



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

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Issue No. 5

July 2014

## RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

### School Development Day

At our School Development Day held on the first day of this term, Ms Nina Funnell, Sydney based researcher, author and speaker, gave an interesting and informative presentation entitled *BFFs, Friends, Frenemies*, which provided staff with strategies to support students in building positive relationships.

The second session of the day focused on the Australian Curriculum with particular reference to the general capabilities. The general capabilities are common to all syllabuses and define the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours that will allow students to live and work successfully in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. During this time staff worked productively in faculty and cross faculty groups to facilitate the implementation of the general capabilities in our school context.

### Subject Selection



Year 10 Subject Market

Year 10 are currently making important decisions in regard to subjects and courses for Year 11 2015. The girls have been assisted in this task through the information provided at the very successful Subject Market presented by Head Teachers and staff on Wednesday 16 July. At this market students were reminded that they should make their subject choices based on their *interests and abilities*. Students should not select a subject because friends or siblings have chosen it, or because family members believe it will lead to a high ATAR, or even because a particular teacher is teaching it. The best predictors of HSC

success are subject choice based on individual ability and interest and school attendance.

Parents and Year 10 students attended a formal assembly on Thursday 17 July which addressed Board of Studies and Teaching Educational Standards requirements for the HSC. Armed with all this information along with advice from our Careers Adviser, Mrs Wailes, the girls are well positioned to make appropriate decisions about subjects for Year 11 and Year 12 to enhance pathways into tertiary education, TAFE or the workforce.

### Year 12

Year 12 students are now hard at work finalising major projects and preparing for their Trial HSC examinations which will commence in Week 5. Excellent attendance, strong application, determination, and hard work sustained over the course will maximise success.

### Congratulations to:

- All the talented dancers and their dedicated supporters who made the PDHPE Dance Display on Thursday 26 June a great success. Year 4 & 5 students from Birrong, Berala, Yagoona and Regents Park Public Schools attended the morning performance and were delighted with the quality of the dances, the wonderful costumes and the enthusiasm of our students. Once again, the great talent, serious application and creativity of the students and their PDHPE teachers made this a very spectacular show.

Inside this issue:	Page/s
<i>Relieving Principal's Report</i>	1-2
<i>Deputy Principals' Reports</i>	2-4
<i>Mobile Phone Policy</i>	4
<i>Next P&amp;C Meeting</i>	4
<i>New Teacher</i>	5
<i>Attendance Procedures at BGHS</i>	5
<i>Welfare Matters</i>	6
<i>Careers News</i>	7
<i>SRC Report</i>	7
<i>Wooglemai Environmental Leadership Camp</i>	8
<i>Mathletics</i>	8
<i>National Science and Engineering Challenge</i>	9
<i>2014 Youth Environmental Forum</i>	10
<i>Year 9 Commerce Presentations</i>	10
<i>Poetry Slam</i>	11
<i>NSW Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition</i>	11
<i>Visual Arts Report</i>	11
<i>Sports Report</i>	12
<i>PDHPE Dance Display</i>	13
<i>Year 10 Subject Market</i>	13
<i>School Calendar</i>	13

- Lara Martin (Year 12), Tamara Garces (Year 10), Kealie Trimble (Year 10), Tarrenga Roberts (Year 9) and Samantha Garces (Year 8). These students led our school's celebration of NAIDOC Week by providing a very interesting and thoughtful presentation at assembly which explored Aboriginal culture and the significant contribution of indigenous Australians to our society and country.
- The prefects who supported parents in completing the electronic Quality of School Life survey and the SRC who provided refreshments for parents at the Parent/Teacher meeting.
- Isabella Johnston Araujo (Year 11) who was placed first in CHS Gymnastics, an outstanding and well deserved achievement.
- Sarah Bae (Year 12) who was the recent recipient of the Student of the Month Award. Sarah is an outstanding student leader and has made a significant contribution to the Amnesty team, the Environment team and the prefect body.
- Sandra Dang and Narelle Scerri of Year 10 who are the very worthy recipients of Auburn Library's 2014 Research Excellence Award.
- Joslin Setu (Year 12) and Moala Laiafi (Year 9) who successfully performed at the Bankstown Talent Advancement Program 2014 Presentation Concert on Friday 18 July at the Bryan Brown Theatre in the Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre.
- Alexandra Viles, Tina Tay and Jana Khalil of Year 9, finalists in the English Spoken Word Competition.
- Year 11 Drama students who staged a compelling performance of 'Running Up a Dress' in The Little Theatre on Tuesday 22 July. Under the direction of Ms Bolanca, Drama students provided a powerful exploration of what it is to be female and the complex nature of mother/daughter relationships.



