ANZAC Day

All Australians and New Zealanders commemorate the landing at Gallipoli in 1915 on the 25 April each year on ANZAC Day with our traditional Dawn Service followed by the march through the streets of our city. This year marked the 100th Anniversary of this event and was met with commemorations befitting the occasion; our school was privileged to be part of the Bankstown City Council commemorations at Memorial Oval on Saturday 25 April. School Captains Taufiq Arahman and Ibrahim Aslam, along with the student leaders of other Bankstown schools, were asked to lay a wreath on behalf of our school community. Our local Federal Member Jason Clare MP spoke of a number of individuals from our local community who played a key role in the theatre of war. One such individual, Private Frederick Porter, a milkman from Gow Street Bankstown, received the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his act of bravery, the official war memorial description of this act as taken from the commonwealth Gazette of 4 February 1919 is as follows; ‘Private Porter displayed the greatest gallantry rushing forward single handed, well in advance of our line, and attacking a group of ten of the enemy, of whom he killed five with the bayonet, the remainder retiring with precipitation. Shortly afterwards though wounded in the arm, and with his wrist broken, he despatched two of the enemy who suddenly emerged to attack him.’ But there was to be no happy ending here, Private Porter died of the flu on the journey back to Australia at the end of the war. The message here, to me, is that ordinary people have done extraordinary things for our country.

For me, ANZAC Day is a day of reflection, a day where I think about those who have forged the society in which I live, I think about those who have had it tougher than me yet have done more than me in an attempt to make the world a better place, not for themselves, but for others.
**NAPLAN**
Year 7 and Year 9 students across the country participated in NAPLAN exams during Week 4 of Term 2. These exams are designed to test current levels of literacy and numeracy, the NSW DEC provides us with a great amount of data from these exams that enable us to target programs at maximising the educational outcomes of our students. Thanks you to all the boys who took part in these exams and to the teachers who administered them. NAPLAN receives a great deal of media attention and has been used to compare and even criticise schools based on these results. At Birrong Boys the data will be used to assist our boys with continued improvement.

**The School Plan**
Over the past year a group of teachers have collated a range of data that was used to create our three strategic directions for our new School Plan 2015-2017. This plan will enable us to focus the attention of our activities into achieving goals with a three year framework in mind. With input from a wide range of school community members the planning team has established the following as our Strategic Directions;

1. Students are engaged as resilient and responsible 21st century learners.
2. Teachers are world class leaders in learning.
3. A high performing school within a community that is inclusive, informed and engaged.

The school plan is uploaded and available for viewing on our school website.

**P&C**
Since I began at Birrong Boys one of my goals has been to re-establish our P&C as I see the value in a strong group with input into the daily life of our school. This is slowly becoming a reality as our CLO Ms Harris and I met with Ms Susie Boyd Secretary, Federation of P&C Associations of NSW to discuss the procedures involved in moving forward with this venture. Exciting times are ahead! Please contact Ms Harris if you would like more information in this regard.

**Mr D Stevens**
Principal

**Deputy Principal - Administration**

**HSC tutoring helping maximise achievement**
Students in Years 11 and 12 have been offered free of charge HSC tutoring every Monday afternoon. A large group of the Year 11 cohort have been accessing support with subjects such as Maths, Biology, Physics, chemistry and Business Studies. Students expressed interest in starting with the HSC tutoring program in Year 11 rather than Year 12 to ensure better understanding of content and maximise results. As we are in a term full of assessments and reporting, I would urge parents to encourage senior students to access this initiative as soon as possible especially for students in Year 12. Junior students have access to the homework centre every Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

**Year 7 Students Going Onwards and Upwards**
On Friday 15 May 2015 Year 7 students participated in a production titled "Onwards and Upwards" (Make Your Mark). Onwards & Upwards (Make Your Mark) is a one hour high energy, interactive, magazine style production for Year 7 students that promotes the idea of staying in learning post-school as fun, interesting and accessible. This production has been developed by Gibber, on behalf of Bridges to Higher Education, which is a collaborative partnership of five universities (University of Technology, Sydney, Macquarie University, University of Western Sydney, University of Sydney and the Australian Catholic University) and 10 other partners. Bridges to Higher Education is funded by the Commonwealth Government’s Higher Education Participation and Partnerships
Program (HEPPP) which aims to boost the participation of communities under represented in higher education.

