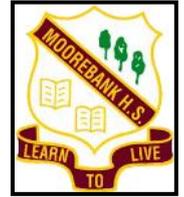


# MOOREBANK HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



December 2018  
Issue 6

[MHS WEBSITE](#)



- Bronwen Jones  
Speech from  
Orientation Day
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Report
- Harry  
Brotherhood  
NASA Space  
Camp adventure

## Principals Report

May I wish the entire Moorebank community a very safe and happy holidays. The last day for 2018 is Wednesday 19th December, 2018.

**School resumes for year 7 and peer support students 30/1/19.**

**On 31/1/19 all students return.**

Presentation Evening Speech:

Good evening, welcome to the 44<sup>th</sup> annual presentation evening at Moorebank High School. Tonight we come together to celebrate the year that was.

Firstly, thank you to Faye Cazouris, Wendy Cooper, Becc Paulson, Chloe Yazbeck, Christine Zabakly, Chis Lee, Ian Chan and Katrina Carney along with our extraordinary SASS staff led by Joan Nicholls for organising this evening. Can I also thank our School Captains, Junaid and Kristen for MCing tonight.

**Junior:** I would like to begin this evening by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land, of elders past and present on which this meeting takes place. I would like to extend that welcome to all aboriginal and non-aboriginal people here to help us celebrate our achievements.

**Junior:** To our special guests, Clr Charishma Kaliyanda from Liverpool Council and Mrs Bronwen Jones the President of the Moorebank High School Community Focus Group. Thank you for helping us celebrate our achievements this year.

**Senior:** I'd also like to acknowledge our guests, Warren Finn Director Educational

Leadership, Ms Melanie Gibbons the member for Holsworthy, Ms Rose Prochilo Rotarian from Liverpool Greenway, Mr Renato Villavicencio from the Australian Defence Force, Mrs Bronwen Jones the President of the Moorebank High School Community Focus Group, Mr Alex Glumac member for Fowler, Mr Ben Brooker former Moorebank High School student and Mr Prayash Narayan also a former Moorebank student. Thank you for helping us celebrate this very special evening.

To our parents, the executive team and the year advisers who work collectively all year for the best outcomes for our students, thank you for your ongoing support. I appreciate all the work of my staff. They take seriously their responsibility for all aspects of the students' growth and learning. I thank them for their unparalleled commitment. I will also take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Greg Horsley and Cassie Debreczeni the Deputy Principals, for their positive contributions, hard work and commitment to the values and goals that shape our wonderful school. I will extend this acknowledgement to Cassie O'Connor and Amina Baghdadi who have selflessly relieved in the Deputy Principal position regularly throughout the year.



I believe that it is our students that make this school so special. Moorebank is a partially selective and comprehensive school and we should celebrate this fact. We have students at this school from all walks of life and with the full range of abilities, skills, talents and experiences. We are in essence a microcosm of society- within this very school.

There is much for which we can be proud. We believe that we give you our best and each year provide the best education and the best preparation for life. We have continued to excel in our academic results over the past three years. We constantly receive feedback. People take the trouble to phone or write to commend our students for their behaviour, the respect they show members of the public. We expect them to be their best and they noticeably are. They are positive ambassadors, living by our values.

Moorebank is also renowned for the commitment and enthusiasm of our student leadership body. This year alone they organised 36 separate events which were highly successful and rewarding for the community. They give of their time for initiatives that they believe in and I know that 2019 will be bigger and better giving true student voice in not only community initiatives, but school planning and representation at executive and parent meetings.

We have also offered numerous extra curricular opportunities to our students, everything from camps, to debating, to representation at the highest level of sport, public speaking, mentoring of primary students, peer tutoring, mock trials, public speaking, excursions across all learning areas, Shakespeare incursions, cultural restaurant experiences, student leadership conferences and so much more.

Despite all of our successes, many of which will be celebrated this evening, there is always room for improvement. We are not perfect, but each and every day we work together to be better.

I would like to end this speech with a story – not something that will be celebrated tonight, but a glimpse of the values we work tirelessly to instil at Moorebank High School.

About a week ago during an assembly a few year 9 students were misbehaving and it was not the first time that they were asked to leave the assembly by frustrated staff. They were placed on detention with me at lunchtime. During the 20 minutes that they were with me I required them to write a full page (an extended response) on the topic “What does it mean to be a student at Moorebank High School?” in silence. I told them that they could use my door for inspiration – I have the word BRAVE on my door.

