Yet another year of success

2015 has been a big year for Students, Teachers and Bonnyrigg High School as a whole, with numeral achievements, changes, plans and prospers for 2016”, states principle Michael Bryce in accordance to what a year it has been. The year started well with the greatest HSC results to date and outstanding Naplan results, 13 students achieved an ATAR above 90, the highest mark at 99.65 and there have been significant improvements in numeracy. The school has had great success throughout the year, winning the Verona zone swimming carnival, hosting the schools most successful multicultural festival; Carnivale, various students in school spectacular and dance festivals, the production of the sold out school musical “Hairspray”, students Makala and Abbey-Jane Bergan selected as members of the Bangarra dance company and Brooke Carrier awarded St Johns female cadet of the year 2015. A lot of work has been conducted on the exterior of the school, improving student facilities to the likes of the establishment of a new cola, mini grandstand, seating, gutters, carpet, 3 new demountable’s, the Confucius classroom, the painting of the school, an upgrade in the industrial arts block and an ANZAC memorial garden where ceremonies are now held, just to name a few.

Bonnyrigg has also been involved in high resolves, ABCN, Chinese exchange and Peel high school visits as well as Channel 7 visits and broadcast. In the year to come Mr Bryce hopes to create a new dance studio, update the school gym, continue with work in industrial arts, integrate timetable and recess/lunch changes, establish further gifted and talented programs, continue to grow academic and sporting prospers and so much more. The school of over 1300 students is set for another great year ahead with an estimated 1450 students or more “indicating a positive attitude towards Bonnyrigg High School from the community and beyond” said Mr Bryce, the school will also continue to grow in staff, led by international consultant Simon Breakspear in the Authentic Assessment Program.

By Makala Bergan

Proud principal Michael Bryce
High School’s first musical Hairspray wowed audiences over two days in early November at Mounties. Students of Bonnyrigg High, under the careful guidance and choreography of teachers Zoe Van Munster, Joanne Gilmour, Mary Jekki and Claudio Acosta, brought the upbeat Baltimore of the 1960’s to life.

The musical focuses on Tracy (Nicole Skerton), an optimistic teenager who dreams of performing on The Corny Collins Show and meeting teen heartthrob Link (Long Huynh). Nicole’s energetic performance was a highlight, while the noteworthy performances of Amber Von Tussle (Shannon Batros) and her mother Velma (Tenisha Terito) helped expose the social and racial divisions of the time to a new audience. A live camera feed during “It Takes Two” projected to a monitor on stage gave audience members unique perspective, and all performances showed a cast whose enjoyment was revealed through their passion and energy.

This enjoyment was reinforced by the cast when interviewed. “Even with a small role, I had a great time having fun with everyone”, said Bryan Nguyen, “it made me confident as I stood on the stage in front of a large audience.” “What I enjoyed during rehearsals was getting to bond with everybody!” Nicole said. “I got to spend so much time with the crew and we all became close!” While every cast member was worthy of recognition, Lagi Aukusitino’s interpretation of Maybelle was exceptional.

The performances onstage were matched by the effort offstage, and the costumes, which reflected the style and fashion of the time, were created by a team of parents and teachers. Still, according to Miss Van Munster, “This was a great way to showcase the acting talents of students ranging from year 7 to year 11. They were a great cast to lead and made the night something to remember.” Van Munster’s direction of Hairspray showed the students how much could be achieved in the course of two terms, and all cast members considered it to be a thoroughly valuable and positive experience.

By Jesse Vega

Bonnyrigg’s Hairspray Engages in Style
Celebration of Diversity

On 16th of September, students, teachers, parents and community members came together at Bonnyrigg High School for its 12th biannual celebration of multiculturalism and diversity known as Carnivale. The event opened with a Smoking Ceremony along with a traditional Aboriginal dance. Following the ceremony drew a line of students representing their country of origin, with a flag parade, cultural performances and the national dress showcase. “After seeing teachers and students in their national dress, I know that there is definitely beauty in all ethnics.” stated Kelly Wen.