Ms Ramadan
Deputy Principal Administation

BBHS Upcoming Events to Remember

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
<td>Friday 22 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
<td>Thursday 28 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea</td>
<td>Friday 29 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Holiday (Queen’s birthday)</td>
<td>Monday 8 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
<td>Friday 19 June</td>
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Deputy Principal – Curriculum

Welcome Back
Welcome back to term 2 and as always a very busy term with assessments and reporting. Exams for years 9, 10, 11 and 12 are carried out twice per year i.e., for the Half Yearly and Yearly exams. We follow strict Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards NSW guidelines and this allows our students to practice the expectations for their Higher School Certificate examinations, which are supervised, by external supervisors.

Year 11 Exam Week
Year 11 will sit their half yearly exam week 4, starting on the 18th May for a week. All year 11 have been given a timetable and they should be spending time revising for these exams.

N Warnings
At times students will receive an N Warning Letter for not completing set work as required by the Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards NSW. If you receive this letter please make sure that it is discussed with your son and that work is completed on time. If you are unsure on the work missing or not completed please contact the Head Teacher of the course or myself as specified on the letter.

NAPLAN Test- What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school’s assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested and how?
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the national Statements of Learning for English and mathematics, which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.
To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

Who will run the tests?
NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?
NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?
All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

Annual School Report
Each year every public school in NSW produces an annual report. A copy of our schools annual report will be available on the school website as of May 1. In this report is the yearly summary of our school’s progress and achievement in the school plan. Also included in the report is information about our school context and our community, evaluation of the achievements of programs and school plan strategies during last year.

Careers Forum
On Thursday 6 May 2015 we held our Careers Forum, with a variety of speakers including an ex Birrong Boy Hilal Raziq, our school counsellor Ms Randala Jbeily who spoke about stress, depression and the HSC. We also had Dion Mooney who gave an excellent motivational talk to our students including resilience as an important aspect of becoming successful in life. I will like to thank all our guests who attended the forum for their valuable time and input in particular Ms Krnjaic who worked hard in ensuring the event was a great success.
Homework Centre
We have a Home Work Centre operating at school on Mondays and Tuesday between 3:10 and 4:10pm free to all students. Students at the Home work Centre can be assisted with studying, completing home work, assistance with assessments and assignments, they also have access to the internet and photo copying.

Student of the Month
As part of our recognition to reward students for academic, sporting and other school achievement, each month one of our students is awarded the student of the month award. The award for March was given to Greg Epov in year 12.

We appreciate your assistant by following the guidelines below:
• Making sure that your son arrives at school before 8:50am each morning
• Ensuring that your son is attending school with proper school uniform, this includes a white shirt, black jumper or jacket and black shoes.
• Send a note the next school day to explaining student absences
• If special appointments need to be made during school hours and an early leavers is required, send a note from home indicating the reason, date, time your son to leave, signature and please include a contact number

Birrong Boys High School
• If your son brings a mobile phone to school, he needs to have the phone off at all times while in any building.
• If you have any concerns contact us to make an appointment. This may include talking to the class room teacher, Head Teacher, Year Advisor, Counsellor, Deputy Principal and Principal, with notice interpreters can be arranged.

Our Bell Times

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<tr>
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<td>Wednesday A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday A&amp; B</td>
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We take pride in our school and we encourage our students to give their best at all times. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss any matter related to your sons progress.

Mr M Derbas
Deputy Principal - Curriculum

Community Liaison Officer (CLO)
Welcome back parents and students, I do hope you had a relaxing school holiday. Exciting new events and activities are planned in term 2 for parents and students and I look forward to sharing them with you throughout our parent meetings.

Celebrating Harmony Day!
On Friday 20 March, Bankstown City Council held an interactive event to celebrate Harmony day and organised a free screening of the movie “Second best Marigold Hotel”. Our school was invited to participant and about 10 parents were spoilt with entertainment, free popcorn, ice cream and drinks.

