Newtown High School of the Performing Arts

Annual School Report

2012
Messages

Principal’s message

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts is a dynamic, caring and creative school established in 1990.

NHSPA specialises in the performing and creative arts and is committed to excellence in student education by providing a challenging curriculum that enhances the talents of its students. The school’s comprehensive programs strive to instill discipline and self-esteem, and to encourage creativity, enabling students to develop to their fullest potential and to excel in their chosen endeavours. This report reflects the consolidated energies and efforts of the staff, students and the parent body.

Each year in Term 2 the school auditions students from all over NSW in music, dance and drama for intakes in Years 7 and 11. The school continues to enjoy an international and national reputation for excellence in the performing arts.

The school enhances student motivation and achievement through learning support and welfare structures and programs, and by establishing close working relationships within the community.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school’s achievements and areas for development.

Stephen Gray

P & C and/or School Council message

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts Parents and Citizens Association plays a significant role providing an active community of support for students and teachers. The contribution of parents is essential to students’ learning and enjoyment of their high school years.

The P&C’s Voluntary Fundraising Contribution, now in its fourth year, continues to raise significant funds. More than $60,000 was contributed in 2012, similar to that raised in 2011. These funds have enabled substantial work to be undertaken to refurbish the Studio Theatre and spaces within the Studio Theatre, is aimed at ensuring the school’s principle venue for showcasing student achievement in the performing arts, demonstrates the high value placed on the performing arts at NHSPA.

2012 also marked the first year for our school patron, Lynne Williams, the CEO and Director of the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) who agreed in 2011 to the invitation of the Principal and P&C Executive to be NHSPA’s inaugural patron. The partnership with Lynne fulfils a long-held ambition of the P&C and has already raised opportunities for technology interaction and guest program sharing, as well as raising the horizons for practical connections with the performing and visual arts industries. Lynne has already been a source of wise advice and inspirational support to NHSPA’s students and faculty at a time when the Federal Government is exploring and documenting the value of the arts in the Australian community through the National Cultural Policy and National Curriculum for the Arts.

Other highlights in 2012 included:

- Extensive commitment and involvement by various members of the P&C committee and the wider NHSPA parent community involving more than 30 occasions where a roster of three or more parents provided Front of House refreshments at Showcase, auditions, and orientations, as well as for other events such as the new families’ welcome BBQ, and the annual Earth Festival, a significant contribution by families to the school’s workings.

- The P&C Performing and Visual Arts Sub-Committee (PVASC) provision of essential support to the Music, Drama, Dance and Visual Arts faculties as well as to the Technical Company.

- Financial contributions to the Dance Faculty Master Classes led by visiting US
choreographer Garfield Lemonius; the NHSPA students who travelled to London as part of State Drama Company tour; the NHSPA students representing NSW at the national finals of Tournament of the Minds held in Western Australia; and to the installation of a water filling station in partnership with the SRC.

- The Building Sub-Committee’s development of plans, detailed drawings and project management for the Studio Theatre Foyer refurbishment.
- The Environment Sub-Committee’s planning and delivery of two successful working bees involving more than 40 parents, teachers and students which saw extensive weeding, planting, mulching, fence painting, paving repairs, and rubbish removal.
- The Faculty Support Sub-Committee’s co-ordination of the P&C’s assistance of the English, Maths, Science, HSIE, PD/H/PE, Languages, and TAS faculties.

Monthly P&C meetings are held during school terms as well as various sub-committee meetings, and regular meetings between the P&C Executive and the School Executive. The NHSPA P&C program in 2013 includes: completion of the Studio Theatre refurbishment, including new furniture and wall hanging arrangements, planning upgrade of the photography dark room, greening the administration block ellipse space and designing a portable performance structure for the area, and commencing a program of evenings with creative arts industry guest speakers. It will clearly be another active and successful year.

Darren Mitchell
P&C President

Student representative’s message
Each year the Student Representative Council works productively to represent the student body. This past year has been particularly productive, with the SRC working on new and past projects to enhance the school’s responsible environment, sharing community and giving culture.

The SRC has promoted responsible environmental practices. The installation of a Water Bottle Refill Station, has taken place with the help of the P&C, as well as through fundraising, planning and organising. It is a great addition to the school, and supports responsible environmental practices. In addition the SRC participated in a rubbish forum, held towards the end of last year. Where issues were raised and addressed by members of the school community. Through communication with the council, executing ideas quickly and thoroughly we aim to continue to implement the school community values to represent those of a positive and respectful environment.

The SRC supports a sharing community and many charity events. The World’s Greatest Shave fundraiser is a project that the SRC takes pride in and this year raised more than $6000 for the Leukemia Foundation. Further events included a ‘kiss MS away’ day and members of the SRC taking part in selling merchandise for Jeans for Genes Day.