**'Running Up a Dress' performance**

#### **Thank you to:**

The parents who took the opportunity to discuss their daughter's Semester 1 reports with the teachers at the Parent/Teacher meeting on Tuesday 24 June. The feedback from the online survey completed by parents on the evening was very positive. Parents indicated that they strongly believe the school takes their concerns seriously and provides helpful information about their daughters' progress. In addition, parents noted they value highly the school's safe and secure learning environment and the caring

attitude of the teachers who provide stimulating and challenging learning activities for their daughters. The school's high expectations and focus on continuous improvement were also strongly endorsed by parents.

#### **Coming Events**

All parents are warmly invited to the next P & C meeting at 5pm on Wednesday 30 July in the Common Room. This meeting will include a brief presentation outlining HSC requirements for parents who were unable to attend the subject selection meeting on Thursday 17 July.

I invite you 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.

Margaret Fletcher  
**Relieving Principal**

#### **DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORTS**

Since the last Birrong Bulletin we have had a number of visitors to our school, including university researchers, young business leaders and students as well as their teachers from other schools. All of them have commented on the fantastic "feel" of Birrong Girls High School (BGHS). These comments reflect the fact that classes at BGHS are always about active learning, that teachers are enthusiastic and caring and that many extra-curricular activities occur throughout any given week. During Term 2, visitors noticed students practising dances after school, working in the Homework Centre, knitting or playing chess at lunchtimes, preparing for debates, peer tutoring during Roll Call and rehearsing for musical and drama performances, as well as training for sport.

Many of these activities are only possible because so many teachers give up their own time to support and provide extra experiences for students and also because so many students quietly take the initiative and participate in the many opportunities which are provided for them.

Term 3 is the beginning of a new semester. It is the perfect time for students to set new goals and formulate a time plan.

All students from Year 7 to Year 12 should have a diary for school. In addition to this, students should also have a timetable for home to ensure that part time work, sport commitments and other duties fit in with study times. The home timetable should include time for recreation and relaxation too. A time plan for home will help students to feel in control and this will reduce stress. Most importantly it will help girls to learn the valuable lifelong skill of time management.

Often students using technology have little idea of how much time they 'lose' as they watch the internet or their phone minute by minute waiting to read the latest gossip.



“...Neuroscientist Baroness Greenfield believes that overuse of social networking websites may be causing changes in the brains of young users. Her concern is that young people who are staring at screens for most of the day may be “infantilising the brain into the state of small children who are attracted by buzzing noises and bright lights, who have a short attention span, a lack of empathy and who live for the moment....”  
Daily Mail London

Students should have some periods of time each day which are technology free. This gives them time to talk face to face, read, participate in sport, cook, use their imaginations and to be with other people instead of being isolated with their phone and/or computer screens behind closed doors. One solution for parents who are worried that their daughters may be connected to technology for too many hours would be to institute a technology free time at home. Perhaps start with no technology for an hour or two on the weekend. That will give everyone time to focus on other activities, even if it is only for a short while. Lately some businesses have instituted *Technology Free Days* to bring back the friendliness which is lost when people spend more time staring at a screen texting than they do making eye contact and talking. Perhaps this is worth considering.

Congratulations to all the students whose hard work culminated in the dance performances at the end of Term 2. Every dance item was an extraordinary reflection of the high standards which can be achieved with motivation, teamwork, cooperation and hours of practice.

Thank you to our indigenous students who spoke at assembly to celebrate NAIDOC Week. They spoke about what it means to them to have an indigenous heritage. As modern young indigenous women they shared their ideas about celebrating the tremendous achievements of indigenous people and the outstanding contributions which indigenous culture provides for us all. A key part of their presentation was a retelling of the story of Patyegarang.



