



# BCHS BALLINA COAST HIGH SCHOOL

*innovation excellence diversity*



## TERM 1 AT BALLINA COAST HIGH SCHOOL

As we headed into Easter 2020 we were beginning to become aware of a virus that was spreading around the world. As we head towards Easter 2021 we are quietly proud of Australia's collective efforts in looking after each other over the past twelve months. Our young people have shown amazing resilience and continue to show us that we need to work with families and the community if we are going to see them realise their potential. First term has seen great sporting achievements, celebrations of academic growth, the separation of mobile phones at school, Year 12, 2021 moving half way through their HSC, Year 7 settling in to "big school", Bell Theatre company introducing Shakespeare, poems put to music, snorkelling, colour wheels, yarn ups and MADD rehearsals. We have so much to be grateful for and continue to work towards always doing better for our young people.

Over the past few weeks I have presented our new Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) to our AECG and parents, students and staff. We are continually improving on student outcomes. The document highlights our key areas of improvement in line with the Premier's targets. These include growth in literacy, numeracy, attendance, cultural awareness and HSC outcomes. Attention will continue to ensure all our students feel a sense of belonging and advocacy at BCHS. The SIP should be placed on our website early next term after the consultation has been finished and the final document developed.

Have a safe and happy holiday break.

Janeen Silcock  
Principal



## SEVEN DEADLY SINS



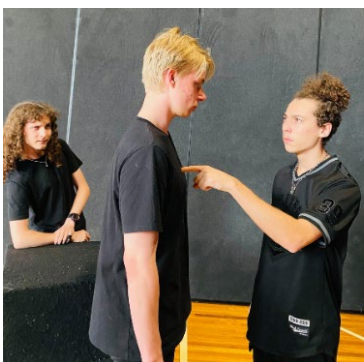
### SEVEN: Coming soon...

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

It stars over 120 of our talented singers, dancers, actors and musos. Written and directed by Drama teacher Ali Chigwidden, *SEVEN* takes the audience on a journey they won't forget, exploring the intrigue and excitement of the ancient Greek Myths. Featuring music of ACDC, Billie Eilish, Alanis Morissette, P!NK and Xavier Rudd, the production will burst, completely Covid safe, onto the stage in the BCHS Performing Arts Centre, 1 – 3 June, 2021.

After last year's show was cancelled and theatres around the world went dark due to the pandemic, the cast are feeling extra excited to be back in the rehearsal rooms. They have been working hard to make the production's return a triumphant one. We had a staggering 75 actors audition for lead roles, we have a fresh band to continue our MADD tradition of mind-blowing live music and have started a targeted Dance Troupe who are working with Meg Frears, one of our past star performers.

Save the date for *SEVEN* Term 2, Week 7. It's shaping up to be our best yet!



### CAPTAINS CALL

Hi everyone, we are your 2021 school captains - Zoe, Jess, Pierse and Anna and this is the first time that we can introduce ourselves to you all.

Our forty fingers are crossed hoping for a better year than the 2020 captains, who had everything cancelled or postponed, and we are already off to a good start, with the lessening of the Corona Virus (until yesterday)! It is only the start of the year but there have already been some massive changes to the school environment with the addition of Yondr Pouches (which are really testing the attention span of some), and indoor access and kitchenette for the Year 12's during breaks which is already much appreciated by all those toastie lovers!

This rainy weather has been...interesting for us, with a small river appearing in the back oval and the Gumnut cottage has turned into a bit of an island, surrounded by the new river. The halls have begun to look a bit chaotic now being one of the few dry places, and there are extremely energetic juniors who seem to be bouncing off the walls.

I know a lot of my peers have noticed a step up in the assignment load since Year 11, and with a hefty pile of homework we are sure to be busy during the upcoming holidays or "study break" (according to Ms Yaxley).

**Wishing everyone a safe and happy chocolate-filled holiday.**



2021 School Captains





## English Faculty

The English Department has been busy creating fun lessons and authentic programmes for our students this term at BCHS.

Year 7 and Advanced Year 10 & 11 students were treated to performances by the Bell Shakespeare Players. The two plays they presented made Shakespeare fun and engaging for all students. It was fabulous to hear how much students enjoyed these performances.

Year 7 embarked on discovering character through a novel study of "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas". They learnt about different character types and how authors construct characters.

