



# BCHS BALLINA COAST HIGH SCHOOL

*innovation excellence diversity*



## Term 2 at Ballina Coast High School

Term 2 2020, will be memorable for many reasons and while some may remember the fear and challenges of Covid-19, I would like to take some time to acknowledge the wonderful opportunities that this term has offered us here at BCHS.

1. We rose to the challenge of Covid-19 as a community. Staff overnight worked to create Google Classrooms to support students and their learning.
2. We looked after our students and became closer to many families.
3. We felt supported and valued as teachers.
4. We missed our students and believe they missed us too.
5. We never lost sight of how important it was for our young people to be safe, healthy and happy to optimise the potential of learning.
6. Our ovals and air conditioning were rolled out quicker than expected.
7. Our hygiene practices have improved and we saw fewer colds and flu permeating our school population.
8. We thought differently about learning and realised the importance of clear instructions and step by step processes.
9. We saw the strength of spirit to support and lift each other up.
10. We celebrated that schools can be the heart of the community and can also heal communities.
11. We recognised the value of Facebook and communication.
12. We renewed being grateful for the community and the country in which we live.

Janeen Silcock, Principal

## Clean Up Australia Day 2020

Students and staff in the Support Centre participated in Clean Up Australia Day in Term 1. Whilst cleaning the school grounds we discovered that cleaning up would make a big difference if done regularly. We have plans to start a group of Eco Warriors who will regularly visit local beaches, parks, and other areas in our community to do our part by making Ballina beautiful and rubbish free. We are hoping to get this initiative started in Term 3.



### Ms Gold's Years 7 and 8 Science

Making edible slime.  
A fun, hands on experience.



### PDHPE Update

It's been quiet here in our faculty due to the many sporting events that were cancelled and our Targeted Sports Program being on hold as a result of Covid-19. Fortunately, we have seen some progress with the development of our teaching spaces and resources. The Outdoor Court has been resurfaced and is ready for PDHPE lessons.

Students have been enjoying European Handball, futsal, hockey and other modified games in the new space.

The BCHS oval has also come along in leaps and bounds. The surface is looking exceptional! Hopefully with fine weather, the ovals will be in action for Term 3.

Harley Schmidt

### Year 9 Science

During the Covid-19 lockdown Year 9 students continued their study of Ecosystems in Science.

One of the tasks they completed at home was the creation of a terrarium. This is a miniature ecosystem made of soil, rocks and plants arranged in a clear container.

Here is an example of one of the terrariums that were created. They can be used at home forever.

Kay Schlenker

Plants are biotic factors they are producers which use photosynthesis to gain energy from the sun.

Small sticks, bark and dead leaves being decomposed



The plants roots grow in the dirt.

The stems are the body of the plants.

Sand (beach)

Dirt (backyard) Contains nutrients for the plants to grow.

Rocks are abiotic factors which are non-living.

The water is being taken out of the soil and evaporating through their leaves through transpiration.

Shells are abiotic factors which are non-living.



## Human Society and it's Environment

HSIE have been extremely busy since returning to face to face learning. We have achieved a lot on our educational journey, despite the difficulties of the virus crisis.

Year 7 completed work on Place and Liveability, focusing on the factors that influence the decisions people make about where to live and the perceptions of the liveability of places. This has culminated in producing a Blog about how liveable Ballina is for the whole community.

Year 8 have studied the Aztecs and the effects of colonisation on the society. They produced a narrative about the massacre of Toxcatl. They are moving on to Ancient Australia for the remainder of term.

Year 9 worked on the topic of Changing Places developing an understanding of the spatial distribution of urban places and changing population distribution and settlement patterns. They produced a Ballina Sustainability Report and redesigned the Ballina CBD.

Year 10, have been working on modules 'Causing Conflict', 'Commerce' and 'Work Studies' and are continuing to achieve outcomes. 'Causing Conflict' has studied the Persian Wars and the effect of the Crusades. Commerce have worked on Running a Business and have developed their own business plan. Business Services have continued to work on upskilling and have completed many jobs around the school.



### Seedling Transplant

A number of seedlings have grown in the new gardens around the school. Unfortunately, we cannot keep them all or the garden would be overgrown. A team have dug up many of the seedlings and transplanted them into pots. They used some good quality potting mix donated by Ballina Shire Council. The trees will now be planted into an area known as the Ballina Coast High School Landcare site at Kingsford Smith Park.

We have been planting trees at the site for 18 years and it is being used as a Centre of Excellence showcasing school land care. We are so happy that so many people have benefitted from the trees that have been planted there over the years.

Good job to everyone involved.





## **Pending Departure of our International Students**

Our international students will be leaving us and heading home at the end of this term. Luiza, Maria and Lisa-Marie have been delightful students who have transitioned into life at BCHS very easily. Amid a global pandemic, the girls have still managed to laugh and enjoy our beautiful environment. We wish them happiness and safety as they travel home and reengage with life in their home countries; Brazil and Germany, amongst their families and friends. Bon voyage girls!

