



# BCHS BALLINA COAST HIGH SCHOOL

*innovation excellence diversity*

## Term 1 2020 at BCHS

Term 1 2020 at BCHS will be etched into our memories as one that challenged us in so many ways. However, there are ten things that term 1 at BCHS gave me that I will be forever grateful for:

1. An opportunity to see the commitment, professionalism and devotion of BCBS staff to our kids, community, profession and public education.
2. Being reminded of safe and healthy hygiene practices and the need to always be aware.
3. Creation of an online learning platform that is supported by teachers and our Department of Education.
4. Speed with which our students have adapted to online learning.
5. Celebration of our young people remaining positive in a climate of change.
6. Ability of our Year 12 to continue to remain focused on their future.
7. The community supporting us and trusting us in our decisions.
8. A community of essential services that keep us going every day.
9. Living in Ballina and belonging to this community.
10. My family, my friends, my colleagues and the people who "touch" my life every day with humour, happiness and hope.

Janeen Silcock, Principal





### **Our Student Representative Council of 2020**

With the amalgamation of Ballina and Southern Cross High Schools, many aspects of our school community changed. Our student body has adapted and evolved to suit our new and exciting environment. This year we have rewritten the constitution of our SRC and have set a variety of goals for the year. At our planning day on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, amongst a few ice breakers and team-oriented games, officers were elected, and goals were set.

This year our strong and dynamic student leaders plan to implement a variety of initiatives. These include:

- An environment team who are starting a litter hunt.
- An academic group who are focusing on beginning a student to student tutor program.
- Our welfare officers are working non-stop to ensure that students are enjoying their time at school and are feeling safe in this environment.
- Working closely with our house captains and PE faculty to implement a lunch time sports competition between the house groups.
- Hosting the Regional SRC conference of 2020.

One of our major purposes is to develop leadership qualities of our future leaders by encouraging them to step out of their comfort zones through learning and trying everything. Resulting in effective members of the community – both in and out of school. We are excited to work with staff, the community and especially the students to achieve our goals and continue to develop a safe, enjoyable and effective learning environment for all – BCHS Captains.



### **FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Our student Marielle Santibanez is busy preparing bananas that were kindly donated by Food Bank NSW, to support Ballina Coast High School's Free Breakfast Program.

Approximately 100 students every morning enjoy a delicious banana smoothie prepared by our students and wonderful community volunteers.

We are so grateful to everyone that makes this program possible.

## CAREERS PILOT PROGRAM

In November last year, the NSW Government announced an Educational Pathways Pilot Program to transform the way students and parents think about their post-school options and future careers. It is with great pride that Ballina Coast High School was selected to participate in this important program.

Over the next two years, Ballina Coast High School, along with the support of the Department of Education, will focus on improved career advice and in-school opportunities for our students.

We believe the education students receive here should be of the highest quality and the broadest range. Under the Pilot, we will be opening up new opportunities such as school-based apprenticeships and wider subject options to ensure the students of Ballina Coast High School and their parents have all the facts they need to take that critical next step.

To give you an idea of what's to come, please read on for some of the Pilot highlights:

- Specialist Careers Immersion Teams have been launched, collaborating with local industry to create training opportunities.
- Dedicated School Based Apprentice and Trainee Mentors will soon come on board to support and guide students.
- Career guidance and support for students to help with which subject choices and post-school education is right for them.
- Firsthand accounts from NSW's best apprentices and trainees.
- Opportunities to study apprenticeship or traineeship units at school that could lead to higher level VET qualifications and a one-year credit into a university degree.
- Workshops to help inform students about employer expectations for work.
- The extension of funding to school students who want to undertake VET pathways while still at school.
- Important wrap-around services for early school leavers looking to access TAFE NSW.

These are just a selection of what is on offer for our students. We are thrilled to participate in this pilot, and encourage you to contact Donna Ryan on 6681 0100 to learn more and get involved in these exciting initiatives.

### The Edge Workshop

On the 16th March our two Year 10 Business Services classes attended The Edge workshop. This workshop gave them access to barbers, hairdressers, makeup artists and stylists. The full day workshop focused on preparing the students for life beyond the school gate. Some students had their hair cut and styled, all the male students learned how to tie a tie and the females learned makeup tips. It was a very busy and productive day.

Working alongside the makeup artists, the girls created a look, using affordable products and were guided by the professionals running the group. They also learned how to apply interview makeup. The boys got to talk all things hygiene, clean skin, hands and nails. The boys put on face masks with the presenter and talked about the hygiene basics, and how important they are when you're trying to get a job, and for life in general.

The students were given access to Employers and heard firsthand how to be more employable when they leave school. It was a hugely successful day.



## News from Marine Studies

Years 9 to 11 Marine Studies classes have been going to Ballina Memorial Pool to practice survival swimming and to complete the swimming proficiency test. It has been marvellous to see so much enthusiasm. Many students have gained their swimming proficiency and as such, they will be able to accompany the class on future excursions in and around water.

While visiting the pool with Year 11, by chance we got to see the rescue helicopter (which we had just pretended to be waiting for in the pool after our pretend boat sank) and the rescue boat doing a drill in the river. When visiting the pool with Year 9, again by chance we got to see a self-inflating life raft inflate in the pool and the Tafe students who were studying their Coxswains Certificate, swim lengths of the pool in life jackets.

In other Marine Studies news, the turtles are happy and healthy, as are the fish and the yabbies in the Marine Resource Centre. Years 9 to 12 Marine studies and the support class students have been feeding them. We have also started lettuce, tomatoes and bok choy planting in the aquaponics bed. Hopefully we can beat the slugs and will have some produce next term.



## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL MADD PRODUCTION!