Year 8 have been studying Imagery in the Natural World, reading Romantic poetry and creating multi modal presentations on a chosen poem. Students have embraced poets such as Shakespeare, Blake, Wordsworth, Byron and Rossetti.

Year 9 have been working with PE in a cross curricular unit on the issues that affect young people. Students read from a range of youth fiction novels and are writing a discursive article for their assessment.

Year 10 have been reading novels and working on essay skills, whilst our senior students have all been working on their portfolios for the mandatory writing modules. The senior English Studies students have been looking at what it means to be Australian.



## Business Services Class

The Business Services classes have been very busy assisting teachers and other staff at BCHS with sorting and filing jobs. The students are working towards their Certificate II in Business as well as two units towards their HSC. The classes are gaining valuable experience with general office tasks, and it is a part of the course requirements that they gain knowledge in these areas. Staff have really appreciated the efficient and professional help that these students have been able to offer this term.



## Swimming Carnival 2021

This years swimming carnival was an outstanding day for students and teachers alike. The winning house was Jullum!

Age Champions on the day:

- 🏊 12 Yrs - Isabella Waite & Fynn Watson
- 🏊 13 Yrs - Lavinia Stafford & Callum Nott
- 🏊 14 Yrs - Erin Green & Billy Walsh
- 🏊 15 Yrs - Sophie Gaskell & Angus Davis
- 🏊 16 Yrs - Ella Saunders & Fergus Gillan
- 🏊 17 Yrs - Pierse Charlton
- 🏊 18 Yrs - Tiajuanda Cook

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent the North Coast Swimming Team:

- 🏊 Jamie Holmes - 100m Freestyle
- 🏊 Callum Nott - 100m Breaststroke
- 🏊 Tirren Shield - 50m Backstroke
- 🏊 Fynn Watson - 100, Breaststroke

We wish them the best of luck when they compete in Sydney in Term 2.

<https://ballina-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/gallery/swimming-carnival-2021.html> - go to our website for more photos.





## International Women's Day Lunch

On 4 March Mrs Robyn Sheehan took the female school captains and four other girls to represent the school at International Women's Day at Ballina RSL. The theme of the day was #CHOOSE TO CHALLENGE focusing on the development of all women in Australia. Claire Roberts-Hickling and Emmily Watts opened the luncheon with an Acknowledgement to Country.

The guest speaker was Whiporie's Cate McQuillen, the creator of Dirt Girl World. She spoke about the struggles and triumphs of producing the show and her life story, encouraging all women to have a go at all life experiences that are open to them. MC for the day was Jacqui Patterson, an inspirational woman who has been on the Survivor series twice, has won body building contests and is currently undergoing cancer treatment. She encouraged all women and girls to be brave and to challenge themselves.



## Congratulations Claire and Emmily

A big congratulations to Claire Roberts-Hickling and Emmily Watts. These young ladies entered the Culture and Identity competition to develop, create and submit a poster or multimedia piece reflecting key messages to support the Premier's Priority to significantly increase the proportion of Aboriginal students completing Year 12, while maintaining cultural identity. The competition was open to all public schools and high schools in the state. Yes, they will be famous! This is published state-wide throughout the Department of Education websites.

We know that staying at school until the end of Year 12 will significantly increase both life expectancy, life-wellbeing and lead to greater life opportunities. Land, family, law/lore, ceremony and language are five key interconnected elements of Aboriginal culture. We know that a young Aboriginal person's sense of identity is shaped in these vital years of education.

Well done to both Claire and Emmily!



## Aboriginal Boy's Group

The Aboriginal boy's group learn about their culture, their shared responsibility to look after the land and to be role models within their community.

The boys had an open discussion with teacher Robin Mather about the meaning and importance of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag.

The boys were quite animated and happy to share what the flag means to them. The flag represents their culture and their identity. The colours represent the people, the land, the sun, their connection to Country and their heritage.



## Term 1 TSP Update

### TSP Football

TSP football is off to a strong start this year with 36 students currently in the program forming both a junior and senior squad. A massive thank you to all athletes in the program for their effort throughout each session. It is exciting to see the quantity of quality players coming through the program. Despite wet weather, training has been held indoor to develop the student's close control and touch. A trial match was played against Alstonville this term, Juniors with an 8-0 win and the senior team a 0-0 draw.

