



## The Balgowlah Boys Campus Newsletter

### Principal's Report

Week 7 Term 4 2019

Politics aside, the interview aired on 2GB radio this week certainly re-affirmed the approach to teaching that Balgowlah Boys takes. The Hon. Mark Latham and a parliamentary team researching best practice in education visited our school earlier this month and viewed a number of classrooms. The podcast, which is available on the schools Facebook site, was glowing on its report of the teaching practices at the school. I must also add that I was present during the tour of the school and could not help but be proud of the way our students work with their teachers in class. The English teacher

singled out by Mark Latham was Mr Tom Brecht who was observed teaching his Year 10 English class by the troop of 10 politicians.



*Parliamentary Committee researching Best Practice in Education*

Congratulation to The Company for their performance of Skate. Reviews from opening nights have been praising the efforts of the players and the production team.

*Scene from Skate*

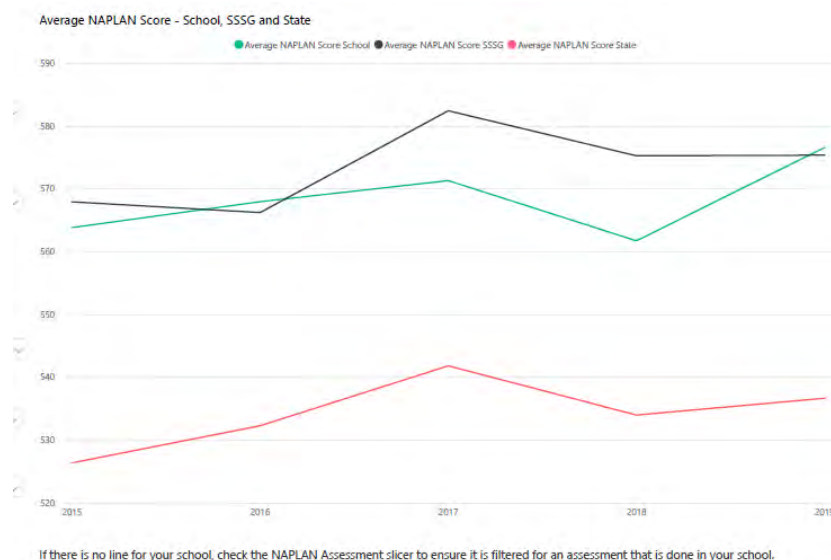
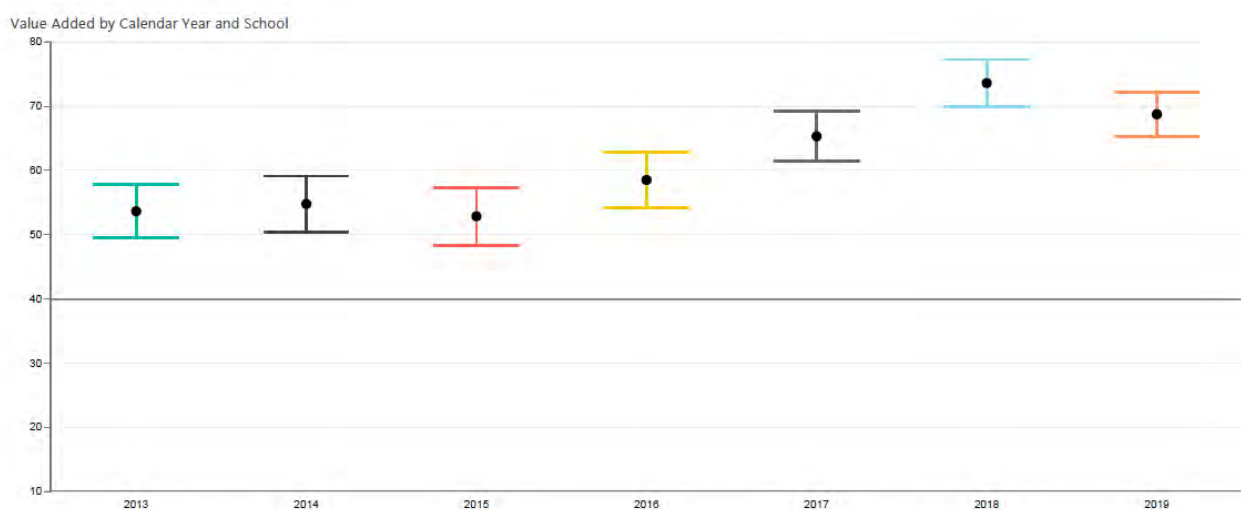


