

# Peninsula Community of Schools

*Term 2, 2017*



**PENINSULA COMMUNITY**  
OF SCHOOLS



**MACQUARIE**  
University

## **Narrabeen North Public School Leading Learning Beyond the School**

### **Enriched Writing Opportunities**

What Matters?

This was the question posed to a group of Year 5 writers as part of 'The Exchange'.

This initiative is now in its third year and is a partnership between our Year 5 students and Year 9 high school students. The initiative focuses on further developing the writing skills of each student through the annual 'What Matters?' writing competition.

Our Year 5 students were asked to compose a 400-600 word opinion piece on what matters to them. With their Year 9 buddy, students explored the devices used to effectively script a persuasive piece that would influence and impact upon their audience. This year the pieces addressed issues of refugees, sustainability, the environment and other social issues.



To support the process this year, we had students use the Google classroom as an online platform for sharing their work which helped in providing feedback. The response from the group was outstanding. The depth and complexity of their writing was impressive!

Some students in senior classes have also been constructing a piece for the competition. It is great to see them challenge themselves to further develop their writing skills.

Thank you to Miss Tippett (NNPS), Mrs Vergos (NSHS) and Ms Farrugia (NSHS) for leading 'The Exchange' and for giving the children this great opportunity.

Some students in senior classes have also been constructing a piece for the competition. It is great to see them challenge themselves to further develop their writing skills.

### **Teachers Leading Teachers**

As educators we know the quality of student learning is directly related to the knowledge and expertise of the teacher.

Three Narrabeen North teachers: Mrs Reid, Ms Brown and Miss Berry were invited to present at the North GaTE (Gifted and Talented) network meeting. These meetings are held twice a year for teachers across the Northern Beaches and North Shore areas to highlight the effective ways for developing our high achieving students. The teachers developed a presentation entitled: **'Working Mathematically - developing capability in critical and creative thinking for successful learning in Mathematics'**.

The session included a case study on the work being done K-6 at Narrabeen North on improving students' skills in mathematical problem solving. This whole-school approach to working mathematically gives structure to stage programming, and provides the tools required to assist students with being actively involved in scaffolding, unpacking, and understanding the key concepts of critical and creative thinking in maths.

The response by attending colleagues was very positive, with Narrabeen North teachers invited to share the learning further across the network.

## **Narrabeen Lakes**

### **International Literacy Foundation Great Book Swap**

Recently Narrabeen Lakes Public School were involved with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation book swap program. Our students enjoyed writing a brief recommendation and choosing a new book to enjoy. We were saddened by the knowledge that only 25% of Indigenous students in very remote areas are at the minimum reading standard, compared to 90% of non-Indigenous students. We are set to help change these statistics, by helping to support this excellent program! Our vision is equity for opportunity in remote communities across Australia, by lifting literacy levels and instilling a lifelong love of reading. The Great Book Swap was a fantastic way to celebrate reading locally, and raise much-needed funds for remote communities. Our donations will go towards the hope of raising \$200,000 nationally to gift 20,000 new books to remote Indigenous communities.



### **Crushing Cancer at Narrabeen Lakes PS**

On Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>, Narrabeen Lakes SRC held a school wide fundraising event to support those suffering from cancer. Sadly, many in our community have been impacted by this terrible disease. One of our teachers, Mrs Adam's best friend, Emma, is fighting cancer at the moment and she decided she would like to support her by shaving off her hair and keeping it shaved until Emma has finished with the cancer treatment. Our school SRC were touched by Mrs Adam's dedication to her friend, and also wanted to support to other members of our school community, so they decided to run a fundraising day in conjunction with Mrs Adam shaving her head. Mr Skinner jumped on board and let our school captain shave his head into a mohawk. The SRC organised a pink mufti day, lolly jar guessing competition, hair spraying stalls, finger nail painting stalls and a face painting stalls. The SRC raised a total of \$1298.90 which has been donated to the Cancer Council of Australia.



One of the lovely parts of the day was that we Skyped Emma and her family, so even though she was unable to come to school, she could watch Mrs Adam being shaved live and see and hear the support of our school community.

