



KOTARA HIGH SCHOOL

We Aim High

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal people, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

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From The Principal's Desk

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2018. I know we seem to say this every year, but it has been a big year for Kotara High School. I always really enjoy preparing my final report for the year because it gives me an opportunity to think back through each time and exactly what the school has achieved.

Firstly I would like to wish our outgoing Year 12 students all the best for the futures. We were blessed to have a cohort such as this, lead our school this year. They are an amazing bunch of young people and I am looking forward to hearing about their contributions to our community in the future. Their HSC results were outstanding and well deserved and a tribute to, not only the students, but the symbiotic work that takes place in our school between students and staff.

During the year, Kotara High School and our partner primary schools, completed a highly rigorous Writing Initiative. Kotara High's School Plan for 2018 focused on empowering all students in critical learning and this program fitted perfectly within this premise. This initiative aims to explicitly teach students to become critical readers and writers through ALARM. Kotara High English teachers engaged in demonstration lessons and team teaching for Year 5 and 6 classes in all of our partner primary schools this year. ALARM seeks to help students learn how to learn, by making the learning process explicit. Our Initiative Team have orchestrated a common program and assessment task that is currently being implemented in Year 6 classes targeting English. Students will continue to cultivate a comprehensive extended writing skill set through this program when they commence Year 7 in 2019. The innovative resources collaboratively devised by our Community of Schools will also be used by the Teaching and Learning Directorate in a state-wide model. Huge thanks to our partner primary schools for their wonderful enthusiasm and commitment to creating a common language of learning across our entire community.

As a staff, in 2018, we prioritised three areas of professional learning, including Visible learning, extended writing and Problem Solving. These three course modules were underpinned behind the banner of Empowering Students to Exceed Their Potential. All staff took part in direct learning with cross faculty professional learning groups and then presented how they turned their learning in to classroom practice. This was a very successful program, as highlighted by all staff and has helped us to further hone our direction with regard to delivery in the classroom in to the future.

I would like to acknowledge for the last time our 50th Anniversary this year. It was fantastic to have so much community support for the celebrations and to share it with everyone. Our celebration evening enabled so many past staff members and students to reminisce about all of the things that make Kotara High School what it is. Our open school morning was also, so well attended, and tells me we may need to do this again, and some time before our hundredth.

During 2018 we have had extensive building work happening across our school, and I don't think, in the school's history, that we have been faced with so much at one time. We have had our new Administration Building completed and we have had Block B, C and D re-roofed. This obviously caused a lot of disruption across our school but the support of students and staff, meant that this work was completed without any fuss. During 2019 we are looking forward to our oval upgrade and the completion of our Senior Study in A Block.

Looking forward to 2019, we will have the largest ever Year 7 cohort that has begun at Kotara High School. We will be moving to eight classes for mandatory KLAs, and we are building in further staffing and infrastructure supports, to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the group. As our community grows I believe that this will most likely be the norm from 2019 and onwards.

Thank you to all of our community for their ongoing support during this academic year. I would like to wish everyone, a very merry Christmas and a very restful break. Take care and I look forward to working with everyone further in 2019.

Mark Snedden

Creating Art With Our Local Primary Schools

This year the visual arts faculty have been working with the local primary schools on a variety of projects. Year 5 students from Belair, Kotara South and Adamstown Public Schools all contributed to a three paneled mosaic. The mosaic explores the layers in our environment, making connections to the colours and symbols of each layer. This large work will be displayed at Kotara High, along side the previous years installation.

Students from Kotara High have also worked with Kotara South Public School to create a large mural for the KSPS library wall. The mural uses the colours and symbols from both school's emblems and combines each schools motto. Students from both schools worked hard over 2 days of Interest Electives to create and execute this beautiful series of work. Kotara High Schools visual arts faculty would like to thank all the teachers, support staff and local businesses who contributed to the success of these projects.



Aboriginal Education

Another great year in Aboriginal Education. Our students had the opportunity to participate and enjoy their culture in various activities and events.

Our school has developed a close association with David Newham who is a proud Aboriginal man from the Wiradjuri and Ngemba groups of Central and North Western NSW. David is an active member of numerous Aboriginal communities across the Hunter Region and this year was our guide for two Aboriginal Cultural excursions. Our first excursion saw us visiting the Baiame Aboriginal Cave in Milbrodale, which is a very significant Aboriginal site. On our second cultural excursion David took us on a guided tour to numerous local Aboriginal sites which included Nobbys, Glenrock Lagoon and Mt Sugarloaf. The students were encouraged to invite a friend to come along which made the day a huge educational experience.

A combined excursion to the Wyong Art House was organised with our partner primary school students. The NAISDA Dance College performance "Messenger" was inspired by this year's Naidoc theme 'Because of Her We Can' and displayed the force of the Aboriginal female spirit.

