

Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School

# THE LINK

## Anzac Day Remembrance at Nepean



*Creative and  
Performing Arts*

[www.facebook.com/NepeanCreativeAndPerformingArtsHighSchool](https://www.facebook.com/NepeanCreativeAndPerformingArtsHighSchool)

Website: <https://nepean-h.schools.nsw.gov.au>

Email: [nepean-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:nepean-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

115-119 Great Western Highway Emu Plains 2750

Locked Bag 6004, Emu Plains, NSW, 2750

Phone: 4728 7200 Fax: 4735 8924

May 2021



## *From Year 9 Agriculture Students*



**T**his term our school has been lucky enough to have welcomed a **poddy calf from Leppington Pastoral Company for our Agriculture students.** Our new calf has been named 'Mooana' and is aptly appropriate as she loves water and her adventures. Our Year 8 Farm skills and Year 9 Agriculture students absolutely adore Mooana and enjoy playing with her during their lessons. Mooana was born on 16 March, so she is still only a baby and feeds from her bottle daily, she loves to run up to anyone who is holding it. Mooana has a few paddocks of her choosing to graze in, and in her first week some students, Mr Hayes and Kerry helped build her a new shed. As it is coming into the cooler part of the year, our farm assistant Suzy has bought Mooana her very own coat for those cold nights. Our Agriculture students are working with Mooana to place her in the Penrith Show later this year. Our Agriculture students absolutely idolise Mooana and she is a pleasant addition to the Nepean family. Welcome Mooana, we *look forward to many adventures with you.*

### ***Year 9 Agriculture Students***











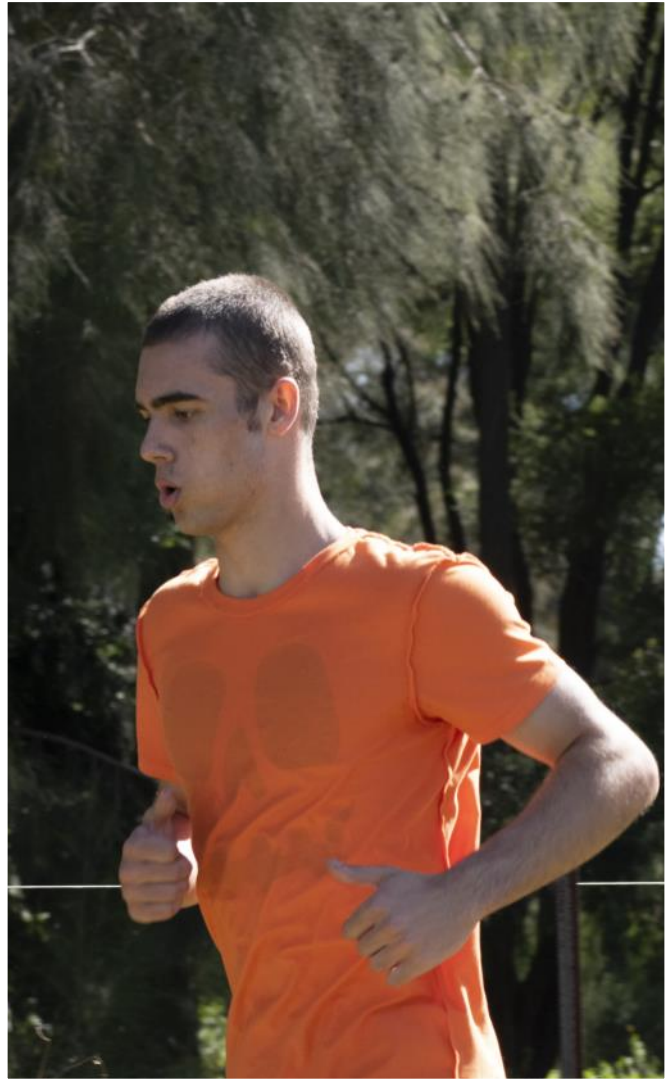
# Cross Country Carnival 2021













# Sydney West Championship Lawn Bowls



## Sydney West Bowls 26 March

Results of the Sydney West Championships, and the side selected for the NSW CHS Championships at St Johns Park in June, includes our State Bowler Katie. It was great to have 8 sides compete with another, including three girls from our school in the second Nepean Zone Team – Kiera, Jana and Thunya. The winning side from Nepean Zone included our Katie defeating the Macquarie Zone side. With a driving competition and a drawing competition held in two sections (registered bowlers and newbies), there was a lot of fun had by all and some Sydney West apparel won by some happy competitors.

Congratulations to all our girls that represented our school in the Nepean Bowls Team.

**Ms B Douglass**  
**Bowls Manager**





*Artwork created by Katie A*



**K**atie is currently the number 1 under 18 female bowler in NSW. She recently competed at a Zone competition which she won. She then travelled to Dubbo and competed in the U18s NSW Bowls Schools division and won the pairs.

Katie is also a very talented art student and created an artwork for her coach and mentor, Gavin Holburn CHS Bowls Convenor who is a teacher at Kingswood High School.

Well done Katie, we are very proud of you and look forward to you competing in upcoming CHS Bowls tournaments.

***Ms B Douglass  
Bowls Manager***





## Maleena N—Year 11



**F**rom 26 to 28 March 2021, Maleena competed at the Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre at the State Gymnastic Competitions. She was very successful on the day and received 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a score of 16.750 for her level routine, 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a score of 17.150 and for her Aero Dance Routine. Maleena's intermediate Group Aero Dance placed 1<sup>st</sup> with a score of 17.200 and she also competed in the pairs.

Well done Maleena, Nepean is very proud of your achievements!

**Ms B Douglass**  
**Head Teacher Admin**









# *Archibull Partnered Learning Award*

**C**ollective intelligence: shared or group intelligence that emerges from the collaboration and collective efforts of many individuals. This leads to an agreed target and shared group direction.

Leonay Public School and Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School students, embraced this model of sharing and learning for our 2020 Archibull Prize submission. Together, our schools sought solutions to a multitude of sustainable community based issues, addressing and raising complex questions like:

- “How do we reduce the use of plastics?”
- “What is the impact of microfibres in our precious water ways?”
- “How do we reduce landfill?”
- “How do we embed sustainable practices into our daily decisions?”
- “What are the solutions?”