The SRC strives to encourage a positive and creative culture amongst the student community. To this end, 2012 saw the publication of the inaugural student newspaper. This is an initiative that focuses on showcasing student work.

The SRC also recognised and addressed the issue of over crowding bike racks. With the support of the City of Sydney Council, the SRC oversaw the installation of an additional three bike racks.

The SRC is constantly seeking out new ideas and projects to continue to represent and support the interests of the students. We seek to benefit not only the student community but also to support the school and wider community on behalf of the student body.

Rose Johnson
2013 SRC President

School context

Student information
It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Student enrolment profile
The school has a total enrolment of 1007. Each year auditions take place for Years 7 and 11 resulting in enrolments from across the state. The school also enrolls students from the designated local area.

Student attendance profile
A concentrated effort on improving student engagement as well as targeted attendance policies has maintained attendance rates above state average across all years of the school.

Management of non-attendance
The school holds weekly welfare meetings where Year Advisers and the Home School Liaison Officer discuss student non-attendance and develop intervention plans.

Retention to Year 12
The retention rate from Year 10 to Year 12 continues to be well above that of the state and Sydney region.

Post-school destinations
The 2012 HSC featured 173 students with units attempted ranging from 2 to 14 units.

Survey results revealed that 110 eligible students applied for UAC places in 2012, with 100 students receiving offers (91% success rate). Some students chose to postpone applying to UAC until after a GAP year rather than choosing courses and then applying for deferment.

The most popular post school destinations were University, TAFE and Private Provider courses in a diversity of areas which reflect the variety of aspirations within a performing arts high school cohort. Six students chose to pursue scholarships for further study overseas (USA, UK and France).

The most popular areas of study included Arts, Business and Commerce, Dramatic Art/Theatre and Media, Visual Arts (including design, screen and sound), Dance, Education, International Studies, Music and Sciences. An interesting new course chosen by two Music 2 students was B.Sound & Music Design/International Studies at UTS.

Students chose to study at a variety of tertiary institutions including ANU, UNSW, The University of Sydney, Macquarie University, UNE, UWS, Wollongong University, CSU Bathurst, CSU Wagga, Australian Catholic University, UTS, TAFE NSW, COFA, VCA, Brent Street Dance Studios, Ev&Bow Dance Studios, FBI Fashion and Design and JMC Academy.

The 2012 cohort was strongly attracted to Humanities areas and over 35% chose Arts/Social Science/Liberal Arts areas of study.

Popular TAFE/Private College courses included Music Industry Business, Design, Fashion,
Hospitality, Stage & Lighting, and Information Technology.

Approximately 7% of the surveyed cohort indicated they were pursuing full or part-time employment, often with an option of overseas travel.

**Year 12 students undertaking vocational or trade training**

In 2012 6% of Year 12 students were enrolled in vocational or trade training.

**Year 12 students attaining HSC or equivalent vocational educational qualification**

All Year 12 students successfully completed the HSC or equivalent vocational educational qualification in 2012.

**Staff information**

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

**Staff establishment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>79.272</strong></td>
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**Staff retention**

91% of the teaching staff was retained in 2012. A total of seven staff left the school. Four of these retired and three were successful in gaining promotional positions.

**Teacher qualifications**

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

**Financial summary**

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

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<thead>
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<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<td>Balance brought forward</td>
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<td>Global funds</td>
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<td>Tied funds</td>
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<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>43494.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>289028.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>3058226.75</td>
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</table>

**Expenditure**

| Key learning areas                     | 451807.75 |
| Excursions                              | 301092.23 |
| Extracurricular dissections             | 277498.97 |
| Library                                 | 21134.42  |
| Training & development                  | 13314.90  |
| Tied funds                              | 203154.72 |
| Casual relief teachers                  | 67026.54  |
| Administration & office                 | 280730.81 |
| School-operated canteen                 | 0.00      |
| Utilities                               | 136055.31 |
| Maintenance                             | 146446.13 |
| Trust accounts                          | 327695.52 |
| Capital programs                        | 29243.65  |
| **Total expenditure**                   | 2255200.95|
| **Balance carried forward**             | 803025.80 |

**School performance 2012**

**Achievements**

**Arts**

A major feature again in 2012 was the school’s two showcase seasons. These were highly successful; companies and ensemble groups performed at the school and at the Seymour Centre. These performances incorporated the skills, expertise and collaboration of students, community members and staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>20</td>
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Achievements in Drama

Over 200 students in 21 drama companies performed as part of the year’s two showcase seasons. A diverse range of theatrical styles were presented including Shakespearean drama, verbatim theatre with “Happiness is a Place Called School”, adaptations of Edgar Allan Poe and the Brothers Grimm and the student written and directed “Christ Almighty”.