This year Naidoc Day was celebrated with a formal assembly and BBQ. Our guest speaker was Worimi

woman and NRL ambassador Rebecca Young. After playing rugby league for many years in Aboriginal Knockouts, Rebecca started the North Newcastle team in 2012 and she debuted for the Harvey Norman Jillaroos in 2011 and has been part of two World Cup campaigns. At the assembly, our support faculty entertained the whole audience with an impressive performance of "My Island Home" by Christina Anu and the Adamstown Primary School Dance Group performed a variety of Aboriginal dances. At the conclusion of the assembly all students, teachers and visitors attended a BBQ lunch in the quad.

Our school commemorated Indigenous people who served our country during times of conflict and crisis. At our Anzac Day and Remembrance Day assemblies, Ashlee Steadman Year 12 and Kirra Bundy Year 11 – presented heartfelt speeches commemorating the contribution of Indigenous soldiers who served.

Once again, Philip Green presented his dynamic Aboriginal Technology performance to all Year 7 who were given a visual and tactile experience of traditional technologies used by indigenous peoples across the varied environments of Australia – deserts, mountains, rivers and sea-shores. Aboriginal students from our partner primary schools also attended and enjoyed the presentation.

We continued to create and review Personalised Learning Plans for all our Aboriginal students.

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Through the partnership of teachers, students and parents, plans were developed that included the goals and aspirations of our students and are used to target appropriate assistance and resources.

We hosted and attended regular Yarning Circle meetings. Principals, parents and students from our Partnership Primary Schools came together, shared knowledge and built respectful relationships.

We finished up the year with a Xmas party lunch on the library deck.



Water Polo



The 15's boys water polo team played in the NSW CHS finals on Monday 10 December. They were one of 8 teams left in the statewide KO competition. It was a great achievement just to get this far and the boys acquitted themselves well against some quality opposition. The team looked awesome in their custom swimwear and a big thankyou to Sally from Fashion Fish Designs who made sure the order was ready on time. They were narrowly defeated 5-4 in their first game against th Hills Sports High School only being beaten with 15 seconds left. The next game we played Balgowlah High who have a dedicated water polo program so the 6-2 loss was a very respectable score. In the last game we mixed it up a bit and had a very entertaining game against Kirawee High. Thanks to Toby Harbison and Rene Spencer who helped coached the team and to all the parents who assisted with transport it makes organisation so much easier. I was proud of the way the team conducted themselves, they are great ambassadors of Kotara High School and it was a pleasure to manage the team.



Support Faculty

Interest Electives

Students from the Support Faculty have thoroughly enjoyed their Interest Electives this year. Students began the week with a Christmas luncheon at Crinitis, Westfield Kotara. The following day students challenged staff in a fun-filled day of putt putt golf at SupaPutt, Broadmeadow. Our students still have more activities to look forward to including a day of indoor and outdoor games, Christmas craft & creativity and a day of Christmas shopping! .



Year 12 students

Students and staff from the Support Faculty would like to farewell our two Year 12 students – Sophie Higgins and Brayden Woolnough – it has been a pleasure to teach them and watch them blossom into young adults. We wish them every success for their future and are happy and proud to announce that both students have signed onto the School Leaver Employment Support Program with House With No Steps – we know they are in good hands!

Thanks to our Volunteers

The students and staff from the Support Faculty would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to the people who have volunteered in our classrooms this year - Trish Carlier and Milly from Delta Dogs who have supported students in each of the three Support Classes and Pam Wells, a prominent member of our local Deaf community, who has supported students and staff to further develop their Auslan skills. We are very grateful and appreciative of their time and support and look forward to working with them again next year.

Careers Report

This term has been a busy one for Careers with excursions, work experience, courses and school visits from industry representatives.

Students from Years 9 – 11 attended the Novaskill Open Day on November 13. Novaskill staff, local employers, apprentices and trainees as well as industry experts were available to showcase the opportunities available in the region. Trades such as plumbing, electrical, carpentry, mechanical were represented as well as business administration and childcare. The students who attended enjoyed the day and gained valuable information.

On November 23 some Year 9/10 girls attended the 'Girls in Engineering' day held at St Phillips Waratah. It was informative and fun and gave the girls an insight into careers in engineering.

Mr Cook and myself accompanied the Year 11 Construction class to Westfield, where we were met by Alana Dagwell, Community Liaison Officer and the manager of construction, Matt Fisk. We toured the new L2 mall and the L3 rooftop development. The boys asked many questions and found the experience very informative and worthwhile.

A representative from the Civil Industry sector address interested students in the Library at lunch time on Monday 12th November. The students were keen to ask questions and were given lots of information about the career options available within this industry.