## Collaroy Plateau Public School



There was excitement in the air at Collaroy Plateau Public School (CPPS) when the Voice contestant Ellis Hall came to visit. Ellis was a student at CPPS and has very fond memories of his primary school years. Our students were thrilled that he was able to sing a few of his favourite songs to entertain them at our School Assembly. Ellis was a member of our school's choir when he was a student, and had a lovely singing voice which was nurtured and celebrated.

Ellis wanted to reach out to our students and share his school experiences. His message to our students was to always follow your dreams, work hard and never give up, even when things get tough.

Collaroy Plateau students learn about 'never giving up' and resilience through our school-wide Bounce Back Program. We teach our students the importance of optimistic thinking and are always thrilled to hear about the achievements of our students – both past and present.

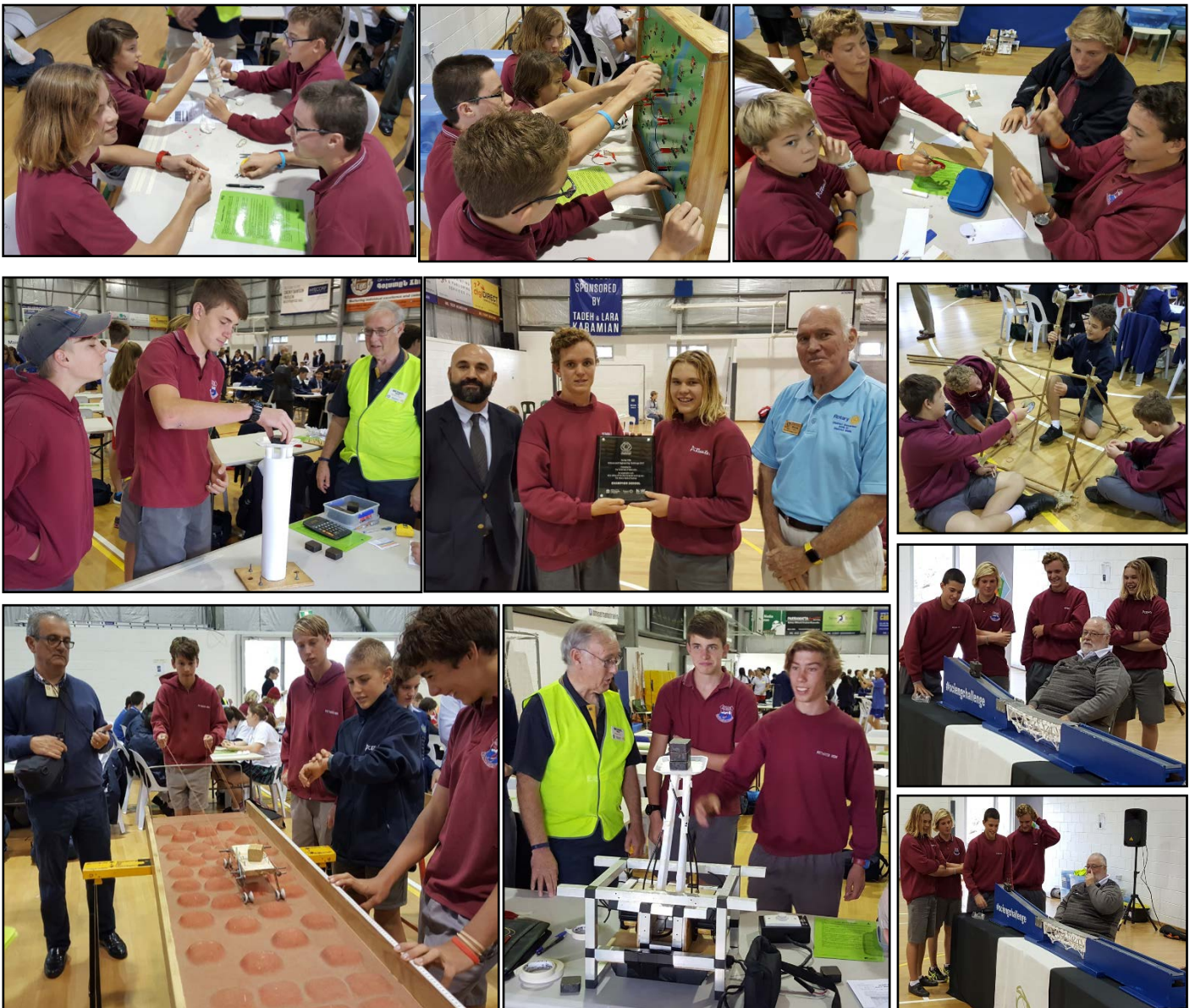


## Pittwater High School Students Blitz the Engineering Challenge

On Wednesday 3 May a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students studying engineering competed at the Northern Sydney Region of the University of Newcastle's Engineering challenge. There were 8 set engineering challenges, such as; a catapult, bridge, electricity grid, mechanical hand and Mars rover, that students had to design, build and test in small groups.



The students demonstrated outstanding problem solving skills, teamwork and creative and critical thinking, whilst having a bit of fun. Other teams represented included public, private and independent schools from the North Shore and Northern Beaches. Each challenge was assessed by industry experts and university representatives and given scores based on the test performed, which were tallied to create an overall winner. The exceptional students from Pittwater were awarded the winning school.



## World Environment Day at Newport School

Newport School Community is very fortunate to have an Environmental Scientist working with students and staff as part of the Scientist in Schools partnership. Tim Seaton is working closely with Year 6 students in the areas of Products and Light. The students' first session with Tim had students experience first-hand the evolution of a product assembly line. They did not drag a car along the floor as Henry Ford did, however they were given materials, a procedure to follow, a team leader and a time limit to complete their tasks. Seven teams of twelve students toiled away. Students soon realized you needed to work in a team, and that everyone's role was important. Some of the roles that appeared to be simple were in fact difficult, especially under pressure.