### TSP Basketball

The Basketballer's have had a fantastic start training every Tuesday and Thursday morning, working on a variety of different skills each week. This term they have had the pleasure of being coached by Lauren from NSW Basketball and Steve from Ballina Basketball, who have been passing on a wealth of knowledge, skills and work ethic in our training. The teams played at a recent gala day at Alstonville High School, with both teams successful on the day. The 16's mixed side won a tight contest 45-44 and U15's boys won convincingly 61-25. Best performers on the day were Steven Cray, Sasha Oxland and Tyler Roberts-Dyson. Thanks to Jasmine Crethar and Damien Rojecevic who helped out coaching and refereeing on the day.

Congratulations to Jasmine Crethar, Cobin Rabbit, Damon Rojcevic, Millie Grant-Frost, Sasha Oxland, and Nina and Zoe Aboitiz who have all been selected to compete in the North Coast Open team for the CHS Championships in Term 2. A great result for their hard work.

### TSP Touch Football

2021 has seen the introduction of Touch Football to TSP. All students have been keen, enthusiastic and training hard under the keen coaching eye of Level 3 Coach, Graham Lees. They have been developing the fundamental skills and developing attacking plays. They also played in an inter-school match against Alstonville High School and took a victory 7-2. Best players and trainers for Term 1 have been Hunter Smith, Dylan Watkins, Carrington Smith and Cooper Gerada. The squad is looking forward to the return leg of the match which will be played at BCHS in Term 2.

### TSP Sporting Excellence

The motivated young athletes in Sporting Excellence have spent Term 1 developing their fundamental movement skills in the gym. The students have been squatting, lunging, pushing and completing pull ups to develop their strength for their chosen sport. As a coach, it has been exciting to see the students move from squatting without weight into using barbells and dumbbells in a few months. Impressive performances have been Angus Gunn completing 43 push ups and Baxter Turner producing 500 watts on the air bike for a 40 second effort. In Week 10 the students will retest their strength norms from Week 2 and I am excited to see the improvements and also the transfer into performance on the field or court.

### TSP Surfing

The surfing group has been blessed with solid conditions for Term 1. This year they have welcomed Shannon Harrison to the program and a welcome back to Monty Moore. For 2021 the surfing group will use the HPC at Kingscliff for their main sessions each term. With some of the best coaching eyes in the country helping out our students we look forward to seeing the progressions they make this year.



For more information on the BCHS TSP program please contact [Harley.schmidt2@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Harley.schmidt2@det.nsw.edu.au)

## Australian Rules – Under 15's Gala Day

On 23 February, BCHS students attended the Far North Coast Australian Rules Gala day, which was played at the Cavanbah Centre, Byron Bay. Fortunately, after the ghastly weather for the prior two weeks, the students were greeted with a humid and sunny day. With the field still water logged, it made the conditions challenging for all players. For many of the BCHS side this was their first taste of Australian Rules and they should be proud of their efforts up against such tough opponents.

Best players of the day for BCHS – Blake McQueen, Stephen Cray, Kade Henderson, Xavier McClymonth, Quinn Verdonlini, Harry Healy, Bryce Pettingill and Callum McDonald.

A final congratulations to both Blake McQueen and Stephen Cray who were selected in the FNC/RICH Representative side. They will be playing at the North Coast Gala Day with the hopes of being selected in the North Coast side which will play in the NSW CHS Championships to be played early in Term 2.



### Congratulations Jack Trease

Jack was selected in the North Coast Volleyball team. He recently travelled to Sydney for an exciting three-day event. The team played well and were exciting to watch. They came an overall 6<sup>th</sup> place in the competition. Well done!



### Blake McQueen Selected in North Coast U15's Australian Rules Team

Congratulations Blake McQueen for being selected in the North Coast U15's Australian Rules Team. Blake will travel and play in the NSW CHS Championships in Coffs Harbour 21 – 23 April. At this carnival he will play against the best Australian Rules players from all NSW state high schools.

Blake was a dominant player at the North Coast selection trial controlling the match through the midfield and half back line. We look forward to hearing how he performs and what he can learn from playing at the state carnival. We wish him good luck and best wishes for the carnival in Term 2.

### Girls U15's Soccer

In Week 7 the BCHS Girls U15 soccer team played their first game against Emmanuel Anglican College winning 10 – 1.

