

BALLY'S 'GO TO' NEWSPAPER

THE BALLY

ICON

BALLYMACKA



An old tradition in Balgowlah Boys and Mackellar Girls is a joint dance which students from all grades once attended known affectionately as the 'BallyMacka'. However, it has been discontinued for a few years and people still don't know why it ended. Was it unpopular? Was it too stressful, expensive or hard to organise? When did it start?

We interviewed Relieving Principal Mr James to see if he could answer some of our questions.

Alex (Interviewer): When did it start?

Mr James: Around 25 years ago

Alex: Was it successful?

Mr James: Well, in the past it was relatively successful even though the Year 7 girls dwarfed the Year 7 boys and Bally Boys are shocking dancers.

So why did it end if it wasn't unpopular?

Mr James hinted that part of the problem was that Mackellar didn't want to celebrate it at their school, which they did every second year. He also said that it might return in years to come.

But should it come back? We asked some year 12 students to see what they thought of it before it discontinued.

We had very different answers. Some saying it was "alright", some saying they didn't like it, and others saying "In year 7 it was totally lit".

It poses the question - why did it start?

Teacher Mr May said that it was a way to make "Balgowlah and Mackellar be seen as brother and sister schools. It was also a 'platonic' way for Bally And Mackellar students to meet each other." The Ballymacka has been discontinued, but who knows, maybe it will return in the not so distant future?

The Bally Icon



If they get left behind it would take them 3 hours to walk to school or they must wait until 12:00am for a public bus which is also extremely crowded and open to the public.

As many know, Bally is an extremely popular school and we have a total of 913 students and only 5 school buses. We need more buses!

We have tried to communicate with Transport NSW and they blatantly ignored us and refused to answer our questions while we really need this problem solved.

With the number of students attending our school rising and the buses not meeting this growth, whole classes are up to 3 hours late, and with so many students getting left behind, how long will it be until you or your friends go missing? We need our communities help to solve this issue now, before it is too late.

HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN STRANDED EVERY DAY

The NSW government have recently cut the supply of Balgowlah Boys school buses. This makes buses so overcrowded that children are being left behind in the savage wilderness known as Suburbia.

Daniel James Morcombe was an Australian boy aged 13, who was abducted in 2001. Morcombe was abducted from a bus stop after he was left behind by his school. In 2011 two shoes and three human bones were found at a search site at Glass House Mountains. Testing confirmed that they were Morcombe's bones.

This could happen to us if we don't change our bus system. Multiple buses end up so crowded it's actually illegal- there are more than 90+ students on the bus. The legal limit is exceeded by two times the allowed amount of students, Most children get trampled when trying to get on. For example, we have one bus, the 689, which takes a 17000m route and it can only seat 45 kids!



CANTEEN - WHERE ARE THE HEALTHY OPTIONS?

Will jelly, giant cookies, ice creams or even chips save you from hunger, or will they lead you to obesity?

The canteen has a few healthy options to choose, but is that enough? Does the good food balance out the junk food?

The risky foods like doughnuts or jellies cause mood swings and sugar highs and lows, and this affects the students' work habits in a negative way.

With all this harmful food, kids are growing up with unhealthy food choices which will create bad habits later in life.

We spoke to the wonderful ladies working in the canteen and asked them about the students' nutrition and the options at the canteen. They provided us with a damning statistic - about 90% of students buy something unhealthy from the canteen EVERY DAY, despite there being healthy options available.

The canteen operators also said that this junk food can be addictive.

Despite meeting the demand for junk food, the ladies at the canteen also think health is a very important issue in the school and have monitored particular children regularly eating unhealthy food to advise them of healthier options.

If the canteen sees that some children are constantly eating unhealthy food, they will consult them and recommend a healthier option and suggest they don't eat so much junk food.

"There's not much else we can do", said the canteen. This is true: the children have their own choice, they can only suggest a better option...