Harmony Day is held every year on 21 March to coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial
Discrimination. The message of Harmony Day is everyone belongs; it’s a day to celebrate Australia’s diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

We would like to thank Bankstown City Council for their continued support to our school, students and parents.

Free workshop for parents and supervisors of learner drivers
Parents and supervisors of learner drivers from Birrong Boys are invited to attend a free workshop held in conjunction with Roads and Maritime Services and Bankstown City Council. This workshop covers the basics of teaching a learner driver such as using the log book effectively, understanding the restrictions on L and P plate drivers, low risk driving and working together with a learner driver.
You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a FREE two hour workshop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Level 3, Bankstown City Council, Civic Tower, Cnr Rickard Road &amp; Jacobs Street, Bankstown</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Wednesday 17 June 2015</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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If you would like to book, please feel free to contact me on 9644 5200 (Thursday and Friday) or Jenny Murray at Bankstown City Council on 9790 9424.

Youth Engagement Program (YEP) at Birrong Boys’ High
Over the last few weeks I have been working in collaboration with Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service and Community Minds on engaging our school in an 8 week interactive leadership workshop for year 9 students. Due to the great support of our school’s Principal Mr Stevens, Birrong Boys’ High was lucky to be one of the chosen schools and will have the program delivered in term 2.

The program aims to engage students in developing personal skills that allow them to affect positive change in their lives and their community. To further affect positive change in the home, school and community, students need to reconnect with themselves in regards to their values, their identity, their sense of self in relation to culture and community. Outcome of this program will be updated in Term 3.

Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea
Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea is a yearly event organised by Cancer Council which provides opportunities for friends, family or work-mates to get together over a cup of tea and enjoy a bite to eat and good company, while raising much needed funds to help beat cancer.

On Friday 29 May, our school’s Library department will be raising funds for this special cause by selling cakes during lunch period. If you would like to donate cakes for our fundraiser, please feel free to contact me on 9644 5200 ext 245. Certificates of appreciation from our school and Cancer Council will be awarded as a token of our thanks.

Ms S Harris
Community Liaison Officer

Birrong Boys High School
ESSAY ON PHYSICAL JOURNEY

Journeys present opportunities for travellers giving them a new perspective on life as well as changing themselves for the better. This process is initiated by the challenges that the individual is forced to endure throughout his journey. The new opportunities allow the travellers to gain fresh insights about themselves, the world and others around them. These concepts are explored in a range of texts including Rob Letterman’s film ‘Gulliver’s Travels’, J.K. Rowling’s novel ‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows’ and the DVD cover of Ridley Scott’s film ‘Thelma and Louise’.

Rob Letterman’s film ‘Gulliver’s Travels’ provides the central character Lemuel Gulliver opportunities to extend himself emotionally and intellectually. Letterman’s use of low angle shots between Gulliver and the Lilliputians make Gulliver’s superiority of intellect particularly in regards to areas such as technology, society and self-awareness. The low-angle shot also reinforces the feelings of awe that the Lilliputians regard Gulliver with. This experience between the characters has helped Lilliputians access an alternative yet positive perspective of an improved and modern version of a Lilliput. For Gulliver this part of the journey has allowed him to embrace the attributes that make him a leader.

The film also reveals to the responders that physical journeys can transform individuals into better people. Letterman reveals this valuable trait of journey’s through his particular selection of dialogue. By directing Gulliver’s confession of his feelings to Darcy Silverman, “I know that I am not in your league but I need to tell you that I have liked you since the first day I met you”, in a climactic scene of the film, that is during her time in captivity, Letterman reinforces that journeys have the capability of inducing positive personal traits like courage.

The book ‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows’ reveals the difficulty of loving those who have passed away because you can’t be sure they love you, since they can’t explain their actions and they can’t physically or morally express their love for you. J.K. Rowling uses serious tone in order to show the readers the weight on Harry’s shoulders from his perspective so that we are able to see Harry’s hardship through our point of view. This teaches him a new lesson about himself, which allows him to go willingly to his death. This then becomes a sacrifice he made which helped him defeat his mortal enemy. This can be showed by the chapter where Harry finds out he is a horcrux – something which needs to be destroyed in order to defeat Voldemort.

