



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057 Fax: 9644 8157

Issue No. 2

March 2014

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

### HSC 2013 High Achievers

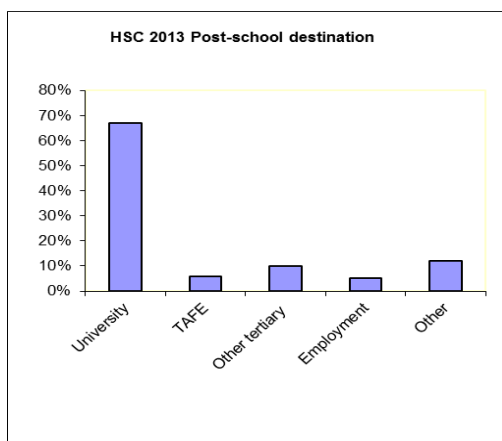
Eleven very successful students from the 2013 HSC class were our guests of honour at the special High Achievers assembly held on Tuesday 18 February.

Students in Years 9-12 were pleased to acknowledge the outstanding academic achievements of the Class of 2013 and listened attentively as Najwa Halwani and Christina Le shared their 'secrets for HSC success.'

The table and graph below shows what the 124 girls from the 2013 HSC are doing now.

	No. Students	% Students
<b>University</b>	83	67
<b>TAFE</b>	8	6
<b>Other tertiary</b>	12	10
<b>Employment</b>	6	5
<b>Other</b>	15	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>100</b>

40 students were offered a place at the University of Western Sydney, 15 at the University of Sydney, 14 at the University of Technology Sydney, 6 at Macquarie University, 3 at University of NSW and 1 each at Southern Cross University, University of Newcastle, University of New England, University of Notre Dame and the Australian Catholic University. "Other" includes students who are travelling, on a gap year or were unable to be contacted.



### Japanese Students' Visit

On Monday 10 March, Birrong Girls High School hosted another successful annual visit of 40 Chikushi Jyoshi Gakuen Junior High School students from the island of Kyushu, Japan. Our Japanese visitors enjoyed the opportunity to experience all that a large girls' multicultural high school can offer. I congratulate all of our students who hosted the visitors, including the SRC, 8B students and Years 9, 11 and 12 Japanese language students, as they demonstrated that our values of *understanding, tolerance and inclusion* allow our diverse school community to create a harmonious and safe environment that promotes learning and values individual difference.



Japanese students in the Library

Inside this issue:	Page/s
Principal's Report	1-2
Report from the Deputy Principals	2-4
Next P&C Meeting	4
Head Teacher Administration Report	4
Welfare Matters	4-5
SRC Report	5
Year 7 Welcome Barbeque	6
Swimming Carnival	6
A Poem by Cindy Chen	7
Soccer Squad	7
Go4Fun Program	7
Environment Team	8
Creative and Performing Arts Report	9
Library News	10
School Calendar	10

## Swimming Carnival

I congratulate all the competitors and their enthusiastic supporters at the school's swimming carnival held on Monday 24 February at the Birrong Swimming Centre. It was a very successful carnival with a large number of competitors and enthusiastic supporters and great attendance particularly from Year 12.

Special congratulations to four very talented swimmers: Skye Casacchia, Kathleen Logie, Isabella Johnston Araujo and Jasmine Tran who have made the regional swimming squad.



Swimming Carnival



## Safe Driving

Parents please take care to follow the rules of the road when dropping off and picking up your child and ensure the safety **of all our students**.

The safety of our students is of paramount concern to us all; however, reckless and bad driving at the front of the school continues to put our students at risk.

**Remember that the car parks on the school grounds are for teachers only.**

## Congratulations to:

- Our Prefects and SRC who were great ambassadors for our school at International Women's Day events on Friday 7 March.
- All those students who are making great use of the Homework Centre in the library on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.
- Sharon Kaihau Nimo (Year 10) who has been selected in the NSW State Volleyball Team.

