



The Audience

Term 1 | Weeks 5 & 6 | 2017

Performing At Our Best.

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Assessment schedules can be downloaded [here](#). Stay in touch via our [free app](#) and [Facebook page](#).
Subscribe to this fortnightly Yr 7-12 newsletter via the HSPA website. Contact the office for more information.

Week 5	
Mon 20/2	EIT Audio Training (Recording Studio – P:2) Yarn Up (Hunter Theatre 6pm–9pm)
Tues 21/2	Zone Swimming Carnival Whole School & Yr 12 Photo – P:6
Wed 22/2	Student Leader Induction (P:3-4) Senior Drama Rehearsal (1pm-5pm)
Thurs 23/2	Yr 9 Excursion – Surfest Multi-Media Excursion – Fox Studios
Fri 24/2	Yr 7 HSIE Field Day

Week 6	
Mon 27/2	EIT Audio Training (Recording Studio P:5)
Tues 28/2	EIT Audio Training (Recording Studio) Hunter Region Swimming Carnival
Wed 1/3	Senior Drama Production
Thurs 2/3	Senior Drama Production Open Boys Basketball (9-11.30am Stadium)
Fri 3/3	Senior Drama Production

From Centre Stage



I am very excited!
At the end of last week, I felt very fortunate to be able to see performances from our highly successful students from the 2016 HSC.

Our whole school should be very proud of the wonderful performances our drama and dance students presented at the Seymour Centre for OnSTAGE and Callback on Thursday and Friday last week. On Thursday, our drama group, Daniel Allsop, Elijah Innes, Emogen Mahony, Amelia Noble and Emily Williams performed their HSC group piece *20,000 Tonnes*, a cleverly depressing and hilarious piece of Absurdism.

On Friday I attended the Callback show and saw Jasmine Bard perform her Core Composition and Madeline Denholm perform her Major Study performance. Both were stunning.

That Friday night was also the opening of ArtExpress, featuring two of our Visual Arts students' major works. Elijah Innes' work, *Eulogy of Age*, was chosen for the advertising banners for the 2017 ArtExpress promotion and Lucian Rodriguez Lovell's work *Tadhana* also featured in the exhibition.

An interesting statistic was that Hunter School of the Performing Arts was the only school in NSW featured in all three shows. This is testament to the extremely talented students and teachers at HSPA. Congratulations all!

Our ensemble auditions have been taking place over the last two weeks and I would like to thank all students for their effort and energy. Many students auditioned for multiple groups and many outside their own 'specialist' area. It is very healthy to seek so many opportunities and the skills developed in these groups contribute to some of the outstanding work at HSC level.

Our Millabah dance group represented us beautifully at the Indigenous All Stars NRL game on Friday night. They were the dancers in the guard of honour and also performed at half time, making us very proud!

There will be a few tired Year 7 students recovering from their high energy camp experience this week. We had record attendance with almost the whole year enjoying the activities. Thank you particularly to all of the students for their positive attitude, the teachers who accompanied the camp, and Hayley Vimpani for her organisation.

The giant beach party, aka the swimming carnival, was an event to behold. HSPA certainly know how to put on a carnival! The attendance was fantastic, the novelty events were hilarious and well patronised, and the school spirit was outstanding. Thank you to all students and staff for making this such a brilliant day!

Jo Gray
Principal

Topping the Charts

The Sentral Parent Portal is now live for all Parents/Carers

Last week all new HSPA parents/carers were emailed their personal access codes and instructions for HSPA's Sentral Parent Portal. Existing parents/carers were emailed their codes and instructions last year. Emails were sent to the email address of 'Parent/Carer 1' supplied on the child's enrolment form.

The Parent Portal enables parents/carers to see their child's attendance, semester reports, commendations and awards, timetable, daily notices, N Award warning letters (Years 10-12) and book interviews for Parent/Teacher nights. Instructions for booking interviews will be emailed later in the term as it is a different booking system to previous years. In instances where a shared parenting /custody arrangement exists, a separate access code can be generated if required. Students can access the Sentral Student Portal, using their DE log on and password, and see the same information as their parents/carers.