Different teams achieved various results. Students learnt that being fast was not the only thing that mattered! Completed products were checked by quality control and surprisingly, many products didn't pass quality control. Lastly, students discussed the advantages of a production line and how doing the same job can have its advantages but can also be boring as there is no variation to the task. The room was noisy, the students were engaged and the students reported; "It was a great experience and it was a lot of fun. We thought it was hard making the hearts but imagine building cars! Thank you so much Tim for visiting us! "

Tim visited again the following week and presented to students from Years 4 and 6 acknowledging World Environment Day's theme "Connecting People to Nature." Tim spoke about the role we all play in protecting our only home.....Earth, using resources wisely and considering the impact we have on our environment. Tim inspired the students to think how, as consumers, we can minimize any further damage to our environment.

Tim's presentation to Year 6 students was the launch of a repurposing activity. The students are finding another use for an everyday object by changing the object into something useful. The object had to be destined for the bin, recycling bins or the tip. A display of the repurposed objects will take place next week. Students from other grades have been invited to come along and view the new products.

Who would have thought that the lint from a dryer, an egg carton and old wax could be turned into something very useful?



*Tim Seaton talking to Year 6 students*

## Avalon Public School

### Grade News - Year 4

What a fantastic term Year 4 are having! Everyone is working hard, learning lots and having fun!

In preparation for NAIDOC week, we delved into the 6Ds of the "Modern Learning" framework where students had great time combining their mathematical skills with their creative flair. Working in groups, they were challenged to create an artwork, reflective of traditional Indigenous art with the added element that it needed to be symmetrical.



A highlight of our week is our Hip Hop dance sessions. We are lucky to have the expertise of Katja Davis-Raiss inspiring our students with the latest moves. It's a fabulous work out and we feel so energised.



Another important event for Year 4/5 is the opportunity to be a part of our PSSA Teams. This year we have a record number of students from Year 4 participating in the weekly inter-school competition and they are so excited every Friday as they board the bus and travel to a nearby field to do battle against one of our local schools.



## Science Club

The Avalon Public School Science Club has been learning all about sustainability. As a part of our research we have learnt all about single use plastics and their negative impact on the planet and most evidently, our oceans. Some of the most common and environmentally damaging single use plastics we can easily live without are plastic straws, plastic bags, plastic bottles and surprisingly take away coffee cups. These cups, due to their plastic inner lining, are not recyclable. Current estimates suggest Australians use over 1 billion of these cups per year!