### **Maria Barbosa De Oliveira**

"My time in Australia was so good. I had so much fun and will never forget all the memories I made here. At BCHS I was able to make so many friends, and learn a lot about the Australian culture".

### **Lisa-Marie Buerger**

"G'day everyone!

My name is Lisa and I am an exchange student in Year 11 from Germany. I came to Ballina at the beginning of this year, after six months at a high school in Sydney, and sadly will return to Germany at the end of this term.

My time in Australia has been very eventful. I have experienced the bush fires, the floods, and of course the coronavirus including lockdown and online learning. But apart from that my time at BCHS has been great. I have been meeting so many new people, improving my English and studying subjects which I couldn't have studied in Germany. I am really glad that I got the opportunity to have such a special experience to which I will certainly always look back with a smile on my face.

And lastly, I really want to say thank you to the school, my teachers and my friends for making my time so amazing.

Your Lisa



### **Luiza Salvatore Ribeiro Cruz**

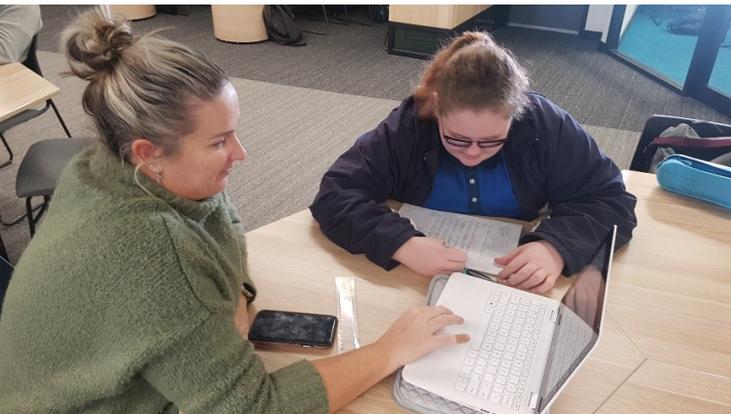
"Well, my name is Luiza and I'm an exchange student from a big city in Brazil.

Everything at BCHS is different from my school in Brazil. Here we have just six classes and could choose which subjects we wanted to study. At home, I need to do a total of 13 subjects and can't choose what I would like to do. Schools here in Australia start at nine, which is really late compared with mine at home that starts at seven in the morning. So, I can say that it was a really good experience, where I could just do six subjects and start school later, giving me time to talk and wake up properly. It is really different catching the bus every day to go to school and back because this is something that I would never do in my city.

I've been here for six months and now I just have two weeks left.

Time has passed really quickly. I survived being away from my family during a really difficult time, but I don't regret it at all. I have friends that I hope I will stay in contact with, and maybe I will come back to see them again. I loved the time I spent here, made new friends and improved my English, which was the main idea of studying here. I'm really gonna miss being in Australia".





## Learning Hub/Library

The Learning Hub and Library space has many roles here at Ballina Coast High School.

As the headquarters for the Learning and Support Team, it is a safe and secure place for students.

The Quicksmart team are running our wonderful mathematics program from the Library.

The twenty students who study Distance Education subjects use the Library as a base.

The four Aurora College students are continuing to do subjects online with other students from across NSW.

Along with the many students who use the library during free periods, the space is very busy every period of every day.

## An English task completed by Noah Watson Year 9

**Task:** Read the prompt and write the opening to this story, make sure you include personification in your writing.

**Sentence starter:** It was 2054 and James stood in the line at the Caretakers Institution, waiting anxiously to submit his application for procreation.

**Time/length:** Write at least 15 lines in 15 minutes

It had been nearly two decades since the new laws came in about making new life. Crimson and her husband hated these new laws but they understood why the government chose to do this. They both had been standing in line for way more than 2 hours now and it felt like they hadn't moved.

"Next" called the government's chosen enforcer and Crimson, with her husband, stepped forward after the person who was in front of them had moved out of their way, put their application on the table and waited for her response. Crimson kept her eyes on her application. The woman gave Crimson the application back and said the same again, as they walked home, Crimson read and reread what the woman wrote down. She could feel tears running down her cheeks and her mouth twisting in an upwards motion. Crimson forced a yell of excitement down for she didn't want others to think she was insane. By the time they sat down from the walk, it was already dusk and Crimson had her smile etched across her face that warmed her entire body. It was like the room obeyed her. Like a butler gives aid to her in this release of excitement. Crimson jumped and screamed in joy at what she has dreamed of since being a little girl.