If you did not receive the email, require a separate access code, have forgotten your access code or need to update your email address, please contact the Office on: 4952 3355.

Facebook

HSPA has a vibrant Facebook presence with over 3600 likes. Make you sure 'Like' the page and keep in touch with lots of good news stories. Please note that we cannot always respond to questions posted on our Facebook page. It is better to email questions to the relevant staff member if known (email addresses are on the school's website under Faculties) or to the school's general email address. Thanks for your understanding.

HSPA's Free App



Have you downloaded the free HSPA Skoolbag App? See instructions on the school's website homepage. Important

messages, news items, alerts and calendar dates such as excursions are often sent /uploaded via the app. There have been more than 10,000 downloads of our app so far! Androids - 2740; iOS - 7422; Windows - 28.

Parent Newsletter

Have you subscribed to our parent newsletters? Click the button on the school's website homepage to subscribe. At HSPA, all newsletters are sent via the email subscription only (no paper copies).



Does HSPA have your correct email address?

The school regularly sends emails to parents/carers using the primary email address of 'parent/carers 1' supplied on the child's enrolment form. It is therefore essential that parents/carers inform the school if their email address changes for any reason. Thank you for your cooperation.

New HSC Minimum Standard

Families may be already aware that from 2020, all Year 12 students in NSW must reach the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive an HSC. Students in Year 9 in 2017 will be the first students expected to meet the standard.

Students can demonstrate they meet the standard by passing the online reading, writing and numeracy tests, which will be available for students to sit in Year 10, 11 and 12, and for up to five years after beginning their first HSC courses. Students will have the first opportunity to prove they meet the standard by achieving Band 8 results or above in Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests. Students who achieve Band 8 will not need to sit the online tests later in years 10, 11 and 12. No student will be ineligible to sit for the HSC on the basis of their Year 9 NAPLAN results. Students who don't demonstrate the standard will have five years after beginning their first HSC courses to meet the minimum standard and receive an HSC. They will receive a Record of School Achievement on leaving school.

Parents/carers and students can access more information from the NESA (formerly BOSTES) website:
<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/policy-research/stronger-hsc-standards/minimum-standard.html>

AUSLAN CLUB

Are any students interested in learning AUSLAN (Australian Sign Language) and about Deaf Culture? Come and join us on Thursdays at lunchtime in FT2. Bring your lunch and a friend!

Student Leadership

Year 8-11 Leadership Interviews have been very productive and exciting as our leaders put forward ideas for the 2017 Projects. More to come next newsletter!



2017 Student Leaders



Maths

Mathematics Problem

Try this mathematics question. An eccentric farmer goes to a sale and sees a sign "Cows \$10 each, Sheep \$1 each and Rabbits 8 for \$1". He looks in his wallet and takes out \$100. He decides to buy 100 animals spending exactly \$100 and he wants at least 1 of each type of animal. There is 1 correct solution. Enjoy ~ Graham Hudson Mathematics Faculty.

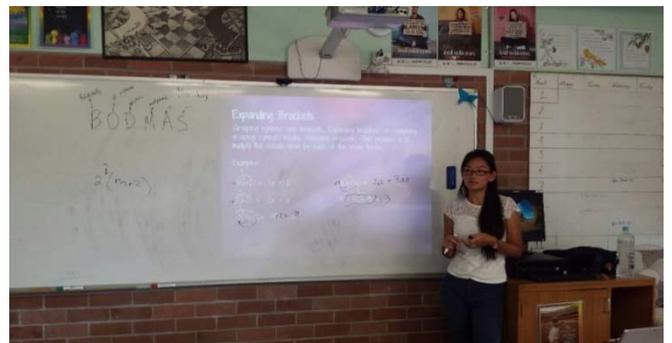
Engraving Calculators

Send your student to see Mrs Portelli in Maths if they would like to engrave their name onto their calculator.

Maths and Milo

This program operates every day from 8am in FT3. On Tuesdays this term, Susan is also running some Stage 4 Revision Workshops. This week was Algebra!