We are delighted to announce that Leonay Public School and Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School have been awarded the *Archibull Learning Partnership Award* for 2021. We will officially receive our award in November at the Archibull Award Service.

Thank you to the Archibull judges, the students, teachers, families and industry identities that helped us explore this fascinating element of our lives.

**N**ote: The Archibull Prize is an internationally recognised program in secondary schools designed to engage students with agriculture and sustainability by challenging them to research an area of food and fibre production and to present their findings in multi-media and artistically on a life-sized fibreglass cow.

***Mrs P Rowston***  
***Head Teacher, Creative Arts***



# Archibull Announcement





## *Special Education Unit*

**S**tudents in the Special Education Unit have been busy this term. In Week 1, our school held their annual Cross Country carnival and a number of our Special Education students have been successful in making it to the next level. Good luck to the students that will be participating at the Sydney West Cross Country event later this term.



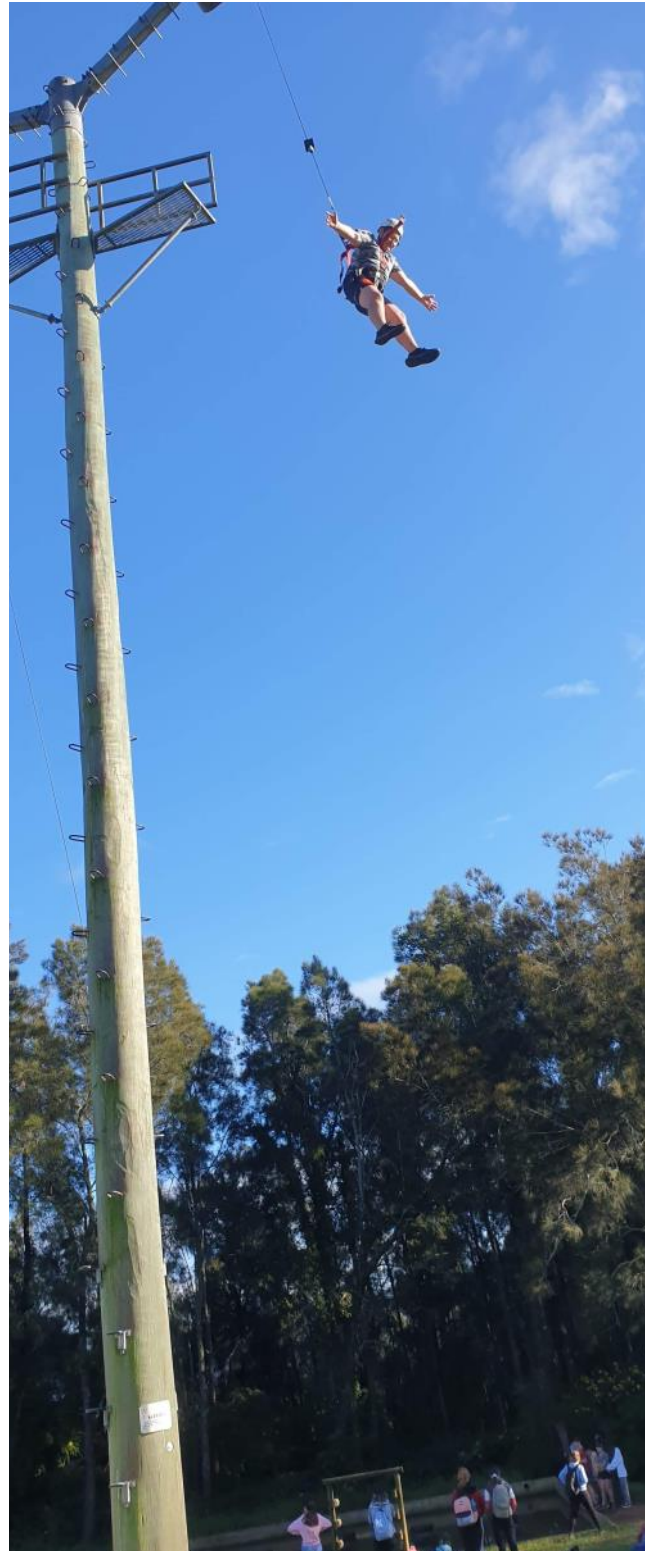
In Week 2, Year 7 students attended The Great Aussie Bush Camp. Students participated in all types of activities, stepping out of their comfort zone to try new things. They learnt new skills they could transfer to their school and home environments, developed self-esteem, worked as part of a team with their peers, made new friends, encouraged others and challenged themselves all while having loads of fun.







## *Special Ed Students - Year 7 Camp*







**T**he CAPAbility Crew has been busy packaging gifts, promoting the Mother's Day Stall which was held in Week 3. Students sold raffle tickets and sold gifts to students and school staff. This program has been a valuable learning experience for our students where they participated in activities where they looked at the costing of purchasing gifts, decided upon selling prices, set up the display, worked the stall, added up item totals, worked out change and finally counted the takings at the end of the stall. The stall was extremely successful and students enjoyed and valued their participation in this program. Thank you to Mrs Sowerby and the staff and students that supported our CAPAbility Crew.

The Signing Choir has been busy rehearsing with Mrs Lewis for upcoming auditions and showcases. Their dedication and hard work is a testament to their characters and commitment to the choir. We all look forward to watching you perform later in the year.

We still have a busy time ahead of us with the upcoming Year 11 Camp in Week 4, Deaf Camp in Week 5 and the Athletics Carnival among other things.

Keep posted for a lot more to come in the SEU!

**Ms M Foord, Head Teacher  
Special Education Unit**



## *Year 7 Camp report by Kira T*

**In Week 2, 155 Year 7 students went to The Great Aussie Bush Camp in Kincumber for 3 days.** We all arrived early to school, ready to board the buses for the 2-hour drive to camp. The ride was fun, but it was more exciting to see the camp grounds. Once we had unpacked, we parted into our groups and got ready for the activities. The activities we all did at camp were power fan, leap of faith, mud run, giant swing, high ropes, abseiling and survivor challenge. One of the scariest was probably the power fan, which was around twelve feet tall. The most fun was probably abseiling - jumping off of the wall was really cool.