We designed some tote bags for our families to use in the place of single use plastic bags.



What basic changes can you make in your everyday life to help our planet breathe easier?

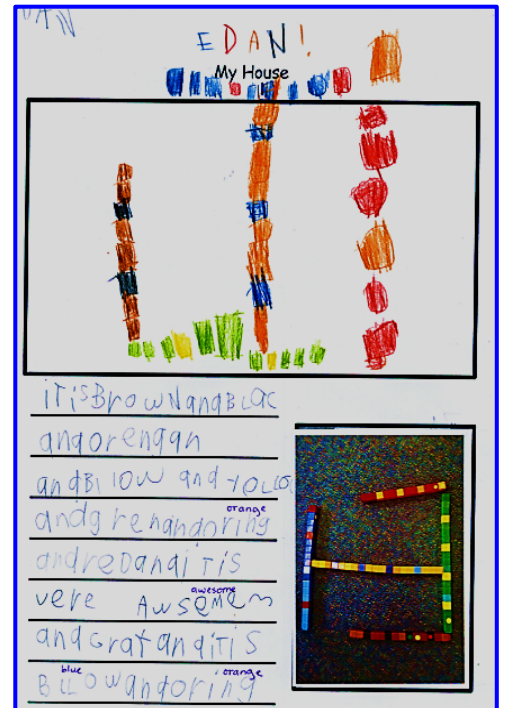
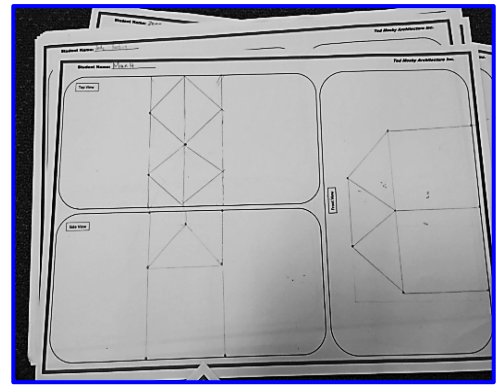
Some facts about Australia's current waste situation:

- Australia is one of the most wasteful countries in the developed world.
- Every year the waste we generate is growing at twice the rate of our population.
- Australia uses over 10 million plastic bags a day - plastic bags are causing problems in our oceans
- Australia pioneered recycling programs in the 1960's with initiatives such as "Clean Up Australia Day".
- The average Australian family throws out over \$3,500 worth of food every year – that's about a ton per household!
- Australia produces enough food each year to feed around 60 million people (over twice our population), yet many Australians struggle to put food on the table.
- 3.3 million tons of food waste is produced every year, 2.6 million of that from households. This is enough to fill the MCG 6 times!
- Approximately 1/5th of bought food is thrown away – one in every five shopping bags!
- On average 1/3 of household rubbish is food waste.
- When food rots in landfill it lets off methane 25 times more potent than the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by cars.
- If 1% of the population composted food scraps instead of throwing them in the bin, it would save 45 million kgs of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Australian supermarkets and other retailers send approximately 170k tons of food to landfill each year
- If global food waste was a country, it would be the third largest greenhouse gas emitter behind China and the US.

Statistics: The War on Waste. ABC, 2017

## Elanora Heights Quality Teaching in Mathematics

Last year we started a Quality Teaching in Mathematics project (QTM) at Elanora Heights Public School. This project aimed to enhance teachers' knowledge and skills in teaching mathematics based on current research assimilated by Peter Sullivan for the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER). This research outlined 6 key principles for the effective teaching of mathematics, including: articulating goals, making connections, fostering engagement, differentiating challenges, structuring lessons, and promoting fluency and transfer. As part of the project, teachers are supported to reflect on their practice and identify areas for development based on the principles mentioned above. With mentor Amy McKnight, these teachers are then given time to plan and discuss the modifications they will make and how they will trial these in their classes. The goal of this refinement of practice is to further promote student outcomes so data is collected to gauge the impact of each in-class trial. Work samples and pictures form an important part of the process.