Student showcase directors in 2012 were Jennifer Balcomb, Toby Blome, Yazmin Bradley, Zeke Collins, Thomas Green, Lauren McDonnell, Hannah Meegan, Sameer Patoor-Brah, Madelaine Reid, Casey Sewell and Sasha Singer.

NHSPA graduates also returned to direct drama companies. These ex-students were Claude Armiger, Isabelle Comber, Ashari Emery, Charley Huggart, Daisy Knight and Madeleine Scott-Murphy.

The year also saw the mounting of a major cross-curricula production with performances of the modern Australian classic Dorothy Hewett’s “The Chapel Perilous”. This large-scale production featured five major leads, an all singing and all dancing chorus of twenty students accompanied by a thirteen piece band. These performances, staged in St George’s Hall, took advantage of the architectural beauty of the venue.

Our collaboration with the University of Western Sydney where students, as part of their graduate course, are given the opportunity to undertake directorships of drama showcase companies, continued in 2012. Our thanks to Mary Mooney for her on-going support of this project.

Our Theatresports team continued their recent successes and was runners up in the School Theatresports Cup.

There were fifteen OnStage nominations in 2012: two group performances and six individual performances. Of those, ten students performed at the Seymour Centre in February this year. This represents over 21% of all the 2012 HSC students who performed. Sophie Hawkshaw’s Applied Research Project on former NHSPA student (now Artistic Director of Belvoir St Theatre) Ralph Myers was also exhibited as part of OnStage.

Achievements in Dance

Twenty-three students from the Dance Faculty attended the National High Schools Dance Festival in Philadelphia, USA. Graduating students auditioned for places in prestigious Dance Universities. Many of these students were successful and are going to be attending Universities such as Pointe Park in Pittsburg and Purchase College in New York.

Garfield Lemonius, from Pointe Parke University visited the school as a guest choreographer and Teacher for 2 weeks. His work ‘Contagion’ was a highlight of our first semester Showcase season.

Bronte Raubinger and Oliver Savariego performed at the Sydney Region Official Opening of the School Year at the City Recital Hall.

Over fifty dance students participated in the 2012 School Spectacular in various segments including the Schools Spectacular Classical Ballet Company.

Four Dance companies, three Classical Ballet companies and five Dance ensembles represented the school at the Sydney Region Dance Festival, as well, all Dance Companies, two Ballet Companies and three Ensembles were selected to perform at the State Dance Festival.

Dance students participated in the Showcase performances in both semesters. Every Dance and Classical Ballet class performed in the Classwork Showcase series of concerts.

“Off Broadway” and the end of year “Dance Showcase” were performed at the Everest Theatre, Seymour Centre.

The Intermediate Classical Ballet Company performed for Presentation Day at the York Theatre, Seymour Centre.

Thirty-one Year 12 students were nominated by markers as presenting exemplary works in the HSC Dance examination. Many of these students were nominated in more than one syllabus component.

The Technical Company was involved in all Showcase Concerts, Presentation Day, auditions, Formal Assemblies, HSC Drama, Elysium Concert, NSW Public Schools’ Dance Company performance and the Sydney Region Opening of the School Year. The venues they worked in were Studio Theatre, St Georges Hall, the Everest and York Theatres at the Seymour Centre, the Sydney
Achievements in Music

The Opening of the School Year, a Sydney Region event staged at the City Recital Hall, featured the NHSPA Choir and NHSPA String Ensemble in the finale item, Vivaldi’s ‘Gloria’. The String Quartet with soloist Kelsi Boyden and two NHSPA dancers also performed a special arrangement of “Love Me Sweet’ by Carl Vine.

During Term 2 the Musical Choir and Musicians were part of the team that presented a very interesting performance of Dorothy Hewitt’s “The Chapel Perilous” in the specially designed venue of St Georges Hall.

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble gained 2nd place in the Premier Band section of the Sydney Eisteddfod. The Concert Band and Stage Band gained Gold Awards in the Yamaha Band Competition held at UNSW John Clancy auditorium.

The Stage Band, String Ensemble, Junior and Senior Percussion Ensembles and Junior Jazz Ensemble and Vocal trio were involved in individual items for the Opera House Instrumental Festival.

Several students were selected as featured artists in the Schools Spectacular: Kelsi Boyden, Georgia Melville, Tom Gustard and Natasha-Eloise Andrade. Many of our musicians were involved in the Schools Spectacular Orchestra and Stage Band.

The Talent Development Project accepted Tom Gustard, Hannah Robinson, Georgia Melville, Kelsi Boyden and Joshua Meader into the 2012-13 in-take.

HSC Encore nominations in Performance were awarded to Adam Bokaris and Theo Small, and in Composition to Nicholas Savvas and Marcus Rook.

The NHSPA Orchestra once again supported the massed choir in the Sydney Region Festival held at the Opera House at the end of September.

The Year Nine showcase elective in semester two featured the musical and dramatic talents of these students in the humorous and original “Joanna and The Argonauts.”