The person to thank for our fun time is Mr Green, our Year Adviser who organised the whole camp. All of Year 7 would like to thank him for our most fun camp ever.

***Kira T***  
***Year 7***









# Nanga Mai Awards

**T**he Nanga Mai Awards ceremony celebrates and recognises Aboriginal students, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal teachers, other departmental staff, Aboriginal community members and schools that demonstrate excellence across a diversity of areas.

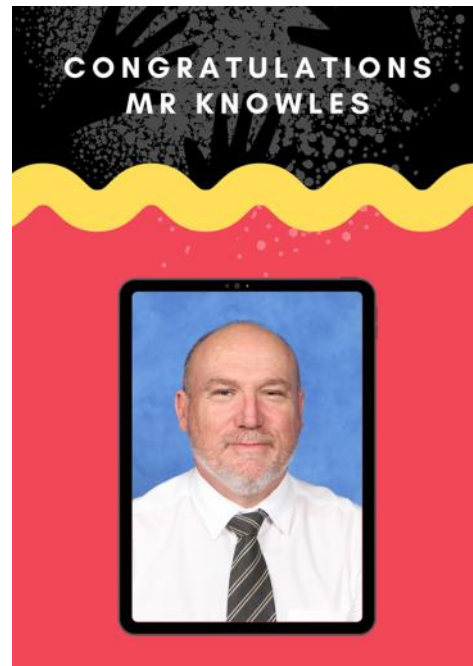
On Wednesday 31 March the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Nanga Mai Awards

Ceremony was live-streamed, hosted by our very own school captain Monique T.

Celebrated at this ceremony was Mr Knowles, awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Education Achievement by a non-Aboriginal Staff Member Award.

Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School is privileged to have a Deputy Principal who is passionate about developing students' appreciation of traditional and contemporary Aboriginal issues.

Thank you Mr Knowles for ensuring Nepean students have access to Aboriginal education within and beyond the classroom. Congratulations for this well-deserved recognition.





**I**t is hard to believe that Term 1 has already flown by! We had a great start to 2021 with a large number of students in Year 8 recognised for their outstanding efforts and attendance. This term we will start off with understanding empathy to build on the supportive environment we have begun to create within the cohort. In the Year Meeting, there will be an emphasis on ‘walking in another’s shoes’ so we can be mindful how what we say or do can be interpreted differently depending on someone’s past experiences. One of our highly respected and respectful students is Tiarna R. She started at Nepean this year so we caught up with her to see how she was transitioning in to our school.



*Student in Focus: Tiarna R*

Tiarna R comes to us from Northmead CAPA High School. She has been doing Dance since she was 2 ½ years old and despite engaging in many styles of dance, she finds a stronger connection with the moves and music associated with Lyrical Dance. Struggling to find her way around the school at first, she is glad she made the leap to attend Nepean as she feels supported by staff and students as they go out of their way to brighten the day of those struggling. Tiarna is striving for success in Dance as she would like to perform in musicals, making a career out of her passion. She has already taken to the stage in Hairspray whilst still in primary school, adding to her growing experience. We hope to see her either on the stage or screen in years to come. When she isn’t honing her skills, she listens to Old School (my generation) RnB. Her advice to young people struggling with issues or working towards a goal: “Don’t give up, keep trying”.

**Mr G Turner**  
**Year 8 Adviser**



# *SALSA Student Voices Leadership Conference*

**O**n Wednesday 31 March our school participated in the 2020 SALSA Youth Voices Conference at Rooty Hill High School to present important information on improving our school communities health and wellbeing. The SALSA program stands for Students As LifeStyle Activists and is a peer lead program that engages students to make their *own* healthier lifestyle choices.

The broad aims of the SALSA program are to promote healthy eating patterns and regular physical activity in an engaging, fun and supportive school environment. The SALSA program is incorporated into each school's Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) curriculum to complement lessons taught by PDHPE teachers. The program specifically targets schools in Western Sydney where the risk for overweight and obesity development is a major public health concern.

An important component of the SALSA Program is the School Action Plan brainstormed by Year 10 Peer Leaders to promote a healthier school environment. Two of our 2020 peer leaders Kazia M and Brianna H were asked to represent our school and present our 2020 School Action Plan at the annual SALSA conference.

The school action plan aims to install COVID Safe, filtered drinking water stations for our students and staff to access cold and clean drinking water when at school. Kazia and Brianna displayed an excellent understanding of the SALSA program and were celebrated with an outstanding recognition award for the school.

Congratulations to all our SALSA peer leaders and students who participated in the program.



***Ms K Forbes***  
***SALSA Coordinator***



## Western NEWS

Friday, 30 April 2021

SPORT

### Youth Week 2021: Students take charge and look to sporting improvements



Nepean CAPA High School SALSAs Peer Learns & Coordinator



Rooty Hill HS Principal Christine Cawsey addresses students

**P**AI NTED handball and volleyball courts, water refilling stations and sporting grounds with artificial turf are all ideas students from select western Sydney high schools recently brought to the table.

These recreational improvements are part of an action plan coordinated by the Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) Students As LifeStyle Activists (SALSAs) program and schools across western Sydney.

Overcoming the ongoing challenges of COVID-19 and flooding events, student leaders from SALSAs Youth Voices recently gathered together at Rooty Hill High School to deliver their School Action Plans.

The SALSAs program, led by WSLHD's Prevention Education Research Unit (PERU) director Associate Professor Smita Shah, aims to motivate students to increase physical activity and improve their diets.

Associate Professor Smita Shah said leadership in schools works because students listen to their peers.

"The schools will have these sporting improvements in action by the end of this year and early next year," A/Prof Shah said.

"It's important for students to have a voice as a driving factor for change in their communities."

"I'd like to acknowledge the NSW Australian Medication Association who provided a delicious COVID-19 safe lunch for all at the event."

To recognise the outstanding student contributions, all participating schools were awarded trophies by Professor Mark McLean, director of research at WSLHD.

