as possible", he said. Climbing 9 km up Mount Kosciusko on crutches last year has been one of his biggest challenges, but he made it and raised \$11,000 for the Cerebral Palsy Alliance.

"I just pushed myself. I said to myself: 'You can do this'," he said.

"When I reached the peak I was exhausted and sore but it was an amazing and beautiful achievement to share with other people with cerebral palsy. "I was glad to have the wheelchair to get back down, though."

Zarni completed high school at Sydney Secondary College, Blackwattle Bay campus, which he credits with giving him the inspiration and encouragement to succeed in education. "The school really evened the playing field. They said 'just ask for help' but they treated me like everyone else and knowing that really encouraged me to study."

Education Minister Rob Stokes, who awarded the scholarships, said Zarni was a role model for other high achievers to follow. "There is no stopping this young man from reaching whatever goal in life he sets himself." Mr Stokes said. "He is a genuine inspiration."

Now at the University of Technology, Sydney, in the first year of an environmental science degree, Zarni hopes to work in developing countries. "I've travelled with my parents [mother from Thailand and father from Myanmar] and it's really opened up my eyes about how important education is in developing countries and how lucky I've been to get such a good education," he said. "I just want to give back to the community."

The Secretary of the Department of Education, Mark Scott, said the Public Education Foundation scholarships provided financial assistance to the recipients and acknowledged their dedication and commitment to the public education system. "These scholarships are about recognising and rewarding student excellence to encourage high-achieving students to continue to maximise their potential," Mr Scott said. "At the same time, the scholarships aim to remove those barriers to achievement created by social and economic disadvantage."

The Public Education Foundation is a charity dedicated to enhancing the value and reputation of public education by providing life-changing scholarships to its students, teachers and principals.

The awards night was sponsored by the NSW Teachers Federation, the NSW Department of Education, Teachers Health, First State Super, and the Teachers Mutual Bank. Support is also provided by the Harding Miller Education Foundation, City of Sydney, Australian Council of State School Organisations, the NSW Secondary Principals Council, the NSW Primary Principals Association and the NSW P&C Federation.

Well-being at the Bay

Term 2 2018

Term 1 was very busy and successful time for the Wellbeing Team at SSC Blackwattle Bay. Team members are currently developing and reinvigorating numerous wellbeing initiatives to support our students through the busy HSC process.

Students still attend mentoring (year meetings) on a weekly basis. These sessions have a strong focus on both wellbeing and study skills. There are now online Edmodo year groups and all of the support resources are available to all students at all times.

We finished the term with the mandatory Crossroads Program which is designed to support students in making healthy and safe choices as they transition to adulthood. This included small group sessions delivered by teachers about wellbeing and safety. We also had two fantastic external speakers address the group. Senior Constable Darren Cairns Police Liaison gave a presentation about online safety when using social media. Paul Dillon from DARTA gave a presentation about challenging issues around drug and alcohol use among adolescents. Paul has over thirty years' experience in his field. The response from students to both sessions was overwhelmingly positive.

Paul Dillon also has an extensive website which includes a blog for parents and for students. He answers many essential questions about drug and alcohol use and provides the latest information around drug and alcohol safety. Please use the link below if you would like to explore it.

<http://darta.net.au/blogs/>



Term 2 New initiatives.

We are very excited to welcome Youth Frontiers and Raise Mentoring to Blackwattle Bay. Raise Mentoring is a small group mentoring program we are offering to select Year 11 students during Terms 2 and 3. This is the first time we have offered this style of mentoring and hope to be able to offer this on a regular basis going forward.

We are currently devising a new drop-in space for students who wish to connect with a teacher before school for general study advice or wellbeing support. Many staff members have generously offered their time to support our Year 12 students as they move into the busy examination period. Times and location will be advertised when they are finalised.

Well-being tip

Numerous studies have found that students require significant amounts of deep REM sleep to retain the information they are studying.

8 ½ to 9 ½ hours is the optimal amount.