My intent was to make them sweat basically. I had actually anticipated that after about 10 minutes and a couple of sentences, they would apologise and we would discuss my expectations on behaviour. However, to my utter astonishment they completed the full page extended response in just under 15 minutes. And their response blew me away. To summarise their response to “What does it mean to be a student at Moorebank High School” –

- It is an honour and a privilege to be a student and Moorebank High School
- We have the reputation of being a high achieving school with good teachers
- Our teachers care about us
- Moorebank is about life long learning
- And each *student was able to explicitly describe each of the BRAVE values and what they looked like for them and their learning.*

Instead of teaching them a lesson, they taught me a lesson. Students at Moorebank High School understand and know the values we stand for and we should never underestimate any child. If we set the bar high for all our students – they will reach it.

Without further ado let me welcome you to tonight’s proceedings celebrating not only academic and sporting achievements, but recognising students that try their best in valuing their learning and sometimes achieving despite the odds. This year we have special awards to celebrate dedication towards community service, selflessly giving of their time. Enjoy.

## Orientation Day Speech by Bronwen Jones

Good morning everyone, my name is Bronwen Jones and I am not going to talk to you just as the President of the CFG, or Community Focus Group, but also as a parent. As a parent I have a daughter currently in Year 9 who is doing wonderfully well and another who has just completed her second year of a double degree in Law and International Studies after studying here at Moorebank, so we have a lot to be positive about in relation to this school.

Having said that, obviously every child is different and experiences will vary and there will be highs and lows along the way, no matter what school they attend or what type of student they are so as parents, how can we, in conjunction with the school help them to maximise their potential? Well, here are a few tips my husband and I have learned along the way.

Show them you value learning, because if you don't, why should they? This is so important, take an interest in what they are doing. Quite simply one of the best ways I found to do this was to attend the CFG meetings, which I have done since Lauren started Year 7 in 2011 and will continue to do so until Cassie has finished her schooling. If it is your eldest child about to commence year 7, you will find that you will be quickly told by people, maybe already, that parents don't have anything to do with their children in high school, they go to school, they come home from school and you have no idea of what has gone on during the day, other than nothing, they did nothing, learnt nothing, it's fine, leave me alone. So you hope for the best and think that's all you can do. However, that's not actually how it has to be.

So why do I urge you to come to CFG meetings to help stay connected, what actually happens at a meeting, which is nothing like a primary school P&C meeting if you have ever attended one. It's run by the school, not the parents and so has a very different outlook. First up is a call for any General Business to be added to the agenda, followed by a Faculty Focus talk which changes each month, usually by the Head Teacher, which will give you a far greater understanding of the subjects, procedures, strategies and goals for a particular faculty. Any questions you may have are usually easily and readily answered at this time.

Over the years this has given me wonderful insight in to our daughter's subjects and classrooms, providing many opportunities to sit down casually over dinner or during a car ride to sport training and so on and talk to them

from a perspective of some knowledge and understanding. It's amazing what you can find out when you know what questions to ask or topics to bring up.

Generally the meeting would then move on to the Principal's address which will bring you up to date with school business. Information may be presented and parents may be asked for input and feedback about certain aspects or issues which may directly affect your child. We act as a sounding board regarding projects or programs and we may participate in information sessions. It has opened up opportunities for me to sit on staff selection panels and planning committees. It's a chance to meet the staff and build relationships with the people running the school you have decided to send your child to. We find out about upcoming events & dates we need to know that relate to our kids. This would be followed by General Business, your opportunity to raise issues or ask questions. I have learned many things over the years to assist me in guiding our daughters when at the beginning, I may have otherwise felt out of my depth after the relatively small and safe environment of primary school. So I'm going to share with you some of the things I wish I had learnt before our eldest child started.

I learned of the Sentral program, where by logging on I can access my daughter's timetable, attendance and academic reports, daily notices, set up parent/teacher interviews and so on. I urge you to read the emails you will receive and not gloss over them. They generally hold a host of information that is provided to assist you to maintain a place in your child's school life. I know when their assessment periods will begin, NAPLAN, carnivals etc giving us the opportunity to give gentle reminders for them to get organised and get their math book up to date, ask questions of their teachers if they are unclear of requirements and help with their time management if they were struggling. I discovered the wide range of Leadership roles available at the school and the wonderful opportunities they can provide to the students. You may think this won't be relevant to you, but if your child wants to apply for a part time job when they turn 14, it suddenly becomes relevant, if they want to try for an apprenticeship, it becomes relevant, if they want to apply for uni, it becomes relevant. I encouraged our children to get involved, which they did, because for some this won't come naturally. But by doing so you are helping them develop further skills and keeping them enthusiastic and engaged, which is so important.