### SEVEN 2020: Coming Soon...

Rehearsals are well underway for our eighth annual MADD Production and it's going to be one of mythic proportions!

Starring over 120 of our talented singers, dancers, actors and musos and written and directed by Drama teacher Ali Chigwidden *SEVEN* takes the audience on a voyage they won't forget, exploring the intrigue and excitement of the ancient Greek Myths. Featuring the music of *ACDC*, *Billie Eilish*, *Alanis Morissette*, *P!NK*, *Kayne West* and *Rhianna*, the production will burst onto the stage in the BCHS Performing Arts Centre, at a time to be determined.

Although it is months away, the buzz around this year's MADD Production is unprecedented. We had a staggering 75 actors audition for lead roles and are thrilled to have a professional vocal coach working with our ensemble of singers. We have a fresh band to continue our MADD tradition of mind-blowing live music and have started a targeted Dance Troupe.





### **Year 7 Discovery Day Excursion**

Year 7 were lucky enough to attend a Discovery Excursion of the Ballina local area. During this excursion students completed the RSL Memorial Walk where they learnt about the men and women who fought for Australia during war time.

Year 7 learnt about the unique Aboriginal heritage of the Bundjalung nation and visited sites of cultural significance. Kris Cook from Aboriginal Cultural Nest gave an information talk on Country. Students then attended a talk at the Ballina Pioneer Cemetery which is no longer a cemetery but rather a memorial park. Year 7 were lucky enough to have the expertise of a local historian on the day. To finish off the day Geographical Skills such as Field Sketches, Human Impact Statements, Water Quality Analysis and Transects were completed at Missingham Park. Year 7 had a BBQ lunch and then walked back to school. Thanks to the HSIE staff for organising such a fantastic day.

### **International Students at BCHS**

We are extremely fortunate to have with us 4 International Students. Leonie Aenishaelin in Year 10 is from Switzerland (who has now returned home). Maria Bardosa de Oliviera and Luiza Savatore Riberio Cruz in Year 11 are both from Brazil and are studying with us until the end of Term 2. Lisa-Marie Buerger is also in Year 11 and is from Germany and will be with us until the end of the semester also. We are very pleased to have them here with us and hope they are enjoying school life at BCHS.

Ms Cassandra Middleton – HT T&L  
International Student Coordinator.





### Far North Coast Opens Basketball Gala Day

The BCCHS "Fighting Prawns" showed their true fighting spirit during the FNC Opens Basketball Gala Day. Both the Open Girls and Boys teams demonstrated that they were not to be taken lightly as they cruised through their first games.

The boys were placed in the finals after a strong performance against Tweed River High School. The Fighting Prawns were up against the much-fancied Byron Bay High School, who have set the bar very high over the past few seasons.

Fighting Prawns started off well. With some big three pointers and quick transitions from Byron Bay High, Byron's lead extended making it very difficult for the BCCHS boys to get into the game. Byron Bay were the eventual winners claiming top spot in the Far North Coast.

The Open Girls Fighting Prawns told a different story. After a slow start in the final game, also against Byron Bay High School, the BCCHS Fighting Prawns took control. With some very strong rebounding and sensational fast break passing, the Open Girls Fighting Prawns opened up the game, taking on a healthy lead.

Byron Bay found the strong full court defence hard to crack rarely seeing the ball over the half way line. The BCCHS Fighting Prawns convincingly won the game by 30 points and claimed the title of Far North Coast Winners.

They will now play the best of the Northern Rivers teams to find out if they can once again become the best in the North Coast.





## OUR YEAR 12 HOSPITALITY STUDENTS COOKING UP A STORM!

The Year 12 Hospitality students are embracing the opportunity to utilise the fantastic industrial kitchen facilities here at BCHS.



### Landforms and Landscapes

We have been studying Landforms and Landscapes in Geography this year in the support centre. Our favourite places to visit so far have been Cape Byron Lighthouse and Broken Head.

Cape Byron Lighthouse was built to protect ships passing along the coast, it sits on Australia's most easterly point. We also enjoyed the Three Sisters walking track at Broken Head.

Our class will continue to travel to more local Landforms and Landscapes, it is such a great way to learn about our local community.



### Macadamia Castle Knockrow

Luke and Hayden enjoyed feeding and petting the kangaroos. The Bird show was interrupted by a duck walking through the crowd. Linc and Tanner really enjoyed the show! The students enjoyed the birds flying over. Such a great day for our students.

## Targeted Sports Program 2020

The addition of Hockey to the Targeted Sports Program (TSP) has seen the program expand to six sports in 2020.

Student trials in weeks two and three of this term, saw 110 students successfully selected into the TSP for the year in Football, Rugby League, Basketball, Netball, Hockey and Surfing. So far, the students have enjoyed goal setting session, fitness testing and early morning training. The surfing group enjoyed a magic morning surfing at perfect Snapper Rocks.

In June of Term 2 a visit to Bond University's high-performance centre is planned, where students can experience the Sport Science aspects of sports performance.

Unfortunately, due to the current Covid-19 Virus crisis, many of the trial matches and competitions for our athletes have been postponed. Hopefully, in the coming months our students will have the opportunity to put their training into practice on the competition floor.

For further information on BCHS Targeted Sports Program, please contact Mr Harley Schmidt.



THE DUKE OF  
EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The 2020 applications for Duke of Edinburgh award are currently open. There are a number of students already enrolled and more information is available from Mrs Pratt, Mr Hogden, Mr McQuhae and Mr Smeal. This years Gold participants are currently planning their Adventurous Journey which will involve a trek in Tasmania in Term 4. We can't wait to see what they come up with in their plan. Applications are open for 14-year old's who wish to complete their Bronze Award.

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*Our school proudly stands on Bundjalung land.*

