



# COFFS HARBOUR HIGH SCHOOL

Cnr Edinburgh & Nile Streets, Coffs Harbour, NSW, 2450 Telephone: 02 6652 3466

“Light out of Darkness”

## newsletter

QUALITY EDUCATION SINCE 1938

Term 4 – 2021/07

25<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is great to be back into face-to-face learning and a relatively normal start to the term. Despite the disruption due to COVID, there is still a lot going on this term.

#### **Year 12 HSC exams**

Of course, it has not been a typical end to formal schooling for our Year 12 students. However, we have managed to complete two weeks of practice trial HSC exams. Students are now finishing two weeks of revision and exam preparation with their teachers followed by a short study period before starting HSC exams on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. Hopefully, we will have a formal graduation and celebration for Year 12 following their exams once restrictions for schools are eased. Still, I wanted to take this opportunity before the start of the HSC exams to wish all of our Year 12 students the very best for their final exams. I want to encourage students to keep working at it, using this additional time to do further study and preparation so they can give it their best shot and finish with their best possible result. The end is in sight; it is the last stretch after a long year, not long to go now, and Year 12 can then sit back and reflect on their previous 13 years of schooling and their future aspirations and life directions.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### **Thank you, Jann Clarke**

You may have seen mention on our school Facebook page of the retirement of our School Administration Manager - Jann Clarke. Jann has worked for the NSW Department of Education for over 30 years, with the last 16 years as the School Administration Manager at Coffs Harbour High School. While I am new to Coffs High, I have known Jann and how well regarded she is well before starting here as Principal. Jann has been responsible for building and leading one of the most outstanding school administrative staff teams I have worked with. Jann is a very modest person and understates her impact on our school - she will be missed by us all. We wish her all the best in her retirement and hope she gets the opportunity to spend quality time with family and doing the many outdoor recreational activities she enjoys.



### **Update on COVID restrictions**

I have been doing my best to keep all parents, students and staff updated on relevant changes to COVID restrictions impacting schools. There have been some recent changes that have brought some changes forward and which I will take this opportunity to explain.

The wearing of face masks is still mandatory for all indoor areas and on buses. However, both staff and students are no longer required to wear masks outdoors. All schools have been audited regarding ventilation, and works are underway to ensure that any repairs to windows occur so that we have adequate ventilation in all areas. We have also recently had a quite sophisticated air conditioning system installed in nearly all classrooms as part of the state-wide Cooler Classrooms program. This system has sensors that automatically regulate airflow and introduce fresh air to classrooms.

From the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, all school staff and any other adult workers on the school site will be required to be double-vaccinated. There is no current requirement for students to be vaccinated, but this has been strongly encouraged by the government and health experts.

There may be some relaxation of other restrictions towards the end of this term, such as those affecting school assemblies, visitors and end of year functions. We have set some tentative dates for some important end of year celebrations and will provide further information and organisation when/if restrictions ease.

### **Introduction of Yondr mobile phone pouches**

Given the disruption to schools due to COVID, we have not been able to implement changes to student mobile phone policy and introduce the Yondr phone pouches as we had initially intended. Both the parent and staff surveys on this issue have shown majority support for these changes. Still, we feel it is best to implement them once things have settled for students and there is less threat of disruption due to COVID, so we have delayed this implementation until the start of 2022.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### **NAPLAN results and literacy/numeracy assessment**

The school has received envelopes containing Year 7 and 9 individual student NAPLAN results. Unfortunately, these results are supplied by the government without any addressing or means of postage. So I wanted to make parents and carers aware that we will hand them individually to Year 7 and 9 students on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

The NSW Department of Education also requires all NSW secondary schools to participate in an additional literacy and numeracy “check-in” assessment for Years 7, 8 and 9. These assessments will provide additional data to assist school planning and classroom teachers to improve student literacy and numeracy. We will also be participating in a further “readiness test” at the end of the year to prepare the school to implement an online NAPLAN assessment in 2022. This assessment is purely a trial run to assist in determining whether school IT systems and processes will be able to handle the actual online NAPLAN assessment next year. Literacy and numeracy attainment is an essential part of all NSW public school plans, and we have specific targets that we need to achieve over the next few years. We are implementing several strategies to assist students in developing these skills. It was heartening to see the state government recently announced the extension of additional tutoring for students in literacy and numeracy into 2022.

### **Attendance – Every day counts**

Did you know that poor student attendance impacts academic, socio-economic and health outcomes for students? Research has shown that it can lead to poorer long-term mental health and social outcomes, an increased likelihood of involvement with criminal activity and an increased chance of the student requiring social assistance as an adult. Students with less than 90% attendance rates may be educationally at risk. So a key target in our school planning (and for planning across all NSW government schools) is to increase the proportion of students with greater than 90% attendance. By improving attendance, we are also likely to improve student literacy, numeracy and other academic results, and so this should be an important priority for our staff, students and parents. Much of our school attendance strategy will be implemented starting 2022 but we have gotten the ball rolling by focusing on reducing student lateness and truancy. We are also conducting two surveys to help determine the attitudes and knowledge of students and parents regarding attendance. Students have already completed a survey during our sports afternoon, and we will shortly be sending out a survey to parents. These surveys will help us to target initiatives focussing on improving attendance.

Link to survey: <https://forms.gle/9S9qEYK8PHhugxdWA>

**Peter South**

**PRINCIPAL**

### **Check-in assessment for Years 7, 8 and 9**

Coffs Harbour High School will be undertaking the Check-in assessments for mainstream students in Year 7 to 9. The students will participate in a reading and numeracy Check-in assessment.

The Check-in assessment is a NSW Department of Education online reading and numeracy assessment available to support schools to assess and monitor student learning.

The assessments can supplement existing school practices to identify how students are performing and to help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to student needs.

The assessment will be scheduled:

Year 7 students on Thursday October 28th during periods 3 and 4.

Year 8 students on Monday November 1st period 3 and Wednesday November 3rd period 2.