6-13 July  
**2014** | **SERVING COUNTRY –  
CENTENARY & BEYOND**



Images from the Bangarra production of Patyegarang, the story of a young indigenous girl who befriended the astronomer Captain Dawes in 1780. He was studying the southern skies and set up camp on the harbour, Patyegarang, a 15 year old indigenous girl, taught Dawes about indigenous language and culture.

Finally Education Week (28 July – 1 August) will be celebrated when all BGHS students **Drop Everything and Write** during DEAR for our 2014 STELLAR publication. The tagline for the first Education Week in 1954 was "Lighting the way to a Better World". NSW Public Schools has adopted this tag again this year, as a way of celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Education Week. The artwork from the 1954 poster has been adapted for use to promote the success of education in public schools in NSW. "Lighting the way to a Better World" will be the theme of STELLAR this year. We look forward to publishing the most thoughtful student responses in our annual STELLAR magazine.

Ad Astra.

Ms Crossan  
**Deputy Principal**





**Make *Drop Everything and Read* inspiring by reading books that help you understand more about life and the world in which we live.**

**Reading** can influence and enhance your perspectives on life and its many challenges. Reading books can inspire us to deal with the hurdles that sometimes seem unfair and difficult to overcome. This is why **Drop Everything and Read** is such an important part of our school day.

An example of this would be reading the works of **Mahatma Gandhi** who inspired others to work for civil rights and freedom across the world, showing them how to use non-violent means to change situations of government and law in a peaceful way.

**He wrote:**

... help me to tell the truth to the strong and to avoid telling lies to get the applause of the weak.

Remind me that failure is the experience that precedes triumph.

Teach me that forgiving is the most important aspect of character in those who are strong and that revenge is the most primitive sign of character in those who are weak.

The excerpts above show that we can find positive solutions to our problems.

**The Homework Centre** helps you to organise your time to complete study, assignments and homework.

The Homework Centre also offers **free** valuable help to students who are struggling to complete set tasks. It operates in the Library **MONDAY to THURSDAY 2:50-4:50pm**.

Experienced BGHS teachers help students to overcome problems with their school work.

Teachers are available to help students in all subjects.

If you need specific help:

**Mathematics teachers** are available everyday,  
**English teachers** Mondays and Wednesdays,  
**Science teachers** Tuesdays and Thursdays and  
**Social Science teachers** Thursdays.

Students already accessing the Homework Centre are commended for their effort and initiative.

Ms Carson

**Relieving Deputy Principal**

### **BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **Mobile Phone Policy**

- Mobile phones may be brought to school as safety devices providing they are not a disruption to learning.
- Phones must be switched off during lessons, exams, DEAR, assemblies and in all interviews with school staff.
- Phones may not be used to breach privacy or copyright. Permission must be given for phone photographing or recording.
- Phones must be kept in bags, out of sight, for security purposes, when not in use.
- Phones can only be used during recess and lunch within the school day.
- It is the responsibility of phone owners to secure their phones.
- If mobile phones prove disruptive to learning, they may be confiscated until the end of the day.
- Students must present themselves promptly at the end of the day to recover confiscated phones from the confiscating teacher.



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

**Parents are invited to attend the  
P & C MEETING  
on Wednesday 30 July 2014  
at 5pm in the Common Room**

## NEW TEACHER

### Nivanthi Ratnayake Technology and Applied Studies



I wish to extend warm greetings to all parents/guardians, students, teachers and staff at Birrong Girls High School. My name is Nivanthi Ratnayake and I have recently been welcomed into the Technology and Applied Studies (TAS) faculty as I begin my teaching career.

I completed my Bachelor of Science (Food Technology) degree at the University of Western Sydney (UWS) in 2013 and just completed my Master of Teaching (Secondary) at UWS. My expertise in teaching is Technology mandatory, Food Technology, Science, Chemistry and Biology. I gained my teaching experiences during my Master of Teaching at Rooty Hill High School, Parramatta High School and St Mary's Senior High School. At Parramatta High School, I was involved in a program called Refugee Action Support (RAS), where I worked closely with refugee students assisting them with their school work, scaffolding their assessment tasks, mentoring and providing support when needed.

