



## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Reflecting on 2020, it is tempting to focus on the challenges we have all experienced this year, however, there have also been positives. We found new and creative ways to deliver learning via Google classroom and Zoom, we developed new online audition processes and most important, some of our students developed more self-reliance and greater resilience. These attributes will serve our students well at school and in the future.



## PRESENTATION DAY CEREMONIES



Last week the school hosted five separate presentation day ceremonies-this must be a school record! Holding year group presentations enabled parents of award recipients to celebrate student achievement, along with the staff and the year group. I

would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their fantastic support of the school this year, particularly during the remote learning period. Hopefully with restrictions easing and a vaccine on its way, we will again be able to welcome parents on site early next term.

At Year 12 Graduation, I highlighted the many successes of our students in their HSC practical examinations in Music, Dance and Drama. Since then, we have received more good news; six HSC Visual Arts students will have work exhibited in *Art Express* and in Textiles and Design, two students were nominated to have their designs included in *Text Style*.

Congratulations to HSC students and teachers for these wonderful results.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

We are so proud of our students, their diverse talents and many achievements. One standout recently was Year 11 student Olivia Fox who was invited to sing the National Anthem in both Eora and English languages in front of thousands of fans at the Wallabies Test Match at Sydney's Bankwest Stadium. Olivia is a proud Wiradjuri woman and a very humble student. She is a wonderful role model to other students and she has brought great credit to the school.

A group of budding film makers have been busy creating and shooting a promotional video complete with an original song to showcase the school to prospective students and parents. This film will be sent to all Year 6 students and their parents and will be available on the school's website. I would like to commend the students involved for doing a great job and to thank Ms Paris Kotik for her work directing and supervising this project.

Finally, I would like to thank all staff for their outstanding work this year. I continue to be in awe of the commitment, creativity, and dedication our staff show our students daily.

I wish our community a very happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

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**SHARON ROBERTS**  
PRINCIPAL

# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## VOICE OF ENGLISH

The English faculty would like to showcase some of the creative work that has been happening in our classrooms this term.

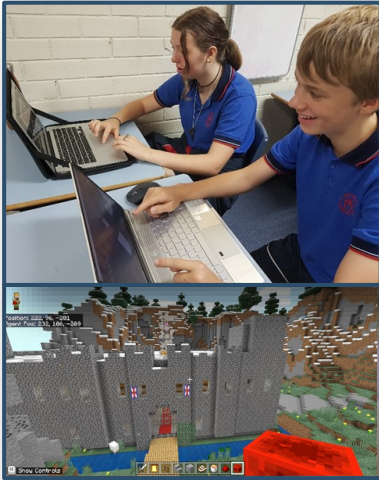
Year 7 students completed a project focused on the Medieval Period, learning about the literary, cultural and social life of this time. This saw students constructing menus from the time period, posters of eminent figures and reconstructions of castles and villages.

In Year 8, students completed a project about the Renaissance and Elizabethan England, studying the poetry and plays of William Shakespeare, along with the music, art and other cultural achievements of the period.

In Years 9 and 10, students have learnt about the Romantic Period and Victorian England, creating thrilling group presentations, reconstructing a poem, novel or event from one of these time periods in a new medium of their choosing.



*Bonnie Kirgan (Year 7) delivers a presentation on Medieval England*



*Denholm Branson and Miller Sargeant (Year 7) put the finishing touches on a medieval castle in Minecraft Education Edition*



*Christian Kotevski (Year 7) delivers a poster presentation on medieval emperor Charlemagne with the assistance of Issy Sarchese*



*Imogen Pride, Oriane Amatya, Carmen Rolfe and Nelson Harris (Year 8) hold samples of the work they have constructed on Renaissance instruments*

### Year 7 Student Expo

A huge thank you to our librarian Dom Sweers for her organisation of the Year 7 Personal Interest Project Expo last week. It was wonderful to see the variety of projects and original performances our students had created based on the theme "Making Newtown a Better Place". The pride with which our students spoke about their projects and fielded questions from parents and students was very impressive. A big thank you to all Year 7 teachers for your work in supporting our students achieve such a high standard.





# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## Wonderful world of HSIE

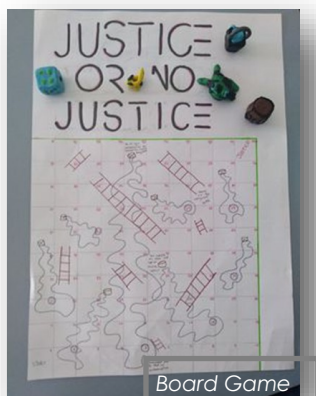
We hope that our students have enjoyed the myriad of learning experiences this year, including the Year 8 Minecraft Japanese castles, Year 10 Pop Culture websites, the Year 7 Landscapes and Landforms project and the Year 9 People and Places Monopoly Games, as well as Senior excursions to IKEA for Business Studies and Sydney Harbour for Geography – just to name a few.

We hope that all of our students, parents and entire school community have a safe and happy summer holiday!

Here is a taste of just some of the learning activities that took place in our final weeks of 2020.

### ECUADOR AMAZON 'RAINFOREST CHERNOBYL' OIL DISASTER PROJECT

10H were set the task of devising creative ways to publicise and raise awareness of this little-known environmental and social catastrophe through the use of a variety of formats.



Board Game



Mine craft recreations of the oil disaster

#### Poetry

##### 'Texaco poem' by Siobhan Killen

V Kapok tree, Brazil nut, para rubber tree,  
Oil pits of black mud, lack of authority.  
The native people changed by missionaries  
Whose mission was to benefit oil companies  
Dark pools of black oil runnin' through people's veins  
Body and culture poisoned, sky of acid rain

Appeal, hearings, proceedings, rules, regulations  
Disruption of the courts between two nations  
Amazon full of oil, all lawyers immobile  
"No cause" for this ecological chernobyl  
Assassinations, of earth and activist  
Credited to Texaco's deadly practices

### YEAR 7 LIVEABLE TOWN MAP AND MINECRAFT

Year 7 students have been exploring 'Liveability' this term. They have created amazing and beautiful illustrations depicting liveability in the Torres Strait Islands, and they have been combining their geography knowledge about liveability, with their mapping skills, to create maps and Minecraft models of their ideal town – a town that contains human [human-made] and physical [natural] features that enhance liveability.



### YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY EXCURSION

"Tuesday of week 5 saw our Yr12 (2020/21) Geography class get the opportunity to step out of the classroom and into the field to see firsthand some of the urban dynamics that are shaping Sydney into the city that it is today. Fortunately, we were greeted with beautiful weather for the day and students brought a positive attitude for the walk that lay ahead. We met at Central Station before setting off for the Central Park complex, just down the road, to investigate elements of urban renewal and consolidation that fit perfectly within our syllabus. From there, we continued through a range of other locations including the Goods Line precinct, Darling Harbour foreshore looking towards Barangaroo, Union Square as well as recording observations throughout the streets of the Pyrmont/ Ultimo area. To break up the walk, we also found time to indulge in some tasty Yum Cha at the Fish Markets before continuing into the afternoon session. The students were all fantastic representatives for our school throughout the 10,000+ steps (according to one student's step-counter) that we covered. We even managed to befriend one of the furry locals at Union Square! All in all, a great day out that should provide valuable insights for the upcoming assessment task and subsequent HSC exam next year."

David Cole, HSIE teacher



# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

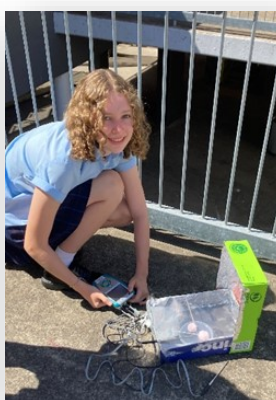
## SCIENCE REPORT

It's hard to believe we're almost at the end of the year! And with the sun shining outside, it's hard to believe students are still working hard. There have been some fantastic projects going on in Science that students have been very enthusiastic about, and have shown some wonderful creativity and thoughtful effort through. Please enjoy some photos of their successes.