Solo nights continued to develop the individual performance skills of our Year 11 and 12 students.

The Prom Concert in late September was a great opportunity to farewell our Year 12 musicians in the grand space of St Georges Hall. The concert featured all of our acoustic ensembles as well as HSC performance items.

The Seymour Centre Showcase at the end of the year featured combined arts faculty works. The Stage Band, Junior Dance Company and three Yr 11 singers -Hannah Robinson, Georgia Melville and Jaime Di Laudo - performed the opening number “Why Not?” The Senior Percussion Ensemble performed with the Drama Company in an intriguing masked mime called “Park Bench.”

Achievements in Visual Arts

Olivia Arnold (Year 11) successfully completed the National Art School Intensive Studio Practice Course in Life Drawing with outstanding results. This 60-hour program is designed to enhance and extend students’ technical and conceptual knowledge and skills through intensive studio practice. Her final artmaking was exhibited at the National Art School.

Artworks by Jemima Tilly, Stephanie Oppen-Riley, Laura Sheedy and Astrid Crane were selected and awarded Highly Commended Certificates for their entries in the Schools Reconciliation Challenge. Jemima Tilly’s entry won second place in the Junior Category and her family were invited to be part of the official launch at the Australian Museum. All students’ works were framed and exhibited at the museum. The New South Wales Reconciliation Council also concurrently held a charity auction of digital images of the Schools Reconciliation Challenge 2012. Stephanie’s submission ‘White Style-Black Culture’ was purchased by Allens Linklaters law firm for the substantial donation to the NSW Reconciliation Council of $500.

The artworks of Year eight students Claude Scott-Mitchell, Luca Lamont, Stephanie Oppen-Riley were selected to represent the City of Sydney as part of the Nagoya Art Exchange. Their works were exhibited at the Nagoya City Museum with student artworks from Los Angeles, Mexico City, Nanjing, Torino and Nagoya.
Zachary Moore-Boyle’s HSC Body of Work, a series of large format photographs printed on German Etching paper, was selected for Art Express. With his works being exhibited in the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, The Blue Mountains Cultural Centre and Grafton Regional Gallery.

Phoebe Newling’s HSC artwork, a photographic low relief frieze of Newtown will be hung in the Board of Studies offices. Her work forms part of the inaugural President’s Art Collection.

Achievements in Sport

Achievements in sport continued to improve from 2011. Student attendance at school carnivals continued to grow. Attendance at school carnivals in 2012 was as follows:
- Cross Country – 270 students
- Swimming – 570 students
- Athletics – 620 students

This is a reflection of the continuing improvements in the profile of sport at the school as well as the improvement in student involvement in a wide variety of opportunities made available to them at the school.

NHSPA continues to have a large number of student representatives at Bligh Zone, Sydney East Region and NSW CHS championships where many of our athletes achieve exceptional success.

Our school continues to display prominently on the Bligh Zone list of age champions at the swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals. The Zone Age Champions for the Cross Country, Swimming and Athletics carnivals were as follows:

Swimming:
13 girls – Zanzi Hocknell
15 girls – Amy Johnson
13 boys – Luke Schofield
14 boys – Alasdair Chisholm
15 boys – Rory Hocknell (Swimmer of the meet)
16 boys – Nicholas Bradbury
17 boys – Declan Dwyer

Athletics:
17 girls – Carlie Ede
12 boys – Solomon Nivison-Smith
13 boys – Alex Small
15 boys – Oscar Wesley-Smith

Cross Country:
12 boys – Solomon Nivison-Smith
13 boys – Alex Small (Sydney East Age Champion)
12 girls – Olivia Moir
17 girls – Tenielle Thompson
18 girls – Jacqui Feros

Highlights of the year were the 13 Year boys Cross Country Team consisting of Luke Schofield, Jayden Schofield, Alexander Small and Christian Henney who won a Bronze medal in both the school and regional team categories. Macy Diett also won a Bronze medal for being a member of the 12 Year girls regional cross country Team.

Bree Masters had another exceptional year in her chosen sport of Surf Life Saving Beach Sprints. She was undefeated in her age group as well as winning gold in the World Championships that were held in Adelaide in November.

Whilst equestrian is not one of the main stream sporting endeavours that the school participates in, this has by no means inhibited Year 11 student Tori Sabbagh’s success throughout 2012. Tori had a fantastic year with her pony “Buddy” competing in numerous equestrian meets. At the NSW Inter-School Championships held at Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Tori finished in first place in the J 80 AM7 Senior category.

Eleni Knapp had a successful year in water polo. She was first reserve for the NSW Under 15s New Zealand Tour team, and made it into the Sydney East Opens team that played in the CHS Tournament at Picton in November. The Sydney East team had a very successful tournament and were the eventful winners.