The data analysis for the 2019 NAPLAN Testing has been completed and posted. Once again Balgowlah's performance has been outstanding. Arguably, the most significant is the growth data of our Year 9 boys. This measures the improvement students make from sitting the tests in Year 7 to when they are re-assessed in Year 9. For the 7<sup>th</sup> year in succession this school is rated at the highest level "Excelling!"

NAPLAN Value Added Across Years (Yr 7 - Yr 9)

Northern Beaches Secondary...  
Balgowlah Boys Campus

## 2019 - Excelling



Perhaps even more impressive is our Writing data. Year 9 data improved significantly this year. Note that this is outright performance (not growth). Which demonstrates the writing of our students (green line) are now above our "similar" schools (grey line) which of course include female students – that generally speaking acquire these skills at an earlier age to their male counterparts.





# TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED STUDIES WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TAS?

Term 4

## Year 7 Food Technology - Making Cheesy Devils



## Year 7 Digital Technology - Making Pixel Art





# TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED STUDIES

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TAS?

### Year 7 Design & Technology - Creating 3D Skate Park Models using SketchUp





## TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED STUDIES WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TAS?

### Year 8 Food Technology - Choc Chip Cookies, Nachos, & Butter Chicken



### Year 8 Timber Technology - Beach Chairs

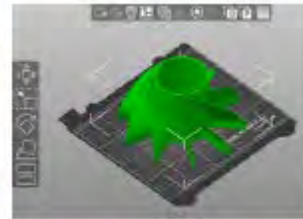
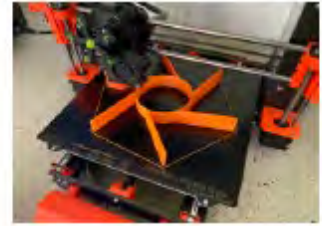
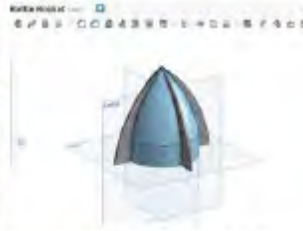




# TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED STUDIES

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TAS?

### Year 8 STEM - Designing and 3D Printing Bottle Rockets



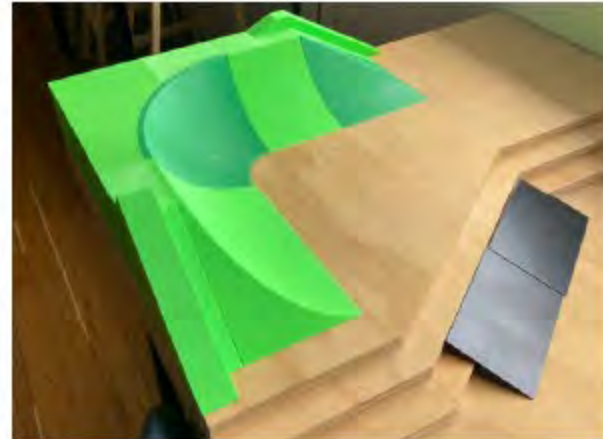
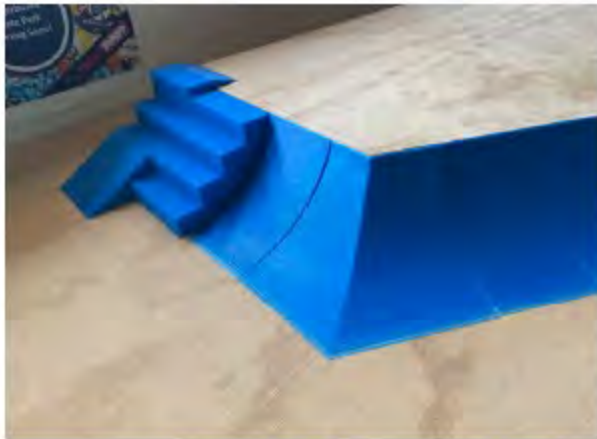
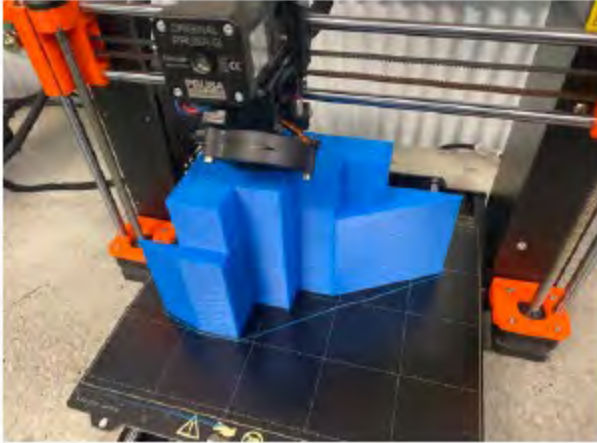
### Year 9 Food Technology - Cooking BLT's





## TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED STUDIES WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TAS?

### Year 9 Design & Technology - Designing & Building a Fingerboard Skatepark



### Year 9 Engineering - Building & Testing their Trebuchet designs





# TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED STUDIES

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TAS?

### Year 10 Engineering - Designing and building a Hydroelectric Generator



### Year 10 Timber - Side Table



### Year 10 Food Technology - Chinese Dumplings





## TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED STUDIES WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TAS?

### Year 12 VET Hospitality



### Year 12 VET Construction - Building a custom stand for our new VegePods





## Mr Min's Technology Club Projects

It has been an eventful year full of new learning experiences and opportunities. I am proud to present the achievements of a few boys who have diligently spent their lunches and many hours outside of school working on these various extracurricular projects.

- Mr Min

### Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and 3D printing

For the majority of this term I have been working closely with a Year 9 student **Adam Donaldson** in helping him develop his engineering and Computer-Aided Design and Drafting skills through the use of the schools 3D printers. He has showed interest and advanced skills in the program OnShape and was eager for an extra-curricular project to work on.

One of the first projects that Adam and I have worked on was when a student snapped off the handle of his USB Bluetooth receiver. This involved teaching him how to use callipers for precise measurements and designing a 3D model to fit and connect with the USB head. We were able to do this with a tolerance of 0.4mm! For a nice snug fit. (Thanks to Mr Stephens for his 3D printer wizardry)



Using the skills he learnt from this project and during STEM class we then moved onto a much larger project. This project was spun out of a need for a binary counter to aid my Software Design and Development students in understanding how we represent numbers in binary.

We first researched what was available online and from what we have seen, the 3D models that were available were not up to the quality that we wanted.



*A binary counter found online*

One glaringly noticeable issue that I had with the binary counters that I found online was that the pins and rod were not 3D printed. It was an arbitrary requirement but I wanted to set a tough goal for Adam to achieve, and that was a binary counter that was 100% 3D printed WITH no need for gluing.



After brainstorming and designing many different prototypes, we began 3D printing the first counter.

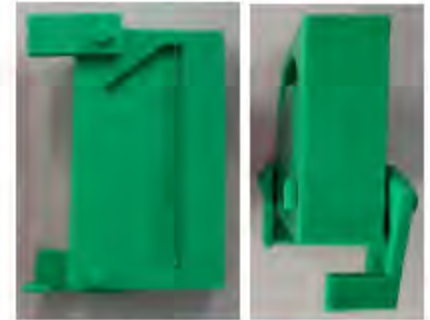
**Prototype 1:**

This was the first revision of the binary counter. Unfortunately the hinges do not articulate as the clearance from the main body was not enough for the 3D printer to print it as a separate piece. Lesson learnt.



**Prototype 2:**

The hinge was made thinner and material was removed to increase the clearance so that it now articulates. The feedback from this design was that the pin was not necessary on both sides and that the articulation was not fluid enough.



**Prototype 3:**

More material was taken off the hinge and pins length was increased so it now it moves fluidly. Unfortunately the range of movement passes 90 degrees and it will sometimes fall on the incorrect side making it not latch correctly.



**Prototype 4:**

The hinges flaps coverage and width was increased to prevent it from going past 90 degrees, therefore removing the possibility of it falling on the wrong side. Only time will tell if this will be the final prototype or if there are any future improvements.