**Year 7 Modelling the rock cycle.** Students have finished the year with a study of how rocks are formed and what makes them different from each other. To demonstrate some of the processes involved, there are many models related to cooking and food to help describe these processes that make this an extremely fun and enjoyable topic to study!



**Year 9 Sound projects.** Students have been working on projects related to the wave topic exploring light and sound. Some special interest projects included cymatics (visualising sound), acoustics and instrument design and technologies used to assist hearing. They have also been exploring applications of the Electromagnetic Spectrum, including making solar ovens.



### Year 8

**Sustainable Resources.** Students are exploring use and sustainability of resources and have been looking at bioplastics, making their own from milk and seeing how different properties of plastics can be manipulated.



### Year 10

**Mousetrap cars.** Students were engaged in an end of year challenge focusing on efficiency in moving systems. Winning designs were judged as those that travelled the longest distance. Students undertaking Year 11 Sciences next year have also been completing special interest projects in their chosen subjects as a taster for what is to come.





# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

EXTRA! EXTRA!



2 From 200 film entries representing schools all over NSW, just over 30 films were selected to be screened at the online Department Of Education's "Film By.." Film Festival, and 5 of those 30 were from NHSPA alone!

Yr 9

**Eden Letch** - Film "Silent Statements In Black and White"  
**Greta Reinhardt** - Film "Silent Statements In Black and White"  
**Sienna Damichi** - Film "Banan Slip"

Yr 10

**Stella Hopkins** - Film "Drip"  
**Josh Standen** - Film "Hackerman"  
**George Connolly** - Film "Hackerman"  
**Jaime Creswell** - Film "Hackerman"  
**Sophia Campora** - Film "Mediated"  
**Chloe Shelsher** - Film "Mediated"  
**Chris Wolczak** - Film "Mediated"

[Click here to view films](#)

1 Two of NHSPA Jump Scare films made it into the Top 5 Finalists celebrated films for the International BloodFest Film Festival judged by Producer Enzo Tedeshi. NHSPA was the only school entry across Australia who had films in the Top 5 (and we had 2!)

**"Clinic"** [VIEW FILM](#)

Sofya Chernykh, Sophia Foster, Lucas Reynolds, Katie Lee Paton

**"Taps"** [VIEW FILM](#)

Charles Perkins, Ronan Harris, Angus Crane, Wesley Wang

3 NHSPA students won the "Best Regional Film across Australia" Category in the My State Film Festival with their film "Mocking Lunch". This was a huge achievement as they were up against every Australian State other than Tassie.

**"Mocking Lunch"** [VIEW FILM](#)

Phoebe Gilbert, Stella West, Miya Kitada, Elena Liu

## LEARNING SUPPORT



Greetings from the realm of the Learning and Support team!

The Learning and Support Team were approached to create groups of students to experience a new Project-Based Learning (PBL) initiative from Edustem. The topic offered was Plastic in the Ocean/E- Waste. Our intention for this project was to show how useful E-waste can be when repurposed. The reason we were making our project out of E-waste is because approximately 45 million tonnes of electronics are tossed out each year, which results in great damage to the environment.

This project was mainly driven by Student Learning and Support Officer, Jeff Reiss, who put in a lot of his own time to individualise the program to each student. With the assistance of Karl Pico, TAS, HSIE, Science and English, they were able to collaborate and achieve their Year 9 learning outcomes as well as improve their social, collaborative and problem-solving skills.



# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

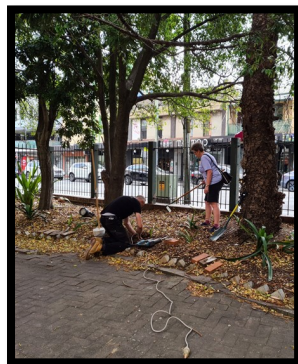
## THROUGH THE EYES OF ART

Well what a year! The exhausted Visual Arts faculty sends you all our best wishes for Christmas and the summer holidays. We are pleased to announce that the Year 12 HSC Exhibition has been published and can be viewed here:

### Year 12 HSC Exhibition

Students' individual work can be found under the chapters. A very big thank you to Matthew Morrow and Adam Oliver for all their hard work in developing the film.

Here are some winning photos from Year 9 Starstruck taken during a 'Scavenger Hunt' task, where students were directed to collaboratively and creatively discover everyday objects and locations around the school.



A very big thank you to Sean Killen and Ulrike Langer who have dedicated their time to assist with the sculpture garden at the front of A block on King Street. Year 8 Extension artworks will feature there next week! Keep an eye out for colourful Totems developed by our fabulous students .

We have an exhibition of Year 7 - 10 student works in the King Street Gallery. We will endeavour to have an official opening of the student works next year, but in the meantime here is a sneak peak of some lovely Year 8 students with their Metropolis collages



On a personal note I would like to acknowledge the dedication, passion and patience of the Visual Arts Faculty. This has been a tough year for everyone and I can't imagine having gone through it without you all. Your laughter, wisdom and love of teaching is an inspiration. We even managed to fit in a wedding! Thank you, Olivia Case, Catherine Hannan, Paris Kotik, Gillian O'Connor, Cassandra Vollmer and of course Giovanna Trenoweth who was there in spirit. A well deserved holiday for us all! Signing off for 2020, Francesca Heinz.





# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## My trip to Alice Springs (Mparntwe)

By Remy Perkins

I went back to Alice Springs for a week in November with my family. Alice Springs is called Mparntwe in Arrernte language, which is the language that Aboriginal people speak in Alice Springs, and where I come from. My country is specifically about 30kms north-west of Alice Springs at number 5 Bore at Bond Creek Station. Some Aboriginal people who live there don't speak English. Also in Alice Springs there are people who might be speaking Pintupi, Luritja, Pitjantjatjara, Warlpiri, Anmatyerre, Anangu, Waramungu and other languages depending on where they are from.

In Alice Springs you need to learn a lot of hand signals for things because I guess it's too hot some days to talk and Aboriginal people make signals so that they can communicate without shouting when they are hunting. Alice is interesting because living in Sydney is so different from Alice Springs. It was really hot when we were there. It was about 43C most days, but it had been raining before we got there so there were lots of pink and yellow flowers out.

My aunties and all my cousins were there in Alice too. My aunty Rachel always tells us a lot of things we need to know about being Arrernte people. We drove out to the gaps together. My favorite gap is Honeymoon Gap because we always get a family picture there every time. My Dad's favorite place is called Corroboree Rock in English. It has a special hole in the rock that you can see things through and climb through.

My grandfather Charles Perkins was born on the table at the Bungalow (Old Telegraph Station). His mother, my great Nanna Hetti, was working there looking after kids who had been separated from their parents by the government at the time. He got to be there with his mum, which was lucky for him. We went to the Bungalow and walked in the dry creek bed and had some barbecues there. There were dingoes there coming to our barbecue all the time. They didn't seem dangerous. There were also lots of cicadas. We looked at a lot of paintings and swam in the pool for hours because it was so hot.

On our last day there was a huge lightning storm. When it ended we flew back to Sydney. My dad used to drive in a car from Canberra when he was a kid to Alice Springs. Back then there were no seat belts and the road didn't have asphalt on it. It was just dirt for a lot of the way. Sometimes he would even sit on the armrest between his mum and dad. Some trips would take over 5 days to drive there.

Everybody who lives in Australia should visit Alice Springs to see what it's like.



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Claudene Shoesmith  
Deputy Workshops Manager

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