I was given this permanent position by the DEC on receiving a teaching scholarship in 2008. I have been passionate about teaching from the early stages of my life, it all started when I was tennis coaching and the passion grew from there. I look forward to sharing my knowledge and passion of my subject areas with the students in an interactive and engaging way. Furthermore, I believe that every student has the inner power to grow and change. I'm excited to be part of that process to guide, mentor and nurture their learning. My philosophy on education centres on an active approach as I engage my students in collaborative work and higher order thinking. I am dedicated to the success of all students in and out of school. I seek to teach them skills in school that will provide opportunities to be influential and world changing citizens in society.

I am very grateful for this opportunity and I look forward to working with the students, staff and teachers this year.

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES AT BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

#### ATTENDANCE

- At Birrong Girls High School students are expected to attend school every day unless there is genuine illness or reason for absence.
- If your daughter is absent from school you will need to contact the school via phone or reply text to explain her absence.
- Your reply text should include your daughter's full name, roll class and a brief reason for the absence.
- There will be no need for a written note once you reply to the text or contact the school via phone.
- Unexplained absences will appear on your daughter's report at the end of the semester.

#### EARLY LEAVERS

- If your daughter needs to leave school early for reasons such as dentist appointments she is to bring a note from you.
- The note should contain her name, the time she needs to leave school and the reason for leaving. This note should also provide a contact number and parent signature.
- The note must be given to the Head Teacher Administration by 8:20am on the day your daughter needs to leave early. Your daughter will then receive an official Department of Education exit pass.

#### LATECOMERS

- At Birrong Girls classes begin at 8:30am.
- Girls who arrive after this time are to go to the late room where their time of arrival is recorded. Girls will receive a blue late note for parents to complete. Once the blue late note is completed it is to be given to the Head Teacher Administration.
- All late students must see the Head Teacher Administration at recess on the day of the late arrival. Detentions and letters to parents will be issued with persistent lateness.
- If your daughter knows she will be late she is encouraged to bring a note to explain why.

#### TRUANCY

- There is an expectation at Birrong Girls High School that students take responsibility for their learning. This includes attending all scheduled classes.
- Teachers mark their class roll each lesson. If your daughter is absent from class but not on an excursion or the daily absentee sheet, her absence is reported to the Head Teacher Administration.
- Letters are sent home and phone calls are made to inform parents that their child has been absent.
- All truancy issues will be documented on your daughter's school records and displayed on your daughter's school report.

Mrs George  
Head Teacher Administration

## WELFARE MATTERS

### Western Sydney Refugee Youth Awards 2014

On Saturday 21 June the achievements of an extraordinary group of young people were recognised during Refugee Week. The Western Sydney Refugee Youth Awards are organised by Auburn Diversity Services as a way of recognising and encouraging the successes of young refugees in our community. This year's award recipients were congratulated at Auburn Town Hall by The Hon. Craig Laundry MP, The Hon. Julie Owen MP, The Hon. Barbara Perry MP and Dr Renu Narchal. Amongst the award recipients were four of our students. Congratulations to Sabera Noori of Year 12, Mahbooba Shafei of Year 12, Abida Ahmad of Year 10 and Thwe Eh Paw Say of Year 10.

### Student of the Month Award



Congratulations to Sarah Bae of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for May. She has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to the school community.

Sarah has carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement as a motivated member of the school Amnesty International Team and the Environmental Team. She has represented the school at various events including the Young Leaders Forum, Environment Day Forum and the Business Brunch. Her leadership and enthusiasm are evident in her role as a School Prefect.

### Mobile Dental Care Program Term 3

The school has arranged with Australian Mobile Dental Care for all students to receive a free dental assessment and preventative dental care consultation. Other dental care treatments will also be accessible. The mobile dental clinic will be on the school premises in the latter part of this term. All students will receive an information letter and consent form in Week 3 or Week 4 of this term explaining how your daughter or ward can access this dental service at school.

