

# Peninsula Community of Schools



**PENINSULA COMMUNITY**  
OF SCHOOLS



**MACQUARIE**  
University

*Term 4, 2017*

## **Barrenjoey High School**

### **Year 10 Dance Assessment**

Last month, Year 10 participated in their Major PDHPE Dance assessment task, this was the culmination of a 7 week unit of work.

This task involved the students learning the Cha Cha, Jive and the Waltz and included the students performing the 3 steps of the dance plus creating and performing 2 of their own dance moves for each dance. Well done Year 10.



## Community Performance Space Update

The Barrenjoey Community Performance Space Committee is thrilled to advise that the NSW State government will provide \$1 million towards the project.

Thank you to our local Member, Rob Stokes for his support. You can view the new model for the building in the foyer of Barrenjoey High School.

After a number of successful grant applications and fundraising, we were in a position to start phase 1 of the build – an outdoor amphitheatre. However with this injection of funds means that we can hopefully now complete the entire build in one process, saving many thousands of dollars as the complete process will be more economical than two separate processes.

There has been a lot of hard work behind the scenes and the Committee would like to thank Richard Cole Architecture for the incredible design and work that Richard and his team have done behind the scenes.

Richard has provided all his work to date free of charge, saving the P&C many thousands of dollars. It is a very generous gesture and we are very grateful.

The BCPS is currently in the planning phase with the Department of Education and an architect has been appointed. The next process will be to complete the planning phase to achieve a DA through Northern Beaches Council. Following that we will tender for the build. We are hoping that we will be in a position to start building early 2018 with completion in 2018 in time for the 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

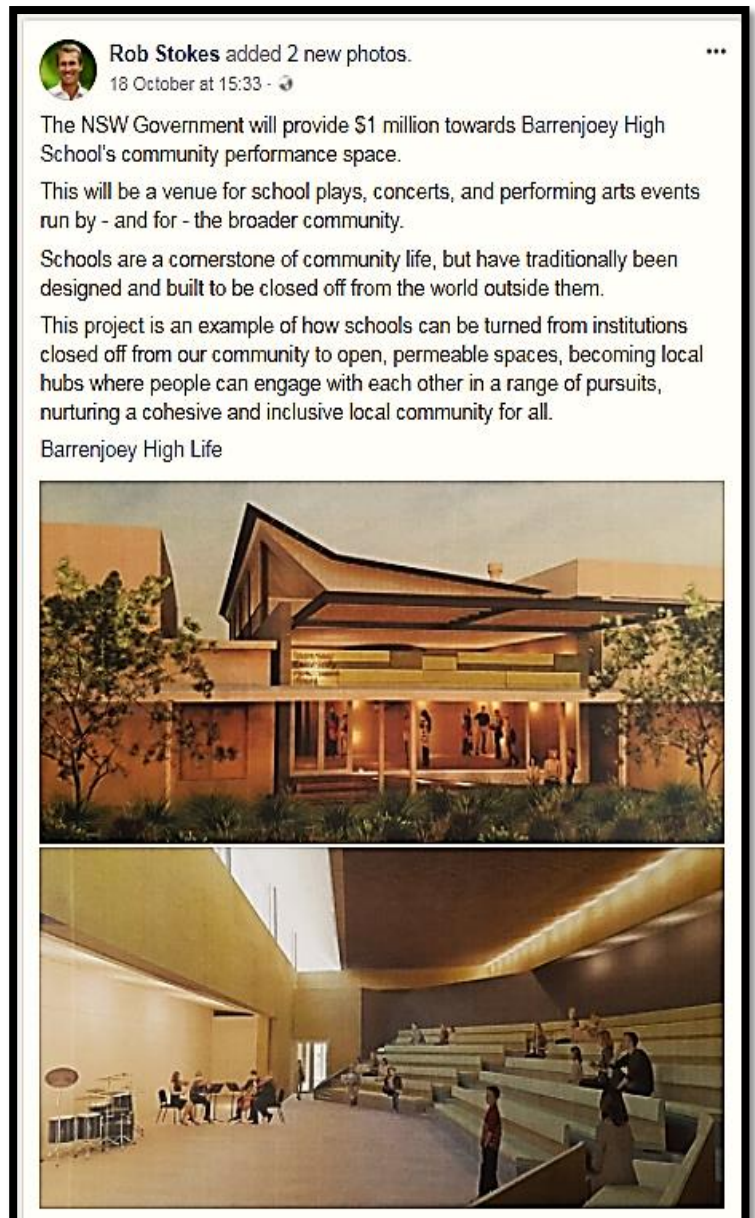
Congratulations to the Committee consisting of; Christy Bishop, Kim Hoggard, Cilla Cole, Richard Cole and Kalinda Hawson.