## Thank you to:

- All the parents who made time to meet with the teachers on Tuesday 11 March for **the parent/teacher interviews; our teachers greatly appreciate your interest and involvement**. Taking an active interest in your daughter's education and developing a positive home-school relationship greatly assists your daughter achieve to the best of her ability.

## Coming Events:

I extend a warm invitation to all our parents to attend the next **P&C meeting which will be held on Wednesday 19 March at 5pm in the Common Room**. The first half hour of the meeting will focus on 'steps parents can take to help make their daughter's high school experience successful'.

I invite you to contact the school to make an appointment with me (Tel: 9644 5057) if you have any issues that you wish to discuss about your daughter's education.

I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements and activities of the school in the following pages.

Best wishes.

Jenni Wilkins  
Principal

## REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Congratulations to every Birrong girl who is striving for personal excellence in all aspects of her school life. This newsletter looks at ways that each Birrong girl can have a successful year.

### Attend and be Punctual

A simple way to succeed at school, as well as to earn merit certificates, is to attend and be on time. Those students with perfect or near perfect attendance are the ones who invariably leave school with a very fine HSC, as well as a swag of awards.

### Be an Active Member of your School – Get involved in Extra-curricular Activities

Success at school is closely related to involvement in the range of experiences the school offers as well as attendance, home study and revision. Many students are already training in preparation for their involvement in competitive sports such as netball, soccer, touch footy, oztag, softball, volleyball and basketball. Other opportunities include: debating, chess, public speaking, book club, writers' club, environment club, choir, Amnesty International and Premier's Reading Challenge.

Choose something you find interesting and see the coordinating teacher concerned to make your experience at school more rewarding.

## International Women's Day – Inspiring Change

On 7 March, the Prefects celebrated International Women's Day at the Australian Technology Park where they were encouraged to consider how they can make a difference to women at both the local and global level.



The Prefects with the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, at the International Women's Day Breakfast

International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900s when women, facing inequality and oppression, actively campaigned for change and the changes have been inspiring. We have female astronauts and prime ministers, girls are encouraged to attend university, women can work and have a family; in short, women have choice.

It is timely to remember that the quest for equality cannot be taken for granted, that despite the many gains in empowering women, progress is slow as is illustrated by the following points:

- In Australia, older women are 2½ times more likely to live in poverty than men and on average women will earn 17% less than men throughout their working life
- 70% of the world's poor are women
- Worldwide, 61% of illiterate young people are women
- Thirty-five million girls do not go to school
- Women in Sub-Saharan Africa spend 16 million hours collecting water
- 60 million girls under 18 have been forced into marriage
- Every minute of every day, a woman dies in childbirth or a related condition
- Women make up 40% of the global labour force but account for 58% of all unpaid work
- Only 12.3% of women occupy corporate leadership positions across the world
- Women and children are at risk of poverty in countries, particularly in rural areas, where even today laws and cultural practices prevent them from inheriting land. This means when their husband or parent dies they will not be able to work the land to provide an income.

Indeed, there is much to be done; however, International Women's Day provides an opportunity to celebrate our achievements at Birrong Girls. One achievement of note is the very impressive fact that 67% of our 2013 Year 12 students are now attending university. These highly capable young women are seizing the opportunities their education has provided, exercising their right to choose and laying the foundations for an exciting and successful future. They are wonderful role models and set an inspiring example to our students of the power of education.

## Homework and Revision

All students are expected to complete homework. This includes formal work set by teachers as well as revision and silent reading.

The following guideline indicates the number of hours students in various years should set aside for homework:

- Years 7 and 8 – one hour each night
- Years 9 and 10 – a minimum of two hours each night
- Years 11 and 12 – at least three hours each night

## Make use of the Homework Centre

The homework centre is very popular with our students. It operates for two hours after school on Monday to Thursday and is well resourced with computers and reference material. In addition, experienced teachers provide assistance to students who require support with their homework.

The homework centre provides an excellent opportunity for students to engage productively in their learning.