WSLHD deputy board chair Loretta Di Mento was delighted to see a number of former students and staff return to be SALSAs program leaders.

"It's clear that strong community ties are being established by the SALSAs program," Loretta said.

Brenda Quayle, principal of Erskine Park High School, emphasised the importance of the day saying, "We are so grateful for our involvement in SALSAs Youth Voices, which provides great opportunities for our students to advocate healthy lifestyle choices."

April 16-24 marked NSW Youth Week—an opportunity for young people to express their ideas and views, act on issues that affect their lives, and create and enjoy activities and events.



## Library Corner

**T**he library has been greatly utilised by both staff and students for research projects, reading initiatives and study. We always love seeing all of the wonderful work students are producing in the library.

The **Premier's Reading Challenge** is up and running. We have a large selection of approved books available to students, with new purchases added regularly. Students interested in this annual reading initiative are encouraged to speak to one of our friendly library staff for the rules of the challenge and also the reading list. We also have a selection of PRC books on display to help student's get started on this year's reading journey.

We try to change our **book displays** regularly to highlight current events taking place and to spark student interest and engagement with reading. This term we have exhibited our vast range of books in respect to ANZAC day. We also had fun with our Star Wars themed display to celebrate May the 4<sup>th</sup>. Students are encouraged to regularly check in at the library to see what new displays we have. Any suggestions from students are also welcome.

Student participation in the **Chess Club** has increased significantly over the last few weeks, so much so that we have had to increase the number of meetings. Chess Club now runs every Monday and Thursday at recess in the library, so student's have even more opportunities to get involved.

Students are also reminded that **Homework Centre** runs every Monday and Thursday from 3pm – 4pm in the library. Homework Centre allows





students to utilise library resources, seek support from teachers or complete assessment tasks in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. There is always a teacher on duty to offer any assistance. Students can also print work, borrow books and access library technology during this time.

**Miss L Sherry**  
**Teacher Librarian**





## Sydney Dance Company Ensemble



**O**n Thursday 25 February, Year 9 Advanced Dance students attended the schools matinee performance of Sydney Dance Company's work **IMPERMANENCE**. This excursion gave the students insight as to how a contemporary dance company works and was very inspiring for all involved.

Students were asked to write a Theatre Review about this experience. Here is an example of a review, written by Chloe S.

**Miss C Henville**  
**Performing Arts Dance Teacher**



Find us on  
**Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/NepeanCreativeAndPerformingArtsHighSchool>





*Photo by Pedro G*

**Sydney Dance Company's: Impermanence.** Originally due to have its premiere in March 2020 before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and Sydney's first lockdown, Sydney Dance Company's new work Impermanence has finally hit the stage at the Company's home – Roslyn Packer Theatre, Walsh Bay. Choreographed by Rafael Bonachela, accompanied by The Australian String Quartet playing music composed Bryce Dessner and performed by the Sydney Dance Company's 17 dancers, Impermanence was inspired by the devastating bushfires that struck Australia in 2019-2020, The Notre Dame Cathedral fire in Paris during the same year and the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

After the show was cancelled and the country was in lockdown, the dancers from the Sydney Dance Company began learning the movements for the performance via Zoom. When lockdown ended and they were able to resume rehearsals, Impermanence was reworked from its original 40 minute piece into an hour long, full length performance. With a mixture of modern contemporary dance, ballet technique and yoga movements the



dancers are focused on each other throughout and commit to telling the story in a breathtakingly believable way.

Impermanence was the first live performance I have seen since the world went into lockdown. My first impression of the show was that it was really dark, and you could barely see the dancers, which created an eerie feeling of not knowing what was coming. When the lights dimmed, and the music started I was immediately transported into a world I knew, a world that I had just lived in the past 12 months – I was mesmerized from the first movement.

The Company's dancers come from all over the world, from places such as Spain, Italy and New Zealand. Lead performer Juliette Barton has been with the Sydney Dance Company for almost 12 years, she is one of the longest serving dancers at the Company. Juliette and Davide Di Giovanni were breathtaking in their duet, and Juliette also performs a mesmerising solo where her body seems to fall in slow motion. Dancers from the Company have come from prominent studios across Australia, such as Eve and Bow and Brent Street and of course from around the world.

Rafael Bonachela is a contemporary based choreographer who was born in Barcelona Spain, and now lives in Sydney, he is currently the Artistic Director of the Sydney Dance Company. Whilst his passion is based in contemporary dance, he has also choreographed for pop stars like Kylie Minogue and Tina Turner. Looking at his previous works "Frame of Mind" and "360<sup>0</sup>" you can see similarities in his works – he likes to use large open backdrops that evolve with the dance such as curtains and mirrors, he also likes to keep the dancers costumes simple with a minimalist aspect opting for nude or earthy colour schemes to contrast the open set and clothes that are fit tight to their bodies to further enhance the dancer's movements throughout and to keep the audiences focus on the performance.

Having previously worked with Grammy Award-winning American contemporary composer Bryce Dessner, better known for his work on movie scores and his American rock band "The National", Bonachela and Dessner have reunited to create Impermanence. While "Frame of Mind" saw Dessner create the music to fit Bonachela's choreography, Impermanence has seen Dessner and Bonachela collaborate to create the music and choreography simultaneously, making it a shared piece. Also common to both pieces is the presence of The Australian String Quartet positioned at the back right of the stage for the entire performance while dancers perform around them – engaging the audience's senses with beats



matching the dancer's movements and flashes of lights that coincide with the dancer's accents, a true feast for the senses.

The set designed by David Fleischer, is a simple open and abstract design that is so effective with its constantly changing colour scheme (which changes from white to pink to orange and opens up to a dark blue light with falling pieces of plastic to represent snow and ashes) to match the movement and story being told, while highlighting the significant events being portrayed in the piece.

I would like to thank Rafael Bonachela, Bryce Dessner, The Australian String Quartet and The Sydney Dance Company for letting me experience the incredible performance of Impermanence, they showed great detail throughout the performance and really made the audience think back to how much life has changed during the past 12 months. After a 12 month break due to COVID-19 The Sydney Dance Company is back and live on stage.

