ANZAC Day

Bonnyrigg High School hosted an ANZAC Day Ceremony on April 11. The ceremony is hosted annually in the last week of Term 1.

It is a yearly tradition to pause and commemorate the landings on Gallipoli in 1915 and remember the commitment and sacrifice of all our men and women who had served in conflicts and on operational service and those who continue to serve today.

The student ANZAC Ambassadors represented us in the official party for the ceremony. This year, Bonnyrigg High School’s official party also featured the three cadets from different Australian Forces including Kevin Nguyen from Australian Air Force Cadets, Johnny Phan from Australian Army Cadet Force and Chuong Do from St John Ambulance. Also, with this year’s ceremony, we were honoured to have the participation from President Colin Evans from the RSL Club Smithfield and his partner who joined us and gave a speech to help Bonnyrigg High School students understand more about the ANZAC History.

The ceremony started with honouring speeches and introduction about the ANZAC Day from Mr. Brown, followed by the School Captain Stefan Vujanic and Year 10 SRC Member Sonja Vujanic who presented to us about the landings and battles of the Australian soldiers in Gallipoli. After that, was the President of RSL Club Smithfield and his member who have their elders fighting in war and presented to us about their roles and relation to the ANZAC as Executive Members of RSL Club. In the minutes of silence, the three cadets saluted to the west side as we commemorated.

We are so thankful at Bonnyrigg High School for all those who have served our country. We will remember them, lest we forget.

By: Chuong Do
Hosted annually, the World Vision Youth Conference is a platform for young leaders to connect with each other and increase their social awareness. This year’s conference focused on the struggle of being a refugee and living as a person from a minority group.

The day kicked off on the 30th of May with the SRC heading off to UNSW on a bus. They participated in a speaker session with Khadija Gbla. Gbla introduced herself as a human rights activist and a survivor advocate in protecting young girls from genital mutilation. The SRC listened on as she spoke passionately about the adversity she faced when living in her home country. Between events, the conference group took breaks and had a multitude of wraps and biscuits as lunch. They also participated in a game where they had to use their phones to signify their opinion about human rights; flashing green and red. Students were also granted the opportunity to get up and speak about their own adversities. Sylvia Tran (year 11) decided to speak about her parent’s adversities coming to Australia and she promoted her Ration Challenge scheme. The experience ended with an induction of World Vision’s own charity - the 40 Hour Famine.

Overall, the event to the World Vision Youth Conference was denoted by the SRC as ‘really inspiring and an empowering experience’ (Crystal Nguyen, year 11) and as an event ‘I would really want to go to again’ (Jason Ngov, year 10).
Bonnyrigg High School’s Student Wellbeing Team were invited to the Generation Next Conference, attending on the 15th of March, where it was held at Casula Powerhouse Museum. Generation Next’s main focus is to provide educational information to prevent and manage mental illness. They aim to raise awareness and take action to have a society where adolescents are able to have the knowledge to look after themselves safely.

The student wellbeing committee at Bonnyrigg High School aims to help students in being able to overcome negative situations and become aware of the wider issues in the world by implementing strategies to resolve them as best they can. The students gained insights on different situations in life, ranging from terrorist attacks to how to keep safe on the internet. It gave them the understanding of different ideologies and how these people coped with their own situations and the experiences they’ve been through. Motivational speaker Gill Hicks reminded us that everyone can be very resilient when faced with insurmountable challenges. She herself, has been through a tragic incident where she lost both legs due to a bombing attack in London but she was still staying positive since then.

“I can definitely say that the students and myself walked out of there with new ideas about life and the way we live it.” Ms Rebecca Chabierski, BHS wellbeing organiser stated.