## Our local community also offers programs to assist students with homework and study:

**Bankstown Library** provides an online tutoring service in English, Maths, Science, writing and research Monday – Friday from 4-8pm.

**Auburn Library** provides a fantastic free resource: help with homework from qualified teachers Monday – Thursday from 4-7pm and Friday from 4-6pm. Access to technology is also available.

**Regents Park Library** provides homework help Wednesday from 4-6pm.

In addition, local councils and libraries offer special educational services including talks by popular authors and HSC tutoring, so visit their websites to make sure you don't miss out.

**The quality of support for students in our school and local community is of a very high standard. All students are encouraged to utilise these excellent resources.**

## Be Alert - Cyber-bullying

While technology has provided enormous opportunities for learning and communication, it has also become a forum for cyber-bullying. Online chat rooms, instant messaging, SMS and social networking sites like Facebook can be abused as vehicles for bullying.

Cyber-bullying is a crime. Here are some ways that you can protect yourself from cyber-bullying:

**Keep a record** (including time and date) so that the bully can easily be identified by the police.

**Tell someone** – talk to a trusted adult (parent, teacher, school counsellor) who can provide advice and help you take action.

**Block bullies** – contact your phone or internet service provider so that they can block calls from identified senders. Remove any inappropriate comments but always keep the evidence in case you need to follow up with authorities.

**Contact the police** if messages are threatening – threats to safety are a crime and need to be reported.

**Don't engage with the bully** – don't respond to the bully because this is exactly what they want. Ignoring a bully often results in the bully leaving you alone.

**Change your contact details** – don't be accessible; get a new user name for the internet, a new email account, a new phone number for your mobile.

**Never share your user name and password** – this is private information and should be kept private at all times.

Cyber-bullying is a very concerning social issue. It is important that students do not provide opportunities for bullying and know what to do should a situation arise.

To every Birrong girl: realise your potential by working to the best of your ability; aim to make a difference each day, no matter how small or humble; and set your sights high.

Ad Astra.

Ms Fletcher and Ms Crossan  
**Deputy Principals**



### **BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

**Parents are invited to attend the  
P & C MEETING  
on Wednesday, 19 March 2014  
at 5pm in the Common Room**

## HEAD TEACHER ADMINISTRATION REPORT

One of the many jobs for the Head Teacher of Administration is to liaise with Department of Education and Communities (DEC) representatives about student attendance.



**Katie Martin**

Every DEC school in NSW is associated with a HSLO (Home School Liaison Officer) who visits the school at least once a week. The HSLO assigned to Birrong Girls High School is Katie Martin. She checks each student's attendance patterns in our school.

Katie's duties include interviewing students whose attendance is falling below the acceptable standards for the DEC. Katie has interviewed a number of our students and she will continue to monitor their attendance and progress. There are a number of students (Years 7 – 12) who will meet Katie over the next few weeks to discuss their poor attendance.

We thank Katie Martin for the support she offers all the students at Birrong Girls High School.

Mrs George  
**Head Teacher Administration**

## WELFARE MATTERS

### Vaccinations

Our school is participating in the NSW Adolescent Vaccination Program for Year 7 students. The following vaccinations will be provided over the year:

- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination for cervical cancer prevention, three doses will be given. Vaccination in Year 7 is ideal as the immune system gives a strong response to vaccines at this age.
- Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine, one dose will be given. This is recommended for students who have not had the disease or have not already been vaccinated.
- Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) vaccine, one dose is given.

Year 7 students have been issued the vaccination consent form. Parents/guardians should read the information provided with the consent form to understand the facts about the vaccines that will be offered. Information in languages other than English is available at:

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/immunisation/school\\_prog/languages\\_forms.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/immunisation/school_prog/languages_forms.asp)

### Vaccination dates are:

**13 March:** Vaccines offered: Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis and Human Papilloma Virus (1).

**4 June:** Vaccines offered: Human Papilloma Virus (2).

**10 October:** Vaccines offered: Human Papilloma Virus (3) and Varicella (Chickenpox).

There is only one consent form on which parents indicate which vaccine(s) is required. No student will be vaccinated without the signed original consent form.