## Narrabeen North Public School Science and STEM

This year eight Year 4 students attended the PCS Science Fair where they gave a series of presentations about the kitchen garden they had created and been tending to during Terms 2 and 3.

The title of their presentation was 'From food waste to food'. The theme for this years' fair was sustainability. The students gave entertaining and informative presentations on reducing food waste, growing vegetables and building bee hotels.

The Science Fair was an excellent opportunity for NNPS students to showcase and share their learning with students from other peninsula schools. They represented the school with pride.







This year, two teams of Robotics students from Years 3-5 entered the First Lego League, culminating in a competition held at Narrabeen Sports High School on November 29. Our Robotics groups provide **STEM** opportunities to our students, promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematical thinking in conjunction with in-depth coding skill development.

The theme of this year's competition was Hydro Dynamics. The rationale or purpose of the competition was to increase students' understanding of the importance of and fragile nature of the human water cycle.

Students were placed in one of two teams. Each team identified a problem with the human water cycle and set out to develop a possible solution to the problem and present it to a panel of judges at the tournament. Students were engaged in research, creative and critical thinking and communication building skills. Students also designed T-shirts to wear on competition day to support their team.

After receiving the FLL challenge mat, students assembled Lego pieces to build a challenge. Then through the use of computer technology, students programmed the amazing EV3 robots, kindly donated to our school from the P&C, in order to successfully complete a series of missions to perform some of the incredibly difficult challenges to achieve points on the day.

The Robotics program at NNPS provides students with the opportunity to strategise, work as a team and show each other and other competitors, gracious professionalism. Each student should be proud of their many successes and should be congratulated on their achievement and dedication.

## Pittwater High Student Attends Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship Tour

In the spring holidays, Vice Captain Pippa Pryor represented Pittwater High School on the Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship (PAMS) Tour of the Western Front. As one of 21 students chosen from the state's public and private high schools, Pippa spent 12 days in Europe with two historians and a documentary maker, walking in the footsteps of the ANZACS. Pippa's account follows.

*The PAMS tour was a complex, life-changing experience that I will never forget. It was heartbreaking to stop and contemplate the carnage that took place on the battlefields.*



*It was an honour to pay my respects at the memorials of thousands of young Australians who never came home. And it was inspiring to see how, to this day, the people of Belgium and Northern France continue to remember the ANZACS. In the Belgium town of Ypres, every night at 8pm the town gathers at the Menin Gate memorial to perform the Last Post Ceremony.*



*The PAMS Tour group at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing*



*The day we visited Ypres, the PAMS students formed an honour guard for the people laying wreathes at this moving ceremony. Menin Gate commemorates 55,000 missing soldiers. I cannot describe how extraordinary it was to represent our state at this daily tribute to our fallen soldiers.*

*On 26 September, we also represented the Premier of NSW at the Australian Government's National Commemorative service for the Centenary of the Battle*

*of Polygon Wood, Passchendaele. Arriving at 2am, we walked through the 'Reflective Trail' in which the parts of the battle were re-enacted through the woods. Eventually, the path led to the Buttes New British Cemetery where a dawn service was held. The event was attended by many dignitaries, including the Minister for Veterans Affairs, Governor of NSW, Governor General of Australia and Princess of Belgium who our group had the opportunity to meet.*

*The day before, we had already met the Governor of NSW, General David Hurley and his wife, Linda Hurley. I was honoured to spend an hour with them, including participating in a soil collection ceremony. The Governor and I gathered battleground soil samples that will form part of an art installation in the ANZAC memorial in Hyde Park.*

*At the Hyde Park memorial, the domed ceiling in the Hall of Memory is covered with 120,000 gold stars representing the men and women in NSW who fought in the Great War. But what many people don't know is that families of those who served are asked to write the names of their relatives on a paper gold star. Each year, memorial staff gather these stars and have them cremated. We took the latest batch of ashes with us to the Western Front, where we scattered them in memorial across the battle fields where NSW soldiers fought and died. It was another very moving moment in an amazing tour.*