They need to feel they have a voice, and with this comes pride and ownership in the school and themselves. I've learned to pick my battles, to be there as a sounding board and provide feedback if they need it, to be the calm voice giving encouragement when they think they can't do it and aren't good enough, and there will be those times, trust me, no matter what their ability is. There are times when they may struggle or even fail, but as long as we are there to help them realise what they've learned from the experience, it's not wasted. You will hear a lot from schools about resilience, but we need to model it at home as well, this is a joint venture people. Obviously students have different needs and some will need more support than others and that is where you need to enlist the help of the school if required, don't be put off by your child saying don't call, but they need to know you and the school have their best interests at heart and are there for them. As parents we naturally want everything to go as smoothly for our children as possible, unfortunately, life's not always like that. However, we need to understand that trying to fight all of their battles is not necessarily the best way for them to grow as independent individuals and sometimes the best course of action is to let them sort things out themselves, or even that bad choices have consequences. I have always tried to be available for our kids to talk any problems through and there is nothing wrong with suggestions or possible strategies to help them navigate their way at first. However, there are times you may need to step in and I have learned who is the best person to approach and how, as it's obviously a very different ball game to the primary school environment. If your child has been struggling for some time with issues, be it school work, relationships, bullying etc and strategies for them to work through it haven't resolved it, don't let your child set the agenda. If you are told by them "I don't want you going to the school, they don't care, or they won't do anything, there's nothing anyone can do" which I have been told by so many parents over the years, I totally disagree. By understanding who to turn to, you can usually find the right solutions. Obviously things are not necessarily an overnight fix, but if the school, or any school, is unaware of an issue, then obviously nothing will change. When I have raised issues or had questions, whether at the meetings or one on one, I have always felt heard and that it was taken seriously.

This is extremely important to me, the education and wellbeing of my children is of the highest priority, and I assume yours as well or you probably wouldn't be here today. So please make sure you read through your information pack and keep it handy as a reference if needed.

So to wrap it up, we meet on the second Monday of the month during school terms in the library from 7 to 9pm. We don't ask you to fundraise or take on time consuming roles and I understand the problems of balancing family and work all too well but I honestly feel this is so important. Basically, it is through the CFG that I have had a voice at my children's school, it's helped me remain actively involved in our daughter's education and understand what goes on in the classroom at a time when it is so easy for them to start to disengage. It has provided me with the skills and knowledge to assist them where appropriate, to know when to step up and when to step back. So, let me extend an invitation to you all to the first meeting of the next year which will be Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019. I look forward to hopefully seeing some new faces and getting to know you, thank you.

# CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS

In 2018, the Creative & Performance Arts (CAPA) faculty celebrated many achievements. Throughout the year, our students have participated in many opportunities and initiatives that have enriched their educational experience at Moorebank High School. The CAPA faculty has continued to offer extra-curricular opportunities within both the school and the wider community.

## MCOS BAND & CERAMICS PROGRAM

During Term 2 this year, the CAPA faculty continued the successful MCOS initiatives of the Ceramics and Music Band programs with Nuwarra Public School. Ms Dominique Serisier created an enriching ceramics experience that explored the skills and techniques in creating small ceramic sculptures. The primary schools students had freedom to make their own individually designed masterpieces, all with the assistance of Ms Serisier and our expert student leaders/facilitators. The Music Band program focussed on instrumental skill development and during the final weeks, all students collaborated to perform ensemble pieces facilitated by Ms Karpour. MHS student leaders/mentors had an invaluable experience and benefitted from teaching the primary school students the various instruments including keyboard, guitar, drums and vocal.