NHSPA was involved in the annual NSW Futsal Regional Schools Championships where we entered 2 girls teams.

Basketball featured prominently in 2012. Both girls and boys junior and senior teams trained on a weekly basis and participated in various competitions throughout the year. The senior girls had success making it through to the final 4 in the Sydney East region competition.
CHS Knockout sports available in 2012 included soccer, basketball, touch football, netball, cricket and volleyball.

Year 7 and 8 were both involved in the annual Bligh Zone Gala Days in sports such as:
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Cricket
- Oz-Tag
- European Handball
- Softball
- Volleyball
- Netball

2012 was a successful year for NHSPA athletes and we look forward to continuing this success into 2013.

Other

Student engagement was enriched with the running of annual events including Year 7 Ancient History Show, Year 8 Medieval Show, and Year 10 Geography coastal management fieldtrips to Cronulla. In the senior years, students participated in the Legal Studies Mock Trial competition and law courts visits as well as attendance at a range of HSIE HSC lecture days and workshops.

A number of Year 12 students shared invaluable experiences and made lasting global connections through their attendance at the annual Young Global Achievers Conference in New York, where they participated in the UN General Assembly, working with and representing different national embassies in collaboration with other students from around the world.

Students once again showed great enthusiasm to enter public speaking and debating competitions and our Year 10 debating team were Zone Premiers in the Premier’s Debating Challenge.

Yazmin Bradley, Jarred Ziegler, Toby Blome, Charlotte Reagan and Antonia Flowers made up this team.

Former student Elise Wood devoted much of her own time to the coaching of this team early in the year and her efforts were greatly appreciated.

The school again hosted two NSW semi-finals of the Plain English Speaking Competition and students from this school officiated admirably.

Students also participated in the District Finals of the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition.

Our Year 9 Showcase Journalism class produced some wonderful pieces of writing and were published on a regular basis in the school newsletter.

In 2012 our students achieved outstanding results in the UNSW Mathematics International Competition with 16 students awarded a Distinction and 64 students receiving Credits.

Once again the school achieved outstanding success in the Tournament of the Minds Challenge. The school team of Nina Bayndriyan, Yasmina Chotchov, Hannah Newton, Miranda Rodgers (Year 7), Amelia Caley, Harrie Hogan and Ella Kennedy (Year 8) were the regional and State champions in the Language-Literature section and went on to represent NHSPA and the State at the Australasian-Pacific finals in Perth. The P&C generously provided financial help to make this possible. The performance of our students was widely praised and the facilitators were most impressed.

2012 saw 299 students sit the International Competitions and Assessment for Schools in Science with 13 students receiving a Distinction and 66 receiving a credit.

Open-Ended investigations were undertaken by our Year 8 and 10 students with several Year 8 students having their work entered into the NSW Young Scientist Awards where they received Certificates of Commendation.

Field trips were undertaken by Year 11 Biology for an ecological study of a Coastal ecosystem and Year 12 Physics and Chemistry students gained an appreciation for nuclear energy in an excursion to the ANSTO facility at Lucas Heights.

Year 10 and senior Italian Language students travelled overseas to Italy for an enriching cultural and language experience. Those that went said it helped them gain a greater appreciation of the Italian way of life and showed them the value of their studies at school in a real world context. The outstanding results in the HSC shows students are developing a passion for
the Languages when it is given meaning in the world around them.

**Academic**

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

Year 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)

Year 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 7**

Students achieved overall results well above state and Similar School Group (SSG) averages in all aspects of literacy tested.

**Year 7 NAPLAN Reading**

<table>
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<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSG</th>
<th>State DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average score, 2012</td>
<td>595.1</td>
<td>570.5</td>
<td>535.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number in Band</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage in Bands</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Average 2008-2012</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSG % in Band 2012</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>17.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>State DEC % in Band 2012</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>16.3</td>
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**Year 7 NAPLAN Spelling**

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<tr>
<td>Number in Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage in Bands</td>
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<td>School Average 2008-2012</td>
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<td>State DEC % in Band 2012</td>
<td>7.3</td>
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**Year 7 NAPLAN Grammar and Punctuation**

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<td>Average score, 2012</td>
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**Year 7 NAPLAN Writing**

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<td>Average score, 2012</td>
<td>568.7</td>
<td>544.4</td>
<td>507.9</td>
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**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 7**

Students again achieved overall numeracy results above state average.

**Year 7 NAPLAN Numeracy**

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**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 9**

Students achieved outstanding overall results in all areas tested. The tables below indicate that the school’s literacy results continue to be above state and SSG averages.
**Year 9 NAPLAN Reading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
<th>Average score, 2012</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSG</th>
<th>State DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>616.3</td>
<td>602.9</td>
<td>568.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year 9 NAPLAN Spelling**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
<th>Average score, 2012</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSG</th>
<th>State DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>612.0</td>
<td>609.4</td>
<td>577.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year 9 NAPLAN Grammar and Punctuation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
<th>Average score, 2012</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSG</th>
<th>State DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>610.2</td>
<td>604.8</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year 9 NAPLAN Writing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
<th>Average score, 2012</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSG</th>
<th>State DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>604.4</td>
<td>585.3</td>
<td>540.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Minimum standards**

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for years 7 and 9.

