

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The end of the year is drawing to a close and it has been a tumultuous year at Kincumber High School. I have been incredibly proud of how the staff, students, parents and caregivers have risen to every challenge over the past 12 months. The move from traditional school to online learning, and then the gradual, return has been a testament to the strength and perseverance of this wonderful community.

Year 12 have completed a challenging year and have undertaken their Higher School Certificate and now await the results, which are released on the final day of the school year (18 December). In an attempt to include parents and caregivers in their graduation, the most significant moment in their child's lives, the school livestreamed the graduation and had a commemorative video produced to capture the importance of this special day. The school formal was undertaken in the school hall (American prom style) and was very well received by the students and parents, who were also included in a one off recognition assembly, to include everyone in this very important rite of passage. This is a particularly impressive and resilient group of young people. They have had an amazing 60 early offers to post school destinations, including all major universities, apprenticeships, the armed forces and a range of other exciting opportunities. We wish them every success in their future endeavours and know that they have enjoyed their time at Kincumber High School.

School has slowly returned to some form of normalcy albeit still with some notable restrictions. We had the opportunity to welcome our new Year 7 cohort for 2021, Mr Koletti, on Tuesday and they were impressed by both the facilities and experiences on the day. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank both Mr Riley and the Year Advisor for 2021 for their care and attention to detail in supporting these young people in this very unusual transition experience throughout 2020.

One of the great strengths of Kincumber High School is its most amazingly dedicated and talented teaching staff. With such talent comes challenges, as they become highly sought after within the system for promotion. It is my pleasure to announce that Mrs Laura Gray has been successful in obtaining a Head Teacher HSIE position at Lake Munmorah High School and Mr Noman Shoaib has been successful in obtaining the Head Teacher Science position at Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina Campus. Congratulations on these very well deserved appointments.

The new year sees further staffing changes, with the departure of other long serving staff members, including Rebecca Roth who is having her first child and will be moving to the Wollongong area. Rhiannon Maher has been successful in gaining her first permanent teaching role at Brisbane Water Secondary College Woy Woy Campus. I would also like to thank Itinerant Hearing teacher, Hannah Tiechert, who has relocated to Port Stephens.

We would also like to thank temporary teachers Martin Glanville and Chris Crowley, who have very admirably assisted the school throughout the year. All of these staff have worked tirelessly and their contribution to our school has been significant.

A growing trend amongst teenagers across the Central Coast is the use of e-cigarettes, commonly referred to as "vapes" or "stigs". The use of these devices is a relatively new phenomenon and we wanted to provide parents with some relevant information.

These devices resemble common items such as highlighters or USB memory sticks, and produce a vapour that is inhaled directly into the lungs. The vapour contains a range of different solvents and flavouring agents, which have the potential to increase the risk of developing cardiovascular, cancer and respiratory diseases. When overheated, solvents such as propylene glycol and glycerine can produce dangerous levels of the carcinogens formaldehyde and acetaldehyde. The flavourings, normally approved for use in food production, e.g. cherry, cinnamon, vanilla and popcorn, can be toxic when inhaled directly into the lungs. Almost all of these devices contain nicotine.

The Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is concerned that e-cigarettes have 'renormalised' smoking.

The sale of e-cigarettes or e-cigarette accessories to a person under the age of 18, is illegal [NSW Public Health \(Tobacco\) Act 2008](#).

The PDHPE syllabus considers the health impacts of the use of drugs and alcohol and I am encouraging parents to have the conversation with their teenagers to encourage them to make good choices. Students found with these devices at school will be managed in accordance with our school's discipline policy.



2020 has been both a challenging and rewarding year. We are incredibly proud of all our students at Kincumber High School and are looking forward to an exciting year next year. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank the amazing staff of the school. Their dedication and hard work is demonstrated every day and I admire their energy and passion for the students of our school.