Last year we were excited to start with a Kindergarten, Year 3 and Year 4 teacher. This semester we are working with our Year 3 teacher Mr Jack Tier and our Year 5 teacher Miss Charlotte Reddan.

Our Kindergarten teacher Miss Chloe Powell focused on enabling and extending question prompts as a strategy for differentiating her tasks. Her kindergarten students created houses that included a range of two part patterns and recorded a description of what they had made. Chloe found their ideas were better developed and expressed the more the questioning prompts were used.

Both the Year 3 and Year 4 teachers worked on the principle of fostering engagement. Mr Jono Rosconi created a fascinating narrative around Ted Moseby and his architecture company who were keen to design a house that required a particular shaped base. This expanded into a three week unit that addressed many areas of mathematics and fully engaged all his Year 3 students in the process of design and make!



Year 4 class teacher Mr David Waters experimented with different ways to teach fractions and the impact that each of these had on the students' engagement, as measured by their learning journals.

We are excited to see how the QTM project develops this year with the teachers currently involved. This has been a wonderful collaboration across our school, a time put aside to learn *while* we teach. Laurinda Lomas



## Narrabeen Sports Sydney North Touch Champions

The success of Narrabeen Sports High School's Girls' Touch Football team was reported in the following article which appeared in the Manly Daily Newspaper earlier this month.

NEWS 13

NARRABEEN

# Tough competitors



Narrabeen Sports High's girls touch football team are heading to the nationals in Queensland.

## Touch team crowned Sydney North champions

### Julie Cross

A GIRLS touch footy team is heading to the nationals in Queensland after winning the state championships.

The Year 9 and 10 team from Narrabeen Sports High School qualified by beating local and regional schools – public, private and independent – to become the Sydney North champions.

The girls cruised through their rounds to face Kildare Catholic College in the final.

Against much tougher competition Narrabeen Sports High were up for the challenge, with NSW and Australia representative Sariah Paki scoring in the final minute to give Narrabeen Sports High a 1-0 win.

Sariah was named player of the tournament.

“This result is what the school is working towards for all 12 of our sporting programs,” the school’s director of sport Ian Wood said.

“It’s great to see our students exceeding their potential, striving for and reaching success in something that they love doing.”

The Year 9 and 10 boys also qualified but did not reach the finals.

## Cromer Public School's Year 6 Team Building and Leadership Camp

The beginning of Week 5, Term 2, saw all of Cromer Public School's Year 6 students and teachers head off to Camp Cooba in Berridale, NSW. Cooba Sport and Education Centre is accredited through the Outdoor Recreation Industry Council of NSW (ORIC). The Outdoor pursuits program is the medium by which the outcomes of team building, peer support, self-esteem and leadership skills are enhanced.

The camp was three days jam-packed with fun and adventure - from driving dirt buggies to riding bobsleds and tackling the heights of a giant swing. All campers learnt a lot about themselves through the activities, and upon their return, the Year 6 students sat down to reflect on their camp experiences.

Below is an account of Allie M & Madeleine W's experiences at Camp.

*Year 6 2017, went on camp to Cooba Sport and Recreational Centre. Year 6 Camp this year was a great, fun experience. The teachers joined in as many activities as they could, and so did the staff/instructors.*

*Some of the activities we participated in were: Assault Course, Flying Fox, Archery, Bubble Ball, Team Manoeuvres, Low Ropes, and Gladiator Course.*

*There was lots of encouragement from each other and team building in these activities, as well as people out of their comfort zones.*

*We left school at 5:30am and arrived at Camp around 1:30pm. The first thing we did when we got there was go upstairs into the common room and talk about what we could do at Camp and what the rules were.*



*Once we had finished talking, we went downstairs to collect our bags and took them to our cabins that we were assigned to. The cabins had bunk beds and trundles; they also had a TV, a fridge, two heaters and our own personal bathroom.*

*About five minutes later, we were already participating in our first activity. On the first day, we were engaged in two activities. On the second day, we took part in three activities and on the third day, we did two activities again. We were given teams numbered 1 to 6 with about 18 students in each. Each team was given a green wallet with their team number on the front. At the end of each activity, the Cooba staff would give each team an amount of money on how hard the team worked in the session. When camp was*