***By Chloe S***  
***Year 9***





## *Year 10 & 11 Dance Workshop*



**O**n Tuesday 27 April students from Year 10 & 11 Dance participated in a **Choreographic Workshop through Form Dance Projects in collaboration with [Sydney Dance Company](#).**

It was a great start to Term 2 as the students start to develop their choreographic skills for their upcoming Composition task.

***Miss C Henville***  
***Performing Arts Dance Teacher***







## From the Studio



**I**ntensive Studio Paint and Draw students have responded to still life arrangements this term. Drawing and painting production has been inspired from arrangements of items such as fruit, flowers and household objects. Learning the steps of how to draw the shapes and proportions of still life objects using line and how to render three-dimensional still life shapes using tone has been studied. Students realised that a finished still life should work on two levels: as a realistic representation of the group of objects and as a dynamic composition of visual elements, harmonizing and contrasting the use of line, shape and tone.

If you would like to enrol into Intensive Studio on Tuesday or Wednesday morning please see Mrs Rowston.

**Mrs P Rowston**  
**Head Teacher, Creative Arts**









## Hope Installation



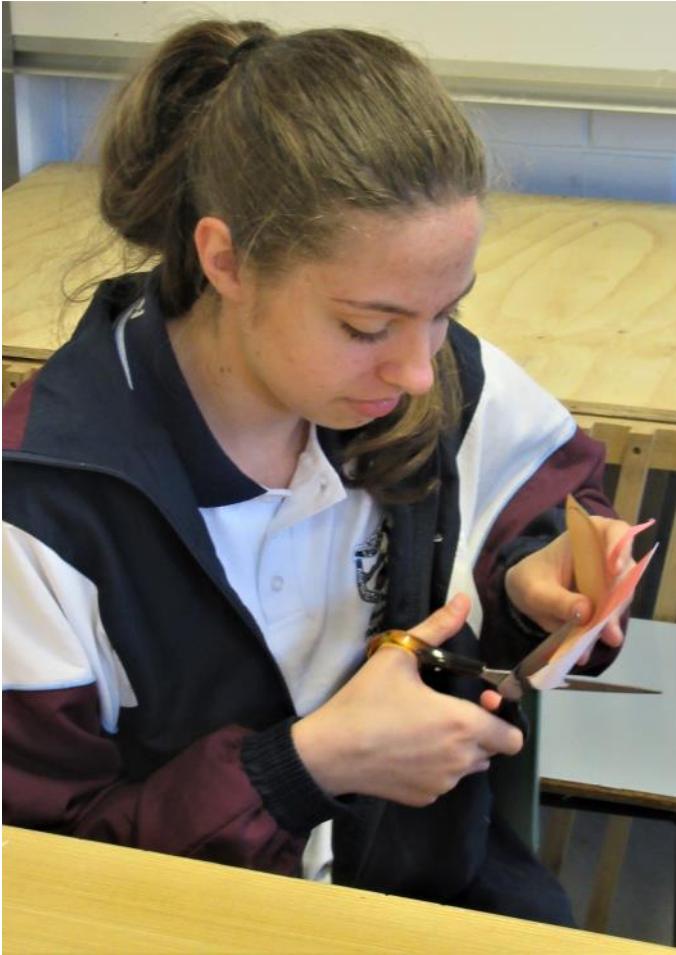
**T**he five levels of Creative Project Management. Year 11 Photography, Video and Digital Media students learnt about the five levels of project management, in their recent organisation of the Western Sydney Butterfly Hope Installation.

From initiation, planning, execution, monitoring and submission, these students ensured that Nepean's Hope Butterflies took flight. Students learnt that being creative project managers isn't easy, as they needed to foster interest, enthusiasm and inspiration for the project whilst honouring the creative process and the project team. The end result was that hundreds of our Butterflies are about to settle into the youth installation at the Margot Hardy Gallery, Bankstown Campus. Installation dates 26-28 May and open launch on Saturday 5 June 2021.

Well done to these students for their hard work and dedication.

**Mrs P Rowston**  
**Head Teacher, Creative Arts**







## The power of simplicity and colour



**Y**ear 9 Photographic and Digital Media students have been inspired this term, by the work of American Photographer, Pete Turner (1934-2017). His vibrant and powerful application of colour levels, curves, hue and saturation has left an everlasting impression on them. The impact of studying a selection of his unforgettable photographs has left them inspired and aspirational.

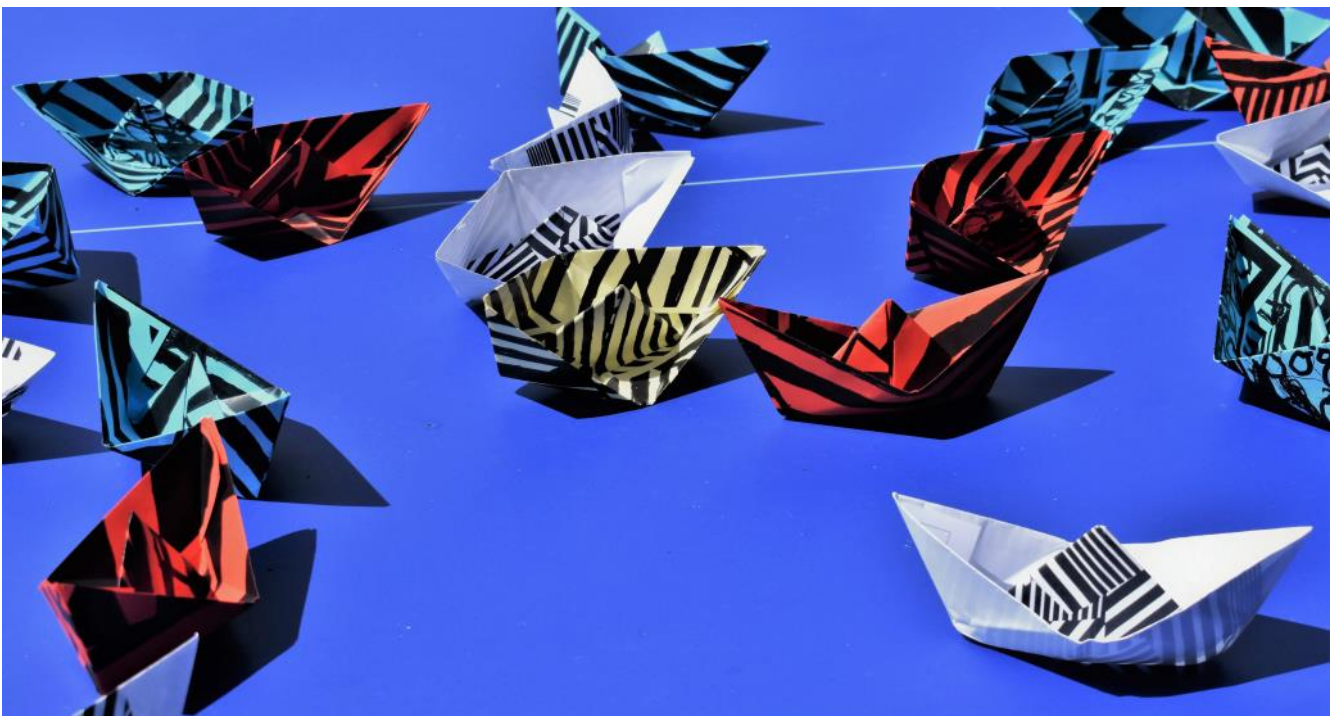
A vast range of subjects, objects and architectural scenes have been documented by Turner; such as a vivid yellow antique car in a lot yard in Texas; a herd of ostriches silhouetted against a glowing golden sunrise; a cheetah slowly walking through bamboo — yellow and black blending with green and a lone giraffe galloping across a maroon and red plain.