Throughout the day a number of activities were available for students to take part in including the International Food Fair which was once again a huge success. Mr Elafros’ souvlaki sticks were to die for as were the American Hot Dogs organised by Ms Jekki. Just as great was the Vietnamese stall with much variety and amazing macarons and who can forget the sushi from the Japanese stall and the Home Economics’s iced coffee which was a definite favourite. But it was the Serbian group with their cevapi and tasty cakes that won the prize for the Best Food Stall for 2015. “I love that they sold foods that are popular in different countries.” Norma Lama said.

There was certainly something for everyone and the Bush Dance at the end of the day under the COLA, organised by Ms Simpson was great fun for both students and teachers. Students also participated in competitions challenging their creativity flair based on ethnics and imagination, using chalk to draw on school grounds to communicate that “everyone belongs no matter who they are.” The day brought mutual connections and diverse cultures together as one and will continue to do so in the future.

By Jesse Vaga
Bonnyrigg takes a stand against violence

White Ribbon day dedicated to stopping violence against women was held at Bonnyrigg High School earlier this term. Several guest speakers attended the event including Peter Seymour, school’s liaison officer, Happy, and a lady named Leony, who was brave enough to share her story with us, as a victim of abuse. When asked what her opinion of White Ribbon Day was, Kathy Nguyen stated, "I agree that violence against women should not exist and we should limit the causes of it and look out for those experiencing it at the moment, make a difference so that everyone is aware that this should not be accepted in our society".

Along with guest speakers, many activities were also organised in honour of the event, including, games of Oztag, volleyball, free food, and photos with the iconic White ribbon. According to Kathy Nguyen and Miss Probes, the entire day was ran by New Leaf community and Youth Off The Streets. The donations made simply by selling the White ribbons on the day were $220, proving to be one of our most successful White ribbon days yet.

By Sonal Kapoor

It was spectacular!!!!!

Students from Bonnyrigg High School participated in the annual NSW Public Schools Spectacular most recently, with Major performances on the 27th and 28th November. In order to be selected these girls along with their dance coordinator Miss Joanne Gilmour worked extremely hard in producing an audition film, seeing them selected for their 3rd consecutive year.

The nine girls of the BHS Junior and Senior Ensembles underwent a series of rehearsals and endless hours of practice prior to the event of which over 3000 students across the state were involved. The event is a great way to celebrate the student’s success in dance and “provides us with the opportunity to share and be recognised for our talents” states senior ensemble member Katarina Mali. The girls danced a routine by the name of “Dies eray”, exploring the living elements of water, fire, earth, metal and wood.

Makala and Abbey-Jane Bergan were fortunate enough to also be selected a representatives of the State Aboriginal Dance Company performing a Sapphires medley in respects to their peoples services and all they have done for our country. The event was successful and enjoyed by both students and all whom supported them. The BHS ensembles express their thanks to everyone who helped out, Miss Joanne Gilmour, Miss Sarah Trees and Nicole Press in particular for their many efforts.

By Makala Bergan
Talk the change, change the talk

Fairfield City Museum opened an exhibition on Saturday 28th November, which featured art works by contemporary artists, oral histories, stories from elders, and artworks from Aboriginal students from Bonnyrigg High School.

The exhibition, 'Talk the Change / Change the Talk' is a joint project between Fairfield City Museum and Gallery, and the Australian Museum featuring a social history and contemporary art exhibition that broadly explores the themes of Aboriginal peoples' survival and resilience across Australia and specifically in the Fairfield area. The students developed their art over a period of several weeks with the assistance of Thelma Thomas and Chris Towney from the Australian Museum, as well as Mariam Aboud and Lena Nahlous, the curator of the exhibition from Fairfield City Museum.

“I was excited to have an opportunity to expresses my feelings towards my culture through art” explains Billy Jack Bellamy who is a year seven student here at Bonnyrigg High School and one of the students whose artwork was displayed in the exhibition.

Developing their artwork enabled the students to connect with their culture, proudly representing their family and cultural connections in individual ways.

A number of the students whose work was on display in the exhibition attended the opening, as did the principal of Bonnyrigg High School, Mr Michael Bryce. He displayed pride in his students and their connection to country and culture, declaring the exhibition "terrific."

Bonnyrigg High School is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of a significant local, cultural event, and hopes this is the start of a more substantive relationship with the Fairfield City Museum.

By Sonal Kapoor and Anita Tomic