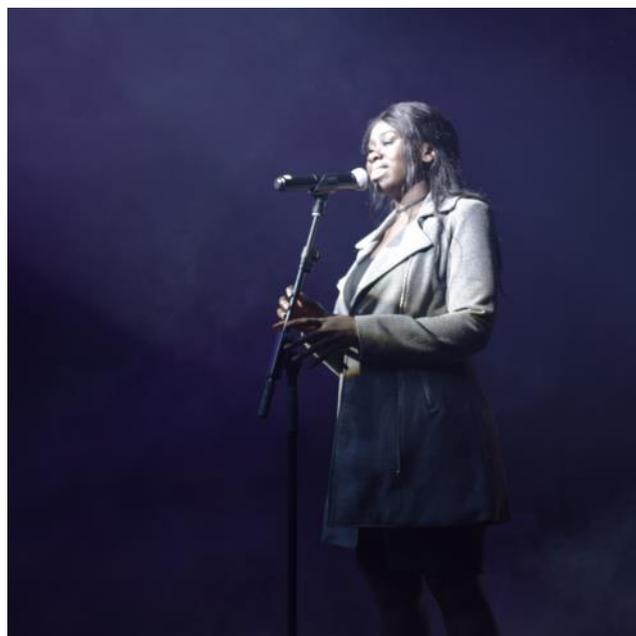




## MID YEAR—CAPA NIGHT – ‘THROWBACK’

During Term 2 in 2018 the CAPA faculty put on a music concert with a range of talented performers including soloists, dance groups, bands and vocalists. The talent on and off the stage was evident with our stage, sound, lighting and photography crew who put in the hard work behind the scenes to make this event such a success. The students at Moorebank High School should be extremely proud of their achievements. CAPA would like to express our thanks to all students who practised tirelessly in preparation for the concert and also to SASS and teacher support, our prefects and most importantly the parents for their ongoing support and encouragement. Events such as CAPA Nights could not occur without the dedication of everyone who takes part in every aspect.

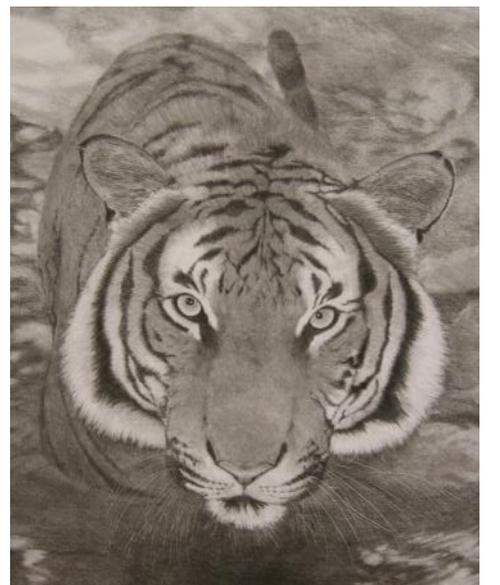




## HSC SHOWCASE EVENING

The HSC Senior Showcase Night is a celebration of the Year 12 student achievements through the major projects that they have worked on in the past 12 months. This event acknowledges the students' hard work and dedication and acknowledges the dedication and support given to them by their Year 12 teachers as well as the support of all parents and family members. Once again, our talented students have put on a fantastic show for our traditional annual HSC Showcase evening. This event included an exhibition of the major works from Visual Arts and Industrial Technology. The night concluded with performances by the Year 12 Music students.

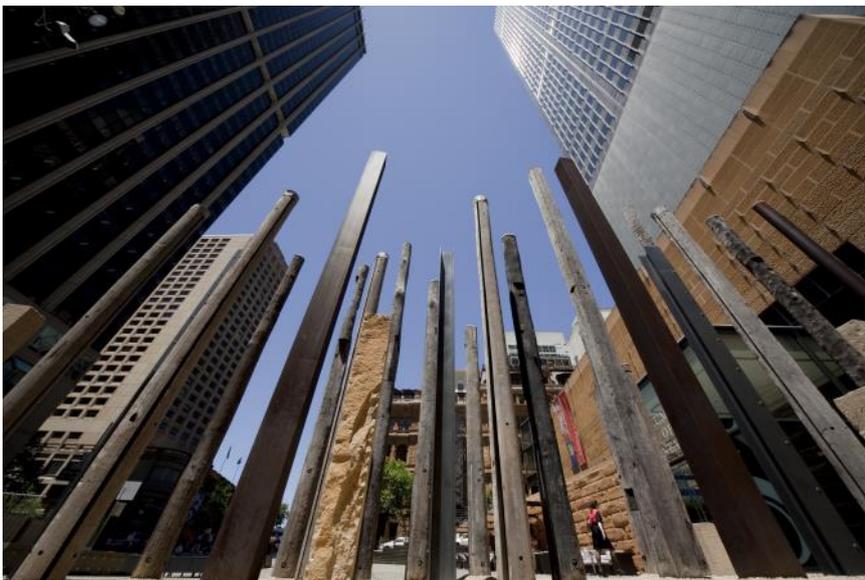






## YEAR 12 ART EXCURSION— 'EDGE OF THE TREES'

During Term 1 Year 12 Visual Arts class visited two significant locations of key Australian artworks, the installation 'Edge of the Trees' by artists Janet Lawrence and Fiona Foley outside the Museum of Sydney and sculptures by Bronwyn Oliver in the Botanic Gardens. This excursion brought their HSC case study, studies in class, to life.