Pete Turner stated “A photographers work is given shape and style by his personal vision. It is not simply technique, but the way he looks at life and the world around him.” Our students have applied the power of simplicity and colour intensity to their visual styling of photographs using objects, materials and paper installations. A special thanks to S3VA and S5VA for their production of the dazzling and luminous boats.



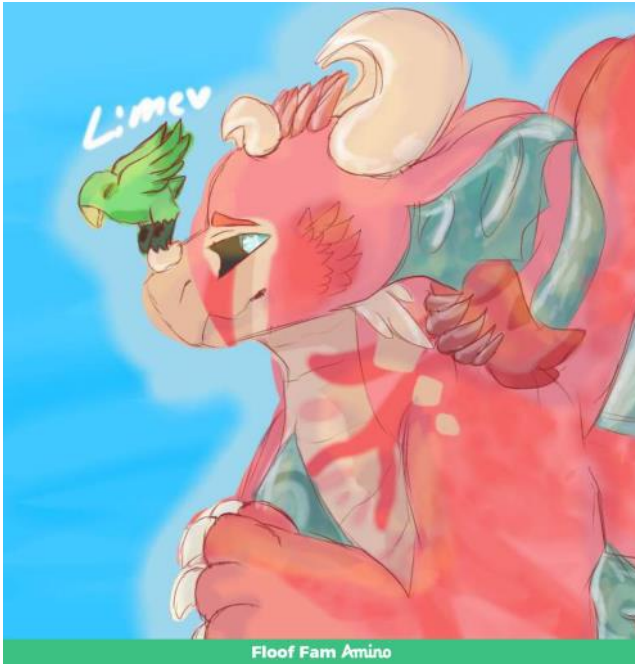
**Mrs P Rowston**  
**Head Teacher, Creative Arts**







# New Media Arts



Artworks above by Alarah G—Year 8

**N**ew media artists are multiplying in the Creative Arts Domain this year, with the launch of our new set of iPads with Apple pencils. For artists and illustrators, who want a portable drawing and painting device, these iPads are an incredible artistic tool. Creatively, students have been employing the elements of space, light and colour to express their perspectives, feelings, and ideas digitally. For students like Alarah in Year 8 Photographic and Digital Media, this form of expression develops both her artistic abilities and her technological aptitudes. Her mastery of the fundamental understanding of traditional art mediums and technical approaches has been applied to new digital platforms. Resulting in the production of truly outstanding digital artworks.

**Mrs P Rowston**  
**Head Teacher, Creative Arts**



# Art Edge

**A**rt Edge is an intensive studio that runs on Tuesday and Thursday's 7:30 – 9am. Students pursue their own interests in this class and work across all mediums – clay work to oil painting. Students are currently working on a variety of projects and also create artworks for competitions and exhibitions. If your child is interested in being apart of this extra curricula program please contact Ms Douglass.

**Ms B Douglass**  
**Creative Arts Teacher**





## Harmony Day Poster Competition

**T**he Harmony Day Poster Competition is open to school students in all schools in NSW and the ACT. Entries are based on the student's school year for 2021.

The Moving Forward Together Association has successfully run the annual Harmony Day Poster and Song Writing Competitions since 2005. During that time, close to 700 schools have participated in the program and over 3000 students per year. The competitions aim to establish a platform for communicating the positive benefits of harmony,

humanity, unity and co-operation in society. As such, they are closely aligned with core values encouraged by the Department of Education.

This year's theme for the 2021 competition is 'Harmony – Everyone Belongs'. Harini P from Year 8 has produced an excellent work to represent this concept.

*Ms B Douglass  
Art Edge Teacher*



## LOST PROPERTY

Should a student lose any part of their school uniform, please ask your child to go to Lost Property located in A Block, Food Tech Prep Room and ask for Mrs Holland.



# Why attendance matters



When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

## Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

**1** day per fortnight = **4** weeks = Over **1** year missed

**1** day per week = **8** weeks = Over **2.5** years missed





**Fiona Wallis**  
**Deputy Principal**

**T**erm 2 is always a busy term and this one is certainly keeping up this reputation. In these first few weeks, in addition to our normal timetabled lessons and ensembles and the usual daily school routines, we've also had Year 7 Camp, Year 11 Life Ready Camp, NAPLAN tests for Years 7 and 9, Mother's Day stall run by our CAPAbility Crew in the Support Unit, the school and Zone Cross Country carnivals, school and community Anzac ceremonies, completion of the student Tell Them From Me surveys, Athletics carnival (*planned, but postponed due to wet weather*), Year 7 vaccinations, Year 10 Wellbeing workshops by Headspace, and many other excursions, incursions and events.