These conferences are extremely beneficial to adolescents especially. They’re real stories from real people that've come to share their experiences and life lessons. Ms Chabierski also stated that “Young people could learn that there is so much more to life than what they experience through their phones. They could learn that it is important to listen to people’s stories and learn from them.”
Bonnyrigg High School celebrated Book Week at school during Term 2 Week 10. Students had the opportunity to create a poster to symbolise the week using the theme “Reading is my secret power”. The student with the best poster would be awarded, and rumour has it; the teachers are dressing up as their favourite characters from their preferred books to represent the week.

Librarians, Ms. Palmer and Mr. Clark says, “We don’t know much about Book Week, apart from the teachers dressing up as their favourite characters [1st of July].”

Ms. Palmer says, “They hope it promotes kids to read more; and they’re doing a big overdue follow-up. Kids who return overdue books earn a free lollipop”.

Also, BHS’ Library has reinforced its rules due to an issue where students had hidden food behind books. Imagine the shock of finding an old mouldy chicken bone hidden behind some of the many books in the library. This issue is unhygienic and could possibly cause health issues so this caused the reinforcement on the current rules, along with the new rules. The library rules now states that students are to:

- NOT eat in the library;
- NOT use phones in the library at lunch and free periods;
- NOT play violent games;
- NOT sit on the floor (if there are no seats left, please leave);
- PLACE BAGS on racks; and
- RESPECT OTHERS
High Resolves is a leadership program that teaches essential skills for students to unlock their potential as effective leaders. Recently, the Year 9 and 10 High Resolves group of Bonnyrigg High School attended their annual camp along with senior mentors and teachers to start their own group projects. They travelled to Tops Conference Centre on April 8th and stayed there until April 10th. The two different year groups were split and assigned with their mentors, Shawn Milosevski, Tanya Nguyen, Laura Le, Isaac Ktistakis. These leaders were part of the program since 2017 and were there to give advice and guide the young leaders. They participated in many camp activities such as teambuilding exercises and survival exercises. These activities aimed to build the stronger relationships within their groups.

The groups started planning their group projects which aimed to find ways to spread awareness about a social issue. The social issues were picked by the groups with the help of the mentors and teachers. The organiser of the camp, Ms Nora Al-Bakri helped everyone organise their social issue and the principal attended on the last day to hear the students’ projects while giving feedback and external help that was needed, such as contacting different schools and areas. “I think it is really important that they’re aware of the wider issues in the world – things that are bigger than them – and working towards helping others, so I encourage more people to join” stated by Sarah Trees. As of today, Bonnyrigg High School is the only school that has a camp for this particular event.
Excursions as a bridge between textbook learning and practical learning?

On the 30th of April, Year 11 chemistry students from Bonnyrigg High School partook in an excursion to Australia’s Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO). They toured and observed the different nuclear-related medical and industrial facilities. The students were able to conduct experiments and understand the importance of nuclear research. Many of the resources stimulated curiosity within the students, some implemented themselves further into the course; asking questions throughout the tour. The excursion presented different scientific concepts through a multitude of media and modalities. Students who often struggled with traditional aspects of learning were able to feel confident in another context. ‘It was a really good experience to see how nuclear facilities really work — in a real life concept’, Jenny Ngoc Nguyen. ‘I think excursions are much more memorable than learning from just a typical classroom setting’, Dajana Kozul.

Excursions hold the best foundation in building a bridge between textbook learning and hands on learning. Many facilities may not be available in an average school context and often, the concepts are not presented through a prospective manner. The experience exceeds from just reading about a concept; students can incorporate themselves in the subject and assimilate the concept in a much better fashion.
On the 14th of June, the Fairfield City Champion Newspaper reached out to numerous High Schools including our own to participate in a workshop held by their representative Christopher Bolous. He is a reporter and editor of the sports section in the Champion newspaper, a local newspaper with a readership of over 100,000 in January 2019.

The workshop was held at Cabramatta High School. Students and teachers from Prairiewood High School, Cecil High School, Canley Vale High School, and Bonnyrigg High School all gathered to learn from Chris’s wise words and newspaper work experience.