*I have returned to Australia overwhelmed by the memories and determined to play my part in making sure that my generation remembers the courage and self-sacrifice of those who fought in the Great War – especially those still missing and lying in unmarked graves.*

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.*

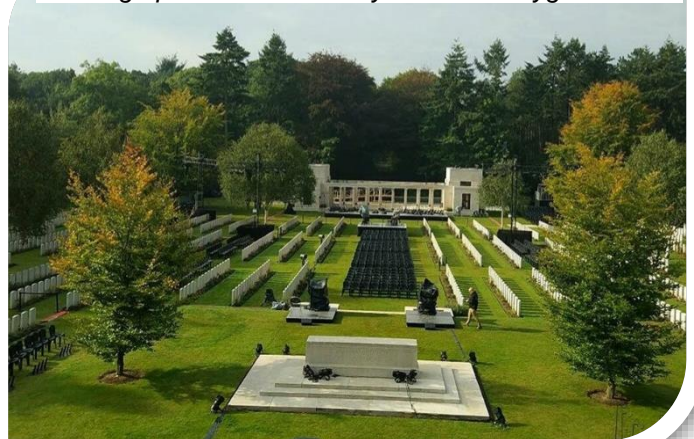
*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them. Lest we forget".*



*Collecting soil samples with the Governor of NSW, General David Hurley*

*Setting up for the Centenary event at Polygon Wood*





## Wheeler Heights

### Environmental News

Students at Wheeler Heights have lots of opportunities to learn about the environment and be involved in special 'green' activities that occur within the school.

In Week 2 in Term 4, some lucky students got to taste honey made from the school's native stingless bees. Australian native bees are black and are only 3-5 mm in size so they are much smaller than the European honey bee. This means there are around 300,000 bees in our school hive!

Two years ago the school purchased our first bee hive with native stingless bees. 2E students and students involved in the Science Fair watched as the hive was split creating another hive. Splitting the hive provided students with a close look at the beeswax cells and the resin that is inside a hive. The favourite part for many students was getting to taste the honey.

A special thank you to Claudia Schremmer who volunteered her time to teach us about hive splitting. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to see inside a bee hive and be inspired to learn more about native bees. Miss Earl, Year 2 Teacher



### 2017 Drama Enrichment Group Collect Award for Short Film

Congratulations to our Drama Enrichment group who received an award at the 2017 Arts Alive Film Festival at the Dendy Opera Quays on Tuesday 31 October. These children travelled into town on Tuesday by Ferry with students from Collaroy Plateau Public School who were also receiving awards in the Film Festival.



The children were able to see themselves on the big screen at the Dendy Opera Quays in their short film 'Sneetches by the Beaches'. They received a certificate and trophy for the school.

A huge thank you and congratulations to Ms Ginny MacPherson, our school drama teacher, for her dedication to this outstanding project.



Also to Miss Kate Thompson for assisting with the filming and supervision of our students into town on the day. The Year 3 Film Enrichment group were also fortunate to be invited to attend to watch the Drama group receive their awards and view a number of talented short film entries with Mrs Armstrong on the day too. We plan to have a casual viewing of all of these short films later in the term at the Wheeler Heights Short Film Festival on Wednesday 13 December in the school hall at recess time. Parents and students are welcome to attend.

Liz Armstrong, Deputy Principal



### Year 3 & 4 Visit the Museum of Contemporary Art

In Weeks 2 and 4, Stage 2 went to the Museum of Contemporary Art to participate in the *Art Write Now* program. Students worked with museum educators in small groups to experience a range of artworks and connected their thoughts and opinions through figurative language. Students explored personification, similes, metaphors and even wrote a few poems. After seeing all the great art, the children used their sketching skills to capture the Sydney Opera House.

The museum staff and members of the public were highly complimentary of both Year 3 and Year 4's behaviour both inside and outside of the museum. Congratulations to all the students for following the Wheeler Way! It was a fantastic learning day had by all.

Mrs Richards and Stage 2 Teachers





## Newport Public School

### Kindergarten Project Based Learning

This term Kindergarten have been exploring the way objects move, through a Project Based Learning unit. The project motivates students to gain knowledge in a fun and engaging way. The students have been learning how to think critically, solve problems and work in teams. Kindergarten students have been involved in 'discovery time' to explore forces and motions such as push, pull, spin and roll. Students were given a team challenge to build a paper plate marble maze and then worked in small groups to make a mini version of a Rube Goldberg machine.