The faculty's great appreciation goes to the Year 10 student tutors : Tahlie Park, Bridgette May, Laura McKay, Georgia Vaughan, Kate Wooden, Isabelle Bilton, Paul Battaglia, Sophie McCarthy, Liam Patey-Dennis and Sam Lewis.



Sport

Any student who is interested in trialing for the Hunter Region teams for: Boys & Girls Diving Trials or Boys & Girls Golf Trials, please come to the PE staff room and register your interest ASAP.

Swimming Carnivals

What a great day for our annual swimming carnival, 'THE BIG BEACH PARTY'! Fantastic attendance, participation and school spirit kicked off the school year in great style!

After a successful Competitors Only Carnival on the Monday, our swimmers backed up and fought it out in the pool for the 50 freestyle crowns. The Zone Team will compete at the City Zone Carnival on Tuesday the 21st of February.

Thanks to our staff, student officials and of course our competitors who all contributed to creating a fabulous fun day!

Weekly Sport

The weekly sport program is now well underway with students following a range of sporting programs. Payment slips (found on the back page of their Yearly Schedule) must be returned to the cashier office by ALL students. Students involved in extra-curricular activities must return these slips, signed by their supervising teacher, even if no payment is required.

Please note: payment for Semester 1 sport and Term 1 sport Choices for Year 10 is now due.

Staff are attached to a Sport Group for the duration of 2017. This develops a stronger student - teacher relationship and a more established understanding of individual student needs.

Full Sport Uniform

May be worn all day on sports day or changed into at lunchtime. Sports uniform facilitate movement and save formal uniform items from damage. Parents are asked to encourage the correct uniform choices on Sports Days.

PDHPE

Big changes in PDHPE with the return of Ms Lee and the extension of our Collaborative Classroom to all Stage 5 students. The enthusiasm for this student-centered approach was very evident as Year 9 students embarked on the approach in Week 4. Having the opportunity for some great discussion, debates, creative activities and maximised learning opportunities was wonderful!

A change to a project based learning approach in Year 8 theory lessons provides another exciting shift for both students and teachers as we explore the concept of fitness. Please ask your children about what they are learning about in PDHPE - it could open up a whole new conversation, beyond the atypical teenage grunt!

Sports Uniform is required for all practical lessons. Students have identified their theory and practical breakdown over the past 3 weeks and should note this on their timetables. PDHPE do use digital devices in theory lesson so please encourage your child to bring their device if they have one.

Aboriginal Education



Yarn Up

A reminder to all families of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students that Yarn Up is on Monday 20th February from 6-9pm.

Yarn Up includes a recognition ceremony for students who have achieved excellence in 2016 and showcases performances by our talented Aboriginal students. The night will also provide an opportunity for families to meet representatives from our local, Mulloobinbah AECG and the HSPA Aboriginal Education Team.

We look forward to catching up with you and having some great food and a yarn.

Millabah at the NRL Indigenous All Stars Game

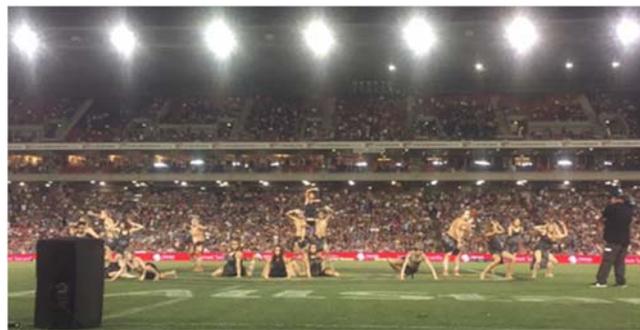
Our Indigenous dance group Millabah have been busy throughout the school holidays and the start of the term preparing for a performance at the NRL Indigenous All Stars match on Friday the 10th of February.

Millabah performed a new dance, which was choreographed by James Boyd with assistance from the members of Millabah. The dance tells the story of Indigenous youth following the path to finding and revitalising their traditional and cultural heritage. This contemporary choreography, inspired by traditional dance, was set to the song *The Children Came Back* by Indigenous Australian artist, Briggs.