### Reconciliation Week

Reconciliation week 2020 was celebrated creating a Sea of Hands spelling the word UNITY 2020. The Sea of Hands has been a symbol for over 20 years that engages Australians with Reconciliation. Reconciliation is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements. Striving towards unity and respect as we come together and connect with one another.

### Saying Thank You with Flowers...a whole Field of Flowers

Our beautiful Field of Flowers has been created as our way of saying thank you to all of the essential workers who made our lives better during a difficult time. We truly appreciate the hard work that you do for our community ensuring that Ballina remains a safe and healthy place for us all. We are in awe of the creativity and the thousands of flowers that have been made over the past few weeks. One family made 1900 paper flowers. This became an important activity to do together when families were encouraged to keep students at home. It has been wonderful to see our students and their families, and our staff taking the time to make so many lovely flowers. Expressing their gratitude with the limitless creations, some made from recycled materials and so much colour, BCHS say "thank you".



For more photos see our website:

<https://ballina-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/gallery/field-of-flowers.html>



Year 11 Visual Arts have been creating Vanitas Photographs. These stunning symbolic photos were created during lockdown to reinforce concepts being taught this term.



Year 8 are currently finalising their "Artist's Books. This one (above) is by Lucy Hallam-Simes

Congratulations to Leon Elman (left) who has worked tirelessly to complete his HSC Body of Work.



Jess Harper Year 11 Art (left).

Annabel Darvill Year 10 Photography (below).



**Year 9 & 10 Visual Arts, Illustration and Photography Students** accessed a Zoom hosted by Screenworks Creative Industries. Students engaged with professionals from the film and special effects industry and were given excellent advice on how best to enter the film industry as a career.

## A Day in the Life of our School Captains

**March 23. Week 9. Lockdown.** Restricted to the confinements of our homes, encouraged to stay away, to isolate to hide away from the rest of mankind.

What did we do to keep our budding minds sane? How did we adjust to this major disruption in our final year of studies?

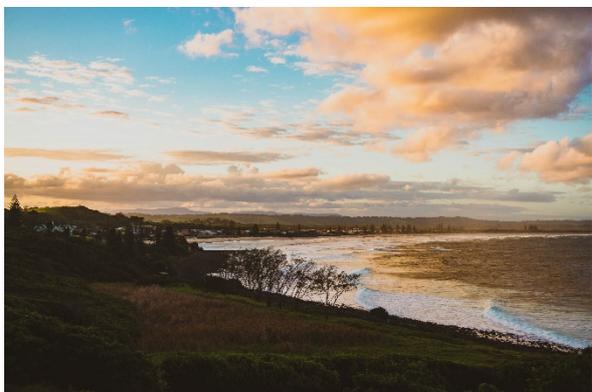
Well aside from diligently completing the work set by our swiftly adapting teachers, we invested in some old passions.

I took to the garden, with my inner grandfather surfacing. I mulched and pruned and shovelled and built. Maureen pinned on her badge and slipped into her uniform, intent on becoming Big W's most valuable employee. Lachlan shouldered his camera gear and scoured the beaches of Ballina determined to capture it at its finest. Arabella traversed the complex network of Netflix her objective; to find the true meaning of that thing we call relaxing. Without realising it, we became immersed in our new routines, comfortable after many weeks of uncertainty. Our lockdown time fell away before us and soon enough we all returned to the surface, emerging from the earth and water, stepping out of our bedroom doors, back into the world we call normal. We left the lockdown behind. Or so we thought.

Lately, we've begun to realise that this mightn't be the entire story. We're starting to witness the benefits of the lockdown; its ability to allow us to step back and form our priorities and passions like never before. Its impact in our lives is more obvious than we thought. Lachlan is now more invested in his surf photography than ever, purchasing new housings (he's shopping online for them as regularly as Maureen is working) and experimenting with different techniques. He's spending his weekends in the water, chasing the swell and promoting his works. Maureen is truly invested in her work at Big W. She's been able to construct stronger relationships and enhance collaboration between her fellow Big W colleagues. She now has her mind set on developing the skills available in everyday business management (future business woman in the making!). Arabella's time away has enabled her to answer any trivia questions concerning the series 'Pretty Little Liars' (or any Netflix series for that matter). Feel free to test her knowledge - she won't disappoint. She's also mastered the art of relaxing and the ability to simply take a well-deserved break, a much-needed skill for any student finishing Year 12 (as we all know too well). My quality time spent with family has not gone to waste and developments of our relationships throughout our gardening spree have continued to grow (just like our now flourishing veggie garden).

The lockdown period was different - we can't deny that fact. But many of us were able to strip back the many responsibilities that life heaps upon us each day and hone in on our passions. All of us are now more certain on where we want to head next year, fuelled by the time away to focus on our identity, unhindered by the fast-paced reality of juggling life as a Year 12 student.

Written by Jesse Barnwell. Images below by Lachlan Miller.



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*Our school proudly stands on Bundjalung land.*