To encourage sleep:

- Dim the lights.
- Implement a sleep routine with a set time to put away devices and go to bed.
- Cool down.
- Minimise anxiety.
- Avoid stimulants (particularly later in the day).
- Use a digital clock (NOT your mobile phone) to wake up.
- Drink herbal teas or drinks that induce sleepiness.
- Charge all devices outside of the bedroom.

Rachael Hill – Head Teacher Wellbeing

News from the Special Education Faculty

Students from our Special Education Unit Year 12 HSIE classes recently enjoyed an excursion to Government House, Sydney. The excursion was organised as a practical component of a module on Citizenship and Legal Studies as part of the Stage 6 HSIE Life Skills course.

In class students have been learning about the history, structure and function of our system of government and law in Australia. Our excursion included a guided tour of Government House, Sydney, during which we learnt about the role of the Governor of New South Wales, viewed paintings of past governors, explored the impressive formal dining room and drawing rooms and discussed the symbolism of the decorative ceilings. Students even had the opportunity to dress up in colonial attire for a photo shoot in the beautiful gardens surrounding the historic building.

We enjoyed lunch at the Botanical Gardens café before walking through the city to board a bus to Glebe Point Road.

This excursion was a valuable and enriching experience which made history “come alive” for our students and which has inspired them to learn more about our Australian government and legal system both in class and in the field.

Maria FitzPatrick –Teacher Special Education Faculty





Sydney Secondary College

Instrumental Music Program

On Saturday May 5th, our IMP Chamber Orchestra spent the afternoon rehearsing and collaborating with Symphonia Jubilate in preparation for their combined performance at the Festival of Instrumental Music in May and June.

The IMP Chamber Orchestra is the most senior of the three strings based ensembles in the IMP and is made up of students from all three campuses of our college. Symphonia Jubilate is a regional orchestra based in Strathfield which provides extension musical opportunities for young musicians in Sydney's inner west. These two groups have been invited to perform as a featured ensemble at this year's Festival of Instrumental Music, hosted by the Department of Education at the Sydney Opera House.



This is a huge honour for both groups and we wish them the best of luck for their performances at this festival in May and June.

As if that wasn't enough, the next day (Sunday May 6th) our IMP Wind Orchestra was invited to participate in the Sydney Conservatorium Band Invitational at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, one of Australia's finest and most prestigious music institutions.



Together with three other high-performing Sydney school bands, our Wind Orchestra had an incredibly rich and insightful day of musical workshops with Sydney Conservatorium staff, performances by the Sydney Con Wind Symphony and NSW Police Band, culminating in an evening performance in the stunning Verbrugghen Hall. It was definitely a busy but rewarding weekend of music-making for the most senior students in our Sydney Secondary College Instrumental Music Program.

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

EUROPE 2018 was “harrowing, impressive, exciting confronting, indulgent, breathtaking, remarkable and memorable”

Our trip to Europe trip gave us the opportunity to experience many different aspects of history across various exciting destinations. Germany, our first location, allowed us to explore the history of WWI and WWII which is an essential component of parts of the modern history course. We visited the Reichstag dome and many museums dedicated to preserving the history of the world wars such as the Topography of Terror Museum which was particularly memorable. Perhaps the most harrowing location was our visit to the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp which brought realism to a history with which we are familiar. There was also much evidence of post-war history which is studied in the English Extension course. It was very interesting to see the Berlin Wall and Checkpoint Charlie as they were real locations of an important post-war event. Lastly, we visited the Pergamon Museum, which houses some of the great artefacts and structures of ancient history, for example, the Ishtar gate of Babylon, which was very impressive.

In Florence, we were exposed to a lot of the history surrounding Niccolo Machiavelli, a famous historical figure whom we studied in English Advanced. The grand monuments like the Duomo and the masses of art commissioned during the renaissance period by powerful families such as the Medicis was impressive as it put Machiavelli's work into context. It was particularly memorable seeing his statue in the Accademia Gallery.



In France we had the opportunity to focus on Anzac history particularly during WWI as we travelled from Paris to Albert and Villers Brettoneux in northern rural France to attend the dawn service.

We learnt about the successful, yet tragic story of Villers Brettoneux, both at the service and in the town itself. This was a very interesting experience as people who live in the town still share an incredibly strong connection with Australia. These were just some of the highlights.