### Vaccinations Term 3

Our school is participating in the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Catch-up Vaccination Program for students from Year 7 to Year 12.

The MMR is being offered as many teenagers and young adults are catching the measles, especially while travelling overseas or from someone who has brought the disease into Australia from overseas.

Two doses of MMR vaccine are necessary to be protected against measles and for life-long immunity. Many teenagers missed one or both of their MMR vaccinations as children. For some older students the second dose of MMR was not included on the National Immunisation Schedule during their childhood.

Our school has been identified as possibly having a higher number of students who have not received two doses of MMR vaccine. Immunisation nurses will be visiting our school and offering one dose of free MMR vaccine to any student from Year 7 to Year 12 on the following dates:

- Monday 4 August for students in Year 8 to Year 12
- Thursday 11 September for students in Year 7

Students in Years 8 to 12 have received the information and consent form package. Please read the information provided. If you would like your daughter to receive this vaccine the consent form needs to be completed and returned to the relevant Year Adviser. Year 7 will receive the information and consent form package in Week 6.

Mrs Salvagio  
**Head Teacher Welfare**



## CAREERS NEWS

### Year 10

Just a reminder to start organising your next Work Experience placement. Please see Mrs Wailes in the Careers Office for a new pink form. Take the initiative and start getting organised early to avoid disappointment and last minute panic.

### Year 12

The Western Sydney Careers Expo excursion was a huge success and the 49 girls who attended gained very valuable information and knowledge to help assist them with their career decision making. This day saw our students participating in activities, visiting a variety of institutions and attending seminars. Ms Lee, Mrs Wailes and our students had a thoroughly enjoyable time and it was a great learning experience.



Western Sydney Careers Expo excursion

UAC applications open on 6 August and need to be completed by 30 September. The UAC guides have arrived and every student will receive a copy; these can be collected from the Careers Office. Please book in an interview with Mrs Wailes to finalise your course preferences. Mrs Wailes and Ms Lee will hold an information session regarding the application process in a few weeks' time, please listen out for the message in roll call.

Mrs Wailes  
**Careers Adviser**

## SRC REPORT

The SRC would like to welcome Zienah Al-Thifairy, Jeanne Marie Bloomfield, Fereshta Jamshidi and Jessi Ta as our Year 7 representatives for 2014. They have been working hard and have made a positive contribution to the team.

Last term the SRC held a cake stall and raised \$454 for Stewart House. We have also been collecting unwanted items of clothing to send to the Smith Family. For every bag we collect the Smith Family will donate money to Stewart House. The response from students and staff has been very positive.



Congratulations to the winners of the SRC raffle

On the 21 May our Year 11 representatives, Valelia Uisa, Peta Mounatonga, Christine He and Hareem Abbasi attended the World Vision Leadership Conference at Luna Park. The day was spent discussing strategies on how to be effective leaders and advocates for change. This will be followed up by the 40 Hour Famine which will give students the opportunity to raise money for this year's focus 'world hunger'.

On 13 June our Year 10 representatives, Aleyna Celik, Ana Pahulu and Raihana Wazefadost attended the Bankstown City Council Youth Summit. The day was spent discussing the issues confronting teenagers in our region as well as developing ways of breaking the stereotypes of Bankstown. Students were given the opportunity to present a video on bullying and strategies for dealing with this.

This term the SRC will be running a chocolate drive to raise money for the school's sponsor child, Sabina. We hope to raise \$1,500 to go towards supporting Sabina's education.

We will keep students updated on what's happening through the student notices.

**From: The SRC**

## WOOGLEMAI ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP CAMP

During 29 April to 2 May, we were fortunate enough to be invited to attend an Eco-leadership Camp at Wooglemai Education Centre. We were all pumped and perhaps secretly scared not knowing what to expect from this 4 day trip. We all agree that it was tremendous and an unforgettable experience. Friendships were formed with 31 other teens and 4 teachers who all shared our same passion and drive for our earth and environment.

We learnt many valuable leadership skills and had the opportunity to consider how we can ultimately help to save our world, one small step at a time, through sustainability.