We are keen to keep you updated on the progress of the binary counter, and when finalized the .STL file will be freely available online for your personal 3D printing needs.



It's been almost a year since we started the Balgowlah Boys Coding Club and we have come a long way. We have overcome many struggles and, in the end, come out with a relatively refined result.

One of the greatest challenges that we did face was the sheer amount of work that was required to complete a project such as this. Many weekends were spent solely on this project, with hundreds of hours of work poured into it.

Another challenge that we faced was only having one coder. All of the coding throughout the entire game fell on this individual (**Andrew Yan**) and as such, our workflow was slowed greatly. He also was forced to go without a laptop for the last 3-month period, meaning that little progress could be made in that time, forcing us to tremendously reduce the scope of the project.



However, we did all learn a vast amount of skills and gained great amounts of knowledge over the course of this program. Some of these are the large amounts of new software that had to be learned, from Audacity to Greenfoot. Our teamwork skills also saw great improvement, as we were all forced to rely on the individual strengths of each person involved. In the end, we all achieved a far greater appreciation for the sheer amount of work that goes into the games that you see every day.

Overall, our endeavour to create a turn-based role-playing game was successful, with the framework for further areas being already built. Everyone including the coder, writers, music producers and artists all worked incredibly hard and have created something they should all be truly proud of, that would be a true struggle for any group of people that would attempt such a thing.

So, congratulations to **Andrew, Zack, Josh, Sean, Daniel, Jackson, Issac, Will, Reinhart** and to the many others who helped out along the way.

Regards,

**Nathan Smith**

Download link for the playable demo:

**<https://tinyurl.com/ProjectNesia>**



# Library Lines

**Put your hand up to volunteer.** There are so many ways in which you can contribute to your school community.



These **Year 9** boys put their hand up to volunteer in the Library this year. **Owen Frost, Connor Goulding, Owen Chandler and Thomas Taylor-King.** Initially they volunteered service towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award however have continued to help out during various breaks in their school day. Owen Chandler is passionate about Marvel and DC Comics, having appointed himself as the official curator. We are extremely grateful to these boys for their willing service as they assist with circulation overload including loans, returns and shelving.



Although registration is not until **March 2020**, all books read **from September 2019** will count towards the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) 2020. It is important to record titles, authors, ISBN etc. to enable smooth transfer online next year.



By working closely with **Ms Lepre** for several years, the PRC is now permanently entrenched in our school culture. Seventy-five students were successful this year and almost all will be eligible to continue the process next year as they work towards a NSW Premiers Medal in Year 9. The approaching school holiday period is an excellent time to indulge in the pleasure of reading and any boy wishing to borrow more than the standard borrowing limit is welcome to make such a request.

*But Wait...*  
**THERE'S  
MORE!**

It is our library policy to offer a wide range of reading materials carefully selected to appeal to boys. By far, the most popular collection is Visual Literacy with graphic novels and manga leading the way. Many previously reluctant readers are now devouring copies of several manga series and requesting even more.

In response to student requests, we have ordered a selection of DC comics. The revival of this genre offers visual literacy fans another choice. We hope to have these comics accessioned and available for holiday reading. **Owen Chandler**, our volunteer curator of the Marvel and DC Comics collection, advises us on selection of new copies.



### **Once a Bally boy, always a Bally boy!**

On a regular basis, boys who have attended our school in past years make contact and request records of various kinds. Do we have photos? Newsletters? School Magazines? The answer is. **'Yes!'**



The school library has an extensive archive which includes both print material and realia. We are currently in the process of digitalizing the collection hoping to make it easily accessible via the school website and library link. It is a time-consuming task and 'in addition' to the regular library services. New material is always welcome should there be any relevant photos (preferably with names and dates), newspaper clippings etc., please be in touch.

**School Reunion?** If wishing to locate records from past years, please do not hesitate to call the school and ask for the library. **Ms Dimova, Ms Donato** or myself will be more than happy to assist.



**Senior text book rejuvenation!** Mr Roberts and Ms Dimova are currently working on a major rejuvenation of the senior text book collection. We are extremely grateful to the school's P&C for their financial support of this project. With the introduction of a new syllabus came the need to replace some book sets with new resources. The increase in student numbers also requires a large injection of new copies.