As art students, we were very excited to experience the trip to Europe as most of the pioneers of major art movements emerged from Italy and France. It was exciting that some of the works we got the opportunity to view were familiar, as we have been studying them over the last two years in Visual Arts classes.

In Berlin, we had the opportunity to experience contemporary styles of art influenced by historical events such as the Cold War and the Holocaust. We visited the Jewish Memorial Site, a confronting but valuable experience that entailed walking through concrete structures, with each pillar symbolising the Jewish lives lost in WWII. In the Jewish Museum, we discovered how emerging artists use new mediums to convey the disturbing themes of the Holocaust, with the installation of ten thousand steel cut faces representing the nameless Jews murdered without a voice.

In Florence, we entered the heart of Renaissance history and traditional art forms in the Galleries as well as in piazzas around the city complete with marble statues and breathtaking architecture. In the Uffizi Gallery we saw famous artworks by Botticelli, Caravaggio and Rembrandt.



As art students we appreciated and were impressed by both the beauty and size of these original works. Afterwards we were lucky enough to attend an art class at Accademia D'Arte de Firenze, which involved recreating medieval works of art. In the Academia we saw Michelangelo's remarkable Statue of David, a symbol for beauty and excellence from the Italian Renaissance.



In the unique city of Venice, we visited the remarkable Peggy Guggenheim Museum located in Peggy's former home, the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni. The museum houses artworks from leading figures, both European and American, in art movements from the 20th century. The mobile and sculptural works of Alexander Calder as well as iconic works from Picasso, Dali, Pollock and Duchamp were highlights of our visit.



On our first day in Paris, we visited one of the largest collections of modern art in the world, exhibited in the Pompidou Museum. The collections in the museum include a large range of artworks from 20th century art movements such as Cubism, Expressionism, Fauvism, Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism. On the top floor of the Pompidou Centre we also experienced an excellent view of the skyline of the city of Paris. We also visited the Musee d'Orangerie which holds breathtaking works by Claude Monet as well as an amazing collection of works from key figures in the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist movements.



On our way to the ANZAC Ceremony, we stopped at Monet's garden. Viewing the vast, beautiful garden was a wonderful experience which brought to the life the inspiration for many of his famous works. The Musee d'Orsay gave us another opportunity to appreciate iconic Impressionist and Post-Impressionist artworks including masterpieces by Monet, Renoir, Manet, Morisot, Pissaro, Cézanne and Van Gogh, among many others. The last museum we visited was the world-renowned Louvre, home to 380,000 objects and displays and 35,000 works of art including sculptures, paintings, drawings and archaeological finds and the notorious Mona Lisa.

Rose Copping and Chloe Hyde Year 12 Visual Arts, Thomas Tapia Year 12 History.



ANZAC Day Speech – Thomas Tapia

I was part of the Europe trip in the holidays and we travelled to Albert in Northern France, so we could attend the Anzac Day dawn service at Villers-Bretonneux.

It was a big event as around eight thousand Australians travelled to France to attend the ceremony. The town itself is one of the most significant sites in Australian war history, yet perhaps its Anzac story is not as well known as it should be. Villers-Bretonneux was the location of one of Australia's most successful military operations during WW1. The town was the last defensible post before Amiens which was considered a key for Germany victory. The Anzacs successfully defended the town but following a change in guard to a relatively undertrained British force the town fell into German control.

General Harold "Pompey" Elliot and General William Glasgow led a counterattack against heavy odds only 24 hours after this, on the dawn of the third anniversary of the original Anzac day. The official Australian war correspondent of the time wrote in his diary "I don't believe they have a chance... Went to bed thoroughly depressed ... feeling certain that this hurried attack would fail hopelessly." Yet the Anzacs overcame the Germans in the North of town and through the rest of the day and into the next they secured Villers-Bretonneux, ending the German Offensive. The town did not fall into enemy hands for the rest of the war.

This year's dawn service at Villers was particularly important as it marked the 100th year Anniversary of this battle. I thought the service and visiting the town was a very positive experience, largely because it isn't something I've considered doing before or would have done on my own accord in Sydney. Despite the story of Villers-Bretonneux being a more victorious one than that of Gallipoli, Fromelles and Pozieres, the success still remains inseparable from the sacrifice.