Throughout the holidays and on weekends students attended rehearsals, which seemed to always fall on the blistering hot days we have often had this summer. Their dedication to their craft was undeniably admirable. This was evident last Friday when during the 40 + degree heat the students rehearsed at the McDonald Jones' Stadium in preparation for the performance that night.

Millabah formed the guard of honour for the players during the Welcome to Country, National Anthem and the moment of silence for the Stolen Generation. Our very talented Alexa Elbourne performed the National Anthem in Awabakal Language on live national television. She did an amazing job and is to be congratulated on her outstanding performance. At halftime Millabah took to the centre of the field and performed *The Children Came Back* for the first time in front of an audience. The performance drew many compliments and praise from fellow performers and fans attending the game. Millabah represented Hunter School of Performing Arts and the Indigenous Community with excellence and are to be congratulated on their performance.

Here are some snaps of our time and performance at the NRL Indigenous All Stars game.





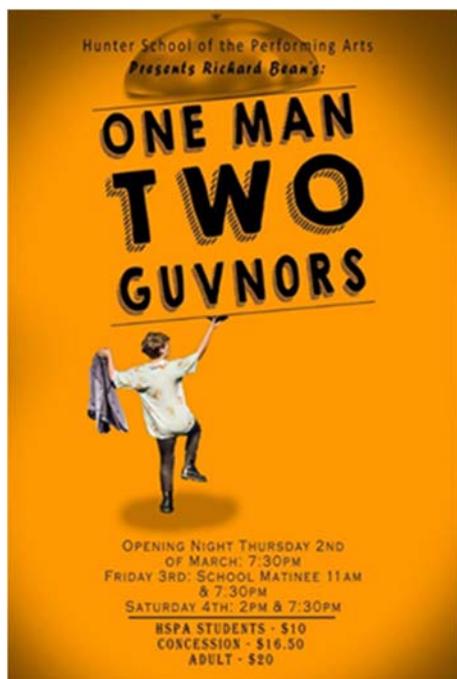
If you are a student who is interested in joining Millabah please keep an eye out in the daily notices for information on auditions in the coming weeks. Millabah is a reconciliation group consisting of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students from all three performing arts areas; dance as a performing arts area is not a requirement. If you have any questions please see Miss Edwards in the English staffroom.

Hayley Edwards ~ English Teacher/Millabah coordinator

Senior Drama Production

HSPA's senior production *One Man Two Guvnors* is running from March 2nd – 4th at The Hunter Theatre. Directed by Nicholas Thoroughgood (Year 12) and starring a multitude of talented senior drama students, it's shaping up to be a great show so get in and get your tickets now!

Tickets range from \$10.00 – \$20.00 and can be purchased online at: <http://www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/ourschool.php?id=80>



English

The popular **English Muffins** study skills program is up and running again this term. Students from years 7-12 can come along to the English faculty Monday to Friday from 8:00 – 8:45 am and seek help for assessment tasks, essay writing, literacy skills and creative writing. Schedules with rooms and teachers running the program each day are posted around the English classrooms or you can come and see Ms Edwards or Mrs Byrne in the English staffroom if you would like to learn more about the program. Alternatively, parents can contact Mrs Byrne at: alison.byrne2@det.nsw.edu.au.

The English **Kickstart** HSC study skills program started this week with a really promising response from Year 12 students. The program runs from Term 1 to Term 3 and covers skills designed to help students attain success throughout the HSC English assessment schedule at HSPA and for the HSC Examination.

This year we have been able to provide separate courses for the Standard and Advanced cohorts, which means that we are able to focus on requirements for each course. Topics covered will include: responding to unseen texts for Area of Study; essay writing skills; time management; sophisticated creative writing for Area of Study; study preparation and tackling the concepts of each module covered in the courses.

Places are still available for:

Standard: Monday 3:00 – 4:30 in BT10 with Ms Davies.

Advanced: Wednesday 1:00 – 2:30 in BT6 with Mrs Byrne.

The cost to students is \$75:00 for the entire course, payable at the cashier's office or online through our payments system on the HSPA website at: <http://www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/>

Getting To Know...Bradley Brown TAS



What do you teach and where did you teach before HSPA?