*over, the teachers and Cooba staff announced which team had the most amount of Cooba dollars. When we arrived back at school, the winning team was given a ribbon.*

*The food was delicious for each meal. It would fill all of us children and teachers right up! For breakfast there were things like; cereal, scrambled eggs, baked beans, bacon, hash browns, toast, sausages and more. For lunch we were given a hamburger, chips and a drink, and for dinner we had; pizza, pasta, potato bake, vegetables, salad and more.*

*Of course we cannot forget dessert! We had; ice cream with caramel, chocolate and strawberry topping and chocolate and strawberry mousse. The teachers were given other food such as: steak, chicken and much more.*

*At night, we had free time. We could play in the games room if we wanted to. We had a disco and a games night and during them we could earn Cooba dollars. There were tennis courts, basketball courts, a souvenir shop/games room and horses to feed. There was even a bouncing pillow! During our free time, we could also go to Zumba which was in the common room. Many people enjoyed going to Zumba and so did Mrs Scriven!*

*Everyone had a great time at Cooba and the teachers too. Thank you to all the teachers for accompanying us students and thank you to all of the Cooba Staff as well. We hope all the following years who go on camp have as much fun as we did and learn a lot about themselves!*



## **Barrenjoey High School**

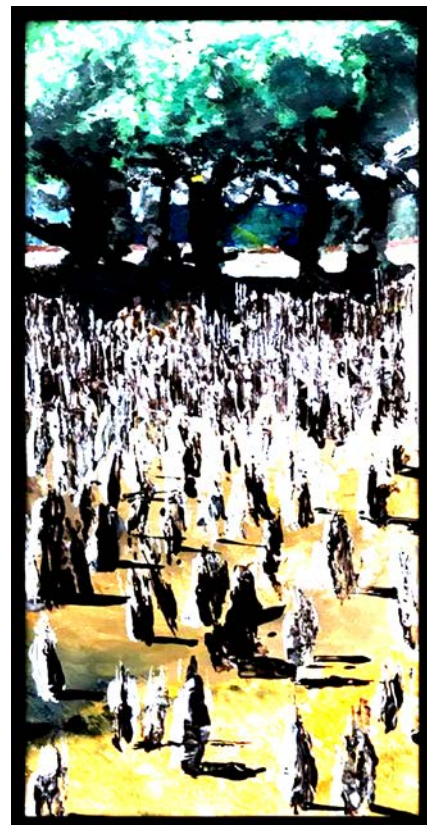
### **Artist of the Week**

Year 9 Visual Arts student Sam J. has captured the mangroves at low tide with a real depth of space in his visual arts diary painting. His technique using acrylic paint and both brush and palette knife is exceptional.

### **Band News**

What a Blast! Cat Empire's Ross Irwin joined Barrenjoey High's Jazz Combo to perform 'The Wine Song' in what was a memorable moment in an unforgettable Big Band Blast at Port Macquarie over the weekend. Knowing that Ross was to be a guest of honour at BBB our Combo decided it would be a fitting tribute to prepare the Wine Song (and hope that Ross heard it!)

Ben arranged this version for Kasey on vocals, Lachlan on Alto Sax, Jack on Tenor, Euan on Tuba and of course Ben himself on Drums. No sooner had they begun to play than Ross appeared from somewhere deep within the Panthers Club, where we were playing, and leapt in with his trumpet.



The Blast organisers were delighted, and put it up on Facebook where it's had more than 1650 hits in just 2 days! Big Band also played exceptionally well, the best set we've ever heard them play.

Wonderful exposure for the Barrenjoey Band program; well done everyone.

## Artist in Residence – CAPA

Starting in Term 2, the CAPA faculty has been running the *Artist in Residence* program with local photographer/artist Sally Mayman.

Students from Years 10 and 11 Photography have been introduced to current photographic App technology through the 360 degree FLY virtual reality video camera, and this week a drone video/photography App was used. Special thanks to Cathie Davies the drone pilot for her expertise. The students have then been editing the video to create small movies to extend their skills.