The senior book room has undergone a total reorganisation, all text books have been cleaned and re-boxed, new shelving has been ordered and by Week 9 the transformation will be complete. Although it has been a marathon effort, the project was essential if we are to provide the most appropriate, quality resources for our boys. The challenge now will be to protect these valuable resources in the future.

**More boys, more books, more space!** These are the challenges currently facing us here in the library. From Week 6 onwards, library staff has been busy relocating resources to make way for the increased demand of wide-reading materials for our boys. Several classroom teachers have welcomed the opportunity to offer a selection of topic appropriate books for their reading pleasure after completing their class work. Whilst the boys rarely choose to borrow non-fiction books, they do enjoy reading them when visiting the library. We encourage the boys to be curious and explore their subject content in greater depth, increase their knowledge and further develop their literacy skills.



Once the 'weeding' of the general collection is complete, staff will commence the **annual stocktake**. Library services will continue throughout this time. The only restriction will be on loans and returns belonging to the collection undergoing the stocktake process. It is **important that all loans are returned or renewed before the end of the school year** to enable us to offer a generous collection at the start of 2020.

All boys are welcome to borrow holiday reading in Weeks 9 and 10, the date due being Day 1 of Term 1, 2020. The holiday period is also a wonderful opportunity to clean rooms and discover any library books that may be lurking behind cupboards, under beds and so on. We are very grateful to have those returned to us and allow access for others. Well done to all the boys who return their book on time and to the parents for your support of this process.





**24/7 Library** of eBooks and audio books easily accessed via either the student login and the library webpage (OLIVER), on ePlatform (<http://bbcnsw.wheelers.co>) using the student login or by downloading the free app onto any device. **Read anywhere, anytime!** Unsure about this? Please speak to one of the library staff members, we will be happy to assist. **Happy reading!**

**Joy Jones**  
**Teacher-Librarian**

## **School Counsellor Report**

I had the pleasure of spending time this week with one of our senior students discussing masculinity and what it means to be a good man. This week Year 9 have embarked upon their Tomorrow Man program with Year 10 working through stage 2. The Tomorrow Man program challenges traditional stereotypes of masculinity and encourages men and boys to share their concerns and to support themselves, their families and their mates "while carving out our own version of the Aussie man" <https://www.tomorrowman.com.au/>

As a parent and a counsellor I often think the values and virtues I would like to portray to my own children and your sons and wonder how effective I am in doing this at times. I also often look at my colleagues, both male and female and also wonder what they are imparting and the list is quite extensive and very reassuring. With so many of the Balgowlah staff I see the essence of goodness, care, dedication and a willingness to improve the social, emotional and educational outcomes of our boys either implicitly or explicitly. The senior student put it succinctly, "I like my teachers because they show me how to be when I am older". I hope as well that his parents are proud of him too, he like so many of our boys, is a wonderful young man and instils faith our future.

As parents we often question ourselves and how good we are. I recently heard on the "Feel Better Live More" podcast, that there are over a million parenting books in publication, a phenomenal amount. So much advice that at times it becomes overwhelming. From my point of view, when I see how many of our boys say "thank you", offer a warm greeting and generally look after each other, I think we are doing well and I thank you as parents for this.



Today I was with a large group of year 9 boys doing their Peer Support training in preparation for supporting next year's Year 7. When I asked my group what inspired them to help out, the overwhelming answer was "to make a difference". In her book "He'll be OK", the late Celia Lashlie provides reassuring messages to parents of boys on supporting our sons, if we have such a large group of boys wanting to make a difference – then we'll be okay.

## **Drama**

### **Skate Production**

*Skate* by Debra Oswald

At Bally, we are incredibly fortunate to have so many talented students and staff! The 'Skate' production could not have taken place had it not been for the passion, dedication and commitment to creativity from all those involved. A massive thanks to all those who performed, produced, directed and supported this fantastic production. Here are a few pictures from behind the scenes and on stage over the past few months!



Chris Boylan and Jonah Ovadia painting the brilliant backdrops



Owen Frost's fanclub. Owen played Zac, 16 years old and looked upon as a leader.









RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | EXCELLENCE







RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | EXCELLENCE



Bob Herman asking students to test the ramps during construction.



