

Newsletter **NBSC**



Collaboration is key



As College Principal over this last term I have been witness to some fabulous successes from our students. Many of these events are included in this

issue of the Northern Beaches Secondary College Newsletter.

Again in 2017 Project Based Learning has been at the forefront of all of our campuses. Close to 1000 primary and secondary students developed projects related to the Manly Penguin colony for Project Penguin and the recent Expo day was a celebration of all that is outstanding about Public Education.

Gifted and Talented Students from local primary schools have continued to have their minds opened as part of the Primary Enrichment and Challenge Program with significant field-work trips to Manly Dam and Sydney Writer's Festival. Meanwhile as part of

the largest Duke of Edinburgh program in Australia our students were awarded with their gold badges while others began the journey by completing bronze level expeditions.

The collaboration of college professional learning in Term 3 will be a highlight with the combined day being held at Dee Why RSL and will be centred on Professor John Hattie's Visible Learning. The opportunities afforded our college through combining our resources in this way have resulted in a first rate learning opportunity for all our teachers and will also include teaching staff from Curl Curl North PS on the day.

As this term will be my last one with you as College Principal I would like to encourage all staff and students of NBSC to continue to take every opportunity to collaborate and to get the most for our students by sharing and working in common ways together.

I will leave NBSC with a lasting impression of the absolute dedication and professionalism of all staff across our five campuses. I am so proud for all of you and what our college has

Winter 2017 In this issue...

- > Retirement festivities
- > PECP visit Manly Dam and the Sydney Writer's Festival
- > Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- > Project Penguin reaches its climax with the zoo expo

achieved over these past five years. In particular I count the professional learning, positive wellbeing initiatives and the expansion of all of our collective college programs as being significant achievement over this time.

My hope is to see our students build even greater successes into the future.

Neil Worsley
College Principal

NORTHERN BEACHES SECONDARY COLLEGE

153 Harbord Road, Freshwater NSW 2096 P: 99396942 F: 99396904 W: www.nbsc.schools.nsw.edu.au



Farewell **SUE HILL**

Sue Hill has been the primary administrative face of Northern Beaches Secondary College since its origins. In this role, Sue has demonstrated a continually purposeful and respectful manner despite the complexities and diplomacy that this crucial role has demanded of her. Her ability to provide a calm, efficient and helpful approach to every situation has promoted collegiality and a positive image in the community for Northern Beaches Secondary College.

Sue has actively demonstrated all that is the best of public education by her courteous and tireless support of teaching and learning across all campuses, her personal professionalism and warmth and her cheerful disposition no matter circumstances.





Farewell **NEIL WORSLEY**



NBSC Jazz Impro (right), led by Colin Bright, provided the entertainment at the Manly Golf Club last Thursday night. If you were wondering what a departmental service medal looks like, here it is (above right).

BIODIVERSITY AT MANLY DAM



ABOVE: Year 6 students pond-dipping at Manly Dam as part of the scientific investigatiive process.



BY **LORNA CURTIS**
PECP Coordinator

The Cromer Campus and Freshwater Senior Campus PECP students visited Manly Dam.

Manly Dam provided the context for a day's excursion to investigate biodiversity in the local environment. Staff from Gib-

berangong Environmental Education Centre supported this learning.

The students were engaged in a variety of hands-on activities throughout the day. A number of tests on the dam water to investigate phosphate, dissolved oxygen, pH balance and turbidity were carried out with strict adherence to the principles of scientific enquiry.

The biodiversity of macro invertebrates in the dam was examined. Using dip-nets the students scooped out tiny creatures living in the dam. Using an identification chart, they then rated the creatures according to their sensitivity to the environment. The presence of even one of the highly sensitive animals would indicate that the water in the dam was in good condition.

During a picnic lunch a consideration of the ethics of a real-life research

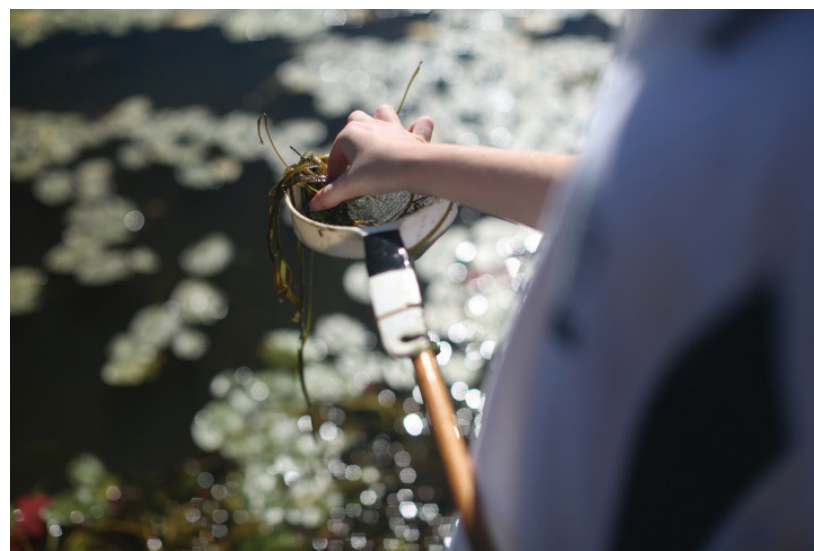
project being undertaken by Sydney University on an invertebrate living in the dam generated lively discussion with opinions being shared and thinking challenged.