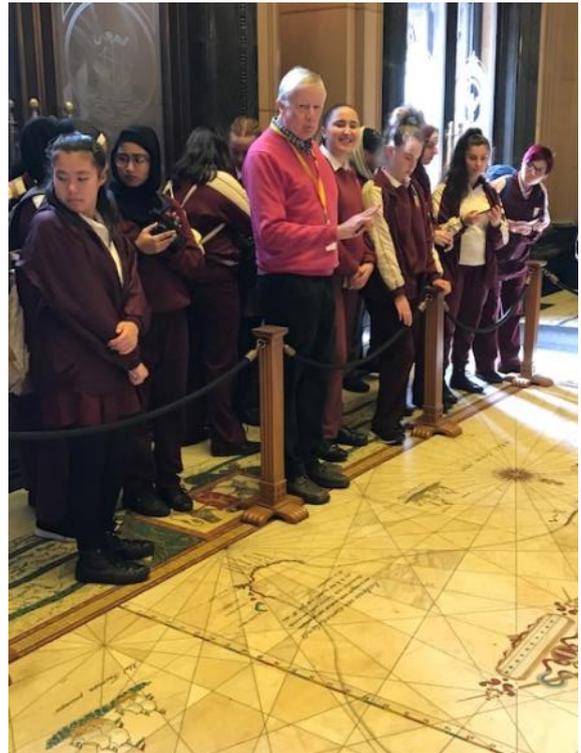
## YEAR 12 ART EXCURSION— 'ART EXPRESS'

Year 12 Visual Arts class visited the 'Art Express' exhibition in Term 1 where they viewed outstanding HSC artworks to inspire them in the development of their own art making practice.



## YEAR 9—PHOTOGRAPHY EXCURSION

The two Year 9 Photography classes, run by Ms Serisier and Ms Edwards, went on a very interesting excursion to the State Library to see the World Press Photography Competition. This is a competition held yearly that shows the best photographs taken around the world in a variety of press categories. Students found these photographs very interesting, confronting at times but overall educational. As part of this excursion students took a behind the scenes tour of the library. Students were unaware of the long and impressive history of the library before this tour. They especially enjoyed the map of Australia that can be found in the original entry into the library.



## SCHOOL SPECTACULAR

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November BAND L2L students jumped on a train and made the journey to Qudos Bank Arena to watch the 2018 School Spectacular. We stopped to enjoy the preshow marching band parade down Olympic boulevard and grabbed an early lunch before finding our seats in the arena's dress circle. We were blown away at the incredible talent on display this year and watched in amazement as five and a half thousand NSW school students packed the stage and belted out songs from 'The World's Greatest Showman'. The concert included acrobatics, silk performers, dances, singers, musicians and 2000 person public school choir. Still alive with adrenaline, we made our way back to Moorebank singing songs from 'The World's Greatest Showman and reflecting on the inspiring performances by amazing student talent.

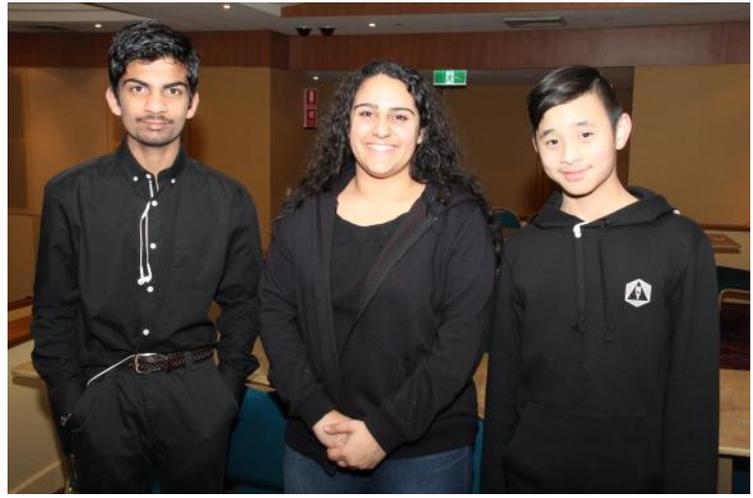


## 2018 MCOS BIENNIAL CONCERT

On the 8th August BAND L2L students collaborated with all schools in the MCOS to present the major combined concert of the year, including a matinee and evening performance, at the Revesby Workers Club. The theme 'THEN, NOW, FOREVER' captured the imagination of all schools in choosing songs from the past, songs current today and classic songs that live on into the future. Our talented BAND L2L students performed 'A Million Dreams' - Vocal Duet, 'How Far I'll Go' - Vocal Trio, 'Born This Way' Dance Ensemble, 'You can't stop the music' - Dance Ensemble and 'Heroes' - Band Item. All students performed exceptionally well to a packed audience. Our new photography and back stage crew worked efficiently as a team to ensure all performances ran smoothly and all performance items were photographed and filmed. MHS music and dance students should be proud of their achievements.