Sally has also been mentoring several Year 12 Visual Arts students from both Ms Haskett and Mrs Lenaghan classes with the photomedia component of their HSC Body of Work. Sally has assisted with concept development and photo shoot set up.

Next term Sally will be running an afternoon program for students who will make a short film for the Creative Creatures Film Festival. Thanks to the P&C for their funding and support of the *Artist in Residence* program.



## Wheeler Heights Author Visit and Indigenous Performance

### Koomurri Group - Indigenous Performance

We were so fortunate to be visited by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performance group, Koomurri, last Thursday. The whole school participated in varied activities and students were immersed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture for the day.



We started the day with a very moving *Acknowledgement of Country* by our school captain, Fynn. This was written a few weeks ago, when all our Year 6 student leaders and Aboriginal students participated in a workshop to understand the significance of Country to Aboriginal people. The *Acknowledgements of Country* written by the students will be presented at meetings and ceremonies throughout the year. The Koomurri performers were extremely moved by the welcome they received and said having an *Acknowledgement of Country* written by a student was a very special experience for them. After this, Koomurri performed a welcome song and dance show and a smoking ceremony took place.



Next students rotated in groups to a number of differing activities.

The children, Mr Scotter and the teachers learnt how to correctly throw a boomerang and actually make it come back. The history behind this Aboriginal hunting device was explained and children were shown how they are made.

Artifacts and weaponry were shared and how items were used within the culture was outlined. Many students have commented on the sustainability of the culture and how carefully the land was cared for by Aboriginal people.

Learning to dance and sing along with culturally significant songs was a highlight for many. If your children haven't already performed for you, make sure you ask them to! You won't be disappointed!

Finally, every student in the school participated in creating an incredible mural on the wall within the multi-purpose court. Cec, the artist, explained the meaning behind the artwork.



### Aboriginal Mural

This mural is our Dreamtime Story. It explains us and what we are doing at WHPS. The turtles signify peace, love, friendship and the coming together of people to celebrate each other. It is hoped we can come together at least once a year to reflect upon what we already know about Aboriginal culture and to explore it further; continually building on our knowledge and understanding. The large U's represent teachers and parents and the small U's are the students. This shows us all together, always working together for each other. Within Aboriginal artworks, people are represented as a U because after you sit on the earth with your legs crossed, you leave a U imprint in the land. So our mural is US! All of us; it is the Dreamtime story of the Wheeler Heights PS Community – All together.



We finished off the day with a farewell concert and all participated by performing the song and dance we had been taught, throughout the day. The knowledge, insight and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, the children received from this experience is immense. We thank Koomurri for visiting us and hope to see them again very soon.



## Author Visit - Belinda Nowell

This semester for history, students in Year 2 at Wheeler Heights Public School have been studying the unit Present and Past Family Life. As part of this unit students have been learning how families have changed over time and how all families are different. On Friday 19 May, author Belinda Nowell met with Year 2 to read her book "Who's Got a Normal Family?" and share her experiences of story writing.

In the story the main character, Alex, explores the families of his classmates to discover that all families are different. After reading her book, students had the opportunity to ask Belinda questions about the writing process and how she came up with ideas for her story. Students were also able to see storyboards of the illustrations and learn more about how books are illustrated.

The school would like to thank Belinda for visiting and sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm for story writing with the students. Belinda has kindly donated copies of her book for classrooms and the library. Belinda's story has been recognised as a Premier's Reading Challenge K- 2 text.



## Mona Vale Public School Visits Terry Hills Nursing Home Mens Group

On Tuesday we had the opportunity to go along to Terry Hills Nursing Home with our Principal Mr Greg Jones, and our classroom teacher Mr Kelson. When we arrived, we met around 10 elderly men who reside at the nursing home. We spoke about all of the technology in class and at home, and they in turn taught us all about their life stories which was so incredible. We met a man called Fred who was 98 years and has lived the most amazing life. I really hope I am like Fred when we turn 98 years old. We also met a man called Don Burrows who is known as one of the "Greats" of Australian jazz, and another man who fled Poland during the time of World War 2.