A bush walk in the afternoon uncovered some aboriginal bush tucker and 'natural' lollies to try. The students finished the day with the shedding of shoes and socks to soak their feet in the creek at the top of the waterfall and write poetry...experiential learning at its best!





A trickle, a whisper
the gurgle of a stream
a rustle, a beetle
a child on a beam
a waterfall patters down
one thing in my mind
a teacher's voice, another sound
a drum roll, sweet and kind





Drenched At Manly Dam

Water. So Much Water
Water in The Dam
Bugs
Chemicals
Freezing feet
Rain
Testing
Catching
Wet
More Rain

That Is All
I Am Wet
In The Rain
This Poem
Is About
Being Wet
At The Dam
Water. So Much Water



My feet are as numb as a
lifeless plant
My feet are as cold as a butcher's
freezer lying still and frozen.
I feel the bumps of the dam floor,
soft and earthy like moss
I hear the feet-chilling water
slowly cascading to the next drop.



SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL 2017

Each year, Sydney Writers' Festival (SWF) presents over 300 events, attracting audiences of 100,000.

We were looking forward to the Sydney Writers' Festival Secondary Schools Day at Concourse Theatre, Chatswood on Tuesday, May 23, 2017. Writers from various forms and backgrounds, including the best contemporary novelists, screenwriters, musicians and writers of cutting edge non-fiction and some of the world's leading public intellectuals, scientists and journalists are brought together at this Festival. With the finest writing and storytelling at its core, the programming is driven by the ideas and issues that animate all types of literature.

The event sessions for our 2017 excursion were as follows:

10AM: WE COME APART

Sarah Crossan told us how she came to love poetry and why we would learn to love it too! Sarah offered a behind-the-scenes look at the new verse novel she co-authored with Brian Conaghan, *We Come Apart*, focusing in particular on the themes of refugees and prejudice which characterise the book.

10.45 AM: LYING FOR A LIVING

10:45am - Lying For A Living
Gabrielle Williams spends a fair chunk of her working life telling whopping great lies and hoping people will believe her. She took us on a journey of the greatest lies she and some of her characters have ever told, and encouraged us to harness the power of the imagination in our 'writing' lies.

11.30AM: BOOK SIGNINGS

Both authors chatted to us as they signed our books and we posed for photographs.

12.30AM: A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS

What do running a youth-led organisation, driving really fast and writing a book all have in common? They're things Yassmin Abdel-Magied likes to do with her time. We heard a little about Yassmin's story as a brown, Muslim chick who likes to do random things ... and maybe, cheekily, we learnt a few things along the way.

1.15PM: MAKING IT PERSONAL

Inspiration for both *All the Bright Places* and *Holding Up the Universe* came from Jennifer Niven's real life experiences. We heard from Jennifer about transforming the struggles she's faced into stories and how the act of writing can be liberating.