Or can they? Next year the government is introducing strict health standards in all canteens in NSW. This will introduce a newer healthy rule that ensures canteens will meet certain nutrition regulations in their food supply. This will start in 2019.





'We know approximately how much food we are going to sell each day and aim for this target as it results in minimal waste', said Miss Main.

A potential solution is to ban any non-biodegradable material, however, certain plastics, papers and disposable wrappers are necessary to avoid food contamination and therefore widespread illness. We don't want to see a modern day Black Plague.

Relieving Principal Ian James stated that he hoped to introduce more general waste bins as well as recycling bins to instill in students environmentally-friendly habits.

He wants the teachers, students and guests to be able to look around the playground and see a clean area, and this will only occur if students develop good waste disposal habits. But for now, the entire school should get on board to help improve our environment and hopefully soon we will all have a healthy, happy and pollution free campus.

IS THE CANTEEN PRODUCING UNNECESSARY WASTE?

Litter is becoming an increasingly concerning environmental problem these days. While we like to think that most of the time people put their rubbish in the bin, it's simply not fact.

Unfortunately, this is also the case at Balgowlah Boys. We investigated the school and found an average 15 pieces of rubbish per 20 square metres. Sickening and disgusting.

Something must be done.

Our exclusive Balgowlah Boys Campus (BBC) interviewer Cooper Franks and his secretary Archie Partington have spoken to Miss Main from the canteen staff to talk to us about the worrying issue of having extraordinary amounts of food wrapping and waste on our grounds.



The Bally Icon



MR SELDON NO MORE

Why did our former Deputy Principal of Balgowlah Boys Campus leave his beloved school for a promotion? To find out why we had an exclusive interview with our Relieving Principal Mr James:

Interviewer: "Do you know why Mr Seldon left?"

Mr James: "During the first week of term on Friday night, Mr Seldon received a call from a senior member from the Department of Education saying they wanted him to be part of a team creating a literacy program to be delivered to schools all over NSW. He didn't want to leave. I was talking to him and he said that he was going to have a wonderful year at Bally, but he was selected in a team to make a literacy program for the state. I didn't want him to leave but he just had to."

Interviewer: "Will he come back?"

Mr James: "I think so. The senior of Department said that they only wanted him for 12 months but he might stay at the Department and do other jobs there."

Interviewer: "How do you feel and have you found a replacement?"

Mr James: "It was hard to let him go because I did lose my deputy and he did contribute to the school in a major way. We haven't found a replacement, I am the Relieving Principal and I am on a panel which will pick a new Principal soon and I will then slide back into my role as deputy."

Mr Seldon was a great deputy for the school and he is one of the reasons why it is so successful. He has been at this school for thirteen years and a few years ago he was Head Teacher of English.

He was very keen on uniform and loved seeing black shoes and white socks. He will be missed for the next twelve months and hopefully he will return soon.



Artist's impression of Mr Seldon

P.E UNIFORM CHANGING UNFAIR?

Are children being irritated by changing uniforms at the start and end of the day? We deem that having to change uniforms at the start and conclusion of the day is unfair and unnecessary. We are being obligated to change uniforms at the beginning of the day instead of just arriving at school in PE uniform. The same expectations are to be followed for the end of the day, but it is an unnecessary and onerous task.

Furthermore, the PE uniforms are an unsuitable shade of colour due to the fact that darker colours absorb substantially more sunlight which converts into heat. Heat also makes it more difficult for children to participate in sporting activities.

Is PE time being misused? Children are constantly using important time changing into their PE uniforms. This wasted time being used for changing uniforms can be used in an exceedingly more productive way, such as actually doing sport!

We have interviewed PE teacher Mr Theodore and the questions we asked him was as follows - Do you feel changing uniforms at the start and the end of the day is necessary?