Outstanding performances in the midfield from Molly Walsh, Kyla Radford, Erin Green and Carly Hughes.

Solid defence from the McIlwain sisters and Sally Crethar who kept Emmanuel to one goal.



### North Coast Basketball Trials

There were 9 BCHS girls selected to represent the FNC at the North Coast Trials this Term.

Congratulations to Zoe Aboitiz, Jasmine Crethar, Millie Grant-Frost, Sasha Oxland and Nina Aboitiz who were selected to represent the North Coast at the NSW CHS State Basketball Championships.

Wishing them all the best of luck when they travel to Maitland early Term 2 for the State competition.





## Student Representative Council

An excellent planning day was held at Ballina Shire Council chambers recently. We listened to speeches from the Mayor and were invited to comment on school plans by Mrs Silcock.

The SRC Officers for this year are:

Presidents Ella Cameron and Joshua Davis; Vice President Juniper Benkoe and Indiana Butler; Secretary Indigo Horn; Treasurer Meg Martin; Fundraising Amy Cremmin and Mila Hunter; Catering Max Hardy and Milly Titjen.

The SRC planned the Regional SRC meeting to be held in June. We have invited twenty-four schools from the North Coast to attend. The theme for the day will be "Student Voice = Student Wellbeing". The members also started to organise many other goals for the school.

## Chess

BCCHS students travelled to Shearwater Steiner School to play the ancient game of chess. Four students from Years 7 and 8 played in the NSW Secondary Schools Knockout Competition. The games were played in great spirit and respect. The players are looking forward to the next game in the competition when they play against students from Saint Mary's Catholic College Casino.



## Floristry Skills

Marielle, Giorgia and Kane had the opportunity to work with beautiful fresh flowers during their work and community class. They created vibrant bouquets that brought smiles to all of their faces!



## Easter Hats

The S5 class created unique Easter Hats for English. It was a great task that focused on taking turns, communication and sharing skills. They paraded around the school for everyone to enjoy.



Reubin, Riley, Noah and Daniel – Community Access







**Join now!**

# INTERACT CLUB

TAKE ACTION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE PROJECTS. DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS WHILE DISCOVERING THE POWER OF SERVICE ABOVE SELF.

See Mrs Pratt or Mr Hales for more information.

Meetings will be run during HUB each fortnight starting in Term 2.

## Interact Club

Take-action, build international understanding, and make new friends around the world. Interact brings people aged 12-18 together, to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of service above self. Find out how serious leadership can be seriously fun. The Ballina on Richmond Rotary Club are sponsoring an Interact Club at Ballina Coast High School. Starting Term 2, Interact will meet once a fortnight during HUB and first break. If you are interested in developing your leadership skills, making a difference in our local community and internationally, see Mrs Pratt or Mr Hales to register.



## Duke of Edinburgh's Internal Award

2020 Duke of Ed students Lachlan, Chris, Maureen and Jorja walked the Yuraygir Coastal Walk from Angourie to Red Rocks (65km). This was completed as part of their Adventurous Journey for the attainment of their Gold Award.

Student information packs will be available in Week 1, Term 2 for any students interested in being part of the Duke of Ed this year. There will also be a parent information night. Staff completing training are Jared Smeal, Scott Hogden and Mandy Pratt.

For further info visit the website:

<https://dukeofed.com.au/>



## Drinking Bird

Hunter Johnson was fascinated by the "Drinking Bird" on teacher Mel Gold's desk. He went to class and created an amazing replica built from Lego.

The drinking bird is a heat engine that exploits a temperature difference to convert heat energy to a pressure difference within the device and performs mechanical work, this makes it pivot to appear to drink. Like all heat engines, the drinking bird works through a thermodynamic cycle.

Year 10 student Garry McKenzie participated in work experience at the Ballina Fisherman's Co-Op this Term. He absolutely loved the experience. Learning customer service and how to fillet the fish among other new skills.

Cailea Foster of Year 7 loves cooking class, especially when she can use freshly collected eggs from the school's chickens!

57 Cherry Street, Ballina, NSW 2478

T: 6681 0100

E: [ballinacoast-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ballinacoast-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

W: [ballinacoast-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://ballinacoast-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)



*Our school proudly stands on Bundjalung land.*