## YEAR 10 PHOTOGRAPHY – ‘MINI-PEOPLE EXPLORE THE CITY’

In Term 3 the Year 10 Photography class enjoyed a day in the city to explore the sites and landmarks whilst undertaking some challenging photographs. Ms Edwards led the class around specific places and guided the group in capturing interesting and quirky angles using miniature people, also known as LEGO men, as their subjects. The idea was to 'think outside the box', capture the imagination evoked from the scenery that surrounded them and create an interesting and thought provoking image. The Year 10 students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained invaluable experience with taking photos in the city.



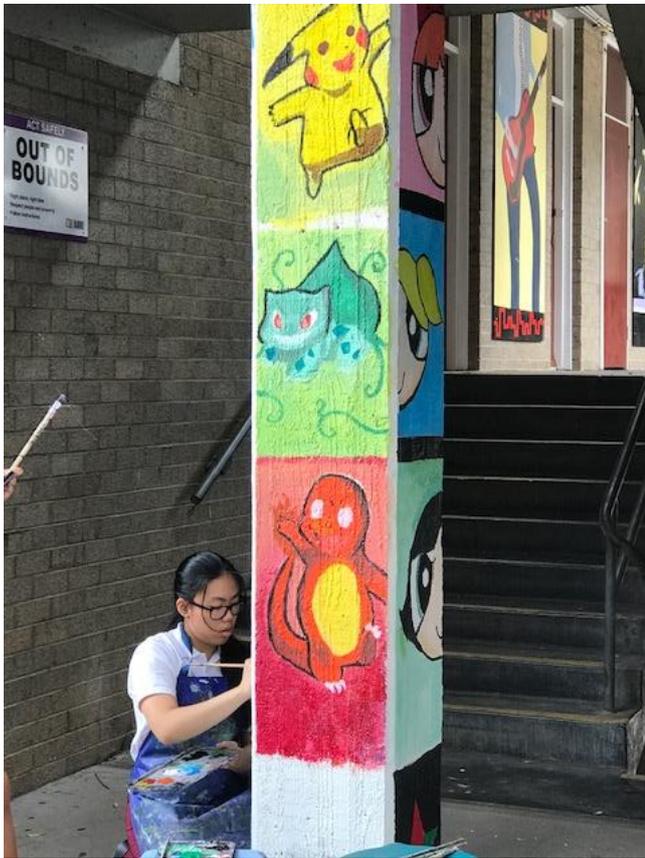


## 2018 'MHS—BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT'

As part of CAPA's mission to 'Beautify' the school Year 10 started by making some changes to the CAPA Courtyard. The process started with painting the concrete columns around the space. The students were in control of the type of artworks/designs with Ms Serisier as the facilitator/coordinator. The students were very excited to start and the columns quickly evolved with beautiful colourful designs.

As part of the 'Beautification' project, being spearheaded by Ms Edwards, the students were also asked to design and paint new doors for the girls bathrooms. The students worked in small teams to come up with cohesive designs that would compliment the mural bathrooms designs by Ms Edwards. One group went for a fun playful arcade games design based on their love of video games. The other team went for a beautiful intricate design spotted with inspirational quotes, making the bathroom a pleasant space for students.