The students proudly demonstrated their learning at an exhibition for Newport families. The teachers were so impressed with the creativity the Kindergarten students displayed and their ability to work collaboratively.



### Trevor & Chilli, Newport's Therapy Dogs

Newport is very fortunate to have two therapy dogs at the school. Earlier this semester Trevor joined Newport as our new recruit. Chilli, our experienced dog, has been mentoring Trevor and showing him the Newport way. Trevor, being a puppy, likes having rest time and takes breaks in the office. As you can see from the photos he has no problem capturing people's attention when he wants a belly rub.

When on duty, Trevor visits various classes within the school. The students enjoy having a loyal and non-judgemental pooch around. Students read to him, sit closely when they do their writing and sing to him. They can give him a pat and a treat, bringing smiles to the students' faces. Teachers have reported, having Trevor in the classroom has made the rooms calmer and students more engaged in their work.



Not only have the students benefited but staff wellbeing has been lifted by having Chilli and Trevor around. Staff often opt to spend their break times with them, even taking them for a walk around the block to get some fresh air and exercise.



## Collaroy Plateau Public School

The smiles on everyone's faces, the splashes of colour on our not so white t-shirts, as well as the squeals of delight when the super soaker found its mark, highlighted the success of our very first Colour Fun Run. Students, teachers and our extended community worked together to help raise money for the installation of solar panels at Collaroy Plateau Public School (CPPS). Our school is committed to reducing our carbon footprint and students in our Student Representative Council work tirelessly to come up with new initiatives to support our environmental programs.

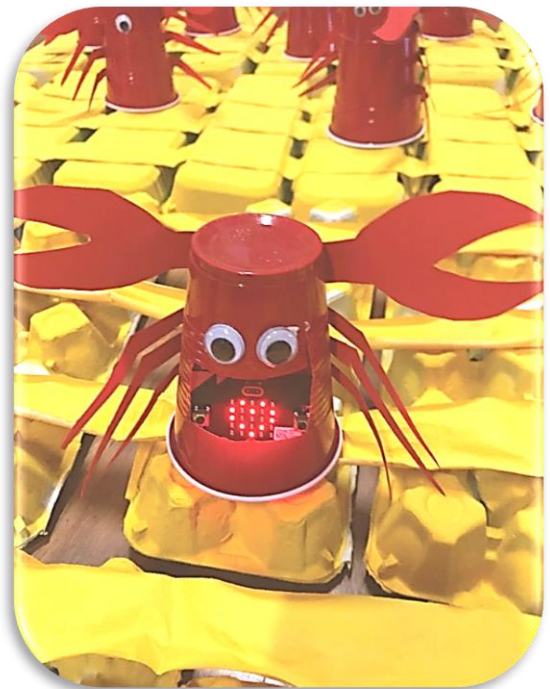






Our Collaroy Vivid students, as part of our Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics initiative (STEAM) also embraced the notion of caring for the environment by designing 'Sculptures by the Sea'. They utilised a coding program called Micro-bits to help send out a strong message of environmental stewardship with their creative art installations.

CPPS is proud of the work our students do in contributing to the creation of a sustainable future.



## **Narrabeen Lakes White Ribbon Day**

On Friday 24 November, Narrabeen Lakes' staff, students and community raised much needed funds for White Ribbon Day. Large numbers of our school community came together to share a fabulous breakfast, served by our supportive P&C, and raise awareness for this valuable cause.

Our students also created very distinctive white ribbon displays that were hung out the front of the school.





This attracted the attention of many of our local community, including our local fire brigade who joined us at school, bringing their fire truck across the road and taking photos, much to the delight of our students. Our school, along with the P&C, will be donating \$1000 to Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre, whose services include Bringa Women's and Childrens Refuge.



## Narrabeen Sports High School

### Macy's Success



Macy C. (Year 10) has been named overall Captain for all students representing Australia at the Pacific School Games reflecting her strong demonstration of our school values of respect, responsibility and success. As part of her duties she attended a function in Adelaide hosted by Hieu Van Le, Governor of South Australia, where the games were held.

Macy was part of the NSW Touch Football team playing alongside fellow Narrabeen Sports High School students Maddi M. (Year 9), Cuban P-S. (Year 8) and Witika H. (Year 9).

Macy has had a successful year also winning the national touch football championships as part of the NSW CHS Open Girls team and the under 15 beach flags title for Newport SLSC. She was also selected for the under 18 NSW Hockey AAP squad.