The performance of the students in our school in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is compared to these minimum standards. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported below.

**Percentage of Year 7 students achieving at or above minimum standard (exempt students included)**

- **Reading**: 100.0
- **Writing**: 100.0
- **Spelling**: 100.0
- **Grammar & Punctuation**: 100.0
- **Numeracy**: 100.0

**Percentage of Year 9 students achieving at or above minimum standard (exempt students included)**

- **Reading**: 96.9
- **Writing**: 91.3
- **Spelling**: 97.7
- **Grammar & Punctuation**: 99.2
- **Numeracy**: 97.7

**Higher School Certificate**

Our HSC class of 2012 has once again continued the outstanding improvement in HSC results seen at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts over recent years. Achievements include:
• Students of Ancient History achieved an average of 75.3%, 6 marks greater than the state mean with 24% of students receiving band 6 (over 90 marks) which is over 3 times the state rate, and 45% receiving 80 or more compared to 27% state-wide

• With an average mark 2.6 above the state, 32% of students in Biology achieved 80 or more, compared to 26% state-wide.

• 50% of our Business Studies students received marks of 80 or more, compared to 27% in 2011 and 38% state-wide.

• In Dance, our students achieved results 9.8 marks above state average, 20% received 90 plus (band 6) and 82% in the top 2 bands compared to 37% state-wide

• our Design and Technology results showed pleasing improvement with 42% of students receiving marks in the top 2 bands compared to 38% state-wide and up from 15% in 2011

• with an average score of 84.7 (9.5 over the NSW mean), 29% of Drama students achieved marks over 90 (compared to 21% in 2011 and 12% state-wide) and 76% gained marks in the top 2 bands up from 66% in 2011 (43% state-wide).

• English Advanced results were outstanding this year with 21% of students receiving marks over 90 compared to 13% state-wide and up from 3% in 2011.

• With an average mark of 41/50 our Extension 1 English results saw 100% of students in the top 2 bands compared to 87% state-wide

• our Extension 2 English results were equally impressive with all students receiving marks in the top 2 bands up from 53% in 2011 and compared to 79% state-wide

• 38% of our Food Technology students gained marks of 80 or more compared to 26% in 2011 and 31% of the state.

• with an average mark 3.8 above the state, 54% of Legal Studies students achieved 80+ marks compared to 40% of the state

• with an average 4.8 above the state, General Maths continued the great improvement of recent years with 28% achieving 80+ compared to 22% of the state.

• our 2 unit Maths results, with a mean of 78.2 were up 3 marks on 2011 and 9 marks on 2010 with 53% of students achieving marks in the top 2 bands.

• Modern History students received outstanding results with 25% achieving band 6 (up from 12% in 2011 and more than double the state rate) and 71% achieving marks over 80, up from 58% in 2011, 41% in 2010 and 46% state-wide.

• students of Extension History received an average mark of 45/50 (an incredible 8 marks above state average). All students received marks in the top 2 bands, with 67% in the top band compared to 18% of the state

• our Music 2 results were very impressive with an average of 86, 100% of students gained marks of 80 or more, compared to 89% in 2011 and 85% state-wide

• Music Extension results were again outstanding with an average of 47/50 and 100% in the top band compared to 63% of the state and up from 69% in 2011

• with an average mark of 82.8 (5.5 above state average), our Textiles and Design students achieved great success with 29% receiving marks of 90+, compared to 13% state-wide

• with an average of 82, 67% of our Visual Arts students gained marks in the top 2 bands compared to 54% state-wide.

• our Italian Beginners students achieved the most marks (11.3) above state average this year. With a mean of 83 and 63% in the top 2 bands compared to 33% state-wide

• 4 students received a Premier's Award for gaining marks of 90+ in over 10 units. These outstanding students were Lucy
Anderson, Madeleine Chapman, Bridget Harilaou and Sian Raubinger

• 61 students were placed on the NSW Distinguished Achievers list for receiving 90+ in at least one course.

• a record 48 students achieved marks of 80 or more in 10 or more units. This represents 28% of the cohort, equal to 2011, up from 18% in 2010 and has grown by over 3 times since 2007

In the Higher School Certificate the performance of students is reported in performance bands ranging from Performance Band 1 (lowest) to Performance Band 6 (highest).
Higher School Certificate relative performance comparison to School Certificate (value-adding)

The graph below reflects value added data significantly above SSG in all three categories. It should be noted that value added state-wide, by definition is zero, and that the school's improvement is above that achieved by the similar school group in all categories. Of particular note is the exceptional performance in the high performance band with the school achieving almost twice the growth of the similar school group.