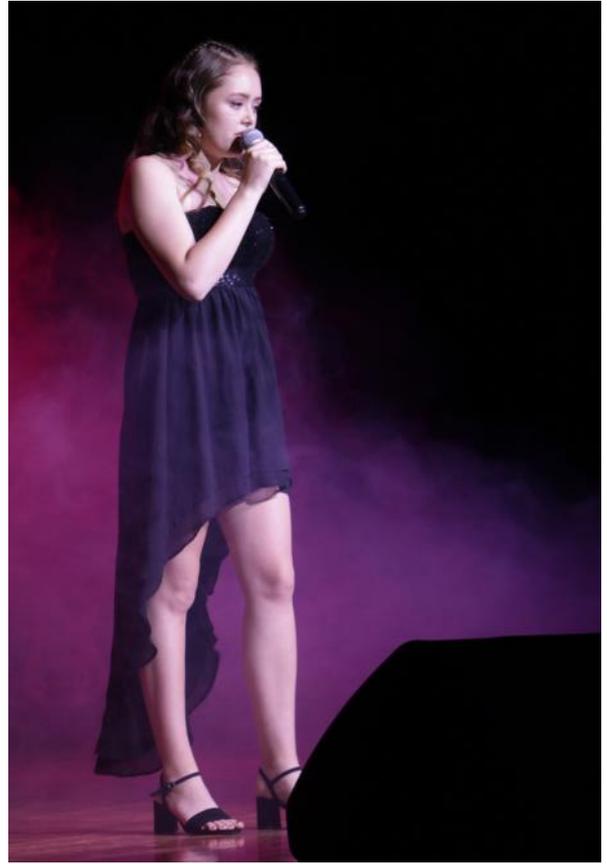


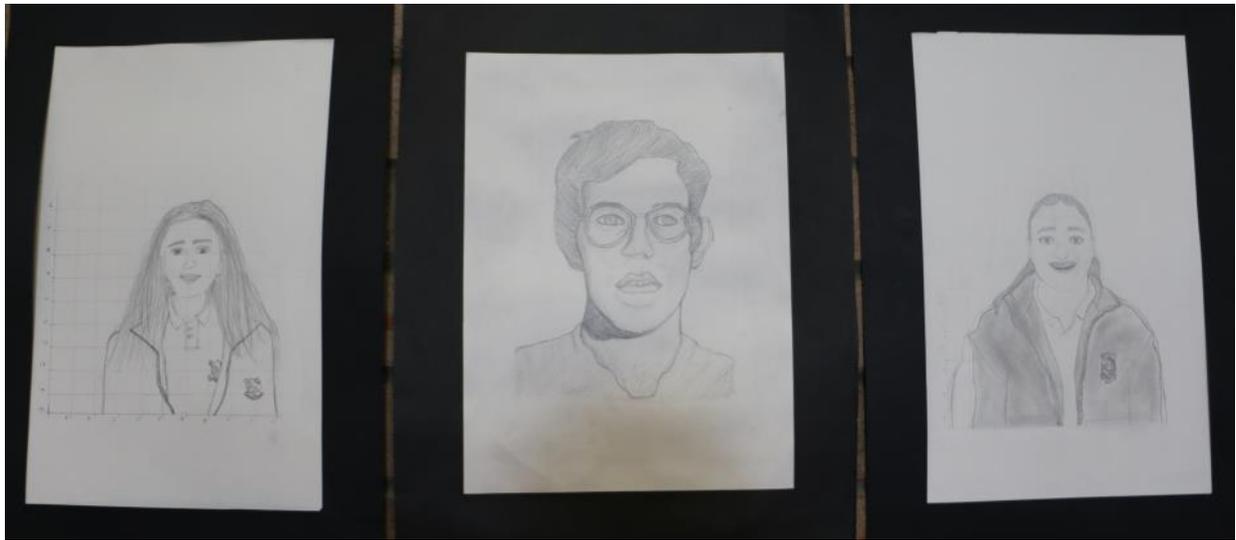


## END OF YEAR—ANNUAL CAPA SHOWCASE NIGHT

The 2018 Annual CAPA night had a great turn out. Seats were filled with staff, students and parents who turned up to enjoy Moorebank's greatest show. Band students kicked off the evening feeling very 'Superstitious' and finished the night with 'A Million Dreams'. Our guests had the opportunity to browse a gallery of student art works and vote on the 'People's Choice' artwork. The talent this year was outstanding and so was the incredible light show created by the talented Mr Kean. The night wouldn't have been possible without the team of students that made up our stage crew, photographers, videographers, presenters, door greeters and sound technicians. A special thank you to SASS and Library Staff and all teachers involved from the CAPA Faculty and the Home Economics Faculty who provided wonderful professional catering of sweet treats and delicious canapés.









## NUWARRA P.S 'NIGHT MARKETS' - MINI FETE

Once again our talented music students took on a performance opportunity, this time at the Nuwarra Public School 'Night Markets'. The entire event was organised by the P&C at Nuwarra PS. The event commenced at 4pm on a Saturday afternoon and continued into the night until it concluded at 9:30pm. MHS students entertained the crowd with some songs from the MCOS Biennial Concert and some extra pieces. Our team of photographers captured the festivities of the event including food stalls, antique stalls, showground rides, marching band and all dance and music performances. A huge success for all involved. Special thanks to Mr Kean for attending with Mr Cardillo-Zallo to assist with sound set-up and for his encouragement and support of our student performers.