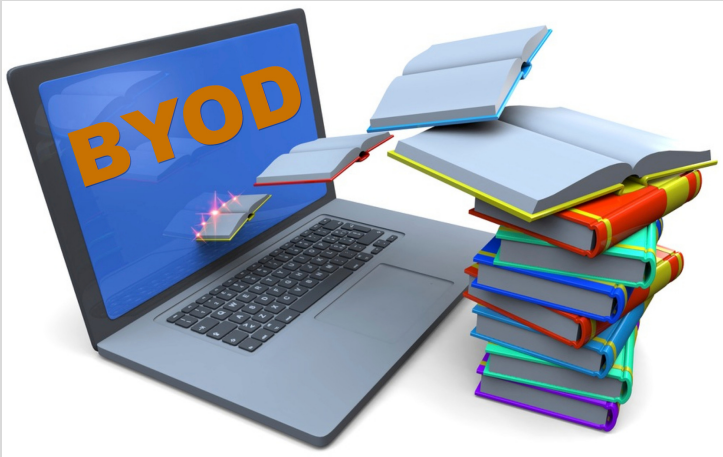
His answer was a resounding 'Yes'.

We asked him if he felt changing uniform during PE was wasting time.

His answer was a resounding "No".

He did, however, think the PE uniform 'could be lighter in colour and softer material.' Another reason is that both shirts have the same material and only changes colour, which begs the question - why change shirt when there are no advantages?



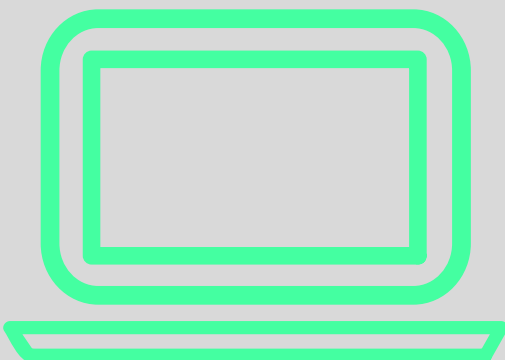


We couldn't interview the head of technology, Mr. Host, but other teachers had plenty to say.

They thought that it was better for children to write not type because children remember content more accurately when they write it down. And teachers rarely encourage students to use their devices as it can cause damage to their eyes.

They also expanded on the subject of VPN's. Ms. Lepre had a strong opinion and replied that she is ambivalent about technology and rarely uses it in her class, as she believes students need to practise hand writing. However, Miss Logg prefers students to use laptops as they can put their work in a file and be able to take it out for her to see right away.

We believe that the future is technology and soon enough everyone will be using a lot of it. We think that we should get used to it, so exposure at a young age is crucial.

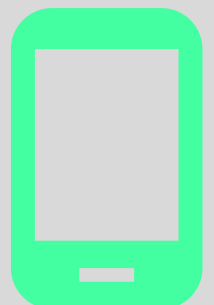
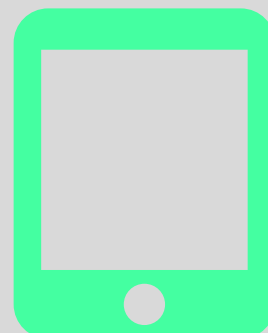


IS BYOD WORTH IT?

BYOD mandates that students bring their own devices into school for work and projects. It stands for "Bring Your Own Device", however, it was one of the most controversial decisions at Bally Boys.

This year the teachers have decided that it was necessary to introduce kids bringing in laptops for important school subjects and homework. This decision was debatable as kids have started using their devices to play games and use personal hotspots or VPN's to play online in class. These actions result in detention and sometimes suspension. This act affects the learning of students and so the teachers are left questioning their decision.

To look further into this topic, we thought of some hard questions to really challenge some teachers around the school.