It has been another great year in public education and I would like to thank parents and caregivers for their support of the school throughout the year. The school is undergoing a uniform review and new planning cycle and I welcome advice in 2021 on how to make our great school even better.

It is a privilege to care for and educate other people's children and I know our staff put so much effort into inspiring and engaging students to learn.

I hope everyone has a lovely break at Christmas, spending time with family and friends.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays and I look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Brent Walker
Principal

PDHPE'S REPORT

Year 7/8 Surf Education Excursions

Throughout Term 4, Years 7 and 8 participated in a surf education program at Terrigal Beach, which was run by Surf Life Saving Central Coast.

Students were educated on beach and water safety skills, including how to identify rips and currents. The program then consisted of a 'run/swim/run' and a tread water activity. Students then partnered up and participated in water rescues, which included the use of rescue boards and rescue tubes.

Overall, the students enjoyed the days and were able to gain valuable knowledge and skills, which they will be able to use in the coming summer holidays.

Mr Downey, PDHPE



PDHPE

Term 4 has seen an increase in the range of activities students are able to participate in, due to COVID restrictions easing. Table Tennis has just begun in the hall for all PE practical lessons. Students have the opportunity to hone their skills out of the heat and compete against one another, or just enjoy having a hit against their friends in a positive environment.

**Year12**

Mr Crawford and Ms Elbra would like to congratulate all Year 12 students on completing their recent PDHPE and CAFS HSC examinations. In an unprecedented year, their classes have dealt exceptionally well with all the challenges that have come their way. Also, Mr Lumsden and Mr Bradshaw would like to thank their SLR classes for a great two years. They acknowledge the students' efforts to consistently participate to the best of their ability and create a fantastic culture between the two classes. Good luck in all your future endeavours.

Year 11 CAFS

The two CAFS classes are in the process of completing their individual research projects. Students have been given the opportunity to direct their research and have chosen some really interesting topics to this point. Examples of some of these topics are 'The Effect of Social Media on Adolescents Body Image' and 'How do Failed IVF Treatments Affect the Wellbeing of an Individual'. A lot of the students will be conducting questionnaires and interviews throughout the school community and any assistance in completing these is greatly appreciated.

Knockout and Individual Sport 2021

After a disappointing 2020 for KHS Sport we are hoping to have everyone competing in their chosen sports next year. The swimming carnival will be going ahead at the start of the year and representative pathways will recommence. If students are interested in competing in team or individual sports next year and want to know more about it, please see Mr Russell in the PE staffroom.

Tom Russell, PDHPE

YEAR 12 FORMAL

A Year 12 Formal like never before was held at Kincumber High School for this amazing cohort of students. With COVID-19 restrictions set, a decision was made to hold the formal in the hall for the very first time in Kincumber's history. Parents gathered in the COLA and were able to watch the students walk along the red carpet and up into the school hall for the last time. With lighting, audio, sound and set construction by Bax Audio, the school hall was transformed into a beautiful space for photos, food and celebrations. Food was supplied by CaterCo Food Trucks and allowed the students to choose a range of food from Nachos to Cheese Burgers and the School Canteen provided the desserts. A big thank you to Kasey Chambers and Kaya Ardita (School Captain 2019), who performed a range of songs on the night including a few of Kasey's most loved songs.

Many thank you's need to be sent out to all the teaching staff, support staff, SASS staff, executives, Avoca Beach and Copacabana Primary Schools and students from other years who made the formal a success.

Claire Barber, Year 12 Year Advisor



CAREERS REPORT

Year 12 2020

The HSC Results and the ATAR Results will be released on Friday 18 December. Kincumber High School will be putting on a congratulations BBQ in the HASTIE/TAS court yard from 9.30 – 10.30am on that morning. All Year 12 students are invited to the BBQ for breakfast and a catch up.



Careers

<https://www.uac.edu.au/key-dates>

Please also see the UAC key dates for Undergraduate preferences and Round Offers for University.