This term we have also welcomed the arrival of our newest addition, bringing the pitter-patter of little hooves to our school farm. We have adopted a baby girl in the form of our gorgeous little calf, Mooana. She is an adventurous, cheeky and affectionate little girl who has already made an impact and made her presence felt. We are looking forward to watching her grow and hopefully win prizes in some shows.

Our Positive Behaviour for Learning program continues to roll out a Weekly Focus that promotes our core values of Care, Opportunity and Success. So far this term some of our themes have been:

- Be at class on time
- Wear your uniform with pride
- Speak kindly and politely
- Keep our school clean

We have introduced a Move to Class Song, which is selected each week to reflect the message of the weekly focus. The Move to Class song plays for 3 minutes at the end playground time before school, at recess, and at lunch time. By the time the song finishes, and the bell goes, students should be at their classroom ready to learn. Fast and Frequent reward tickets have also been introduced this term to reinforce the weekly focus behaviours. Teachers can give these tickets to any student who demonstrates the positive behaviour. Students place these tickets into



boxes provided and a draw is held at assembly each week to win canteen voucher prizes.

Changes to the way students are able to access the toilets during class time have been introduced this term. Our priority for student wellbeing and safety, the right of all students to access hygienic and well maintained facilities and our commitment to maximise learning time in class are at the centre of these initiatives. The new system of accessing the toilets in the front office building when lessons are in progress is providing a safe, clean and manageable option for students. The self sign-in and sign-out processes using the computer system that has been set up in the student office makes it easy for students and teachers to account for student time out of class. We are monitoring this data closely and we are open to feedback if there are any issues we can address to improve our procedures.

Term 2 is also a very busy term for assessment and most students will be managing a number of tasks for different courses that will need to be completed over the next few weeks. Students and teachers work together to address the outcomes of their subjects and students are able to show their understanding of this in the work they submit. Students are encouraged to seek support from their teachers before their tasks are due so they can maximise their achievement. Homework Centre runs every Monday and Thursday after school and is an excellent resource for seeking that little bit of extra help if it is needed. We look forward to meeting with parents at our scheduled Parent-Teacher nights and encourage our parents to be partners in learning with us.

**Ms F Wallis**  
**Deputy Principal**



## Meeting

The Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School P&C would like to invite all parents and carers to our P&C Meetings. The next Meeting is:

**Wednesday 26 May 2021**  
**7.00pm in the Staff Common Room**

*Everyone is welcome. A light supper is provided.*



## From the Principal's Desk



**Tania Irons**  
**Principal**

**A**s always, the term has commenced with a busy schedule which has seen many additional activities designed to support student learning engagement and growth. We welcomed a new calf early in the term named Mooana, and she has already proven to be a popular addition to our farming activities. In addition to this our postponed Cross Country event was a great success, as have been our Year 7 and Year 11 Camps. NAPLAN has also occurred this week and our students in both Years 7 and 9 maintained excellent standards of effort and behaviour throughout these assessments.

I was fortunate enough to spend some time at both the Year 7 and Year 11 camps in recent weeks. I was particularly impressed with the way in which our students challenged themselves and encouraged each other to go beyond their usual comfort zone with the various activities. The team work on display, as well as the positive friendships forged and reinforced, was acknowledged by camp staff as particularly exceptional. Well done to our students for once again demonstrating how fantastic our school community is, and for your excellent representation of our school. Below is an excerpt from Orson L in Year 7 who has reflected on his camp highlights:

*“The Great Aussie Bushcamp was very fun. My favourite part was the activities. My friends and I had lots of fun going on the giant swing, the tree tops, and many more. My favourite part of the tree tops was where you could jump and land right on the wall and slide down. I had lots of fun at the Great Aussie Bushcamp.”*

We are now moving into a section of the term where assessment tasks and half yearly exams will occur across most year groups across each subject. I ask parents to encourage students to remain focused on preparing thoroughly for their assessments, whilst also acknowledging that assessment tasks are an important part of the ongoing learning process. Assessment tasks are so often viewed as an end-point in the learning cycle,



but at Nepean we view assessment tasks as important sign-posts to check learning progress and make adjustment to our teaching and learning. The homework centre will remain well-staffed over the coming weeks to ensure students are able to access additional assistance with their learning and assessment task preparation.

Our P&C property day yesterday was a great community event, with plenty of hands on deck to assist with some general tasks around the school. I greatly appreciate the strong partnership we have with our P&C and would encourage parents to remain as actively involved in the P&C as your time and schedules can allow.

Our Senior Parent/Teacher evening is upon us for students in Years 10, 11 and 12; Year 11 reports will be distributed to students in readiness for this event. We look forward to the opportunity to speak with parents about students' learning progress in more depth than the written report can allow. For any parents unable to attend this evening to discuss learning progress for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 please feel free to contact teachers directly if you would like to discuss progress in a specific subject, or contact the Year Advisor for general information about progress.

Staff have continued to monitor issues relating to vapes and aerosol deodorant cans within our school community. I ask once again for parent support around ensuring that students DO NOT bring these items to school at any time. Furthermore, I remind all parents that vehicle entry to the staff carpark is restricted to staff, deliveries, and specialised transport only. The carpark space has become dangerous to pedestrians with an increasing number of parents driving their students into the carpark to drop them off. This is a serious Health and Safety issue, and I request your support in ensuring our student transit area between our buildings on either side of the carpark is prioritised.

**Mrs T Irons**  
**Principal**



**What's On**

Please visit our updated website to view the new school calendar which is updated daily.

<https://nepean-h.schools.nsw.gov.au>





# Valuing the teaching profession — an independent inquiry

What every parent and carer needs to know about the Gallop inquiry

The first inquiry into the work of NSW public school teachers since 2004 has just handed down its final report. The Inquiry, headed by former WA Premier Dr Geoff Gallop, has recommended major changes to the salaries and working conditions of teachers.

The report states the changes were urgently needed to help address teacher shortages, improve teaching and ensure we can recruit enough teachers to cater for rapidly increasing enrolments in public schools.