Harry Potter also shows to the responders that the physical journey he took transformed him into a better person. J.K. Rowling uses the epigraph “Death is but crossing the world, as friends do the seas; they live in one another still. For they must needs be present, that love and live in that which is omnipresent. In this divine glass, they face to face; and their converse is free, as well as pure. This is the comfort of friends, that though they may be said to die, yet their friendship and society are,
in the best sense, ever present, because immortal”. This epigraph was written by William Penn in his novel ‘More Fruits of Solitude’ and used by J.K. Rowling to foreshadow the sacrificial ending of the novel. Throughout his journey Harry experiences turbulences that make him question his trust of his deceased mentor Dumbledore. It isn’t until he embraces the epigraph that he realizes the fact that even when people are not physically present they exist in one’s heart. This can be shown in the part of the book where Harry finally lets go of his fears that Dumbledore never loved him, and is rewarded with an inner Dumbledore, one that’s invented in his own mind. It’s at that point that Harry is able to recapture his love for Dumbledore allowing him to rise and defeat his enemy therefore completing his journey.

Ridley Scott’s DVD cover of ‘Thelma and Louise’ reveals that a journey can assist individuals becoming happier people. The long shot background image of a desert with dark mountains implies that the journey the two main characters embark upon is going to be full of danger and unexpected surprises. However, the close-up Polaroid camera shot of the two women sitting close together smiling and laughing in a brightly lit background informs its viewers that a journey is capable of bringing out inner joy. Most people live lives searching for happiness the DVD cover implies that the journey Thelma and Louise have embarked upon has allowed them to achieve a life goal. Thus, it becomes clear that Thelma and Louise have taken the new experiences from their journey and transformed them into a complete sense of happiness.

A journey is a series of new experiences that have the ability to test friendships. The image of the desert beneath the title displays how big and long the physical journey is. The disappearing trail hints to us that ending isn’t always what we expect. The brightness in the foreground and the middle ground that makes us think that the beginning is all calm and easy, however the dark mountains in the background suggest difficulties are coming. The combination of the image mentioned above and the bolded title of the two female names Thelma and Louise makes it clear to the audience that the strange experiences of the desert are going to test not only each character as individuals but as a pair that is their friendship as well. Hence it becomes clear that new challenges have the power to test relationships with others.

In conclusion, a journey has the capability of allowing individuals to experience new and unexpected endeavours. The challenges faced allow an individual to embrace new relationships and discover vital information about themselves. In ‘Gulliver’s Travel’ the main character embarks on a journey that allows him to form new relationships, however, were not one sided and he was able to assist Lemuel in achieving valuable knowledge. This is shown in ‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows’ as well as ‘Thelma and Louise’ as in all three protagonists went on physical journeys which changed them for the better.

By Weaam Bakour
Year 11.2 English

CREATIVE WRITING – SHORT STORY
Memories floating around like clouds in the sky. I felt my childhood pass me by with nothing but pictures reminding me of such a missed opportunity. My father would always say to me “Lawrence, nothing is more important in your life than culture.” It became almost an alarm clock, loud enough for me to hear but tiring as hell to bear. Why should I learn of my cultural background? What good or use is it to me now? I thought it to be a complete joke, but the joke however was on me.

Culture Day in Year 7 Sunshine West. My school had always built this event upon like some ceremony. I thought it to be a complete joke. It was my turn to stand up in front of everyone and tell a bit about my family’s lineage. Look at everyone peering at me, their
eyes peaked with interest, mine dimmed with a lack of. That’s when I knew I was caught in a no man’s land so to speak. I knew nothing but my family’s name, like a fish out of water I stood. I knew nothing at all.

My parents passed away recently. I was left with conflicting emotions, mostly sadness, rage and regret. That alarm clock I called his lectures, now permanently put out of power. Ironically it served to be my wake up call. After all these years of turning a deaf ear my ears were now wide open with nothing to hear. Who was I? Where did I emerge from? I did not know. I did not bother to know. Not until now.

My life is progressing like it should but one thing that stills images in the back of my head, is my culture about which I never knew. I still have those pictures though, the one’s that remind me of what I did or didn’t do. I made my bed and now it was time to sleep on it. I will discover more, about my history and culture but for now it’s just a distant joke, the irony of the whole situation still follows me around and so do those photographs.