Year 9 students on Wednesday November 3rd during periods 3 and 4.

Students with disability may receive the same level of support during the assessment that they would normally receive in the classroom.

**Angela Kellahan**

**RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**

## IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Event
9 November to 3 December	HSC Written Exams
18 November	Year 7 2022 Parent Information Evening 5pm to 6pm via Zoom
3 December	Year 7 2022 Orientation Day
6 December	Years 9, 10 & 11 Final Presentation Assembly
7 December	Years 7 & 8 Final Presentation Assembly
9 December	Year 12 Graduation – Details to Follow
10 December	Year 12 Formal – Details to Follow
17 December	HSC Results released by NESA

NSW Department of Education

## SUMMER SKILLS



### Dive into the Summer Skills program today!

Every summer has its own story, time to write your own!

This summer is expected to be an absolute bumper. Many employers will need summer staff to cope with the huge demand of jobs across a variety of industries.

This is why the NSW Government is offering fee-free, industry aligned short course for young people wanting to learn new skills.

#### Who can apply?

Are you a school leaver or aged between 16 and 24? Are you looking to kick-start your summer career? Then Summer Skills could be for you.

#### Heaps of courses and locations available!

There are plenty of jobs in trendy locations like Byron Bay and all the way down the beautiful NSW Coast; or head inland to magnificent places like Mudgee.

You can choose from a range of short courses where there are plenty of jobs available in these industries:

- Hospitality
- Construction
- Agriculture
- Community Services
- Sport & Recreation – Swimming
- IT/Digital

Set yourself apart from your peers and get the skills you need.

Work in some of the most beautiful thriving parts of NSW. You could do a sea change or a tree change or hit the big smoke!

[education.nsw.gov.au](http://education.nsw.gov.au)

#### Eligibility criteria

You must be:

- a school leaver or
- aged between 16 and 24 (at the start of training)

You will also need to be:

- living or working in NSW
- Australian or New Zealand citizen, permanent resident or humanitarian visa holder
- signed out of school

#### Visit the Summer Skills enquiry form to register your interest

Scan the QR code or visit:



[https://skills.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8ce72RjbJh7VDU](https://skills.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8ce72RjbJh7VDU)





## CAREERS

RIEP Mid North Coast is hosting two sessions as below on School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships. Please see the below EventBrite links and feel free to attend and pass on to any employers, parents and students that may be interested.

***SBAT Information Session for Employers – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct at 12 noon***

This session is for **EMPLOYERS** wanting more information on employing school based apprentices and trainees.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/170083549475>

***SBAT Information Session for Students and Parents – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm***

This session is for **STUDENTS** and **PARENTS** considering undertaking or who have recently commenced a school based apprenticeship or traineeship.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/187325314057>

If you would like to attend, please feel free to register yourself. There will be an opportunity for Q&A and Guest Speakers at both events. Places are limited so please register at your earliest convenience

Dionne Court

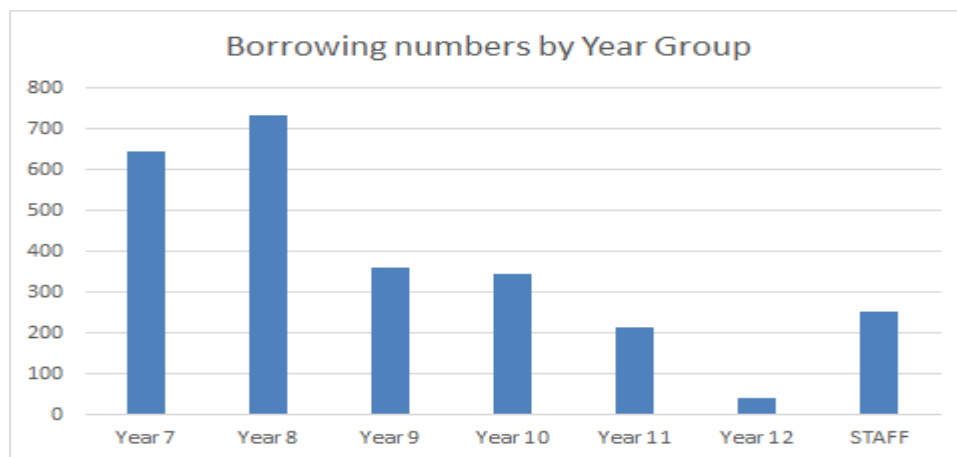
HEAD TEACHER SENIOR STUDIES

## LIBRARY

### Borrowing Rates

The biggest Library news at the start of Term 4 is that our borrowing rates so far this year have been absolutely outstanding! Currently, there have been around 1,000 more loans this year than from the same period last year which is an incredible achievement. Thank you to the amazing students who have been regularly borrowing throughout the year.

Borrowing rates have also been compared across year groups, and Year 8 have continued to maintain their lead as the most frequent borrowers, with Year 7 not far behind. We still have many weeks of borrowing left this term and all students are encouraged to come into the Library to choose a book to read.



### Senior Study Help

As part of the Teacher Librarian role, Ms Montgomery is available to work with senior students and provide assistance with their school work, including assessment tasks, for all writing-based subjects including English, History, Society and Culture and more. Senior students are encouraged to see Ms Montgomery in the Library to work out a suitable time to receive assistance.

### Philosothon

A number of students from Coffs Harbour High School have been busily preparing for the Northern NSW Philosothon, wherein students will get a chance to engage in philosophical discussions with students from other schools. We have entered three teams – stay tuned next newsletter to hear how they went!