Before the day even started, Ms Li and our representative students found they were parked in so they had to wait for the owner of the car to move their car. When they reached their destination, the unfamiliar territory boggled the newcomers when they tried to find their way around.

After asking for directions, the team gathered into the meeting room and enjoyed their time in the newspaper workshop. The activity involved being split into groups across other schools, meeting new people, and in those groups, cooperated to write an article that fit a photo they took from around the school. The students also experienced how to film an interview for a newspaper. By the end of the workshop, the students had made new acquaintances and had enjoyed delicious, catered food.

“It was nice meeting new students from other schools and collaborating with them.” Quoted by C. Dinh from the newspaper team.

“The Champion Workshop is one of the highlights of being on the newspaper team. The students learn a lot from Chris and have a lot of fun doing it. Bonnyrigg High School has attended three this year and there are two more coming up in Term 3.” - Ms Li, Newspaper Team Coordinator.
Throughout term 2, professional choir director, Natalie Gooderatne, from Phoenix voices of youth choir came in to teach the participants of Bonnyrigg how to sing as a cooperative team.

Natalie Gooderatne’s choir will be performing in an international choir competition in Belgium July this year. On the 20th of June, they will also have a concert in Sydney Town Hall. Natalie enthused that, "choir is good for team building skills and can even work as an anti-depressant." She states that there are many potential voices in Bonnyrigg although it does lack dedicated members.

Natalie supplies good leadership for the choir often advising that they should sing with confidence, she manages to gather attention and the kids seem to enjoy their time there.

Little did the members know that Natalie was scouting members for her choir Phoenix voice of youth, the opportunity was lain before them halfway through the term, they had to go through an audition to join the choir of over 40 members.

If you are interested in joining the choir yourself you can check them out on their social media:
Name: Phoenixvoiceofyouth
You can find them on Youtube, Instagram or Facebook.

Our news reporter, Vivien Nguyen, on the left
Cross country is a day where students compete in long runs on a course and on the 26th of March 2019, we travelled to Lizard Log. At Lizard Log, students had the opportunity to explore scenery and have ample space to sit in houses, chat with friends, and simply enjoy the pleasant weather. Year 9 and 10 were also able to participate in novelty events like cricket, spikeball, football, handball and booche. This was introduced this year to allow students to entertain themselves for more participation points whilst others raced. The whole school attended this event, enjoying the sausage sizzle run by Year 12 to fundraise for their farewell. At the end of the day, Roos came out with the most points and 78 people were given notes to go to zone.

The distances the competitors had to run were as follows:
- 12-14 year olds – 3 kilometers
- 15-16 year olds – 4 kilometers
- 16-17 year olds (boys) – 6 kilometers

Zone Cross country was held on the 28th of May at Fairfield showgrounds and organized by Mr. Wright, Mr. Avery and Mr. Leslie. Approximately, out of those who attended, 30 were able to make it into Regional Cross Country which is held at Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park where participants ran their hearts out.

Mr Leslie said that this was ‘one of the largest number of representatives we have had go to the regional cross country in years.’
Like most years, 2019 features Year 8 classes participating in the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program. During the program, students were given a 70x70cm blue cloth and they had the challenging task to make three shapes: a circle, triangle, and a square. They had to be exactly the same and once completed, they would test which is the best for parachutes. They did a series of tests using different designs while using different materials to attach the parachute to a ‘supply container’. The group with the best “parachute” would be awarded and overall it was a fantastic day promoting STEM subjects to Year 8. A big thanks to Mr Huang who organised the event.

Thank you to Miss Li for organising publishing day for us to send this out. Enjoy your holidays for Term 2 and please tune in next term for the latest school news.

Writers
- Jimmy Ly
- Cindy Dinh
- Anna So
- Tanya Nguyen
- Choung Do
- Tianna Luangrath
- Roy Lim
- Danielle Luu
- Vivien Nguyen