During the course of the packed days and nights we learnt about many issues facing people in our world and as we became more aware we were able to act upon these ideas. We attended local primary and secondary schools to discuss our activities at the centre together and the important role we play as global citizens. A particular highlight was our visit to Harrington Park Public School where we taught the students as if we were teachers. We all adored the children who were eager and willing to get involved and do anything possible to help our world and the generations to come.



Camp participants

On our last day we brainstormed endless amounts of ideas and discussed what we were going to do to make a change in our schools and the society we live in. Our focus here at Birrong is the restoration of the school pond.



The students enjoyed the camp activities

By attending this camp, we have all gained a better knowledge of our fragile world and the threats to our existence. We were taught that teenagers are the strongest motivators of adults and that we are strong leaders. By informing, inspiring and involving one another both locally, nationally and globally we can help to achieve our goals by being part of a team to help with change.

**By: Afnaan Alkakouni, Amy Ye, Felicity Lam, Narelle Scerri and Sandra Dang (Year 10 Environment Team)**

## MATHLETICS

At Birrong Girls High School the Mathletics program runs for both Years 7 and 8.

The top Mathletics students at Birrong Girls High School during Semester 1 are:

- Emy Truong who has mastered 73 activities
- Vanessa Tran who has mastered 73 activities
- Chloe Truong who has mastered 71 activities

To master an activity, students must achieve a score equal to or greater than 85%. These results reflect student achievements for Terms 1 and 2.

**From: The Mathematics Faculty**



## NATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

9.1 Science was granted an amazing opportunity to compete against seven other schools in the *National Science and Engineering Challenge* as part of a government partnership program.

On 27 May we woke up bleary-eyed and headed to the Lucas Heights Nuclear Reactor; the only one in Australia used for research and medicinal purposes.

The class was split into groups, each group was given a challenging problem solving task to complete over the day.

One task was *Flight*, where students had to construct a plane out of Styrofoam, plasticine and simultaneously, considering acceleration and gravity, drag the three axes that characterised a plane.

Another task was to build a bridge. The group in charge of that was restricted to coffee stirrers, a few balsa sticks, paper, tape and thumbtacks. All those materials had to somehow support a 8.9kg mass. They were forced to consider shape, pressure points, gravity and angles while at the same time risking possible humiliation as they were to present it in front of numerous schools, staff and teachers.



Half an hour before show time, and the bridge was finally coming together.

“The host called us together announcing, “We will go from heaviest to lightest!”

Our hands trembled as each school displayed their models. Some bent and some sagged. Some were destroyed by the 8.9kg mass. Some were in shattered pieces.

“Next up... Birrong Girls High!”

We nervously walked down the aisle and onto the stage, placing the bridge down.

“What is the name of your bridge?”

“The Bridge with No Name.”

“How are you feeling?” the host questioned Leyla Elcheikh.

“Nervous.” She said.

Leyla lets go of the mass, letting it roll across the bridge. Everyone cheered for joy! The judge placed another metal ingot onto the mass. Leyla let go again. 100% success rate. He applied another ingot. The bridge was starting to crack near the ends.

“Do you want to have a go at another ingot?” the host asked Leyla.

“Why not?” she said.

She let go of the mass... and the bridge was sent to the heavens. The team placed their heads into their palms, ashamed of the inevitable.

Other schools went up, with their bridge being eaten up by the mass. Our bridge ended up placing 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 8 which was a pleasing outcome.

A special thanks to all students in 9.1 for participating to the best of their ability, the government for partially funding the program, supervisors, judges, Ms Gallard and most of all, Mr Clark for organising the day for us.

Congratulations!

**By: Jacqueline Huynh, Year 9**

## 2014 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

On Friday 30 May, members of the Environment Team were fortunate enough to attend the 2014 Youth Environmental Forum at Taronga Zoo. Along with Ms Stachiw, we were given the opportunity to attend various workshops held around the zoo, some in the classrooms and others in the animal enclosures. 30 NSW schools participated in this event. Our group was allocated to the lemur exhibit. The tour was led by student volunteers from YATZ (Youth At The Zoo) who are passionate about helping endangered animals. They assist in the maintenance of the zoo and bring about awareness to others. Here we learnt about how strategies can be planned to protect the environment and ensure the conservation of many species.