During the last school holidays I was selected to join a group of 43 teachers and students nationwide on the **Lazsta iSTEM US Advanced Space Academy tour**. The two week long tour of the United States was broken up into two parts: a field studies tour where we were able to experience several major cities and significant cultural icons of the United States, and the Space Academy Program in the second week taking place at the US Space and Rocket Center.

### ***The First Week - Field Studies Tour***

After arriving in Los Angeles, California, we traveled to the California Science Center, where we toured the exhibits including our first look at an actual flown Space Shuttle, the *Endeavour*.

## **Harry Brotherhood's Trip to NASA Space Camp in America**



After visiting the California Science Center, we toured the Hollywood walk of fame, and had lunch at the infamous Hard Rock cafe, and following a brief rest at the hotel we were staying we walked to the nearby Baseball Stadium, where we experienced a staple of American culture, a baseball game between the Anaheim Angels, and the Oakland Athletics. Our second day in the United States, took us to the California Adventure Park, also known as Disneyland California, a fun and light hearted opportunity to get to know everyone else in the group. Immediately following our time at the California Adventure Park, we flew across to the Eastern Coast of the United States, and spent two days in New York City, visiting the iconic and ultimately chaotic Times Square, and the much more calm Rockefeller building, and Central Park and the adjacent Museum of Natural History. During our time in New York City we also visited the September 11 Memorial and Museum and the USS Intrepid Museum, a fascinating location for all air and space enthusiasts, It is here that we were able to see our second flown Space Shuttle, the *Enterprise*.



At the end of our second day in New York City we departed via coach and traveled to Washington D.C. stopping over in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the way, where we toured the Liberty Museum, where the Liberty Bell is currently located, and the Benjamin Franklin Museum. Upon arrival in Washington D.C and some overnight rest we continued our tour with visits to the International Spy Museum, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, a bicycle tour of the main sites of the city, notably the White House, Jefferson Memorial, Roosevelt Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. Our final day in Washington consisted of a visit to the American National History Museum, where we toured the vast exhibits detailing life in the United States from its inception to the current day ranging from home life to government, and military conflict.

### ***The Second Week - Advanced Space Academy (Space Camp)***

Our second week in the United States began by travelling first to Nashville, Tennessee, and following an overnight rest stop, we continued to our destination of the US Space and Rocket Center. Upon arrival we were taken through in-processing at the facility before being formally introduced to the facility and taken to our first activity of the day, a lecture covering the history of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration's past and future space flight hardware, featuring unique first hand insight into both the Space Shuttle program and the new Space Launch System currently under development. Our second day at the Space and Rocket Center was much more interesting. It was here we had more activities such as the team leadership exercises, ropes course, Russian language and culture thanks to the unique US-Russian relationship with the International Space Station, and the first of our three Simulated Missions, where each member of our team was given a role, being a very close analogue to roles conducted by crew members of the International Space Station (ISS) and Space Shuttle (STS). It was conducted inside scale mockups of both the ISS and Space Shuttle complete with controls and functioning switches, my role for the first mission was the Flight Director essentially the Flight Director is the head of the Mission Control Center for the duration of the mission, giving out instructions and having the particularly difficult job of determining the correct solution to in-flight anomalies, and therefore the lives of the crew.



**Mission Control Center for the Enterprise**

Our third day at Space Academy was similar however, we had a particularly special activity - the Underwater Astronaut Trainer, a large pool of water roughly 7.5 meters deep which places you in a situation of neutral buoyancy allowing you to feel conditions similar to those of weightlessness in space experienced by actual astronauts. Our third day also featured our second simulated mission: this time round I was the Chief Scientist aboard the International Space Station, responsible for the scientific research conducted aboard the station while in orbit.



*Myself and fellow ISS crew inside the KIBO Module Mockup*

Later that evening we were allocated time to assign the roles of group members for our final special mission, the Extended Duration Mission, a marathon 3 hours in length where the Space Academy crew trainers were allowed to issue medical anomalies as well as component anomalies. I elected to be the ISS commander during the first half of the mission, and perform a crew transfer with the shuttle then to be the Shuttle Commander on descent, where I was responsible for landing the space shuttle after the marathon 3 hour mission. The mission was a success; as a commander I had managed to remain calm even under the stress of the anomalies, managed to keep my crew alive for the mission's duration, and even nailed a textbook landing of the Space Shuttle in the simulator, which was a recreation of the flight deck of the *Enterprise* (the icing on top of the cake). Following our Extended Duration Mission we had our model rocket launch. Over the course of the week we designed, budgeted, built and launched model rockets using a range of supplies, one of the several engineering and stem challenges we had during the Advanced Academy program.