By Lawrence Kpaka
Year 12.2 English

DISCOVERY ESSAY

Discovery may often lead to a change in one’s life, the world, perceptions and understanding. Discovery cannot be restricted to one detailed definition as it can be sudden and unexpected, deliberately and carefully planned, confronting and provocative or even rediscovering something lost, forgotten or concealed. These ideas have been illustrated throughout the semi-autobiographical novel ‘Swallow the Air’ by Tara June Winch, the film ‘Journey to the Centre of the Earth’ directed by Eric Berig and the short film ‘Time’ by Liam Conor.

Tara June Winch’s semi-autobiographical novel ‘Swallow the Air’ is a collection of short stories following the Aboriginal story telling tradition. The central character May Gibson makes a sudden and unexpected discovery, which serves as a catalyst to leave home. Winch uses a first person narration as a technique to highlight May’s discovery of her mother’s sudden death which has a huge emotional impact on her. In the lines, “Mungi and the Stingray floated around in my beating mind. I thought about mum’s pain being freed from her wrists, leaving her body of what was left … and I knew it was alright not to forget.” May’s realisation that her mother’s death liberated her from her current predicament and this discovery alters her perceptive about family connection, especially with regards to her mother.

The novel explores the idea that journeys especially when it is deliberate and carefully planned will lead to personal or self-discovery. Winch uses dialogue as a technique to elaborate May Gibson’s initiative to make her cultural discovery. For example, on page 131 in the last paragraph when May Gibson says to Johnny, “We can go to Waiben, find your old man. Go there first if you want to and then out west or whatever. Let’s just go together – you coming?” It becomes clear to the responders that she is the one who initiated the journey and is determined to undertake the journey with or without Johnny’s company. This shows that May’s deliberate and careful planning provides her with an opportunity to reflect on what in reality gives her a sense of belonging. The experiences during her journey and after her arrival at the destination changes her outlook towards her family and Aboriginal culture and she comes to the conclusion that home is where she belongs.

Certain experiences of individuals can lead to sudden and unexpected discoveries. The composer Eric Berig in the film ‘Journey to the Centre of the Earth’ uses dialogue as a technique. In the scene where Sean, Trevor and Hannah are falling through the abyss at a rapid pace only to find themselves in water. At this point Trevor tells his audience, “Behold Ladies and Gentlemen I give you the centre of the Earth” when he sees the core of the Earth.
This was sudden and unexpected discovery as the characters were all expecting a terrible ending instead they were amazed to stumble on a picturesque scene which was the centre of the Earth. This discovery has altered Trevor, Sean and Hannah’s perspective on how the Earth works and they gain new understandings and values.

Through deliberate and careful planning one might encounter discovery at a personal level. The composer Eric Berig has used the technique allusion to emphasise on the connection made between Sean and his missing father. This is evident in the scene where Sean discovers his father’s dwelling and thus finding his personal journal after burying his father which gives him a sense of connection with him for the first time. This also alters his initial perspective he had about his father who had neglected his family as he was interested in adventure and exploring unfamiliar terrain. This perspective is then replaced by a newly developed sense of admiration and awe for his father who had sacrificed his life for his passion.

Discovery is also made when something is found for the first time or rediscovering something that had been lost or forgotten. Liam Connor the director of the short film ‘Time’ has used dialogue to emphasize on how the transportation device for time travel could be concealed anywhere. Here not only does the main character explain his hypothesis of time travel but he also broadens their knowledge by referring to his earlier ventures juxtaposed with his narration. For example, in the scene where Jake is sitting with three of his mates discussing the possibility of time travel. Therefore his search for time travel mediums has altered his perception to such an extent that he starts to believe that even the most significant objects could initiate the process of discovery.