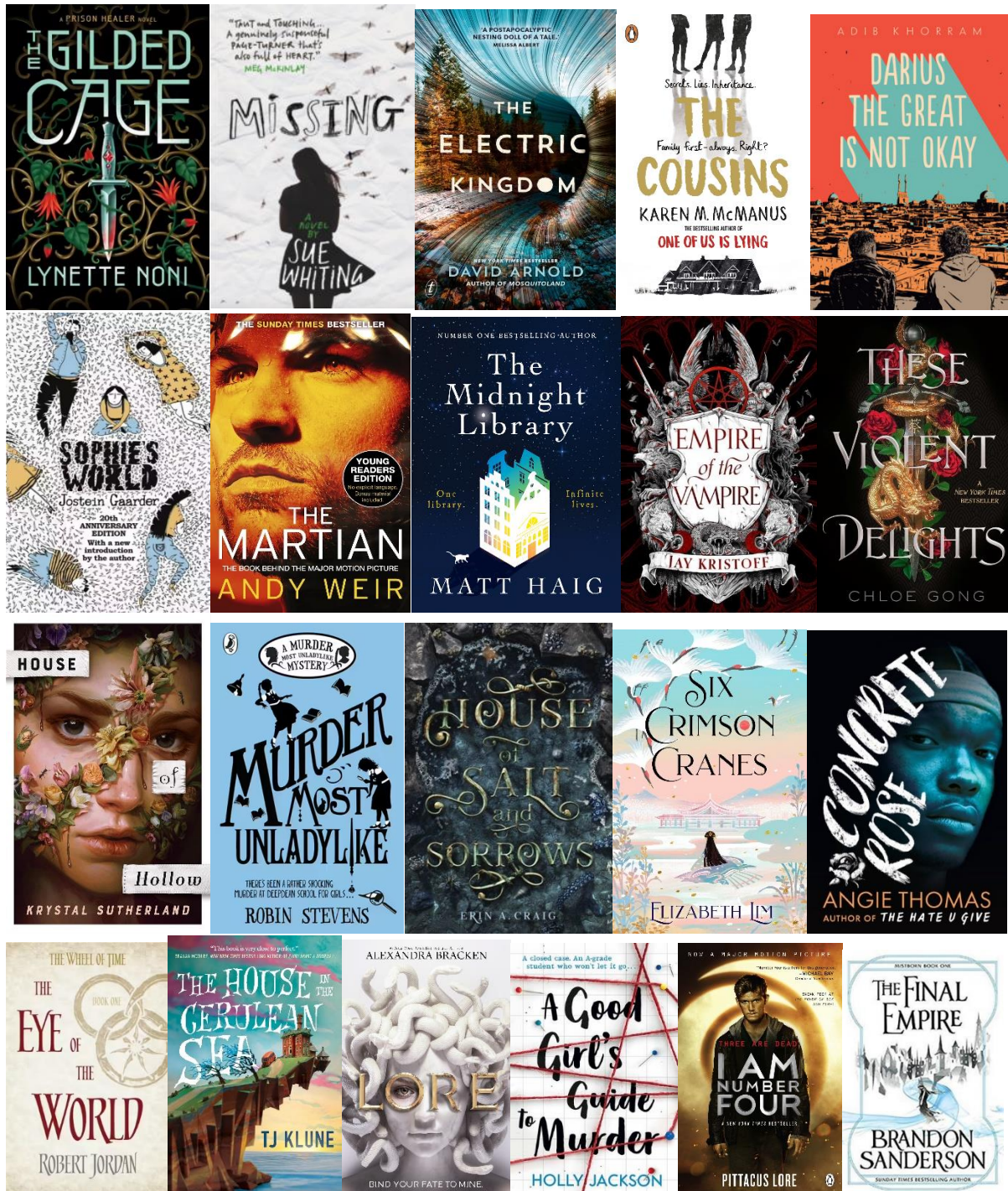
**Anika Montgomery**

**TEACHER LIBRARIAN**



# LIBRARY

## A SELECTION OF OUR NEW BOOKS



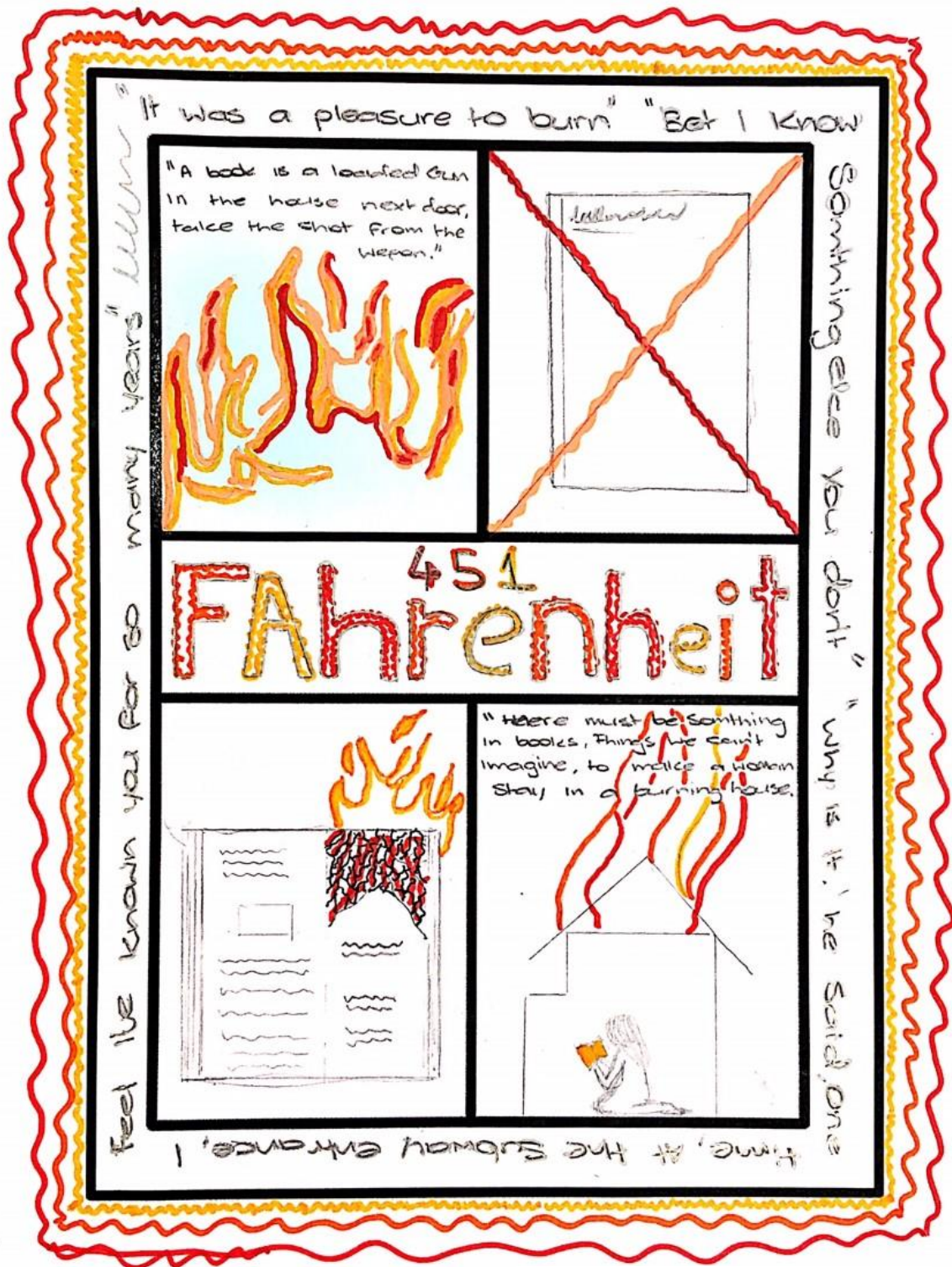
## FAHRENHEIT 451

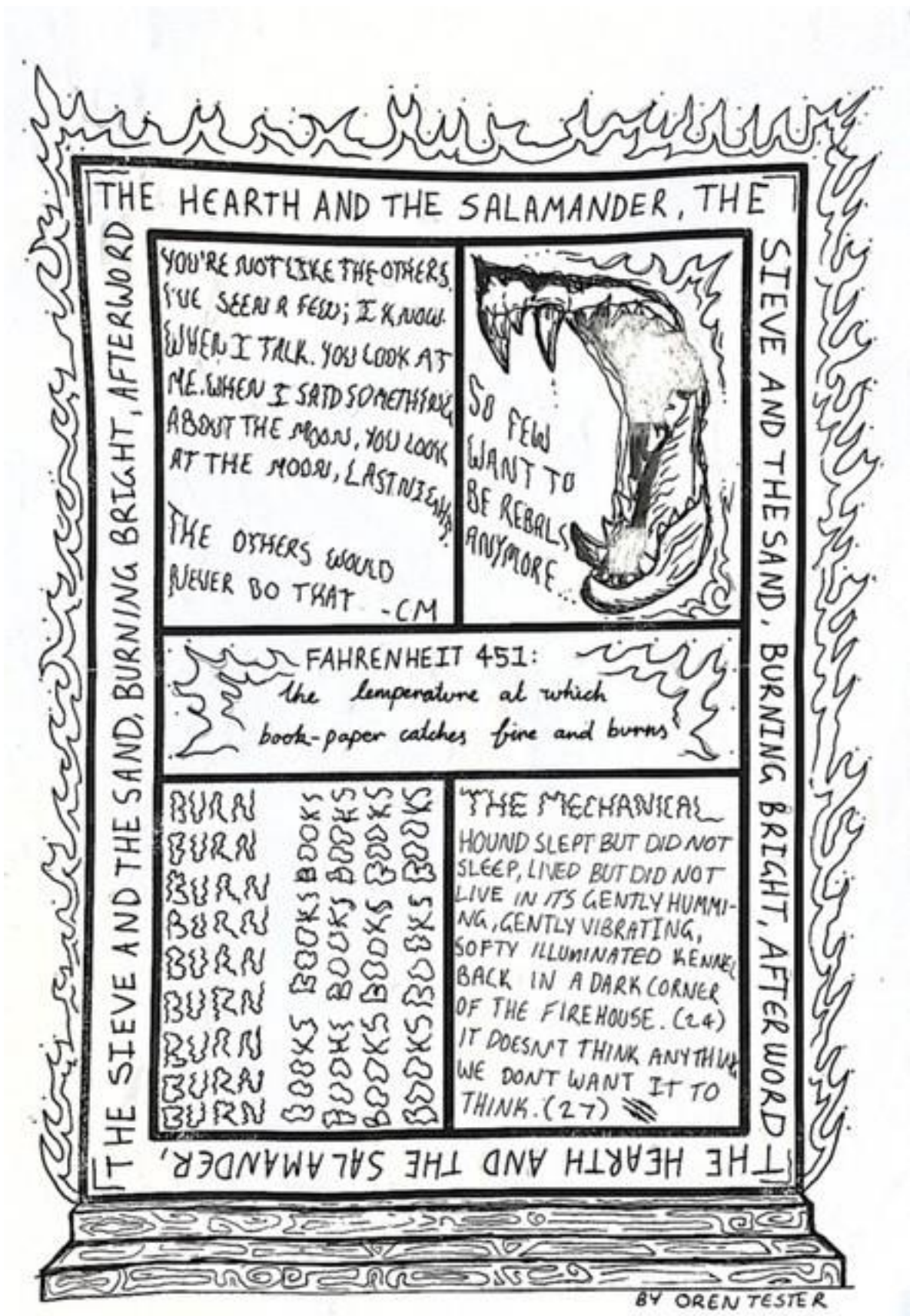
Earlier in the year 10ENE ended their study of dystopian fiction and consolidated their understanding of our class novel 'Fahrenheit 451' by Ray Bradbury by creating 'one-pagers.' The idea is to choose key images, quotes, symbols and textual details and put them together on one page to represent textual knowledge.