A number of students have undertaken work experience this term. This is a wonderful way for students to gain valuable work ready skills and to develop contacts within an industry. In some cases,

it has led to employment.

Some students attended TAFE as part of the Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) program. This program provides the students with opportunities to try new skills, navigate a new environment and explore their potential.



School based apprenticeships/ traineeships

Congratulations to the following students who have secured a School Based Apprenticeship/Traineeship (SBAT) for 2019:

Joshua Treverrow - Reece Plumbing Wallsend - Cert II Warehousing

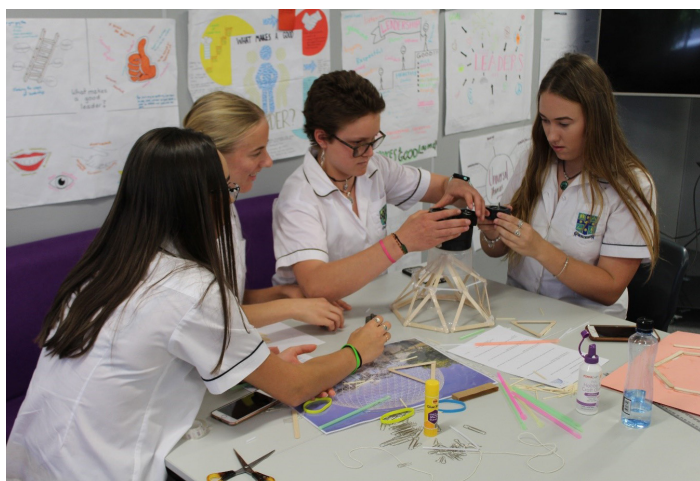
Henry Lambert - Reece Plumbing HVAC-R Newcastle - Cert II Warehousing

Elias Wabomba - Reece Plumbing Irrigation Maryville - Cert II Warehousing

Kiralee Date - Hunter New England Health - Cert III Human Services Assistant

Jada Beale - Westfield Kotara - Cert III Retail

If you are interested in becoming a school based apprentice/trainee see Mrs McPherson and go to <https://sbatinnsw.info/> for more information.



Annual Careers Conference

I was fortunate to attend the Annual Careers Advisers Conference in Sydney recently. This is an event that draws Careers Advisers from across NSW and ACT and provides a forum to discuss new developments in careers and gain insights into existing and emerging fields. We were given a guided tour of Google's Head Office, where employees can work in many different areas – pods, hammocks and lounge chairs and where meals are catered for. Some of the resources available to staff include a climbing wall, mini movie theatre, pool table and fitness room. The other activities at conference included a visit to the Australian Maritime Museum and Ultimo TAFE. The second day involved lectures on careers in the 21st Century and the skills today's young people will need to succeed in the future work place. The conference provides a chance to network with colleagues and representatives from the higher education sector and industry.

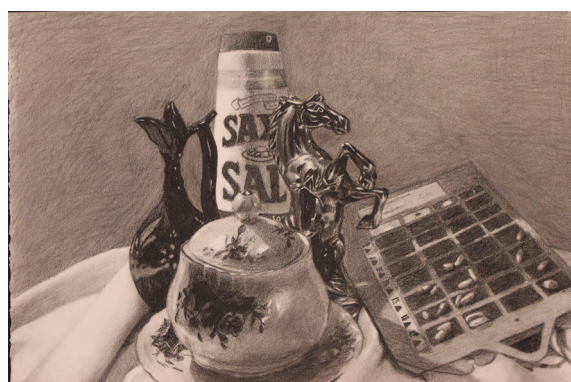
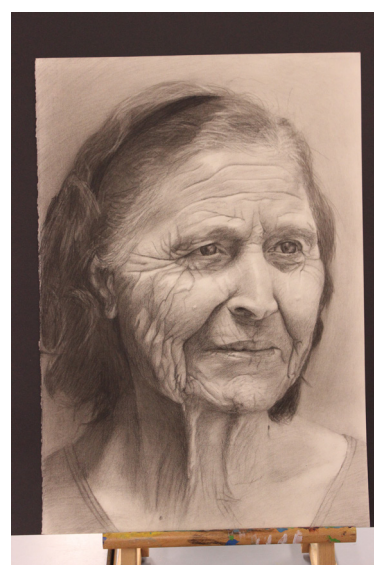
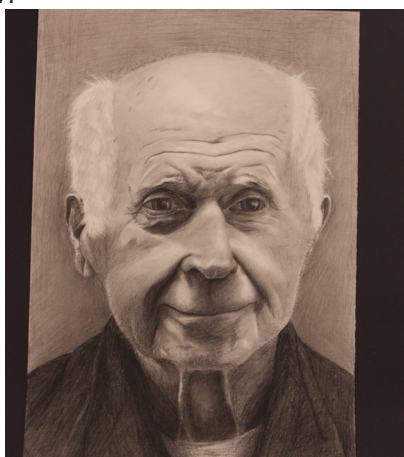
Mrs McPherson



Art Express

Alex Temelkovski was successful for inclusion for ARTEXPRESS 201. Not all nominated artworks get selected for display. His artwork 'Baba and Dedo' will be displayed at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery on the 12 April 2019 – 2 June 2019 and Western Plains Cultural Centre Dubbo 26 July 2019 – 25 August 2019. The Visual Arts department express their congratulations to Alex on this outstanding achievement.