Ring Tail Lemurs



Year 10 Environment Team on the way to the zoo

The highlight for us all was the magnificent guest speaker, Jane Goodall, who began studying chimpanzees in 1960 in Gombe National Park as a 26 year old enthusiastic lover of animals. Everyone at the zoo, both workers and volunteers, looked up to her as an idol. It was a great honour to hear her as Jane Goodall is a British primatologist, ethnologist, anthropologist and UN Messenger of Peace. Listening to her informative and moving speech provided a huge motivation for us to strive to do our best for the environment and ignore those who would have us believe that our efforts are futile. Jane told us about her travels to Africa to help the chimps and the relationships and connections she has made with them.



Jane Goodall with a chimpanzee

At the conclusion of her speech, all students in the auditorium were given the opportunity to ask questions face to face. Jane is the author of many interesting published books and is the founder of the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) for Wildlife Research, Education and Conservation to provide ongoing support for field research on wild chimpanzees. Today, the mission of JGI is to 'advance the power of individuals to take informed and compassionate action to improve the environment for all living things.'

**By: Afnaan Alkakouni, Amy Ye, Fatima Al-Helfy, Felicity Lam, Michelle Truong, Narelle Scerri and Sharon Phan (Year 10 Environment Team)**

## YEAR 9 COMMERCE PRESENTATIONS

On Monday 16 June, Year 9 Commerce students were privileged to have a facilitator from the Commonwealth Bank visit the school to inform us of our rights and responsibilities when entering the workforce. Discussion was also raised about finance and our rights as wise consumers in our commercial society. This was part of the StartSmart program for secondary schools coordinated by the Commonwealth Bank. Ms Caroline McKeon, who was the speaker from StartSmart, related to us in a way that we could all understand.



StartSmart Presentation

It was an interactive and engaging talk that enriched our knowledge about our first steps into the workforce and complicated world of finance. We learnt many things such as the importance of getting a tax file number and preparing thoroughly for job interviews. Year 9 Commerce students gained a more comprehensive understanding of their rights such as being able to look up the Government's pay rate calculator to make certain that employers are following good business ethics. We would like to thank Mr Sarna for organising this informative presentation for us.

**By: Jacqueline Huynh, Year 9 Commerce**

## POETRY SLAM

Last term a selected group of Year 8 students had the opportunity to participate in a workshop with Spoken Word artist, Candy Royale. They were not only guided in the art of poetry writing but also in performance poetry techniques. Here is one of the student products from the project.

### Come Closer

By Vivian Pham 8B

Father always smelt like saltwater.  
When you told him this  
He'd say it was because  
He's been travelling oceans his entire life.

"Come closer," He'd say.  
"Let me tell you something."  
That's how it always began.  
How we'd gather at his feet to  
Soak up his words.  
Listening in tangled limbs  
Broken moonlight  
And an aching for more.

"And this is how we danced;  
Waltzing with spilling dresses  
In the warm rain of June.  
Smiling against droplets,  
Wondering if the sweetness  
Lay in the water  
Or the moment."

"This is how we lived;  
Soaking sunlight till our skin sizzled and burned.  
Feeling each other's pulses  
Through the sacred matrimony of  
Our palms.  
Our heartbeats,  
The sweetest melodies we'd ever heard.  
Laughing, singing, dancing -  
That is the way of the Vietnamese."

"This is how we fled;  
Boats knocking against waves,  
Guns shooting at us.  
Hundreds of people crammed into one  
Wooden vessel,  
But sometimes it felt like thousands.  
The sun and stars are always hanging  
In the sky,  
But sometimes we forgot to  
See the light.  
When the pirates came  
And robbed the gold and pretty girls,  
We sobbed,  
Saltwater running down our cheeks.  
There were oceans in our eyes  
And an ocean under our boats."

"This is how we survived;  
Living in a country as foreigners.  
With so much to say but the words  
Felt strange and heavy on our tongues.  
Everything here tastes stale,  
Even the air.  
We knew this was not our home,  
But it would have to do."

"And despite everything.  
Our smiles will convince you  
That everything is going to be alright."