I am a TAS teacher specialising in Hospitality and Food Technology. I have taught at numerous schools around Newcastle and spent four years at Callaghan College, Waratah Campus prior to coming to HSPA.

Where did you go to school?

I went to Unionville High School in Canada which had a focus on Creative and Performing Arts. I then attended George Brown College School of Hospitality in Toronto, Canada to train as a Chef/Pastry Chef. Later, I went to the University of Newcastle for my Bachelor of Education.

What made you decide to become a teacher?

I taught traditional Karate part-time for many years and always loved seeing people grow and achieve with my assistance. It gives me a great sense of pride seeing my students reach their goals.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Read, renovate, practice Karate, travel and learn new things!

What has been your biggest challenge?

Keeping the art of cooking alive in an era where we are bombarded with instant meals and convenience food.

What did you want to be when you were younger?

A Chef! Achievement unlocked!

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?

I would be a benevolent dictator (with unlimited resources).

If you were a super-hero, what powers would you have?

The power of flight! Who doesn't want to be able to fly?

What was the last book you read?

A Dance of Dragons by George R.R. Martin.

What was your first job?

A paper route followed by many jobs in the hospitality industry.

What is your favourite all-time movie?

Star Wars!

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

"Don't sweat the small stuff. And remember, it's all small stuff!"
(I love that quote, its great advice).

What is your favourite song?

I have many favourite songs but my favourite band is a Canadian Group called "Our lady Peace". They have unique and thought provoking lyrics; I like music that challenges me to see the world from different perspectives.

What would you name the autobiography of your life?

Mise en Place – Everything in Its Place.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?

Anywhere my family is.

Do you have a special talent?

Apparently, I'm pretty good with chocolate.

Do you ever wish you could be someone else? If yes, who?

Nope. I'm happy with my life the way it is. Although, the Benevolent Dictator does have a nice ring to it.

School News

HSPA has been selected to participate in Local Matters at Grill'd Kotara this February!

Local Matters is the Grill'd community donation program that sees each Grill'd restaurant donate \$500 back into the community every month. The donation is split between 3 local community groups \$300 / \$100 / \$100.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We'd love your support in receiving the highest \$300 donation! Simply head to Grill'd Kotara during February for a burger and pop your Local Matters token in our jar. The group with the most tokens at the end of the month receives the largest donation. For each meal ordered you receive a token which you use to vote with.



Community Announcements

Free LIVE Online information session for the Hunter School of the Performing Arts students and scholarships available in 2017

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation that is registered with all state and territory Departments of Education around Australia and with the Ministry of Education in NZ. We are the first and only secondary exchange organisation in Australia and New Zealand to be certified to ISO 9001 (Quality Management System) and we ensure the highest standards of care and support to our participants.

The LIVE Online session gives students and families the opportunity to learn more about becoming an exchange student and the various scholarship options available in 2017.

Students can find out more about our exchange programs to over 25 countries, listen to former exchange students share their experience and learn about our scholarships and discounts on offer in 2017.

Please note: The deadline for [Scholarship](#) and [Early Bird Discount](#) applications is Monday 31st March for programs departing between October 2017 - March 2018.

FREE LIVE ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

Hear from our very experienced, National Director, find out more about discounts and scholarships available and ask questions.

Wednesday, 15th February at 7.30pm
or
Thursday, 9th March at 5.30pm

Register now

Visit www.studentexchange.org.au
or call 1300 135 331 for more information

Apply now for
Rotary Youth Exchange



To have the opportunity to study abroad is a life-changing experience. The **Rotary Youth Exchange Program** provides this opportunity.

If you are in Year 9, 10 or 11 an opportunity for a Rotary Youth Exchange in 2018 is possible. Secondary school placements are available in many countries of the world.

An Information Session will be held at:
Club Macquarie, 458 Lake Road, Argenton
Wednesday 1st March 2017 starting at 6:30pm.

Further information is available from:

The Chairman
Denise Parkes
464 Fords Road
Limeburners Creek. NSW 2324
mob: 0417 263 303
www.youthexchange.net.au