From 8,770 students who submitted Bodies of Works for the HSC Visual Arts Examination 402 students were nominated for ARTEXPRESS. From these nominations 240 bodies of work were selected to create nine exhibitions, representing schools from across NSW.



TAS Faculty

Term 4 has been busy in TAS.

We have catered and hosted the P&C dinner. Year 11 Hospitality students did a tremendous job in setting up the room, preparing and serving this dinner. They were able to demonstrate some key competencies for the unit – Serve Food and Beverage.



Year 11 Hospitality students also went on an Industry visit to Apollo International Hotel – Charlestown. They enjoyed a lovely buffet breakfast and then went on a tour of the Hotel to investigate the key departments that work together to provide quality customer service. Thank you to the staff at Apollo International Hotel for their time and informative tour.



The coffee shop – Kotara Beans – run by Year 11 Hospitality students has been successful in helping students in their Barista training. We now have a brand new Coffee Machine that students are using and the feedback from staff has been supportive and positive.



Students from the Support Unit have thoroughly enjoyed their time in Food Technology and produced a range of dishes over the year, including their wonderful Christmas Hampers. Their skills have certainly improved and hopefully we will have a budding MasterChef or two from the class.

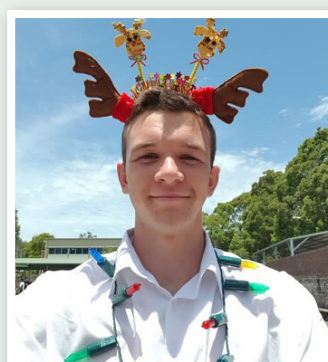


TAS staff have busy planning for the introduction of the new Technology Mandatory syllabus in 2019. It will be exciting and a fresh approach to teaching Technology. A mandatory context area in the syllabus is Digital Technologies – students learn about data and computer programming. The use of Micro:bit Technology will be utilised throughout all units of work. To equip Year 7 students for course delivery, individual Micro:bit Technology is available for purchase for personal use – with the cost being \$26.50. Purchases can be made at Kotara High Administration Block at the start of the 2019 school year. Any further enquires please contact the TAS faculty.

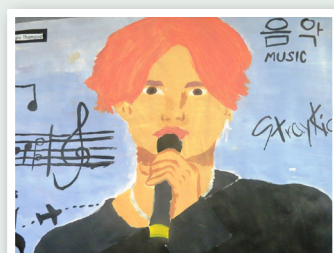
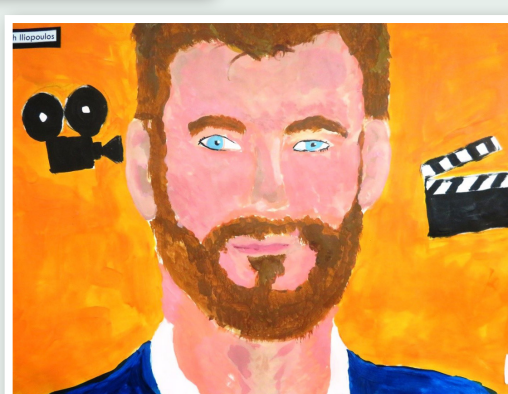
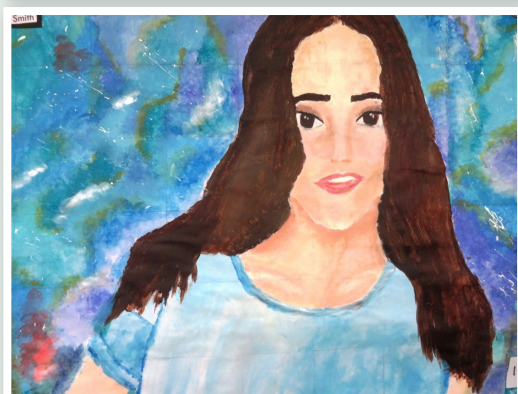
Thanks for all the parental support and Merry Christmas from the TAS staff.

Ms J Goldstein

Interest Electives 2018



Year 7 Portrait Painting





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50 YEARS
Celebrating
**PUBLIC
EDUCATION**