The technical crew and stage hands. From left: Rory, Dae, Ethan, Nick, Luke and Lachlan. (Missing Mikael)





Mitch, Isaac and team selling items during interval to raise funds for their Borneo service trip.

## Year 7 Drama

The students have recently finished their final assessment task for the playbuilding unit. This semester, they were tasked with writing and performing their own adaptations of well-known fairy tales or crime stories. There were some highly creative, entertaining scripts and performances. Thanks to Ms. Lambert who also kindly filled in for groups who had missing performers on the day. Bally has some budding young actors, and we cannot wait to see them involved in more Drama productions in future! - **Ms. Wait and Ms. Collard**













## Year 9 Drama

This term, the Year 9 Elective students have been learning about **commedia dell'arte**; a theatrical form which originated in Italy in the 16th Century. Performances were highly comedic narratives based on stock characters and set scenarios upon which the actors improvised their dialogue. Actors wore masks and used specific movements to represent the various stock characters.

The Year 9 boys, as well as the students in the Drama Company, attended an exciting workshop by Scott from **Matriark Theatre**, where they were introduced to and explored the stock characters and their movements. Great fun was had by all!



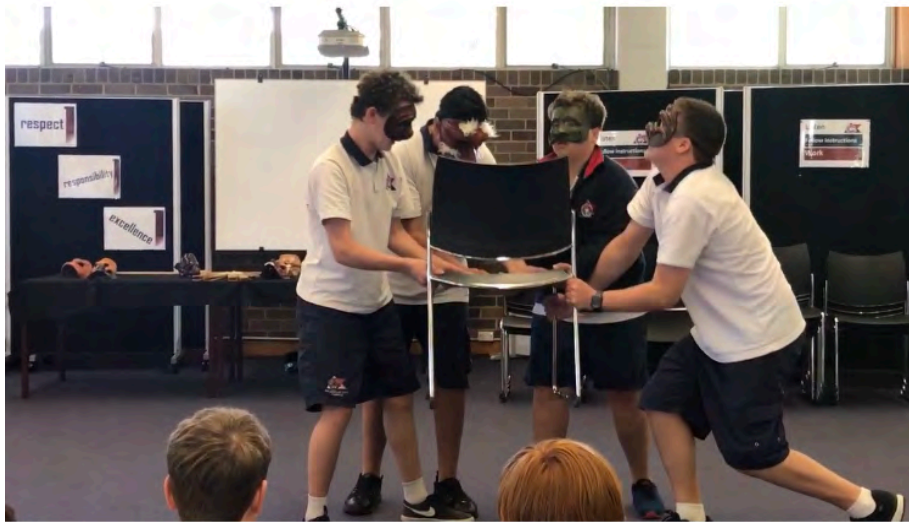
Scott

introduces the students to the masks.





Learning the zanni (servant) walk.



Lazzo of the pantry: a rehearsed comedic scene where the servants (zanni) steal from their master (vecchi).