Career Opportunities

1. Local - Full time employment

Apprentice Light Vehicle Mechanic, Heavy Vehicle Mechanic, Landscaping, Roof Tiling, Painting, Trainee Business Administration, Child Care and Medical Assistant.

2. Work Experience

Any student who is planning to do work experience, will need to see me to collect all the information and pamphlets.

Defence Force Work Experience for students over 15 years old.

<https://www.defencejobs.gov.au/students-and-education>

3. Local - Part time employment

Front of house for busy restaurant, Delivery Drivers, Kitchen Hands, etc.

4. University and TAFE Open Days

A number of Universities are advertising open days from 18 December, to coincide with the release of the ATARs. Please go to the website of your chosen University for open days and other important information.

Claire Barber, Year 12 Advisor/Careers Advisor

CAPA REPORT

Goodbye, farewell and thank you so very much to Miss Roth!

Miss Roth started teaching at Kincumber High School in 2014 as a graduate teacher. She quickly established herself as a dynamic, engaging teacher of HSC Drama and attracted many fortunate students into her charge.

She has been a strong operator with regards to the Performing and Creative Arts at KHS, in establishing and maintaining a significantly successful presence on the academic stage at Kincumber High School. Miss Roth was instrumental in adding the Performing Arts methods to our One Night Only Arts Festival. Initially, she set the program, ran the rehearsals and orchestrated all the variations for this performance aspect of our night. An incredible feat, thank you, Miss Roth.

Over the years, she planned and managed numerous performance events:

In 2014, Miss Roth and team ran 'Ever Ever After', her first attempt as a playwright, where we collaborated with feeder schools.

In 2015, 'A Night of One Act Plays', a compilation of student devised works and scripted Australian short plays.

In 2016, Miss Roth and team delivered our first musical 'Hey There Delilah', written by Josh Maxwell, inspired by the theme of Mean Girls, combining into a musical using songs from the early 2000's.

In 2017, was the full length comedy play 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare' and in 2018, was the team's biggest production to date, Broadway cult classical musical 'Little Shop of Horrors'.

Miss Roth has been second in charge of CAPA faculty in 2020. It has been an absolute privilege and pleasure to work with her this year and over the years. She is incredibly skilled and talented. We want to thank her so very much for her hard work, her incredible vision for the arts, her inspired teaching and her collegial, professional approach.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of Mrs Laura Gray here as well. Mrs Gray was a knowledgeable and hardworking colleague, who was generous with her time and supportive of all the above-mentioned productions. She is to be applauded for her work in this field.

Carol McGilvery, HT CAPA

Student of the week awards

Drama: Year 10 - Beth Stewart, Will Jacobson. Year 11 - Kyte Cardy, Joel Blyton.

Music: Year 9 - Chelsea Stewart, Ava Nicols, Charlotte Dixon. Year 10 - Dylan King. Year 11 - Aja-May Blue, Nathan Peters, Joel Blyton.

Photography, Video and Digital Imaging: Year 9 - Liliana Milne. Year 10 - Bayley Brodbeck, Zane Kohler. Year 11 - Saxon Garside.

Visual Arts: Year 7 - Aliyah Ellis, Gabrielle Brink, Arelina Cunningham, Benjamin Ho, Sophie Byrne, Sophia Hill, Tahlia Jones, Sasha Northrop, Jacob Steer, Makaylah Jurd, Grace Brooke, Sophia Milne, Khia Slaats, Charlie Williams, Sebastian Roberts, Grace Montague, Lillie Collins. Year 8 - Brandon McMillian. Year 9 - Chelsea

Stewart, Liliya Tatarinoff, Lily Carmichael, Summer Baker, Amelia Dela Paz, Jade Hackshall, Xianna Miller, Eve Aspden. Year 10 - Kyra Altavilla, Cyren Santangelo, Ruby Williams. Year 11 - Robin Blackwell, Louis Boughton, Amity Bright, Madeline Francis, Alexandria Tom, Taylor Scott, Breanna Hollier, Jesse Amey, Darcie-Rose Salburg, Bailey Handley, Ruby Petheram, Phoebe Brown, Layla Robertson, Kalena Webb.

Visual Design: Year 9 - Ellie McCaughan, Coban McNally, Jarrah Van Dorst, Hayley Chase, Lily Spindler, Charlie McAlpine, Mitchell Liddle, Dylan Brown-Beresford, Lucas Jackson.

SUPPORT: Skyla Savage-Wood, Veronika Robertson, Elijah Camara, Jye Hardy-Smith, Noa Lim, Tayah Rees.

Dance

Thank you to all our amazing dancers for everything you have done this year – your ability to adapt with each of the challenges presented to us has been fantastic!



Year 9 and 10 dance electives have worked to a high level, creating individual compositions. Year 10 have recently produced some creative dance films from their compositions, which have been great to watch.

While Year 7 & 8 dance ensembles were not able to run this year, we are really looking forward to things starting up again in the new year. We have some very exciting plans for 2021 and we hope to see as many students involved as possible.

As we come to the end of the year, I thought it might be nice to a small look back at some of the opportunities our dance students had over the last few years. Stay tuned for fantastic opportunities dance in 2021.



facebook

Yes, we have Facebook groups for account, each of our dance groups – please feel free to join us on



Yes, we now have an Instagram account, join us at: kincumberhighschool_dance

Kincumber High School Dance to stay updated on information

If you have questions regarding anything to do with dance, please come and see us in the PE staffroom.

Mrs McRae, Dance Coordinator

Music

The last two weeks have been quite busy for our elective music students with many whole school performances occurring for special events and assemblies at Kincumber High. All the students should be commended on the professionalism and courage they show when performing for school events.

Chelsea Stewart and **Ava Nichols** from Stage 5 Music performed for our 2020, Year 12 cohort's formal, presenting a repertoire as parents and students arrived for their formal. There were also performances from Talon Hopper, a current HSC student, and ex-student Kaya Adita from the 2019 cohort who performed alongside Casey Chambers, providing a powerful and moving set for guests and students.

Aja-May Blue is to be congratulated for her standout solo rendition of Tash Sultana's "Beyond the Pine", for our first whole school assembly since restrictions were eased. A very impressive performance from a talented Stage 6 performer.

Charlotte Dixon impressed school leaders, staff and students with her recent solo performance on vocals and piano at the leadership induction ceremony. She performed an arrangement of "I see fire", by Ed Sheeran, showcasing the talent and finesse of Stage 5 Music.

The sound and lighting team have been very busy working behind the scenes and a special mention to **Nathan Peters, Dylan King** and **Joel Blyton** for assisting with all things production, as well as mentoring our junior students in readiness for future events.

Mr Blue and Mr Harris, Music

Drama

What a year it has been for drama! Like all of our learning at Kincumber High School, our fabulous students and teachers Planned to involved in many drama opportunities planned, including the School Pantomime. However, unfortunately due to restriction the show had to be cancelled. However, thespians are not ones to stay down and rest assured the production will be back on track as soon as restrictions will allow. The show must go on as they say!

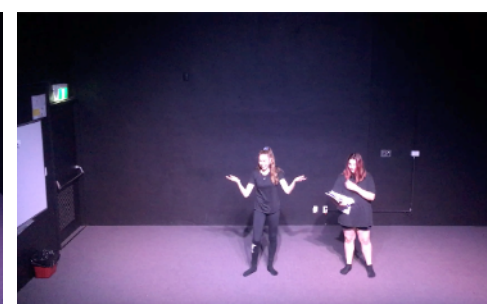
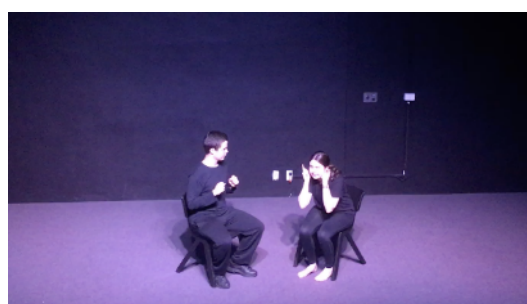
Our new Year 12 students are already busy preparing for the 2021 HSC and we were lucky enough to have a study day with Illuminate Education via zoom, which was a new experience for us all. Despite not having an audience to perform their term assessment to, they are hard at work creating an engaging and dynamic piece of Australian contemporary theatre, which we hope to record and make available. It is always so important to

be able to see theatre being created, which speaks directly to our society and strongly comments on issues that are important to our students.

Having completed their final assessment for Year 10 Elective Drama, we are having a wonderful time planning and rehearsing our 'Wild West' themed melodramas. Students are enjoying the completely over-the-top acting style and ridiculous plot lines, and it is a fabulous way to end the elective course.

Lastly, I would just like to say a big thank to all the staff, students and parents at Kincumber High School who I have had the absolute pleasure of working with over the past 7 years. As my time at KHS comes to an end, I look fondly back upon the most wonderful memories and will be forever grateful for the passion of the community and the embracing of the arts from the school. We have had a wonderful time together, from short plays to full-scale musicals, in-house workshops with industry professionals and theatre companies, and actor training at some of Sydney's most prestigious drama schools. The students have taken every opportunity afforded to them and always ensure they make the most out of each experience. Of course, all of these wonderful experiences, experiences that stay with students for a lifetime, would not be possible without the support of the executive team, so my eternal gratitude goes out to my colleagues as well. I'm very excited for the next chapter in my life, but leave knowing that drama is in the incomparable hands of Ms Mould and so excited about the opportunities she has already planned. Watch this space, drama may have been quiet this year, but will be bursting at the stage door to return bigger and better!

Ms Roth



Visual Arts, Visual Design, Photography and Digital Imaging

Year 11 Photography

11DIM have been studying the photographer Abelardo Morell and recreated some tent camera images. The tent camera grew out of earlier exploration of the camera obscura project. The rudimentary camera worked by blacking out all the light, then using a small hole in the material at the top which was refracted down by a mirror. This allowed the inverted image of the view outside the tent to be projected on the floor. Students then took 5 minute long exposure photographs, whilst experimenting with different surfaces to project upon.

Miss Hamilton



Time to celebrate some wonderful achievements from our Visual Arts students. Year 7 have finally completed their animal mask task. Congratulations on these fabulous outcomes. From top left - Layla Post, Ruby Bishop-Taylor, Will Gaffey, Angus Haba, Connor Draper, Jayda Carter, Bastien Sinodinos and Will Guz.



Year 10 Photography and Digital Media have been working in the darkroom developing their practice for the last few weeks. Above are some examples of their celebrity photograms.

Can you guess who they are?

Miss Hamilton



HSC Congratulations News!!

Fabulous news for KHS Visual Arts!!

Two 2020 Visual Arts HSC Students have been selected for ARTEXPRESS. ARTEXPRESS is an exhibition of HSC Visual Arts, representing students who have been awarded results in the Top A Band for Artmaking.

Congratulations to:

Amelia Heron Little 'Shifting Reflections'



and

Riely Byrnes 'Distillations of Memory and Place' A series of 21 pieces



These are fabulous achievements, well done!

First Class Exhibition Selection

Natalie Costa

'Dramatically An Expert At Hiding In Plain Sight' A Collection of Works

The curators recognise the commitment and talents of all the nominated Visual Arts students in producing such outstanding works. They also acknowledged the strong commitment made by teachers and parents. This is reflected in the high quality of the submissions, making the nature of the pool of entries very competitive.

Exhibition Dates at the Museum of Art and Culture, Lake Macquarie (MAC) are **Saturday, 13 February – Sunday, 2 May 2021.**



Thank you to Miss Hamilton for her incredible support of our students and her HSC teaching in 2020.

Support Visual Arts

S2 have been working hard all semester, building their 'Crazy Critter' ceramic sculptures. They learned to create pinch pots and then added their 'crazy' limbs and other unique features. We had lots of fun making these!

Miss Berberian





Year 6 into 7 Transition Day 2020

'Cinderella Goes to the Ball' - This fun workshop was the perfect CAPA workshop, where an understanding of drama, design, creative thinking and collaboration skills were critical to a successful outcome.

Students were given a newspaper, a roll of masking tape and a bit of coloured tissue paper, plus 10 minutes to design a contemporary Cinderella ball gown in a team.

There was a fashion parade at the end and Mr Koletti judged the winning gown.

Thank you to all involved, your gowns were amazing!!



TAS REPORT

Year 12 Construction

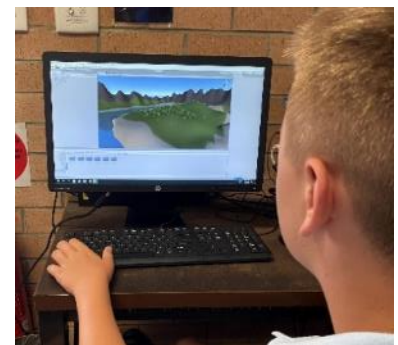
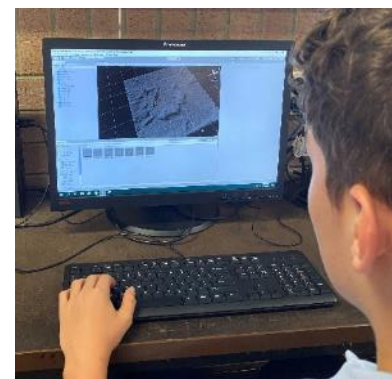
Our new Year 12 construction classes have been completing a teamwork exercise on building a scaled model of a house frame. Each group was given a different pitch of the roof, to ensure they could manufacture the roof accurately. At the end of the construction process, the houses were put to the test with their teacher standing on them! The students were fearful of their construction methods, however, now understand why houses are constructed the way they are. NO houses were damaged in the testing process!



Year 9 IST

Students are currently learning how to use the program Unity. It is a cross-platform game engine. It can be used to create three-dimensional, two-dimensional, virtual reality, and augmented reality games, as well as simulations and other experiences. This program is used in the industry outside video gaming, such as film, automotive, architecture, engineering and construction.

Students are currently developing their own terrain, creating animations and incorporating game assets such as cars, planes and characters. Students are really enjoying the challenge of creating their own games.



From the TAS Teachers

The creativity and skill that we continue to see in TAS is amazing. Students from Year 7 through to Year 11 students, have shown their patience and artistic flair with the designs they burn onto their projects. We look forward to parents seeing students projects come home and enjoy their hard work.

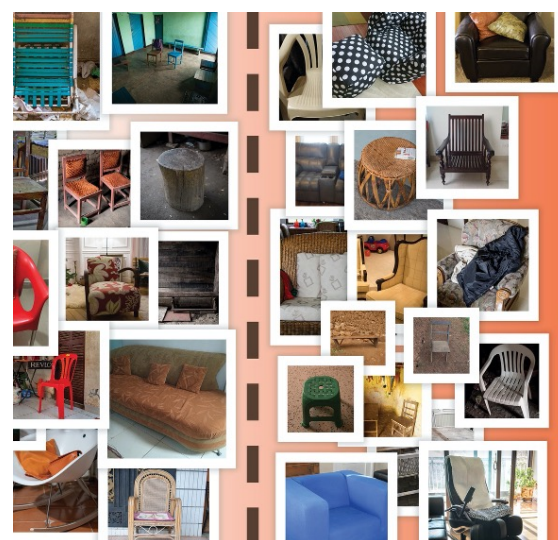


YEAR 9 & 10 – HIGH RESOLVES PEAK EXPERIENCES

During Week 9 this term Years 9 and 10 had the opportunity to take part in a *Peak Experience* run by the educational organisation *High Resolves*. Kincumber High School has been in partnership to deliver high quality citizenship, sustainability, wellbeing and social justice education to our students through critical thinking, reflection and real-world thinking and action.

During these sessions students engage in real-world learning activities and build skills in collaboration, communication and critical thinking by undertaking immersive group-work activities and reflective exercises.

The focus for Year 9 investigated the concept of a 'Just Society', while Year 10 this year explored 'Social Progress'. Organising and participating staff were incredibly proud of how well KHS students embraced and got involved with the learning and High Resolves facilitators remarked on the forward thinking, inclusive qualities of our students.



**Where will you
draw the line?**

Kincumber High School
Year 9

Just Society

December 9 & 10



Year 9 – Just Society

The Year 9 group's experience was designed to prompt students to consider the concepts of fairness, equality, equity, access and justice within our society and globally. Students took part in a range of activities to consider these concepts deeply, how they apply to our lives, how they affect citizens and importantly how we can shape our understanding to be more inclusive. See below for images from the *Just Society* experiences.



What will you do as Ambassador of your country?

Kincumber High School
Year 10

Social Progress
December 10 & 11

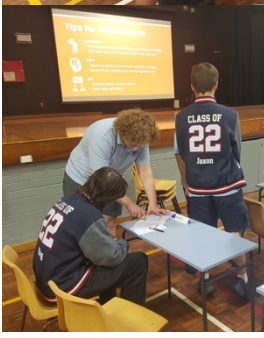
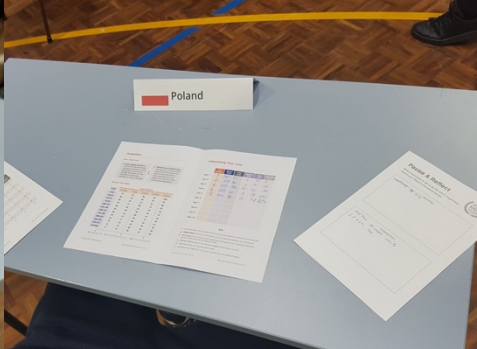


Year 10 – Social Progress

The Year 10 experience consisted of each student being assigned a country to represent and as a group undertake a global negotiation to reduce emissions and achieve climate targets. Each country had to consider budget restraints and commit to reasonable levels of carbon reductions while protecting their economies, societies, and of course the 'bottom line'. Each round of negotiations enabled students to interact with their counterpart representatives from other countries to reach agreements and consensus. If global targets were not reached climate crisis events would be triggered causing further complexity and economic turmoil for some countries. The students had an amazing immersive experience while building a range of interpersonal and strategic thinking skills, not to mention the value of global cooperation.

Pictures from the Year 10 experience can be seen to the left and below.

High Resolves



YEAR 7 GENERATION TOMORROW PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

This term Year 7 have been busy working as groups to complete a Project-Based Learning (PBL) activity as part of their *Generation Tomorrow* classes.

Project Based Learning is a student-centred learning strategy in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging, and complex question, problem, or challenge. This format of learning has been incorporated within the Generation Tomorrow programs for Years 7 and 8 at Kincumber High School.

The Year 7 PBL activity this year was entitled 'Positive Campaigns' in which groups were tasked with developing a means to share a positive message and achieve a positive outcome for their community.



Students have been working on their positive campaigns all term and during Week 8 groups had to present their campaigns. The presentations took place in front of a judging panel and their classmates in a 'Shark Tank' like setup.

The expert panel consisted of Generation Tomorrow teachers Ms Lawler and Mr Nicol; Deputy Principals Mr Riley and Mr Broadbent; as well as representatives from High Resolves and Mrs Broadhead from our P&C.

The quality, ingenuity and creativity that students exhibited as part of their positive campaigns was astounding. As a collective, Year 7 groups tackled issues including bushfire relief, anti-discrimination, the environment, bullying, social exclusion, racism and sexism to name a few. Similarly, the range of products delivered were equally impressive and wide-ranging. Campaigns included – posters, billboards, 3D printed merchandise, podcasts, videos, social media campaigns, sculptures, children's picture books, hampers, activity booklets, card campaigns and even an original song.

Students had to combine all the knowledge and skills they learned as part of their Generation Tomorrow classes this year and work collaboratively over a long period of time to complete their positive campaigns. The judges, as well as other staff visitors were blown away by the Year 7 projects and all students should be incredibly pleased with their accomplishments. See left and the next page for photographs of the process, projects and presentations.



HSIE REPORT

2020 in HSIE

Despite its challenges, 2020 has been another big year in the Human Society and Its Environment Faculty! Students and staff have worked hard uncovering secrets of the past and exploring new methods for sustainable living. They have been discovering ways to promote and enforce human rights around the globe and delved into the world of business to uncover the strategies of success of companies, such as Qantas, McDonalds and Apple.

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of our faculty members, Mrs Laura Gray. She was recently successful in attaining a Head Teacher position at Lake Munmorah High School. This promotion is thoroughly deserved and a testament to her dedicated approach to HSIE teaching and her commitment to supporting students. She has been a valued member of our HSIE Faculty for eight years and will be surely missed.

A feature of our department is student's exploration of the world outside the classroom to deepen their learning. This year naturally curbed the opportunity to explore places such as, the Buddhist Temple in Wollongong, Sydney's CBD and the Hunter Valley. Unfortunately, this year's planned history tour of Europe was also cancelled due to the pandemic. Early in the year, Year 10 Geographers did manage to experience Terrigal and Wamberal Beaches as part of their Coastal Environments study. Most of Year 7 also experienced the scenic Bouddi National Park as part of the Landscapes and Landforms topic. Thanks to Rumbalara Environmental Education for their ongoing assistance to make these excursions a success. Despite the limited opportunity to take students on real life site studies, HSIE teachers provided students with many virtual site study experiences, with the help of interactive websites and technologies. From the galleries of the British Museum to the sands of Gallipoli, HSIE students were still able to immerse themselves in the sights and sounds of the world.

The visual surrounds of the HSIE classrooms and corridor received some updates this year. A green wall project was completed, which is a nice addition to the corridor space. This is a space where informative messages are posted for students – letting them know what's coming up for the Human Society and Its Environment Faculty. It is also a way to promote global awareness campaigns – such as World Oceans Day, United Nations Day – amongst a lush tropical backdrop. The other new addition to our HSIE spaces was the installation of a series of printed blinds in our classrooms. These installations further enhance the look and feel of our learning spaces.

This year, we launched the HSIE Scholars Program for all year groups undertaking HSIE courses. This reward program which occurs each semester, recognises students who are displaying the following attributes: attitude, integrity and teamwork. Teachers nominate students who are demonstrating these learner qualities and recipients receive a certificate and prize. We look forward to this program continuing in 2020.

Many HSIE assessments in 2020 had a project-based focus. This direction allowed students to immerse themselves in topics such as Ancient Roman architecture and the First World War.

Our senior students also benefited from the dedication of HSIE teaching staff, with many students making regular use of before and after school enrichment classes and holiday study days. We hope they receive terrific and well deserved HSC results. We also wish them well in their tertiary studies and employment choices in 2021 and beyond.

As 2020 draws to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish the Kincumber High School community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay safe, enjoy the summer holidays with your friends and family and return energised for 2021.

Mr Waters, Head Teacher HSIE



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