After the vaccination students will be given a Record of Vaccination card to take home to keep their immunisation records up to date. Please keep vaccination records in a safe place as they may be required for future work or travel.

### Balancing work and play for good mental health and wellbeing

It is essential for our mental health and wellbeing as well as our overall physical health, to include sufficient time for recreation and relaxation in our daily lives.

You may feel too busy to set any time aside; however, even as **little as a five minute break can make a big difference**. Having a balance of work and fun will improve your ability to work. You will be more relaxed, better able to focus and better able to produce high quality work.

By learning to take a few fun breaks throughout the day or night, you release tension, open blocked thinking, and stimulate an energy boost. Fun also has a physiological effect in that it creates hormones, endorphins, and other chemicals that activate your immune system and give you a feeling of wellbeing.

Examples of fun stress relievers may be as simple as:

- a brisk walk around the block
- a shared joke during a break
- 5 minutes spent listening to music
- planning a weekend away or holiday
- visiting the gym
- going out somewhere with a colleague

The key to taking full advantage of a break is to make sure that during those times you put everything out of your mind except having fun. There is little point in physically taking part in an activity if your mind is still focused on your work. Simply enjoy the moment.

It is time for a break when you experience:

- **Lack of motivation** – When you find yourself daydreaming, staring out the window, having to reread sentence after sentence, or feeling generally restless.

- **Tension** – Feeling very low on patience or short tempered, or experiencing a stiff neck or headache.
- **High concentration work** – Several short periods of work, if possible, are much more effective and productive than one long haul.
- **Complex work** – Separate long, complex tasks into shorter, more quickly accomplished steps. Take a break in between to renew your energy and focus for the next step.
- **Mental blocks** – If you've been working on a problem so long that your mind just blanks out, clearly it's time for a break. Briefly focusing on something relaxing will help clear your mind and approach the problem with a renewed outlook.

The few minutes you put your work aside to take a break will pay off by not letting your energy dwindle. Remember that having to reread a page three times takes more energy and time than stopping for a while to refresh yourself so that you understand the page the first time.

This information has been extracted from fact sheets produced by the Mental Health Association NSW Inc and are available from [www.mentalhealth.asn.au](http://www.mentalhealth.asn.au)

Ms Salvagio  
**Head Teacher Welfare**

### SRC REPORT

It has been a busy start to the year for the SRC. We have set out our plans for the year and have welcomed some new members onto the team.

On 7 March the SRC celebrated International Women's Day by attending the Zonta International Women's Day breakfast at the Yagoona Greyhound Club. This year's theme was *'Inspiring Change for Women'*. The guest speakers of the morning were Yasmine Lewis and Kamal Saleh. Yasmine is an ex student of East Hills Girls High School who is in her final year of Law. She spoke about her passion for using social media to be a voice for change of her generation. Kamal is a Media and Law graduate who has always loved to express himself through poetry. He presented one of his poems that reflected the sentiments of International Women's Day. We would also like to congratulate Nour Salama who received the Zonta Sydney West Citizenship Award.

Year 7 SRC elections will be taking place later this term. We have four positions to fill and are encouraging eager and dedicated Year 7 students who display good leadership skills to nominate themselves for election. Keep an eye out in the notices for more information.

**From: The SRC**

## YEAR 7 WELCOME BARBEQUE

New families and teachers had a great evening at the Year 7 Welcome Barbeque on 12 February. With Mr McCredden and Mr Clark (pictured below) cooking a delicious barbeque, everyone enjoyed the meal provided. It was a great chance for everyone to interact in a casual and peaceful setting. Students' development and education were discussed throughout the night. It was a great barbeque and we hope all our new students feel welcomed as a Birrong girl.