Discovery may be provocative and confronting as they can lead us to new worlds and understandings which often alters the perceptions we have about ourselves and others. Liam Connor uses a variety of film techniques such as background music, close-up shots and slow motion to exaggerate the emotion of the scene. This is shown through the concluding scenes where Jake was ignoring his mother’s enquiries only to look up and find his mother driving off the road. As he tries to escape underwater, he realises that his mother was trapped in the vehicle unable to release herself without external help. The sudden recollection that he had a rock in his pocket which could be used to free his mother and his success in rescuing her alters his perspective of the rock being an insignificant object. He also realises that the rock could be the key to time travel. This incident alters his friends’ point of view about time travel and the medium of transportation thus giving them both new insights and understandings about the world.

In conclusion, Tara June Winch’s semi-autobiographical novel ‘Swallow the Air’, Eric Berig’s film ‘Journey to the Centre of the Earth’ and Liam Connor’s short film ‘Time’ all demonstrate that discovery about one’s self or life-changing events can highly impact an individual’s outlook on life. In all the three texts death plays a significant role in initiating the process of discovery and new found appreciation for life, family and culture. Discovery is the physical or psychological journey of the individuals with the ramifications clearly supported through the characters’ experiences which confirm a change in perspective.

By Nour Kadrah
Year 12.2 English

Library News

The Premiers Reading Challenge (PRC) has started with a keen group of students already signed up and reading. The Challenge is not against other students but for students to keep beating their own record. The PRC aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to experience
quality literature. We look forward to reading along with our challengers who include: Kevin Nguyen, Jonny Nguyen, Dominic Nguyen, Aiden Pillay, Christopher Huang and Amr Mansi.

We are also pleased to announce that under the tutelage of Trun Nguyen a group of boys have commenced their own Library Chess Challenge. I am keen to see who will be our Birrong Chess Champion because there

The Library is also pleased to welcome the new Birrong Boys Mothers Coffee Club which will take place after the Parent Meetings. Please see the school website calendar for dates.

Ms D. Good
Librarian

Year 10 Rewards
Excursion Term 1

I took a small group of boys for a tour of Sydney University and the Nicholson Museum. The boys were in awe of many of the old and new buildings on the campus. They enjoyed the Lego Pompeii exhibit at the Museum as well as the permanent exhibition of Egyptian Antiquities. This was the first time these boys had experienced university life and the trip was successful in breaking down some preconceptions they had about Universities. We stopped and ate lunch at the university refectory. They were a very polite group who were inspired by their day out.

I want to say a special thank you to all of the boys who attended, for making it a very special day.

Sinan Terzi, Ibrahim Malas, Ibrahim Diyab, Pasadu, Ahmed Aouad

Miss D Good
Year 10 Year Adviser

Debating Team

Birrong now has two debating teams warming up for their first contest with Auburn Girls High School in Years 9 and 10 and Granville Boys High School for Years 7 8. The senior boys include Omar Yousri, Ramzy Kork, Feliciano Moungatonga, Zacky Gahmwali and Ameer Harris.

The junior team are an enthusiastic group who demonstrate strong skills and are very keen to challenge Granville Boys at their first debate. Our junior debating team includes Abdulla El Haaili, Karl Mosmann, Ali Handam, Christopher Huang and Kevin Nguyen.

All of these boys demonstrate strong debating skills. These are skills they will use throughout the rest of their lives.

Ms D Good
Debating Co-ordinator
Year 8 Maths Gifted & Talented Day

On 5 May five boys from 8.1 Maths went to Doonside Technology High School for a Gifted and Talented Maths Day where we competed against other schools. The boys who attended were David Tran, Bilal Saadi, Karim Elhomsi, Jun Liang and Haider Al Khazaaly. We travelled by train to Doonside with Mrs Navrozoglou and walked to the school.

Throughout the day we participated in various maths challenges, quizzes and group activities. With each activity we scored points and the points for each school were tallied up at the end of the day. The activities mainly consisted of maths questions and problems that we had to work together to figure out.

One of the activities was called “Alien Ants”. For that one we had to design a bridge starting from the table going down to the ground without actually touching the ground, and we had to do it using only raw spaghetti and sticky tape!

Even though we didn’t win the day, we had a great time doing Maths and working out problems together.

Haider Al Khazaaly
Year 8
Sports Report

It has been a busy start to the term with several of our knockout teams involved in the SSW knockout competition.