Mekayla Williams







## Oren Tester







# New Ground

Jetty High collection  
of student work  
magazine 2021

call for contributions

We are publishing a selection of the best submitted written tasks of the year from a range of subjects. You will be notified and permission requested before we include your work.

Love writing? Contribute a story, poem or essay with the theme 'new ground' for a chance to win prize money. See the English noticeboard or ask your English teacher for details.

## WORD OF THE WEEK

This term the literacy team are continuing the school-wide focus on the 'word of the week'. These eye-catching posters feature in the daily notices and focus on words that are not often used in conversation but that can be used to make writing stronger, especially when students are writing reports, essays or doing textual analysis. Understanding the meaning of these words can also help students understand complex exam questions, and respond accordingly.



Kristin Vlasto

RELIEVING HEAD TEACHER ENGLISH



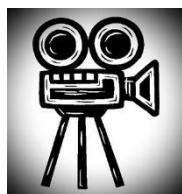
## MOVIE REVIEWS

Did you know Year 10 student Max Grant has had over 1 million online views of his film and TV reviews since he started reviewing this year? He has a considered opinion and great advice, so if you're looking for something to watch this month, make sure you read his reviews.

### 'What to Watch this week'

#### Free Guy

Directed by: Shawn Levy



Rating: ☆ ☆ ☆ 1/2

With very few movies being released recently, most of which consist of mediocre to low quality, Free Guy is a refreshing experience to get people to start enjoying movies again but that isn't to say it itself is of a largely better quality.

Free Guy, directed by Shawn Levy (the person who also directed movies such as Real Steel, The Internship and the Night At The Museum franchise), follows the story of an npc, also known as a non-player character, in a video game called Free City who realizes that he is nothing but a background for players so he decides that he's going to be the good guy. Now whilst this sounds like a fantastic idea, if a viewer really thinks about it, how many times have we as an audience seen the story of an AI or robot gaining intelligence that it shouldn't be able to? We even had this plot back in the late 1980's with movies like Short Circuit. While this plot is overall good, cinema itself has made it boring overall because we as an audience already know about the characters in the game before we actually know about them and that their entire personality throughout the film is that the artificial intelligence is going to make cliché jokes referring to them discovering something new. Cinema has made this idea boring.

Now, even though these factors are true, Free Guy does do something that other movies of the same genre don't do as well which is referring to pop culture without fully removing the audience from the film, just like a similar film Ready Player One. Throughout Free Guy, viewers will be able to point out and enjoy the nostalgia that the movie brings with the pop culture, especially people who enjoy playing video games as a hobby. Another major contribution to the film that makes it good is the great cast. The cast includes recognizable actors such as Ryan Reynolds, Taika Waititi, Joe Keery, Lil Rel Howery and Utkarsh Ambudkar and also includes more recent actors such as Jodie Comer. Viewers may even recognize some influencers who appear in the film as well as some who do some voice acting.

As a whole, the movie is fairly good when it comes to the well done characters and character development, the film's pacing and other major factors that make films enjoyable but it truly is really hard to get over the cliché plot that we've seen many many times now.

**Max Grant**

## FOOD DIFFERENT BY DESIGN

Miss Joyce's Year 8E Science class have been hard at work creating science themed food masterpieces to celebrate Science week. The theme for this year's science week was 'Food: Different By Design', which encouraged students to 'explore the creative processes utilized in STEM and its far-reaching influence in food contexts.'

After investigating the positives and negatives of GMO foods and discovering the chemistry involved in baking biscuits, 8E decided to put their cooking skills to the test and produce an array of science themed foods. 8E exhibited creativity with their designs, with students presenting COVID cakes and biscuits displaying the atomic model. This was an interesting and rewarding unit that many students enjoyed.

**Lani Cooper**  
Year 8



## AGRICULTURE

The school farm welcomed students back after working from home with a bountiful harvest. Year 8E Science carried out its final harvest in Week 3, signalling the end of their time at the farm this year. Students across Year 8 who have chosen Agriculture as an elective for Year 9 will be able to continue spending time at the farm next year as a part of their studies. The current Year 9 Agriculture elective classes have been maintaining their crops and interacting with the animals. They will continue to harvest for the rest of this year, as well as plant their summer crops to grow over the school holidays in anticipation of their return next year. The Year 10 Agriculture elective class is drawing to a close after two years of their studies. They have been doing their final harvests, helping with important jobs around the school farm, interacting with the animals (especially the new rabbits) and soaking in their final opportunities and experiences. Thank you to all of the students who have participated in the varied learning experiences on offer at the school farm this year - it is such a valuable resource.

### Year 8





# SCIENCE FACULTY

## Year 9



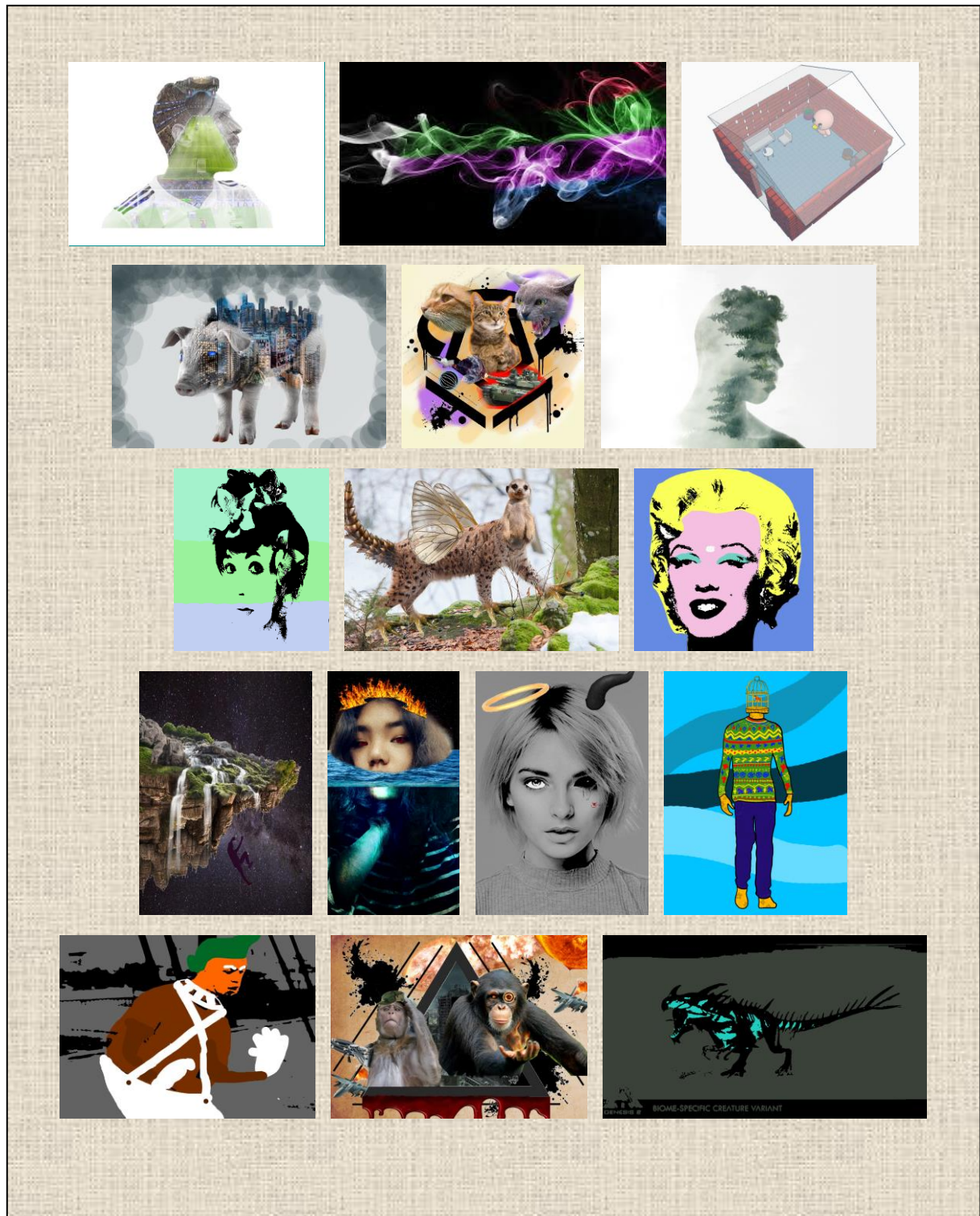
## Year 10



Amanda Joyce  
SCIENCE TEACHER

## YEAR 9 MULTIMEDIA

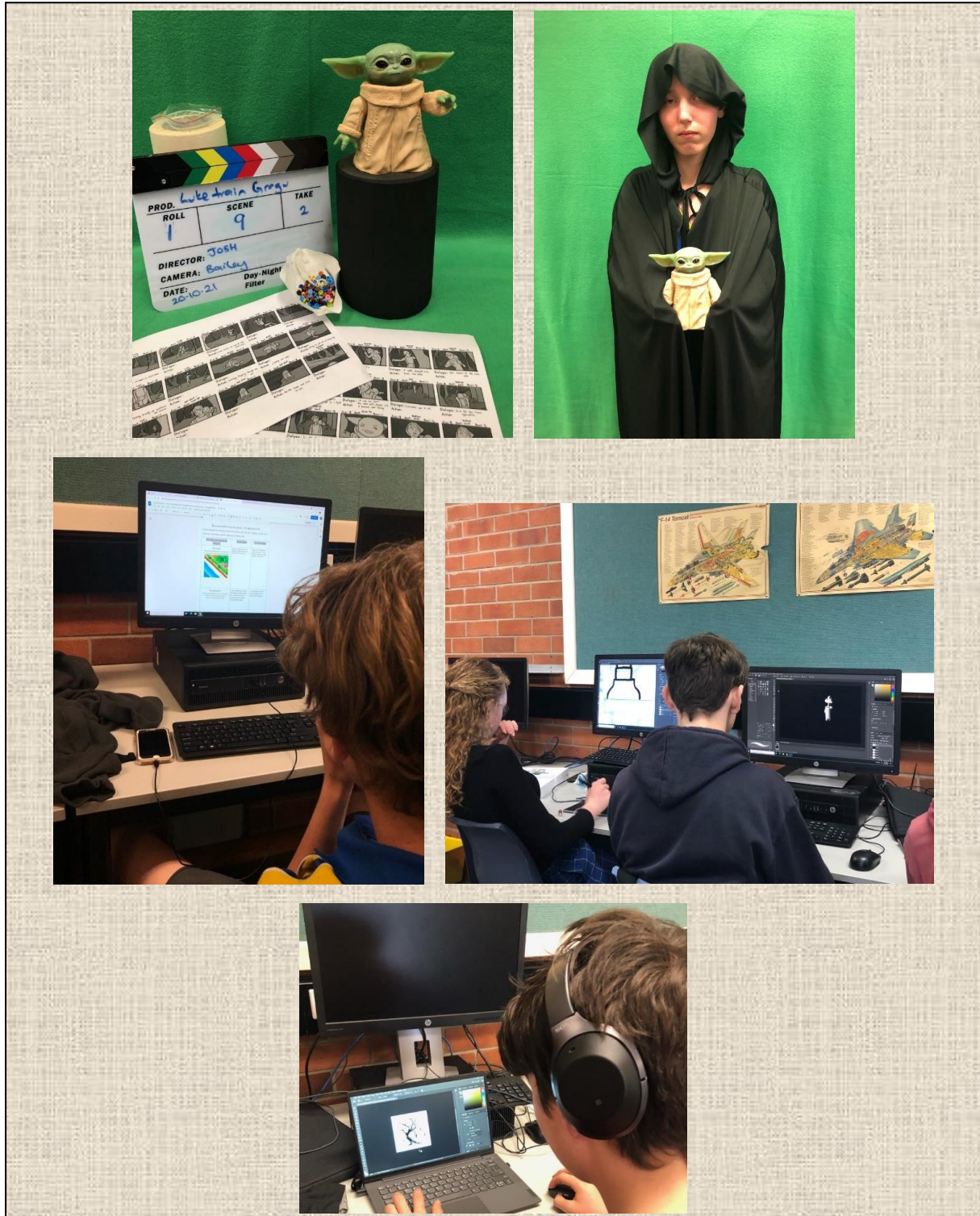
Year 9 Multimedia have been filling their online portfolio's with basic photo manipulation skills and developing their toolbox of layering and effects. Some students have embraced the drawing tablets to create custom elements to enhance their designs.