Salma Althifairy (Year 9)  
**School Media Team**



## SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The swimming carnival was held on 24 February. It was great to see such a great turn out by all the students who attended, 641 in total, well done! The carnival started with a spectacular Year 12 parade with many characters being present from Batman, Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse to the favourite of the day, Ms Seberry, Year 12 Assistant Adviser as Snow White. Ms Lee, Year 12 Adviser, dressed up as a hippie.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated on the day. A special mention must go to the age champions for 2014.

### Age Champions

12 Years – Skye Casacchia  
13 Years – Joanna Hutabarat  
14 Years – Kathleen Logie  
15 Years – Isabella Johnston Araujo  
16 Years – Jasmine Tran

The House cheering was hotly contested on the day and a special thank you must go to the House Patrons and House Captains who worked hard to get their Houses working like well-oiled machines supplying swimmers for each event to gain the much needed points and cheering on their team mates in all events.



The Winning House for the Day went to Yurong on 322 followed by Inga on 273, Miga on 179 and Bundarra on 169.

A special mention must go to the following students who will represent not only our school but the Edmondson Zone team at the Regional carnival: Skye Casacchia, Kathleen Logie, Isabella Johnston Araujo and Jasmine Tran. Good luck, girls!

Mr Thomas  
**Carnival Coordinator**

## A POEM BY CINDY CHEN

Year 11 Advanced English are studying the Area of Study, Changing Self. In our explorations, students were required to think deeply about how change manifests in their lives. Below is Cindy Chen's poem based on the theme of Changing Self.

Ms Bolanca  
English Faculty

### Change

---

Change, an inevitable occurrence.  
An unstoppable part of reality.  
Demanding her reluctant acceptance,  
It reins over her mortality.  
Vulnerable, she is a cowering figure in its wake,  
A mere child who struggles not to break.

A never-ending cycle of beginning and end.  
From her first sight of the shining light,  
Comes a series of impending....  
To her soon-to-come loss of sight,  
That plunges her into the deep Unknown,  
Leaving behind the threads of memory, sewn.

Change, an inescapable eventuality,  
That is a mixture of the good and the bad.  
Stripping her of her own originality,  
It is an evolution that drives her mad,  
For as long as time continues to run,  
The cycle of transformation cannot be undone.

The permanent ruler of life and death  
That cannot ever be overthrown,  
For humanity must one day draw its last breath,  
While Change remains immortal on its throne.  
An eternal loop of weariness it remains,  
She can do nothing to escape its binding chains.

*A poem of 'Changing Self' by Cindy Chen*

## SOCCER SQUAD

The soccer squad put in a magnificent performance to beat Ambarvale High School on Friday 7 March in the Sydney South Girls' Football Knockout.

The middle of the day heat, at about 30°C, was hard to handle and with one girl coming off injured, the substitutes were left short. The half time score of 2-4 left the girls with a big task ahead, but they dug deep and with some wonderful work in the forwards keeping possession of the ball, they were able to put away 3-0 in the second half. The defence did an awesome job keeping out the flurry of attacks by the opposition. The final result was a tight 5-4.



Soccer squad with Ms Wild

Congratulations to all in the squad. Other students are invited to try for selection as well.

The next game will be by the end of Week 8, our opposing team is not yet known.

Ms Seberry and Ms Wild  
Coaches



Health  
Population  
Health

**FREE & fun program for fitter, healthier, happier kids!**

**Know if your child is over a healthy weight?  
Go to [www.go4fun.com.au](http://www.go4fun.com.au) to see if your child could do  
Go4Fun.**

Go4Fun is a FREE 10 week program which runs over one school term after school hours. During the program children and their families get involved in fun games and activities and learn about delicious nutritious foods they can eat every day.

Children need to be 7-13 years old and a parent or carer also needs to attend. Younger and/or older siblings are encouraged to attend.