SAFETY FOR SCIENCE

Have you ever seen an arm melted off with acid? Well I haven't, Luckily the experience didn't occur at Balgowlah Boys. Probably because you're not allowed to pour hydrochloric acid all over your arm and possibly because the school has some of the best safety regulations on the Northern Beaches. Recently at Balgowlah Boys Campus the science labs were rebuilt, making experiments safer and giving more opportunities for a wider range of experiments because of new benches, sinks, fume cupboards and lab equipment.

This was a great improvement for the school because the old labs were a dangerous and the quality of benches and other utilities were in poor condition and sometimes made experiments dangerous.

In the new science labs there are around 16 sinks, gas taps and hot mats (which bunsen burners and other hot things use so they can be put it down without burning the bench). The class will normally work in pairs and have one sink each.

There is also a whiteboard, normally one in each class which the teacher can use to explain and demonstrate different ideas and experiments.

One of the most important features is the fume cupboard which is used in experiments normally done by years 9 -12. It is a cabinet made of glass that is used to suck up toxic gases from chemical reactions.

A glass side can be pulled up so students can put things in the cabinet, and then a fan sucks up the gas that comes off the substance in the beaker.



This is a vital feature as has been proved in the past. There was a boy who went to Bally that didn't use the fume cupboard while burning sulfur and he breathed in the gas that burnt off the sulfur, By breathing it in, he made sulphuric acid in his lungs. He was driven off to the hospital in an emergency ambulance with sulphuric acid clogging up in his lungs and they eventually managed to pump it out at the hospital, but life would have been a lot easier if he had just put it in the fume cupboard, wouldn't it?

There are also stickers indicating whether an item or chemical is safe for a year 7 or only for year 11 and 12. Different coloured spots indicate different levels of danger. For example, a green sticker means the liquid or substance can be used by everyone, but the black sticker means the substance can only be used by teachers. As well as this, the science teacher can hit emergency buttons that can stop the gas, water or electricity in an emergency. We managed an exclusive interview with Mr. O'Neil, the Head of the science department, for some opinions and facts on the topic.

"The labs have been changed in an enormous way after renovating the science labs that were built in the 1960s", said Mr. O'Neil. He is really happy with the new labs and equipment that they put in a year and a half ago, and while the whole renovation process cost half a million dollars, we were reassured that it was definitely worth the money.

"This was a major change and the new science labs are a sight to behold, clean and new equipment and utilities encouraging respect towards them. They are a huge improvement especially with the design known as a wet and dry lab, which has seats and desks in the middle for writing and sinks and gas taps and equipment on either side of it too."

Balgowlah boys is also trying to renovate the Ds4 lab too because it wasn't renovated. This would make it a better learning environment and a nicer workplace. Overall these new science labs are being embraced and are a huge success compared to the old scratched 1960's labs, and with these science labs there is now safety not just science.

BAND, ART AND PRC

Music And Band

The music program at Balgowlah Boys ranges from years 7-12, and the school is regularly praised for outstanding performances. Can the new year 7 cohort continue on with the school's amazing achievements?

Bally Boys provides vast opportunities to try different instruments including drums, guitar, keyboard and vocals.

For those students who elect to continue with music through years 9-10 and 11-12, they are expected to have chosen one principle instrument of study with a private instrumental tutor (in house tutors are also available).

To sign up for band all a student needs to do is talk to Miss Grace, the band teacher, and depending on the instrument she will give them a spot in the band. Rehearsal is in the school hall every Tuesday morning at 7:30 to 9:00. Everyone has to bring their instruments in, unless they play a big instrument like the drums or the piano. Currently 8 bands are regularly rehearsing each week.

These include:

Concert Band, where everyone can join and play.

Stage Band is for more advanced players.

Brass Ensemble is just for brass instruments.

Jazz Improvisation Ensemble is for people who love playing jazz and also love improvising.

Junior Rock Band is for people who are in year 7 to 10 and who has an instrument that is used for rock.

Senior Rock Band is for people who are in year 11 and 12 and who love to rock n' roll.

Guitar Ensemble is for students who play the guitar.