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

An Aboriginal perspective is taught in an integrated way across KLAs. This enables staff and students to develop knowledge and understanding of and respect for Aboriginal Australia as highlighted in the Aboriginal education policy.

At our annual Graduation and Presentation Day ceremonies, the “welcome to country” was presented and performed by our Aboriginal students.

Our participation in the AIME program continued in 2012. AIME uses a unique style of structured education-based mentoring to link university students in a one-on-one relationship with Indigenous high school students. Our Aboriginal students have developed positive relationships through this mentoring program.

Kate Lienert of Year 10 was awarded a Sydney Region “Deadly Kids” award for outstanding achievement. Baden Hitchcock was invited to perform at the ceremony as well as our Aboriginal Dance Ensemble featuring Kate, Coby Smith-Carr, Amy Johnson and Maddison Paluch.

The Aboriginal Dance Ensemble also had the opportunity to be mentored by the prestigious Bangarra Dance Company and performed at events such as Schools Spectacular, State Dance Festival and the Vibe-Alive Festival in Victoria.
Baden Hitchcock also featured in the book, Burbangana, which highlighted the achievements of ATSI students and staff in Sydney Region.

In 2013 the school will establish an Aboriginal Education Team to enhance performance, achievement and community awareness.

**Multicultural education**

Multicultural perspectives are a compulsory component of all teaching programs. This is evidenced in many curricula and co-curricula programs including the choice of repertoire for all performing and creative arts faculties and texts set for study in English.

In 2012, “World Earth Festival” was again held. This whole school event was designed, in part, to celebrate multiculturalism in Australia.

**Environmental Awareness**

The environmental committee again planned and organised the annual “World Earth Festival”. It included environmental and various other stalls aimed at promoting ecological sustainability and fundraising for ‘Oxfam’.

Students from the committee were selected to work on the production of a series of video interviews with Richard Louv (a famous American non-fiction/environmental author and journalist) on behalf of NSW Department of Education and Communities and Office of Environment and Heritage during his visit to Australia.

Students were also selected to present on various sustainability initiatives implemented at our school at the ‘Environmental Student Forum’ organised by the Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre. Some of the presentations also included performing the highly popular environmental awareness songs.

**Progress on 2012 targets**

**Target 1**

To foster and further enhance a culture of excellence across all areas of the school community leading to students achieving their personal best in a wide range of curricula and co-curricula pursuits.

Our achievements include:

- A 5% increase in the number of HSC students achieving Band 5 and Band 6 from 459 instances in 2011 to 468 in 2012.
- Over 50% of Stage 5 students achieved their personal best in a nominated area.
- A 15% increase in the number of students (in Years 7-10) achieving grade A or B in school based assessment from 3365 instances per semester in 2011 to 3870 in 2012.

**Target 2**

To foster, refine and develop the innate and learned creativity of our unique students in a way which allows them to become successful students, performers and members of the wider community.

Our achievements include:

- 30% of students (300) displayed, exhibited or performed their work in two or more areas of school life.
- A 12% increase in student demand for performing/creative arts subjects within the curriculum from 1521 instances of elective choices Years 8-12 for 2012 subject selections to 1709 for 2013 subject selections.

**Target 3**

To sustain and further develop an inclusive and engaging learning environment offering support, challenges and opportunities for all students.

To increase levels of literacy and numeracy for all students through a consistent approach across all faculties.

Our achievements include:

- A 65% increase in the number of targeted students involved in whole-school based individual learning programs/plans. From 20 to 33.
- A 17% decrease in partial truancy from 1080 instances to 900.

Areas for further development include:

- A whole school strategy is required to meet the 2011 target of an increase in student achievement in the top two
Specifically the evaluation team found that:

- many students did not clearly demonstrate strong engagement and focus;
- the curriculum design was inconsistent and repetitive and therefore at times lacked relevance and significance for students;
- not all staff were involved in the delivery of the program;
- some staff delivering the program were enthusiastic about the aims of the program and valued the opportunity to engage with the students;
- staff delivery was integral in the level of student engagement with the program;
- some students liked the smaller group discussion approach and the opportunity to participate in what they called different programs; and
- the students were able to readily discuss the impact of the program in a mature and forthright manner providing clear insights into the benefits of the program and areas for future development.

**Future directions**

- Elements of the program (regular Year meetings, pastoral care events) were valued and should continue
- All staff should be part of the program
- The overall structure and content of the program should be simplified
- The Peer Support part of the program should be maintained and these links between Year groups strengthened.

**Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction**

In 2012 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. This occurred through discussions at P&C, staff, team and faculty meetings, a review of School Sport, an external review of the Pastoral Care Program and the quality of school life survey distributed to students.