## YEAR 10 MULTIMEDIA

Year 10 Multimedia students have been kicking off the term showcasing their individual interests and skill sets in the development of the personal interest projects. Students are embarking on creative pursuits including Movie Making, Podcasting, Streaming Logo and Branding, Animation, Website Design and Game Development.



## YEAR 9 COSPLAY

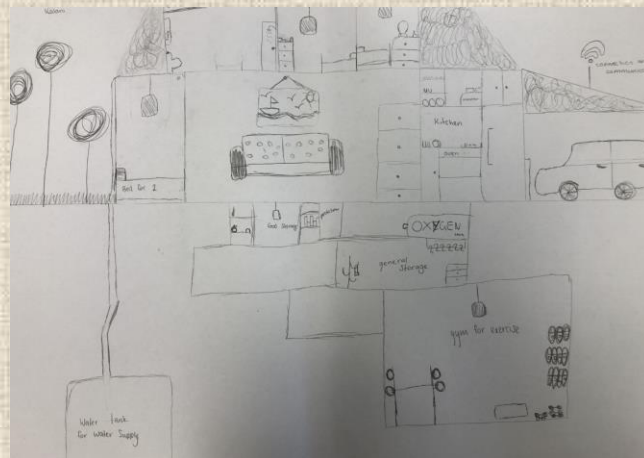
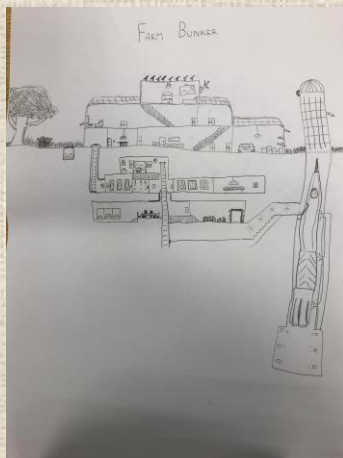
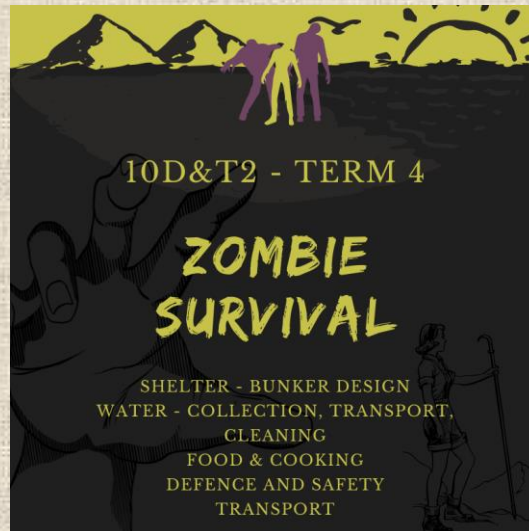
Year 9 Costume and Prop Design and Development have been experimenting with foam craft, air brushing and embarking on personal interest costume design and recreation for this term.





## YEAR 10 DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY 2

Year 10 Design and Technology 2 are preparing for the Zombie Apocalypse this term. Using their design skills and research on bomb shelters and bunkers, they have started their adventures planning and modelling zombie survival bunkers. Throughout the term they will design and create tools and resources with water collection and filtration, survival food and cooking, defence and safety followed up by protective transport concepts



## REGIONAL YOUTH TASKFORCE

### **Your child could make a difference to regional communities by applying for the 2022 Regional Youth Taskforce**

The Regional NSW Youth Taskforce is a Ministerial advisory group that advises the Minister for Regional Youth on issues that affect young people living in regional NSW. The Taskforce provides young people from all corners of rural and regional NSW with a unique opportunity to meet with government and inform decision making that will have flow-on benefits for their peers, communities and hometowns.

The Taskforce is comprised of 18 diverse members, aged 12-24, with two members representing each of NSW's nine regions. The Taskforce will meet four times throughout the year either online or in person. Travel costs and accommodation will be covered for Regional Youth Taskforce members travelling across NSW for meetings.

The Taskforce is an initiative by the Deputy Premier and Office for Regional Youth, headed by the State's first-ever Minister for Regional Youth, the Hon. Bronnie Taylor. The Office for Regional Youth is responsible for delivering a broad range of strategic programs to address regional youth issues and ensure young people have every opportunity to live, work and thrive in regional NSW.

If you believe your child would be a great fit and could make a difference to your community, you should encourage them to apply. Being part of the 2022 Regional Youth Taskforce connects young people and will engage your child on issues such as entering the workforce, mental health and public transport in the regions. The Taskforce will provide them with the ability to influence important decisions the Government makes on these topics and many more.

Applications are open now and close at midnight Sunday 21 November 2021 and young people aged 12-24 from regional areas are eligible to apply. The third Taskforce will be appointed from January 2022 until 31 December 2022.

To find out more or apply, visit [nsw.gov.au/RegionalYouthTaskforce](https://nsw.gov.au/RegionalYouthTaskforce).



# Vaping. What do parents need to know?

Northern NSW and Mid North Coast local health districts are hosting a free educator workshop on vaping, facilitated by drug educator Paul Dillon. Vaping is the use of electronic cigarettes, e-cigarettes or 'vapes' and is a growing issue for parents.