### Faculty of Arts

In 2017, The Faculty of Arts at Narrabeen Sports High School has produced a number of high quality learning and performance opportunities to showcase student talent. An Arts Camp followed by a Winter Arts Tour culminated in a MADD showcase with more than 200 students performing a large scale classical choral work. Students have just returned from performing to more than 4000 students on the Summer Arts Tour.



In COLAs, halls and back fields across North Sydney, students in the Hall Crew produced the shows which included performances by the Concert Band, Stage Band, Drama Ensemble, Dance Ensemble, Rock Ensemble, Vocal Ensemble and Chamber Choir. Students also performed at Schools Spectacular in the core choir and core dance ensemble while Eve B. (Year 10) was also a featured artist performing solo at the event. The Dance Ensemble were finalists in FORM Dance Project's Sharp Short Dance Festival at The Riverside Theatres, Parramatta and Year 7 student artists Hamish F., Belynda K., Ollie O. and Taylah G. had their artworks selected to be exhibited at Operation Art.



### State Government Visit

In Week 8 our school was honoured to be visited by Ms Cathy Brennan, Executive Director NSW Department of Education to see a number of the innovative programs implemented and piloted at Narrabeen Sports High School in 2017. Ms Brennan and Mr Jason Baldwin, Director Public Schools NSW spent time with students and teachers at the Education Pathways Class, Narrabeen Cafè, Streamline classes and discussed a recent year-long research task carried out by the school executive. Ms Brennan said the initiatives, programs and models established at our school this year resulting in incredible growth in student achievement in just 12 months needed to be scaled up across the state.

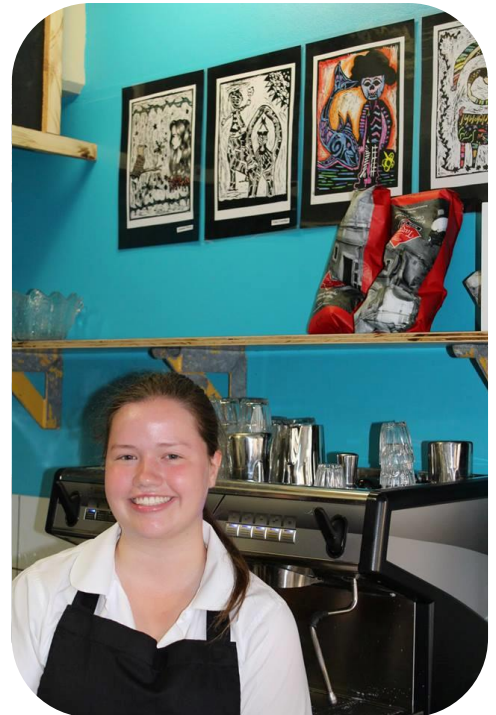
Since visiting, she has recommended our school as a case study for a report published by the Centre for Education Statistics & Evaluation called "What Works Best".





## Café Narrabeen

Year 10 Hospitality students trained in barista, service and café management launched the new Café Narrabeen which will provide training hours in a certified professional kitchen to achieve a number of VET and school based Certificate qualifications. The café is staffed by students with all proceeds directed back to the Faculty. Year 8 Visual Arts students have provided the decoration and a Year 7 collaborative artwork is being installed including a huge double storey mural designed by Kyla Whitfield (Year 7). Drop in for coffee, hot chocolate, chai tea, iced chocolate and coffee, watermelon, apple spirals, toasted Turkish sandwiches, healthy muffins, frittatas, vegetables with hummus and homemade pizza.



## Human Skeletons

In Term 4 2016, Year 9 Art, Science and PDHPE students made 17 anatomically correct human skeletons from white clay before burying them in various formations and with strategically placed cultural items in a pit on the school grounds. This term, Year 7 have worked hard to excavate the site and make deductions about who the skeletons were, their cultural traditions and how they died. Dr Debra Donnelly, a senior education lecturer from The University of Newcastle and her PhD student Casey travelled to visit our school archaeological pit. They observed the range of activities and launched a partnership that includes the training of history teachers participating in Narrabeen Sports High School's "Big Dig" program. We are so thrilled and look forward to making our program a leader in "doing history" - a focus on meaningful and exciting activities as a way of making learning more engaging.





*Narrabeen Sports High Students excavating the skeletons*



**The Peninsula Community of Schools would like to wish all staff and students a wonderful summer vacation.**