Sometimes we would finish his sentences.  
"That is the way of the Vietnamese."

## NSW LEGACY JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION



Natasha and Linda with their awards

The Year 9 finalists from Henrietta Wooster, Natasha Luu and Linda Tran, competed in the NSW Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition on Thursday 17 July held at Malek Fahd Islamic School. The girls faced tough competition from students in both public and private schools. They were among 14 other public speakers on the day and can hold their heads high after representing Birrong Girls High School with a lot of class.

Mr Aravena  
English Faculty

## VISUAL ARTS REPORT

### CAPA Extravaganza

The annual Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Extravaganza is coming up this term, so don't forget to mark the date on your calendar. On Tuesday 19 August (Week 6) you are invited along with your family and friends to attend this exciting afternoon event from 3-5pm in the Ross McBride Art Centre at school. It is a great opportunity to see the broad scope of skilful and inspiring artworks created by our talented Visual Art students, including our HSC students' completed Body of Work. There will also be exciting musical performances by our Music students, whose acts always draw a crowd during the 2 hour Extravaganza. Come along and enjoy this afternoon event hosted by the Creative and Performing Arts department and enjoy some delicious finger food catered for by the TAS Hospitality students. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

### Upcoming Events

The Year 10 Visual Arts class will have an exciting opportunity to visit the Art Gallery of NSW and undertake a 3 hour master class. This will involve an exhibition viewing and discussion session around The Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes followed by an intensive portraiture artmaking session.

From: The CAPA Faculty

## SPORTS REPORT

Wow, Term 2 was certainly a big one full of sporting action!

### Zone Athletics Carnival

We had a 55 strong team represent at the Zone Athletics carnival. All students performed well with some very good athletic performances.

Isabella Johnston Araujo, Nadine Johnston Araujo and Monique Steel were named age champions on the day.

Congratulations to our age champions and to all students involved. Thank you to Ms Boyle who coordinated both the school and Zone Athletics carnivals.

### Oztag Carnival

Mr Trott and Mrs Lord took three very dynamic and energetic teams to the Sydney East Oztag carnival. All students played well with several Year 7 & 8 girls playing in the Year 9 and 10 side to help out the team. Their behaviour and effort on the day was commendable. It was a fun day for all concerned.



Year 7/8 Oztag Team



Year 9/10 Oztag Team



Year 11/12 Oztag Team

### Netball Carnival

Our netball team proved to be a competitive side and came second in their pool in the Combined High Schools knockout gala day. They will now go through to the next round played early this term. A great team effort. Thank you to Miss Sirris for both organising and coaching the team.

### Sydney South West Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships

The Sydney South West Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships were held at Mt Annan on Wednesday 18 June. All Year 11 Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation students had the opportunity to individually navigate their way around a challenging course across the beautiful Mt Annan Botanic Gardens. In the 16 years division Yvonne Nguyen was placed first, Peta Mougatonga 2<sup>nd</sup> and Alana Leha 3<sup>rd</sup>. The girls competed well and enjoyed their experience.



Champions in the 16 years division

Mrs Lord  
Head Teacher PDHPE

**PDHPE DANCE DISPLAY**  
Thursday 26 June 2014



**YEAR 10 SUBJECT MARKET**  
Wednesday 16 July 2014



**History**



**Vocational Education and Training (VET)**

**BIRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR**  
*For your diary / noticeboard*

**July:**

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> to  
Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup>

▪ Year 11 Hospitality Work  
Placement

Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup>

▪ ICAS English Competition

**August:**

Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> to  
Friday, 8<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 11 Hospitality Work  
Placement

Monday, 4<sup>th</sup>

▪ Measles, Mumps and Rubella  
Vaccinations for Years 8-12

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup>

▪ Australian Mathematics  
Competition

Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup>

▪ Year 12 Trial Exams

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup>

▪ CAPA Extravaganza, 3-5pm

Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday, 29<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 11 Exams

**September:**

Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> to  
Friday, 5<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 11 Exams

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup>

▪ Year 8 Field Day  
▪ P&C Meeting, Common  
Room, 5pm

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup>

▪ Measles, Mumps and Rubella  
Vaccinations for Year 7