All Northern NSW and Mid North Coast parents and caregivers of students from NSW Education Department schools, Catholic and Independent schools are invited to attend the free online session.

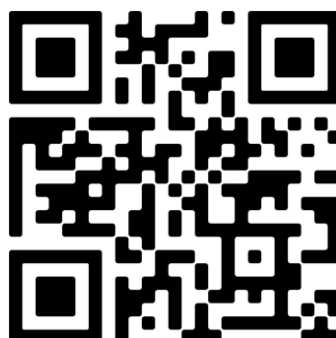


Paul Dillon is the Director and founder of Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia (DARTA) and he is passionate about ensuring that the community has access to accurate and up-to-date alcohol and other drug information.

For more information  
visit: [www.darta.net.au](http://www.darta.net.au).

**WHEN:** Wednesday 27 October 2021  
7:00pm-8:00pm via ZOOM

**RSVP BY 18 OCTOBER:**  
Scan QR code or via [link](#)



# NEXTWAVE

YOUTH · FILM · AUSTRALIA

Deadline  
Extended!  
Enter by  
NOV 12



make a short film



include a pineapple



win big!

YOUTH SHORT FILMMAKING COMP

SW  
IFF.  
PRESENTED BY  
Ashton  
PRODUCTIONS

NEXTWAVEFILM.COM.AU





# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## NEXTWAVE YOUTH SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Announcing a final call for entries for the Nextwave Youth Short Film Competition!

If you're a young person between the ages of 10-25 living anywhere in Australia, the Nextwave team wants to see what you can do.

Make a film under 5 minutes, include this year's signature item (a pineapple), and enter your film before the **EXTENDED submission deadline of NOVEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021** for your chance to win some amazing awards and prizes, as well as have your film premiere at the Screenwave International Film Festival on the beautiful Coffs Coast next April!

For full terms and conditions, head to the Nextwave website: <http://www.nextwavefilm.com.au>



**Deadline Extended!**  
Enter by  
Nov 12  
and win!

**NEXTWAVE**  
YOUTH · FILM · AUSTRALIA

LEARN IT · FILM IT · SCREEN IT · [NEXTWAVEFILM.COM.AU](http://NEXTWAVEFILM.COM.AU)

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## FUNDRAISING

Exciting News!

Our Fundraising Partner Ritchies IGA, are launching their new Ritchies Card, incorporating the Community Benefit Program and this will not only benefit our organisation, but also all our members.

The program now has an App for both IOS and Android smart devices. For those members who don't have a smart phone, or would like a physical card, this option is also available and can be linked to the App.

Every month, our organisation will receive 0.5%\* of our members' spend in Ritchies Stores PLUS our members will receive special offers and member only specials via the App.

\*T&C's apply see <https://www.ritchies.com.au/ritchiescardterms>

Featuring monthly promotions, cheaper prices for you, Collect and Win, as well as games and lots more fun things to do, this is a great opportunity to support our club.

You can download the Apps by scanning the QR codes below - or search for Ritchies in the Apple App Store or Google Play.



Not only are you helping your club, school or charity, you'll also get extra benefits.



## School Travel for 2022



### 2022 school travel applications are now open

Students who need a School Opal card or travel pass for 2022 can [apply](#) now. A new application will need to be submitted if they are applying for a school travel pass for the first time, or if they are requesting an additional travel entitlement as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

Students who change address, school, campus location, or who have repeated a year or received an expiry notification from Transport for NSW for their school travel entitlement should [renew or update](#) their details before **the end of term 4**. This will ensure that schools can endorse applications and current entitlements are updated and remain valid. School Opal card holders will have the changes applied to their existing card.

If a student's distance eligibility has changed based on their grade the system will automatically update their entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new [eligibility criteria](#), they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition that is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

[Term Bus Pass](#) holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

Students in the Opal network applying for an Opal card (including a Term Bus Pass) for the first time will receive their Student Opal card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2022.



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Students living in rural and regional (R&R) areas should receive their travel pass at the start of the new school year from their nominated transport operator. It may come via the school or be sent directly to them at home. **Note:** some R&R operators do not issue travel passes. Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

## School Student Transport Scheme site change

On 1 October 2021 the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) information and application portal was moved to [transportnsw.info](https://transportnsw.info). This will assist families to find all their travel information in the one place.

## Travel from Term 1 2022

We ask that parents plan ahead and make sure their child knows which service/s to use and has a valid ticket to travel; either a School Opal card or Child/Youth Opal card (within Greater Sydney) or a School Travel Pass (outside Greater Sydney), from the start of the school year.

Applications for the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) open at the start of Term4 2021 for travel in 2022, so parents/students can [apply](#) or [update](#) details early and be ready for the start of the new school year.

Most students using the Opal network will not need a new Opal card and can continue travelling on their existing card each year.

The start of the year is a difficult period for local bus operators, and students travelling without a valid ticket make service planning and operations increasingly difficult.

We recognise that for some families last minute changes to school enrolments mean they may not have a School Opal card or Travel Pass for the start of term. In the Opal network, we strongly encourage these families to have their children travel on a Child/Youth Opal card until they receive their valid School Opal card. If outside Greater Sydney, parents should contact their [local bus operator](#) to discuss their travel needs.

Bus operators are flexible and understanding, particularly at the start of the school year, and will ensure students can travel safely to and from school. But to best support our operators we encourage all students to have a valid ticket, as early as possible, from the start of the school year.

Please also remember that students using Opal cards must tap on and tap off in line with the [Student code of conduct](#) and [Opal terms of use](#).



Further information can be found at [transportnsw.info/travel-info/using-public-transport/school-travel](https://transportnsw.info/travel-info/using-public-transport/school-travel) Enquiries can be submitted at [transportnsw.info/contact-us/feedback/passes-concessions-feedback](https://transportnsw.info/contact-us/feedback/passes-concessions-feedback)