Go to [www.go4fun.com.au](http://www.go4fun.com.au) or call 1800 780 900 to see if your child could do Go4Fun

## ENVIRONMENT TEAM

This year there has been a very positive response from students who have chosen to become involved members of the Environment Team. Our first activity was Clean Up Your School Day which is affiliated with Clean Up Australia Day. The members of the team donated bags of lollies and chocolates which were put into small bundles and given to students at lunchtime who volunteered to spend a few minutes picking up litter in the playground areas of the school grounds. Each student then received a raffle ticket from which three students won a small prize. The response was very enthusiastic and showed awareness of the need to keep the grounds clean was raised.



To win a prize you had to pick up a big bag full of rubbish



Clean Up Day had many prizes



Last year the school obtained a grant to build a greenhouse so that plants and herbs could be grown for the school grounds. A site has been chosen and materials purchased for its construction. Members of the Environment Team will play an active role in the construction and maintenance of the greenhouse and the plants.

Every August there is a Youth Environment Network Eco-Leadership Camp at Wooglemai Education Centre for students from the South West Sydney Region who are interested in environmental issues. It has become so popular that an additional camp is being held from 29 April to 2 May. We are fortunate enough to have five Year 10 members of the Environment Team able to participate. In previous years, students who have attended the camp have found it a very rewarding and memorable experience.

Of particular interest is the Youth Environment Network Forum which is held annually at the conference centre at Taronga Zoo. This year it is on 20 May and we are hoping that up to fifteen members of the Environment Team will be able to attend. There will be a special guest speaker at the forum, Jane Goodall, who is well known for her lifetime's work with endangered animals (chimpanzees) in Africa. She is an inspirational person who undoubtedly will leave a lasting impression on all students across Sydney who attend the forum.

I look forward to a fulfilling year where the students will be able to become involved in many other activities and see the benefits of their efforts.

Ms Stachiw  
**Social Sciences Faculty**



Some of the Year 10 Environment Team



## CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS REPORT

The Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) faculty had a fantastic time hosting the Japanese students visiting us from Chikushi Jyoshi Gakuen Junior High School. The girls were keen to learn an Australian classic piece of music, "Waltzing Matilda" whilst also learning the "Cup Song" as an accompaniment. When visiting the Visual Arts studio, the Japanese students learnt the techniques of Papunya Tula dot painting and indigenous stories in artmaking. They were excited to take home their own hand designed and painted boomerangs as a memory of their time at Birrong Girls High School.



A Japanese student paints a boomerang in an artmaking class

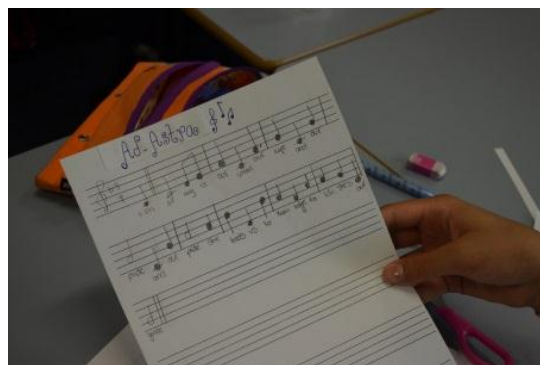
There are some exciting events coming up in Term 1 and Term 2 for students in the Creative and Performing Arts faculty of Music and Visual Arts. In Music, a group of Years 7-12 music students will be participating in the 'Young Women in Harmony Festival.' This is an exciting opportunity where our 'Pitch Perfect' girls will participate in a concert at Sydney Olympic Park on Sunday 18 May.

The 'Birrong Rocks Band' is off to a fantastic start with their rehearsals. The band will be performing at Bankstown Youth Week on 12 April from 4:45pm-5:15pm and also at Yagoona Public School Fete on Saturday 10 May.

This term in the Music department, all Year 8 girls have been introduced to the guitar. They have been tuning, strumming, and learning about chords during their music lessons.



Meanwhile, Year 7 music students have been looking at music notation. They have been very clever in learning to notate the school song.



Music notation of the school song

In coming weeks, the elective Visual Art students in Years 10 and 11 will be visiting the 2014 Art Express exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW and attending an accompanying lecture. This is a wonderful opportunity for these students to view an exemplary selection of works produced by students who undertook HSC Visual Arts in NSW schools in 2013. The study morning will inform and inspire the students to achieve the standard required for outstanding HSC results.