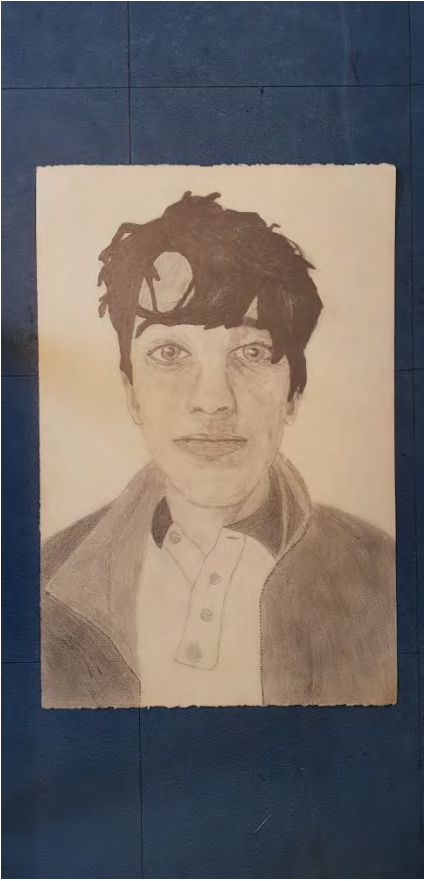
## Visual Arts

### Year 9 Visual Art

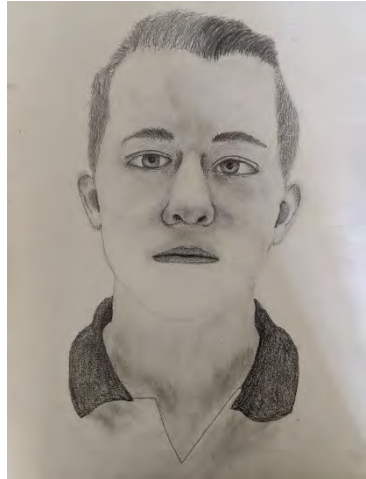
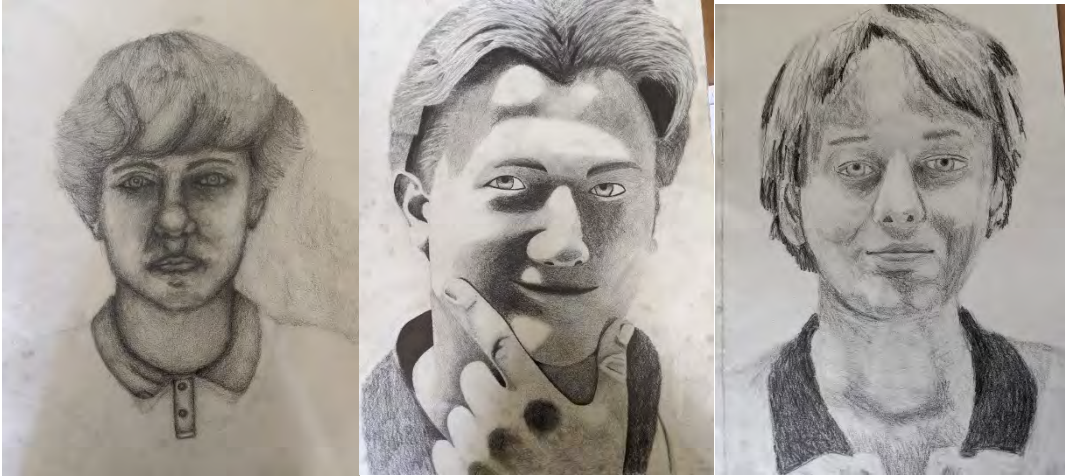
A selection of Year 9 realistic portraits by Aidan, Adam, Levi, David, Noah, Lucas, Gor, Jack, Jack, Flynn, Sam, Felix, Max, Jono, Ruari, and Theo.













## Year 7 Still Life

Students in year 7 have been learning traditional painting techniques including layering, scumbling, glazing, and blending. They have also learnt to build and mix their own colour palettes.







**Congratulations Kai Taylor!**

Kai Taylor's HSC film *FLUX* has been selected for **art express!** This positions Kai's work as one of the best in the state. Congratulations Kai, this is an outstanding effort.



*A still from flux*

## **Music**

We would like to invite the Bally school community to our end of year concert on Wednesday the 11th of December. This will be an exciting evening to give the boys a chance to showcase the pieces they have been working on throughout the year. There will be a range of ensembles as well as raffles and some light refreshments throughout the night.

We would love to see a huge crowd showing their support for the amazing music students of Balgowlah Boys campus 2019!

Date: **Wednesday the 11th of December**

Venue: **School Hall**

Time: **6:00pm - 8:30pm**

Entry: **Gold coin donation on the door**





Northern Beaches Secondary College Balgowlah Campus  
proudly presents

# THE BIG BALLY BAND BLAST

Featuring all Bally Concert and Stage Bands, Rock Bands, and  
other Ensembles

**DECEMBER 11 6PM-8:30PM**  
**SCHOOL HALL**  
**GOLD COIN DONATION ON THE DOOR**

Raffles and prizes on the night and refreshments

Our Year 7 and Year 8 Gifted and Talented Music Program boys had the pleasure of going to see School of Rock at the Capitol Theatre. The show was mesmerising and there were many positive reviews from the boys in attendance!

Thanks to Mr Robertson, Ms Stokes, Mr Corby and Ms Collard for taking the boys along.