On Thursday 30 April the under 14’s and opens boys rugby league sides travelled out to Ashcroft High to take on Ashcroft in round 3 of their respective competitions. Both sides went down in very competitive games, but the manner in which the students carried themselves and represented their school was fantastic. The referee called the students in and acknowledged their sportsmanship and attitude was the best he had ever encountered.

On Wednesday 29 April 2015 the open boys soccer took on John Edmondson at Graf Park. Unfortunately the boys went down 6-1 but once again upheld the school motto "From each his best".

There are a number of sporting events coming up in the weeks ahead. On Monday 18 May, the Bankstown Zone cross country carnival is being held at Lake Gillawarna. A number of boys will be competing in futsal tournaments next week. The school athletics carnival on the 28 May is also a highlight of the term.

Good luck to all students involved.

Mr G Roukanas
Sports Organiser

SRC Report

Stewart House Donations for those in need. It supports the 1,800 children who attend Stewart house each year from public schools across NSW and the ACT. Stewart House would like you to donate at least $2 to help one child of those 1,800 children.

If you donate you will have a chance to win a $4,000 holiday to a destination of your choice.

Remembering ANZAC Day

The 25 April is a day for all Australians to be proud of, it is the day for us as Australians to remember those who fought and gave up their lives for Australia and New Zealand in WWI.

Mr Stevens had arranged for a Lone Pine to be donated to the school. On the 28 April Ms Creighton and Ms Metcalfe organised for a group of student leaders as well as the principal and deputy to attend a ceremony for the planting of the Lone Pine.

Adam El-Cheikh, Errol Blas and Zakaria Hannouf dug a hole and planted a Lone Pine tree near the school garden. Mr Stevens said a few words about WWI and the students read out a poem by Wilfred Owen called “Anthem for Doomed Youth”.

The Lone Pine tree is very unique and has a special meaning to ANZAC Day. In Gallipoli where the ANZACs fought there was a great big Lone Pine tree standing on its own on a hill overlooking where the ANZACs were buried after the war.

By: Adam El-Cheikh

The SRC collected donations from every single grade and closed on 8 May 2015.

Errol Blas
SRC
Social Justice Workshop

On the 26 and 27 March 2015, my five friends and I were elected by Ms Ramadan to go to the Salvation Army Church to seek knowledge about what the Salvation Army does, how they do it and where they do it. I’ve learnt so much from them. For example, homeless people aren’t just people who live on the streets but you could be homeless by your parents kicking you out and you will be living in a friend’s house for a while.

Some of the volunteers were actually homeless and helpless people but then the Salvation Army came to their rescue. We guys had fun learning and interacting with the volunteers. During lunchtime we would go out and buy pizza, kebabs, chips and more. At the end, we were all given gift bags with more stuff to learn about the Salvation Army. At the end of the day we were all happy and we left with so much knowledge.

Ameer Harris
Year 10

Community News

EFTpos is available at Birrong Boys’ High
Families, just a reminder that
Student Profiles

Suliman KOLKA
Year 8
Favourite Sport
Rugby League
Favourite Food
Chicken
Favourite Subject
Technology
What I like about BBHS
the teachers
When I leave school I want to be
a construction worker

Reda ALKINANY
Year 12
Favourite Sport
Soccer
Favourite Food
Burgers
Favourite Subject
Chemistry
What I like about BBHS
the students
When I leave school I want to be
a surgeon
Birrong Boys High School is proud to announce the launch of its new Mothers Café Club.

First meeting: Friday, 22 May 2015

Time: 10.30am to 11.30am

A great opportunity to meet other parents, share stories, learn new skills, share experiences, exchange recipes, learn about each others cultures and traditions, organise outings and much much more.

All this while enjoying refreshments and sweets.

Future Café Club Dates:
- 22 May 2015
- 19 June 2015
- 14 August 2015
- 11 September 2015
- 6 November 2015
- 4 December 2015

All meetings are held on Fridays in the school Library

For further information or RSVP, Please Contact:
Ms Harris
Community Liaison Officer,
Birrong Boys High School
Rodd st, Birrong
Phone: 9644 5200 Ext: 245 (Every Thursday & Friday)
E-mail: souhair.afouny3@det.nsw.edu.au