The Year 9 elective Visual Art students are eagerly anticipating the annual 2 day camp at Bundanon Trust on the beautiful Shoalhaven River. This experience extends the students beyond the classroom and provides a range of outstanding works that will be displayed in our school's Creative and Performing Arts Extravaganza in Term 3.

The Year 10 elective Visual Art students are looking forward to their 3 day camp on Cockatoo Island in Sydney Harbour where they will experience the 2014 Sydney Biennale and participate in numerous engaging artmaking workshops and tours through a range of contemporary Sydney galleries. They will no doubt return from the camp enthused, informed and inspired about their Visual Art practices and studies.

The Year 12 Visual Art students are undertaking a contemporary art experience, travelling to the city and visiting the latest exhibition 'Reformation' at the White Rabbit Gallery, as well as viewing current works at the UTS Gallery.

### Visual Arts

Mr Colley  
Ms Winchcombe  
Ms Anthony

### Music

Mr Blair  
Ms Caponas

## LIBRARY NEWS

Last year almost 250,000 students around the state successfully completed the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC). The number has grown steadily for the past 12 years, so we expect that there will be even more young people eager to take on the PRC in 2014. The author of Narnia, CS Lewis, said "Through literature I become a thousand people and yet remain myself". Reading transports us into other worlds and lives. It allows us to experience a whole range of exciting stories and explore issues which can challenge the way we think and feel.



The Premier's Reading Challenge has begun. Have you registered?

Students who accept the PRC this year will have even more books from which to choose. With over 7000 books now on the booklist, the PRC offers students an opportunity to read widely. We encourage all participants to be adventurous in their reading and add as many different types of books as they can to their reading records. Birrong Girls has a proud record of PRC completions. Last year 5 students received the Premier's Gold Medal, 11 Platinum Awards and 16 Gold Awards. We expect every Year 7, 8 and 9 student to register for the PRC. We can help you find books and register online. Our motto is: "Reading takes you places when you have to stay where you are."

Click on the link:

<https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/logon.html> and use your Portal User Name and Password to log on. Watch out for PRC parties in the Library each term where we celebrate the students who have reached their reading targets!

If you have special authors that you follow you can often find their web page and leave messages for them. For example if you have been enjoying the Alice-Miranda books by Jacqueline Harvey you can go to her blog <http://alice-miranda.blogspot.com.au/>. I was at the launch of Alice-Miranda in Japan last month and Jacqueline was just inspirational!



Jacqueline Harvey and Mr Davidson at the launch of "Alice-Miranda" in Japan

Last week I heard the writer Belinda Murrell talking about her books on historical fiction and fantasy based around 19<sup>th</sup> century Australian women. She has so much knowledge and passion for her books. Her blog is at <http://belindamurrell.com.au/>

You can also talk books and tell us what you want the Library to buy on the iRead Blog.

Happy reading!

Mr Davidson  
Teacher Librarian

### BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR For your diary / noticeboard

#### March:

- Monday, 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Regional Swimming Carnival
- Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup>
  - P&C Meeting, Common Room, 5pm
- Monday, 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Year 12 Exams commence

#### April:

- Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday, 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Year 12 Exams (continued)
- Friday, 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Last day of Term 1

#### Enjoy the School Holidays!

- Monday, 28<sup>th</sup>
  - School Development Day – for staff only
- Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup>
  - **All students return to school**
- Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Year 11 Half Yearly Exams
- May:**
  - Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday, 9<sup>th</sup>
    - Year 11 Half Yearly Exams (continued)
  - Friday, 9<sup>th</sup>
    - School Cross Country (Years 7&8)
  - Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup>
    - Year 12 Hospitality Work Placement
  - Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup>
    - NAPLAN TESTS
  - Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup>
    - Year 10 Half Yearly Exams
  - Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup>
    - School Athletics Carnival at The Crest, Bankstown