## Four key findings

**1. The inquiry found the dedication and commitment of teachers remains high but workloads have become unsustainable.** All aspects of the work of teachers have been altered due to constant policy changes, advances in technology, curriculum changes and the increasingly complex needs of students. Teachers now have heavy administration workloads outside the classroom as well, including data collection and reporting and compliance work. On average, teachers work 55 hours a week.

**2. Salaries of teachers have fallen compared with other professions.** While the work of teachers has become harder and more complex, their salaries are now significantly below the average of all professions. This dangerous combination is leading to recruitment and retention issues and making it more difficult to attract the high achievers we need for the future.

**3. Student numbers in NSW are set to increase and teacher shortages must be addressed.** The inquiry found teacher shortages are an issue across NSW and said this had to be addressed ahead of a record increase in enrolments – 200,000 extra students – expected over the next 20 years.

**4. Teachers need more time for collaborative work, planning and preparation.** The time teachers have each week outside the classroom has not increased since the 1950s for secondary teachers and the 1980s for primary teachers. The inquiry found teachers need more dedicated time to prepare and collaborate with their colleagues, particularly given the increase in the number of students with higher needs.

## Recommendations for change

**Increase the preparation time teachers have.** The number of hours outside the classroom should increase from two to four per week in primary schools and there should be a reduction of two hours in the face-to-face teaching hours of secondary teachers. This time should be dedicated to assessment, lesson planning and collaboration.

**Reset salaries.** An increase of between 10 and 15 per cent in 2022 and 2023 to recognise the increase in teachers' skills and responsibilities, help overcome shortages and recruit the additional teachers needed to cope with enrolment growth.

**Lift the number of school counsellors.** An urgent increase in counsellor numbers to reduce waiting times and address rising student mental health issues. There should be one counsellor for every 500 students by 2023.

**Improve staffing levels.** Permanent teacher numbers should be increased to overcome the shortages of casuals. The excessive use of temporary teacher employment should be addressed. Support services, previously provided by the Department of Education in areas such as curriculum implementation, student welfare and behaviour and special education, should be restored.

**Investing in teachers.** Acting on the recommendations of the Inquiry will help improve teaching and learning in NSW public schools. It will also make teaching more attractive so we can keep our best teachers in the classroom and recruit the additional ones required to meet rapidly increasing enrolments.

**These changes are an investment in our future that will pay off for our kids and our country**

More information about the inquiry, including a copy of the full report, can be found at [nswtf.org.au/inquiry](https://nswtf.org.au/inquiry).

You can also register at [nswtf.org.au/forms/parents-citizens-contact](https://nswtf.org.au/forms/parents-citizens-contact) to receive regular updates on matters of importance to your child's education.

For more information visit [nswtf.org.au/inquiry](https://nswtf.org.au/inquiry)

Authorised by John Dixon, General Secretary, NSW Teachers Federation, 23-33 Mary Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010. 21058



# Behaviour code for students

## NSW public schools

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

### In NSW public schools students are expected to:

- Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- Strive for the highest standards in learning
- Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members
- Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- Comply with the school's uniform policy or dress code
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Respect all property
- Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools
- Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools

Schools take strong action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high quality teaching and learning.

### Behaviour Code for Students: Actions

Promoting the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students in NSW Public Schools is a high priority for the Department of Education.

We implement teaching and learning approaches to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

### Respect

- Treat one another with dignity
- Speak and behave courteously
- Cooperate with others
- Develop positive and respectful relationships and think about the effect on relationships before acting
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others
- Dress appropriately by complying with the school uniform or dress code
- Take care with property

### Safety

- Model and follow departmental, school and/or class codes of behaviour and conduct
- Negotiate and resolve conflict with empathy
- Take personal responsibility for behaviour and actions
- Care for self and others
- Avoid dangerous behaviour and encourage others to avoid dangerous behaviour

### Engagement

- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Arrive at school and class on time
- Be prepared for every lesson
- Actively participate in learning
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments. The department provides a policy framework and resources such as Legal Issues Bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.





**Principal**

Mrs T Irons

**Deputy Principals**

Ms F Wallis (Years 7 & 10)  
 Mrs N Isakov (Years 8 & 11)  
 Mr M Knowles (Years 9 & 12)

**School Captains**

Monique & Ashley

**Vice Captains**

Elina & Joshua

<b>Year</b>	<b>Year Advisers</b>	<b>Assistant Year Advisers</b>
<b>7</b>	Mr B Green	Ms C Nguyen
<b>8</b>	Mr G Turner	Miss E Sutherland
<b>9</b>	Ms T Gambell	Mr K Bright
<b>10</b>	Mr M Hayes	Mrs E Castro & Ms L Parkhill
<b>11</b>	Ms K Stuart	Mr E Park
<b>12</b>	Mrs N Stoll	Miss L Sherry

**Head Teachers**

<b>Administration</b>	Ms B Douglass, Mrs S Page
<b>Creative Arts</b>	Ms P Rowston
<b>English</b>	Ms C Reynolds
<b>Human Society &amp; Its Environment</b>	Mrs K Finemore (Rel)
<b>Mathematics</b>	Ms R Young
<b>PD/Health/PE</b>	Ms J Burgmann (Rel)
<b>Performing Arts</b>	Ms A Rudolf
<b>Science</b>	Ms S Rothsey (Rel)
<b>Secondary Studies</b>	Mrs A Witheridge
<b>Special Education Unit</b>	Ms M Foord
<b>Teaching &amp; Learning</b>	Ms J Patterson
<b>Technological &amp; Applied Studies</b>	Ms A Hay
<b>Wellbeing</b>	Ms R Owston

<b>Careers Adviser</b>	Ms V Jansen
<b>Learning &amp; Support Teachers</b>	Mr S Oudkerkpool, Miss L Sherry & Mr J Gillespie
<b>School Counsellors</b>	Mr N Cucinotta, Ms F Maitre
<b>Student Support Officer</b>	Ms A Knight
<b>Sports Coordinators</b>	Mr M Ryan & Miss T Gambell
<b>Teacher Librarian</b>	Miss L Sherry