We really enjoyed meeting all of the men who live in the nursing home, and have them invited them to come to Mona Vale Public School to speak with other students, and we will

teach them more about technology. It was so enjoyable to be given this opportunity and we would like to thank Mr Jones for allowing us to attend. Jack and Logan Year 6

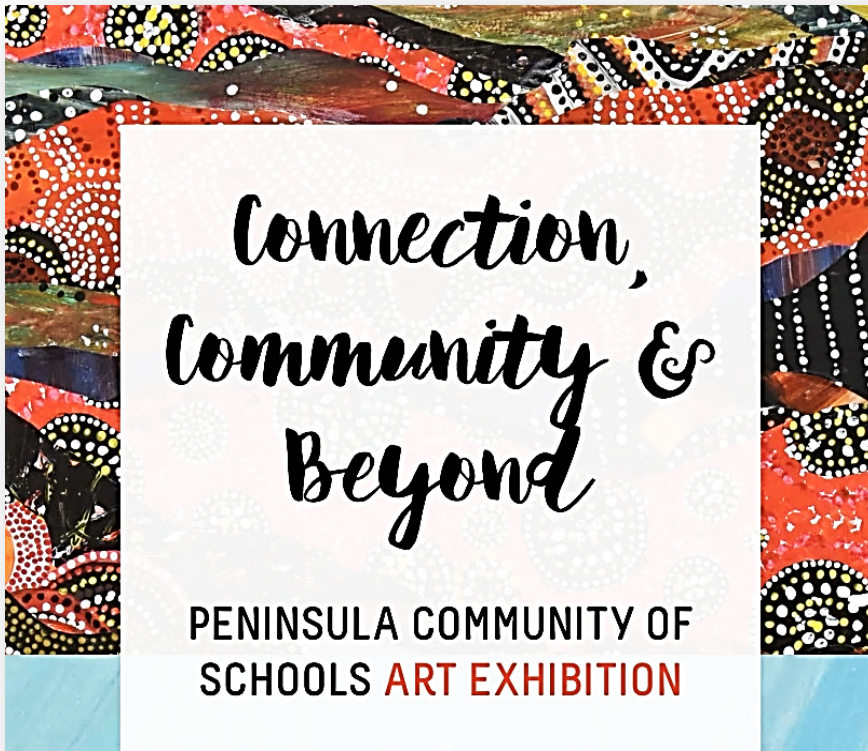


# NAIDOC WEEK

## THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE TO SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

PCS NAIDOC committee has put together a wonderful Art Exhibition in celebration of NAIDOC Week, Harmony Day, Reconciliation week and the Guringai Festival in Warriewood Square Shopping Centre, which opened Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

The collection includes artwork from every primary and secondary school on the Peninsula. So, if you are 'late night shoppin' be sure to check it out. It is on display until the 25th June outside Kmart.




*Connection,  
Community &  
Beyond*

**PENINSULA COMMUNITY OF  
SCHOOLS ART EXHIBITION**

In celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures of the Northern Beaches, we proudly present a showcase of students' work from the 13 Peninsula Community of Schools from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Opening Night	📅 Thur 15 June	🕒 5pm	📍 Kmart Court
Exhibition	📅 Thur 15 - Sun 25 June		📍 Kmart Court

 **PENINSULA COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS**

AVALON, BILGOLA PLATEAU, CROMER, ELANORA HEIGHTS, MONA VALE, NARRABEEN LAKES, NARRABEEN NORTH, NEWPORT, AND WHEELER HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND BARRENJOEY, NARABEN SPORTS AND PITTWATER HIGH SCHOOLS.

WARRIWOODSQUARE.COM.AU

ARTWORK BY CLASS 5/6M 2018, AVALON PUBLIC SCHOOL



The Peninsula Community of Schools would like to wish all staff and students a wonderful winter break.



Northern  
Beaches  
School  
Multi-Day



# Christmas in July

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017



*proudly supporting*  
**Fight on the Beaches**

Fighting for a cancer cure!

[www.fightonthebeaches.com](http://www.fightonthebeaches.com)



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