The ceremony took place in the Villers-Bretonneux Australian National Memorial which is the main commemoration site for the men who died on the western frontier. The hundreds of unmarked graves in the memorial of unidentified Australian soldiers, as well as the ceremony, highlighted the concept of sacrifice. Sacrifice not only by the men in world war one but by those who have served afterwards and by the families and general societies affected on the home front. Sacrifice so that today we live in peace.

I read an article by Peter FitzSimons yesterday and I think going to the ceremony helped me better understand his commentary on why we should continue to honour the Anzac tradition. He said "Our enduring respect will not remotely make up for the actual tragedy too often forgotten in all the flag-waving, of so many graves of Australian soldiers in so many parts of the world – 47,000 in France alone – but it is something." As Australia's WW1 veterans have now passed away a new challenge arises for us to continue to provide our enduring respect.

Lest we forget.

2018 Music Evening Series

A big “Congratulations” to all our Year 11 and 12 Music 1, 2 and Extension students who were involved in the 2018 Music Evening Series. Students had the chance to showcase their instrumental and vocal talents to family and friends in preparation for performance assessments. The evenings also support our students in improving inevitable stage nerves and musical expression.



An extra thank you to all the Year 11 Entertainment students who ran the staging, sound and lighting over the three evenings.

We encourage all our Blackwattle families to join us again on the **4th of July** for a night of Drama monologues and group devised play building. This will take place in the **school Lecture Theatre at 6.30 pm.**

Jessica Thompson Teacher CAPA Faculty

VET NEWS



**Year 11 VET Construction Task 1 -
Cement Float.**

Year 11 VET Construction Task 2 - Mallet



Year 11 VET Construction workshop



Year 11 Engineering Studies.

**Photos supplied by David Sunderland,
VET teacher.**

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING

The new Blackwattle Uniform Shop was officially opened on Friday 15th June. Guests included Melinda Bright, Relieving College Principal, Amy Greenshields Senior Pathways Officer for Ultimo RTO, past students and school leaders Isabel Barry, Lucas Knight, Charlotte Biggins and Imogen Biggins. The opening event provided an opportunity for teachers and students to visit the new facility and enjoy morning tea provided by VET Hospitality students, while being entertained with music provided by Year 12 VET Entertainment student Oscar Donlevy.

While current Year 11 and 12 students will benefit from having an onsite uniform shop, as well as the learning opportunities it will offer to VET Retail students, it was the brainchild of Isabel Barry, one of the 2017 School Leaders, who cut the ribbon to open the new shop. Isabel recognised the fact that school uniforms that are only worn for a little over 18 months still have a lot of utility left in them and it was very wasteful of resources that these were simply thrown away by students.

She put forward the idea of a uniform shop to sell preloved, good condition school uniforms and pitched her idea to the school executive and the P&C which agreed with the proposal.



At Year 12 sign out day near the end of 2017, the school was overwhelmed by the large number of uniform items donated by the graduating Year 12 class.

This year, the uniform shop was designed and built with the invaluable assistance of Ms Johanna Castagnone who has project managed the building and fitting out of the shop and Mr Brad Mason, our VET Retail teacher. The shop is located on the ground floor of C Block, between CCR4 and the TAS Industrial Arts room. It will be open on Monday and Wednesday at lunchtime and will provide a great service for students who will be able to conveniently and cheaply purchase pre-loved uniform items throughout the year.

It will also provide valuable real world learning opportunities for VET Retail students who will operate the shop. VET Retail classes have been busy setting up and stocking the new uniform shop. They will be able to learn in an authentic retail environment and will be able to practise competencies such as customer service, visual merchandising and stock control in order to gain their Certificate III in Retail. The uniform shop will provide a very valuable opportunity for students to gain skills and qualifications that will provide post school pathways for employment and further study. All students at Blackwattle Bay Campus are encouraged to visit the uniform shop.

Denise Haire – Head Teacher VET



SPLENDOUR @ THE BAY