Visual Arts:

Visual Arts at Balgowlah Boys offers complex and rich learning opportunities for its students via the investigation of a diverse range of creative works that they, and others, make.



At Bally Boys we try to promote authentic and engaging learning opportunities which encourage the creative and confident mind through the use of traditional and contemporary artforms, including emerging applications in Information and Communication Technologies and digital media. In both, the Mandatory (Years 7-8) and Elective courses (Years 9-12) students investigate a full range of visual arts forms including drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics and digital technologies. Students are encouraged to develop their own interests and to be self-motivated and active learners in the Visual Arts classroom. Balgowlah Boys High School has three classrooms dedicated to the Visual Arts. These rooms contain facilities such as a ceramics kiln, printmaking presses and a computer pod. Students are encouraged to utilise these art facilities when they can to promote their own sustained art making practices.

Premiers Reading Challenge and Library: The Premier's Reading Challenge is about encouraging students to love reading. The sticker for years 7 to 9 is blue. The minimum books required to read is 20, 5 of them are self chosen, the other 15 are automatically given to earn a certificate at the end of the year. The time limit for the 20 books is from March 5th 2018 to August 31st 2018. Throughout the year students are allowed to borrow up to 4 books at a time but they must be returned within a fortnight.

SPORT AT BALLY

How has sport excelled so much in only a few years?

At Balgowlah Boys, we currently have strong sporting teams and offer a wide selection of sporting events across a range of team and individual sports.

Sporting Facilities

The school has one fully equipped basketball court gymnasium, one outdoor multi-purpose court, three half basketball courts, two small soccer fields and another outdoor basketball court (reserved for year 7s). Bally also has a large oval across the road that can be used for Cricket, Soccer and AFL. Bally is located near many swimming pools and beaches including Boy Charlton Aquatic Center and Manly Beach. We use these local beaches and pools for surfing, life saving, swim training and carnivals. The school is also near lots of ovals and fields including Passmore reserve, Nolans reserve and Millers reserve. Each ground is used for multi-purpose playing fields. A gym, tennis/ squash courts and beach volleyball are within a short walk from the school.

Knockout Sport Competitions

Bally encourages students to participate in a wide variety of extra-curricular sports. Students enjoy cheering on their friends who always try their best in their chosen sport. Some extra-curricular sports offered include: AFL, Basketball, Cricket, Rugby Union, Rugby League, Soccer, Futsal, Tennis, Touch Football, Surfing and Skating/Scootering.



Carnivals

There are three carnivals that Bally Boys participate in: Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country. Swimmers will race in the 200m, 100m and 50m Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke and Butterfly. There is also the 200m individual medley where participants do 50m of each stroke. Athletes compete in the 100m, 200m 800m and the relay. Cross country runners will run a total distance of 6km.

Trials:

Bally Boys trial for a variety of sports inclusive of soccer, basketball, diving, tennis, water polo and golf. Students attempt to become a member of the Sydney North teams and play against other high skilled opponents in the region. Students NEED to be at a high level to go to Sydney North.

Wednesday School Sport:

All Students participate in a school sport program every Wednesday afternoon. In week 9 of term one, students can decide from a wide variety of sports including Touch, Soccer, Frisbee, Skating/Scootering, Surfing and many more. Students are required to bring their gear for their chosen activity. On that day, all students will finish school at 2:30pm.

Gala Day:

During Term Two, year 7 students participate in a Touch or Soccer Gala Day at Nolans Reserve for the entire day. Bally teams are entered into a competition against other schools in a round robin.

Records:

Bally has entered in many athletic events and the results have been extraordinary enough that records have been set. A few years ago, 2 relay teams of 8 boys in total set the regional record for relay. Later on, another student set a regional swimming record carnival for 100m freestyle butterfly. Balgowlah Boys have broken lots of records for lots of sports including Soccer, Rugby Union, Rugby League, Water Polo, Frisbee, Swimming and Athletics.