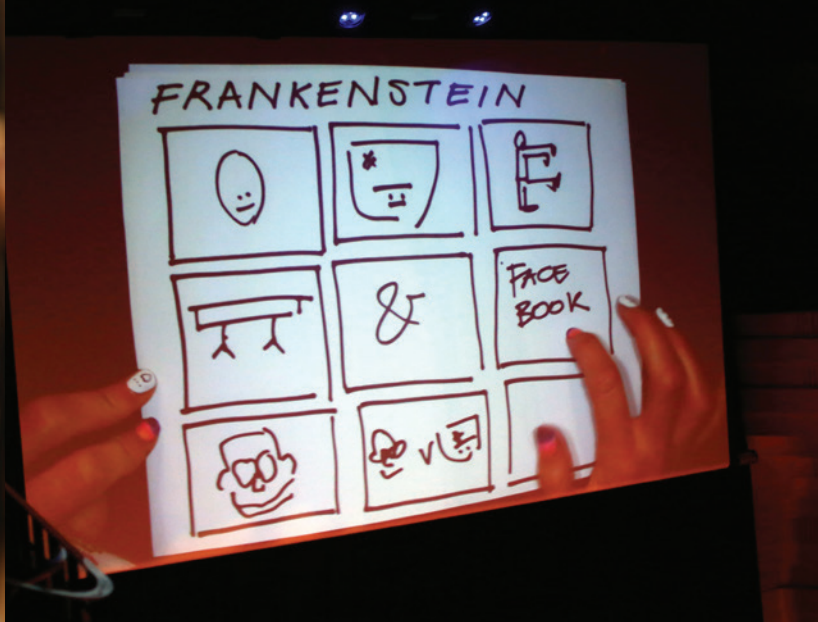
The PECP students rated the excursion





sion as excellent in their evaluations. They were captivated by the writers' presentations, thrilled to have their books signed and reminded of the joy that can be found in reading. Thank you to Ms Jane Dean and her Year 8 students for joining us on the day and Steve Rutherford for capturing the highlights with his wonderful photography.





DUKES PAVE THE WAY



BY **VICKI BUSSE**
NBSC Duke of Edinburgh
Award Leader

Northern Beaches Secondary College continues to be one of the largest Award Units participating in the Duke of Edinburgh program in NSW.

There is a significantly high number beginning at the Bronze level and progressing through to finish at Gold in their HSC year.

In 2017 an unprecedented 167 Year 9 students from across the campuses have commenced the Bronze Award. Expeditions were accomplished with a three-day Bronze Training and Practice Hike at Camp Somerset on the Colo River in March and May.

Silver students travelled by ferry to Broken Bay to enjoy a picturesque and challenging Pack and Paddle with the Department of Sport and Recreation. In the April school holidays an enthusiastic team of Gold students travelled south to Belanglo to complete their Gold Hike.

As the year progresses Duke of Ed students will continue to work in their own time through the sections of the Award with a goal to finish Service, Skill and Physical Recreation hours by December.



PROJECT PENGUIN MENTOR TRAINING DAY



By **PATRICK MORAN**
NBSC Cromer campus
Head Teacher of Secondary
Studies

The Little Penguin colony of Manly holds a special place in the hearts of our community.

Their survival is dependent on us, the residents and visitors of Manly Warringah. We need to act to help protect the penguins from the dangers of dogs and foxes, loss of habitat from weeds and concrete and of course the curse of the oceans, plastics.

Did you know Project Penguin is now in its eleventh year? This means it has touched thousands of kids in our community; the project is like a bridge between generations. It is a privilege to be helping 25 exceptional Cromer Campus students represent their school, families and community, as they train to become mentors for students at Beacon Hill Primary School.

Did you know that industry and educational research have identified what skills iGen, or Gen X school kids will need in the future world of work? They consistently tell us that Collaboration, Critical thinking and Creativity are paramount. These skills are embedded in the Australian National Curriculum. Critical and creative thinking involves students thinking broadly and deeply using skills, behaviours and dispositions

such as reason, logic, resourcefulness, imagination and innovation. Project Penguin is the perfect opportunity for students to develop and deepen these skills. The students have been trained at both Taronga Zoo, and Manly in the problems the penguins face and positive actions we can take to help their preservation. Our great mentors will encourage and assist the primary school students start their own community education programs. Skills of planning, critically thinking about design and communication and of course creativity will be taught by our Cromer students

to the Beacon Hill Primary School students.

An authentic audience is always important for students' learning. In the case of Project Penguin, that audience is both local and international visitors to our area. The students' education programs will be showcased at an expo at Taronga Zoo.

Following the expo, their exhibitions will be on display at Stocklands Mall. So keep your eyes peeled if you are at the zoo or down the mall next term and marvel at what these iGen kids can do.





PROJECT PENGUIN
EXPO





MAKING A DIFFERENCE

JAZZ IMPRO

From an ex-Jazz Impro student, Robbie Adams (NBSC):

"It is what I always hoped for... I am living in London now, working as an engineer and having a great time.

I am very pleased to tell you that I am indeed playing again, with more joy and passion than ever! I have been going to a wonderful, friendly, creative jazz workshop/jam run by some great mentors, and met some great friends I've been jamming with since as well. I'm absolutely loving it.

I have realised without a doubt that music is my calling and will always be the most important thing to me. What an adventure it is!

I must say, Colin - you had the biggest influence on me by far in nurturing my musical creativity for all those years at Manly and I am infinitely grateful to you for that. Thank you from the depth of my heart.

I hope some day we can play together again!"