Overall, parents and teachers were very supportive of the school.

The quality of school life survey and Pastoral Care survey results revealed that students were very connected with the school and largely engaged with the teaching and learning process. At the
same time areas for growth and improvement were identified and strategies to address these areas will be developed for 2013.

**Professional Learning**

In 2012 teacher professional learning continued to be a major focus of the school. Staff surveys and School Development Day evaluations indicated priorities for professional learning activities and these priorities were then addressed.

In 2012:

A range of opportunities were offered to all staff in relation to professional learning workshops and activities throughout the year. The targeted priority areas were literacy and numeracy, Australian Curriculum, Beginning Teachers, Student Assessment and ICT.

The Professional Learning team continued to organise School Development Days. Topic areas covered were HSC data analysis, Quality of School Life student survey results, Australian Curriculum, implementation of RoSA, ICT, and presentations on Child Protection and new staffing procedures.

The staff induction program again included a performing arts orientation day. All new scheme teachers attended regular meetings, and successfully completed their accreditation portfolios.

Conferences were held for the executive and welfare teams.

**School planning 2012—2014**

The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.

**School priority 1: Excellence**

**Outcome for 2012–2014**

To foster and further enhance a culture of excellence across all areas of the school community leading to students achieving their personal best in a wide range of curricula and co-curricula pursuits.

**2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:**

- To increase the number of HSC students achieving Band 5 and Band 6 by 5% from 459 instances in 2011 to 482 in 2013.
- 66% of Stage 5 students achieve their personal best in a nominated area.
- To increase by 15% the number of students (in Years 7-10) achieving grade A or B in school based assessment from 3365 instances per semester in 2011 to 3870 in 2013.

**Strategies to achieve these targets include:**

- Faculties to incorporate a scaffold (eg: areas done well/areas to improve on) on feedback sheets that targets literacy numeracy across all stages and creates consistent school practice.
- To explore implementing an acceleration program for targeted students in Stage 6.
- Develop individualised learning plans for identified GAT students.
- Investigate flexible curriculum and timetable delivery/options to cater for the unique needs of the school/students.
- Extend the personal best concept and interviews into Year 10.
- Establish a learning centre that is staffed appropriately that will provide support and opportunities for students to work collaboratively or independently.

**School priority 2: Creativity**

**Outcome for 2012–2014**

To foster, refine and develop the innate and learned creativity of our unique students in a way which allows them to become successful students, performers and members of the wider community.

**2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:**

- 50% of students (500) display, exhibit or perform their work in two or more areas of school life.
- 10% increase on student demand for performing/creative arts subjects within the curriculum from 1521 instances of elective choices Years 8-12 for 2012
subject selections to 1673 for 2014 subject selections.

**Strategies to achieve these targets include:**

- Form a team to investigate the flexibility in assessment practices and investigate assessment for learning strategies
- Expand the online presence to showcase student work to the broader community
- Continue to support the concept of master classes for students and staff, as well as the use of tertiary and other guest directors
- Conduct cross-KLA projects, excursions and/or tours that promote creativity and enhances individual KLA outcomes
- Faculties review current teaching programs to embed creative approaches to teaching learning and assessment
- Investigate establishing an Aboriginal Dance company
- Principal participate in AITSL Local Leadership program (including International offering) developing a project around Creative Leadership
- Develop an online presence to showcase student work to the broader community
- Develop a trial teaching program using Tablet technology (iPad) to explore the use of new technologies in creative teaching and learning

**School priority 3: Equality**

**Outcomes for 2012–2014**

To sustain and further develop an inclusive and engaging learning environment offering support, challenges and opportunities for all students.

To increase levels of literacy and numeracy for all students through a consistent approach across all faculties.

**2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:**

- Enhance welfare systems/programs to decrease partial truancy by a further 5% from 900 instances in 2012 to 855 in 2013.
- To increase by 5% student achievement in the top two bands in Year 9 NAPLAN data from 261 (2011) to 274 in 2013 over the 5 NAPLAN areas.
- To increase by 15% the availability of technology resources in learning spaces.

**Strategies to achieve these targets include:**

- Maintain a full-time counsellor position
- Investigate the viability of developing year group connections to charitable organisations
- Audit the technology infrastructure in each learning space, identify areas for upgrade and refurbishment
- Increase student access to mentor teachers to targeted junior students
- Investigate the possibility of extended hours for access to the library
- Develop targeted student learning plans for all Aboriginal students
- Review the explicit literacy and numeracy strategies embedded in teaching and learning programs to ensure that they accommodate for a range of learning styles

**About this report**

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

Stephen Gray, Principal
Betty Romeo, Deputy Principal
Darren Mitchell, P&C President
Rose Johnson, SRC President

**School contact information**

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Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at: