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 instil 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 free betting tips 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 football scores 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
Principal

P&C 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 fifth year, continues to raise significant funds. More than $60,000 was contributed in 2013, similar to that raised in recent years. These funds have enabled substantial work to be undertaken to refurbish the Studio Theatre foyer and entrances including: the installation of a formal box office, poster display box, refixing wall posters, external painting, storage enhancements, new furniture, and lighting improvements. This project has involved a substantial commitment of parental time and expertise and, following the extensive earlier refitting of the patron, technical and performance spaces within the Studio Theatre, as well as the building of the Robin Amm extension to the Theatre, is aimed at ensuring the school’s principal venue for showcasing student achievement in the performing arts, demonstrates the high value placed on the performing arts at NHSPA.

Other highlights in 2013 included:

• Extensive commitment and involvement by various members of the P&C committee and the wider NHSPA parent community involving more than thirty 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 World 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.

• A PVASC initiative, An Afternoon With... which saw creative arts industry professionals address parents and students in Q&A sessions.

• Financial contributions to the Dance Faculty Master Classes led by visiting US choreographer Garfield Lemonius; and the Faculty Support Sub-Committee’s co-ordination of the P&C’s grant assistance of the English, Maths, Science, HSIE, PD/H/PE, Languages, and TAS faculties, as well as the new Learning Centre.

• The Building Sub-Committee’s development of plans, detailed drawings and project management for the Studio Theatre Foyer refurbishment, and its audit of the school’s stock of student lockers and the pricing of repair and replacement which will increase the
number of secure storage facilities by more than half.

- The Environment Sub-Committee’s planning and delivery of a successful working bee involving more than thirty parents, teachers and students which saw extensive weeding, planting, mulching, fence painting, paving repairs, and rubbish removal.

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 2014 includes: contributing to the 2015-17 School Plan, planning upgrade of the Studio Theatre toilets and the photography dark room, greening the administration block ellipse space and designing a portable performance structure for the area, and working with the School Executive on plans to improve the St Georges Hall performance space. 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 and 2013 was no exception. The SRC was working on new and past projects to enhance the school’s environment, sharing community and giving culture.

The SRC supports a sharing community and many charity events. In 2013 we chose the Exodus Foundation as our long term charity due to its reflection of the needs within our community. We successfully ran a can drive for the Exodus Foundation in which we donated 150 cans.

Further events included The World’s Greatest Shave, where we proudly raised more than ever before, with a total of $11,000 for the Leukemia Foundation. Members of the SRC also enthusiastically took part in selling merchandise for Jeans for Genes Day.

Our student newspaper, Newstown, has really taken flight within the school community. This initiative was developed to focus on showcasing student work. Our aim is to release this school newspaper biannually, if not more often. This will involve students throughout the school, giving students a voice and promote community and interaction across all years.

We have also set up a new device in distributing information to the students by utilising technology. We have done this through establishing a Newtown SRC Facebook page.

During 2013 we also successfully reformed the SRC constitution, in order to establish a solid foundation for the SRC’s internal processes and roles for the years to come.

The Student Representative Council constantly seeks new projects to be undertaken in 2014 and is an active forum for the students of Newtown to communicate their ideas and concerns to further benefit the wellbeing of students, teachers and our community; both local and global.

**Lani Castle**

**SRC President**

**Student information**

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

**Student enrolment profile**

The school has a total enrolment of 1017. 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.

![Enrolments](image)

**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.
Retention to Year 12

The retention rate from Year 10 to Year 12 continues to be well above that of the state and School Education Group.

Post-school destinations

The 2013 HSC featured 172 students with units attempted ranging from 4 to 14.

Survey results revealed that 110 eligible students applied for UAC places, with 100 students receiving offers. Some students chose to take a GAP Year postponing their application to UAC to 2015.

Areas of study were diverse, reflecting the variety of talents and aspirations of the 2013 cohort.

Five students chose to pursue scholarships for further study overseas (USA, UK and New Zealand).

The most popular areas of study included Arts, Business and Commerce, Dramatic Arts/Theatre Media, Design, Film Production, Dance, Education, International Studies, Music and Sciences.

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, The Conservatorium, Australian Catholic University, UTS, TAFE NSW, COFA, VCA, WOPA, FBI Fashion and Design and JMC Academy.

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

Approximately 5% 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 2013, 7% 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 2013 with one student choosing to do pathways, thus completing the HSC in 2014.

Workforce information

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

Workforce composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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 Teacher(s)</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning and Support Teacher(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>82.1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Australian Education Regulation, 2013 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.

No members of the permanent staff identify as Aboriginal, however throughout the year a small number of Aboriginal casual and volunteer staff worked in a range of capacities across the school.
Teacher qualifications
All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW Institute of Teachers Accreditation</td>
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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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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Balance brought forward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
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Expenditure

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<tbody>
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<td>Excursions</td>
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<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
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<td>Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
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<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
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<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>446662.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>2009337.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>1567734.56</td>
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</table>

School performance 2013

Achievements

Arts
A major feature again in 2013 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.

Achievements in Drama
Over 215 students in nineteen drama companies performed as part of the year’s two showcase seasons. A diverse range of theatrical styles were presented, including Shakespearean drama, street theatre, Kabuki-inspired drama, Restoration Comedy, playbilled drama as well as contemporary Australian theatre. A highlight of the year was the year 12 Company’s presentation of “The Women”. Student showcase directors in 2013 were Yazmin Bradley and Hannah-Rae Meegan.

Ashari Hudson and Natascha Flowers. Two NHSPA graduates returned to direct a senior company.

Other Drama Company directors included actors Michael Gregory and Brandon Burke and NIDA graduate Harriet Gillies.

Our Theatresports team continued their recent successes and was awarded the School Theatresports Cup.

There were twelve OnStage nominations in 2013: two group performances and four individual performances and projects. Of those, four students performed and two student projects were exhibited at the Seymour Centre in February 2014.

Sixteen Drama students were part of the contingent that made up the 2013 China Tour. This company of actors performed four times at various schools in China with a self-devised mimed piece featuring Basel masks.

Achievements in Dance
Fourteen students from the Dance Faculty attended the Newtown High School of the Performing Arts China Tour 2013.

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

Over fifty dance students participated in the 2013 Schools 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. All Dance and Classical Ballet Companies, and two Ensembles were selected to perform at the State Dance Festival.

Dance students participated in 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.

Adrian Van Winkelhof was a guest teacher and choreographer who choreographed a work, ‘Minus 13’ for the first ever Men’s Company who performed in the Semester 2 Dance Showcase and Presentation Day at the York Theatre, Seymour Centre.

Twenty four 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, and NSW Public Schools’ Dance Company performance. The venues they worked in were Studio Theatre, St Georges Hall, the Everest and York Theatres at the Seymour Centre, and the Sydney Opera House.

Achievements in Music

The NHSPA tour of northern China involved fifty music students. The music repertoire included a combined work and a variety of items featuring a vocal ensemble, jazz band, chamber orchestra, and percussion ensemble.

The “In Performance” concert at the Sydney Town Hall was well represented by NHSPA choral and orchestral students in performances of Mozart’s “Requiem” and Gershwin’s “Porgy and Bess.” Georgia Melville (Yr 12) and Madeleine Sullivan (Yr 11) performed the soprano solo sections of the two works.

The Expanding Horizons concert at the Opera House featured the NHSPA orchestra and a massed choir which included students from the Year 7 music audition class. Sam Weller, a Year 10 student, conducted the orchestra in a performance of the William Tell Overture by Rossini. The Saxophone Quartet and Year 12 Vocal trio performed in individual items during the evening.

The Big Band gained 1st place and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble gained 2nd place in the Premier Band Events of the Sydney Eisteddfod.

The Concert Band and The Symphonic Wind Ensemble both gained Gold awards in the NSW Band Festival.

The Spring Prom featured outstanding individual compositions and performances from our Year 12 students.

The Year 12 Vocal Trio, Senior Percussion, Symphonic Wind, Sax Quartet, Junior Jazz and Womp Percussion were featured items in the Opera House Festivals of Music

The Dutch saxophonist Niels Biljs held an inspiring and entertaining Master class for our saxophone students.

The new concept for the Second Semester Showcase trialed successfully, with Opening Night featuring a combination of music, drama and dance items in St Georges Hall, a mix of percussion and street theatre in the outdoor spaces and drama in the Studio Theatre.

The Year 9 Showcase Elective, Create Your Own Musical, entranced the audience with a display of student imagination and hilarity in a student-devised work titled “TV the Musical”.

The Talent Development Project and Schools Spectacular featured our students Kelsi Boyd, Hannah Robinson, Georgia Melville, and Joshua Meader. Many of our students were involved in the Schools Spectacular Orchestra and Stage Band.

HSC Encore nominations in Performance were awarded to Milan Monk and Oliver Shermacher and in Composition to Olivia Arnold, Thomas Edwards, Oliver Schermacher, Milan Monk, Georgia Melville and Jaime di Laudo. Julian Bright’s Musicology project was specially mentioned in the HSC Encore concert at the Opera House.

The Sax Quartet performed for the Launch of the National Children’s Commissioner’s Report at the Human Rights Commission in Sydney.

Achievements in Visual Arts

Grace Barr and Orson Heidrich (Year 11) successfully completed the National Art School
Intensive Studio Practice Course in Digital Photography with outstanding results. This 60 hour program is designed to enhance and extend students’ technical and conceptual knowledge through intensive studio practice. Their final artmaking was exhibited at the National Art School.

Xanthe Murphy’s HSC Body of Work, a series of paintings, titled ‘6:56 am’ and Alex Jasprizza’s series of photographs and photo-book, titled ‘Shadows’ were selected for Art Express.

Included in the Summer Series Showcase was an exhibition of mounted artworks by students from Years 7–12. The exhibition was held in foyer of St Georges’ Hall.

The artworks of Year 8 students Ella Clancy and Joseph Christie-Evans 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.

The Inaugural Portrait Prize was a drawing competition for Year 7 students; the works were judged by both students and staff with the 20 finalists’ works exhibited in the library. The winner of the competition was Andre Issa.

Jacqualynne Boon, the Head Teacher of Visual Arts was awarded a Premier’s Scholarship to tour Singapore for 5 weeks to interview South-East Asian artists from the Singapore Biennale; she will produce case-studies on contemporary Asian art-practice suitable for HSC studies.

**Achievements in Sport**

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

Our school featured prominently on the Bligh Zone’s list of age champions at the swimming and cross country carnivals. The Zone Age Champions for the Swimming and Cross Country carnivals were as follows:

Swimming:

13 girls – Olivia Medina-Du Cros
14 girls – Zanzi Hocknell
15 boys – Alasdair Chisholm

16 boys – Rory Hocknell
Cross Country:

12 girls - Lilah Thompson
14 boys – Alex Small (Sydney East Age Champion)
17 girls – Chelsea Hendry

Other sporting highlights of the year were:

Ethan Pooley won ‘NHSPA Sports Person of the Year’ for his outstanding commitment across a range of different sports, both within and outside school at various levels of competition.

Eleni Knapp was selected for the Sydney East Opens water polo team that won the CHS Tournament in November. As a result of Eleni’s success, she won a ‘Bligh Zone Blue Award’ for her continual outstanding achievements. Eleni also led the NHSPA water polo team at the CHS knockout competition where they progressed through to the central venue round.

Leon Curtis had an outstanding year in Athletics and won a ‘Bligh Zone Blue Award’ for his continual representation. He also represented our region at state level and came 6th in the ‘Balmoral Burn’ sprint open category.

Alex Small won the ‘Premier’s Sporting Challenge’ award for his dedication and commitment to school sport.

Talia Munro represented Bligh Zone and came 2nd in high jump and 3rd in long jump at Sydney East Athletics.

Hannah Newton and and Lilah Thompson both represented Bligh Zone at Sydney East Athletics.

Rory Hocknell represented Bligh Zone and came 3rd in 100m backstroke and 50m freestyle at Sydney East Swimming.

Mia Carey competed in the prestigious NSW Schoolgirls Head of River regatta and is the first rower to represent NHSPA at this level. She was also in the final of the under 19 category at the NSW state rowing championships.

In team sports our basketball girls and boys teams competed at NSW CHS State Knockout competition with the boys progressing through the minor rounds and to the central venue.

In soccer, the girls’ team progressed through to the second round of the NSW CHS State Knockout at the Bligh Zone Gala Day and finished as joint Zone champions.
The boys’ soccer team had success at the Bligh Zone Gala day winning the competition. As a result, six boys were selected for the Bligh Zone Team and went on to compete at the Sydney East Region competition.

Other CHS Knockout sports conducted in 2013 included cricket, netball and volleyball.

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, law courts visits, visits to local businesses and participation in a number of HSC lecture days.

A number of Year 12 students participated in 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 returned full of inspiration and stories about their invaluable experiences and lasting connections forged with other young people from around the globe.

Students once again showed great enthusiasm to enter debating competitions. Our combined Years 7/8 and Years 9/10 Debating teams were zone champions and made it to the Regional Semi-Finals.

Our talented Year 11 debating team reached the Regional Finals in the Premier’s Debating Challenge. Yazmin Bradley, Eilleesha Smith, Toby Blome, Charlotte Regan and Antonia Flowers made up this team.

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

In the Mathematics International Competition, Anna Milburn received a High Distinction placing her in the top 1% of students within NSW. 40% of our students received a credit award, and 8 students received Distinction placing them amongst the top 15% of students within NSW.

Itay Sachar (Year 8) and his team received the Mechanical Design award at the National FLL (First Lego League) robotics. As a result, Itay and his team, have been chosen to represent Australia at the FLL robotics competition at an international level.

Tournament of Minds proved popular again with three teams participating in the competition this year, our Languages Literature team, Georgia Briggs, Rhian Mordau-Buksh, Darcey Wilson, Gabriel Burke, Ella Kennedy, Meave Ireland-Jones and Lucy Lock won the Spirit of TOM Award, whilst our Social Sciences team: Harrie Hogan, Milo Caley, Miranda Rodgers, Hannah Newton, Esme Durkan, Jack McEvoy, Yasmina Chotchova were the proud winners of the Honours award.

Academic achievements
NAPLAN
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)

The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link [http://www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au) and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO to access the school data.

NAPLAN Year 7 - Literacy
Students achieved overall results well above state and Similar School Group (SSG) averages in all aspects of literacy tested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7 NAPLAN Reading</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSG</th>
<th>State DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average score, 2013</td>
<td>587.5</td>
<td>567.2</td>
<td>534.0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number in Band</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage in Bands</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Average 2009-2013</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>32.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSG % in Band 2013</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State DEC % in Band 2013</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>22.5</td>
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### Year 7 NAPLAN Spelling

<table>
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<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
<th>Average score, 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>583.7</td>
<td>582.3</td>
<td>551.9</td>
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### Year 7 NAPLAN Grammar and Punctuation

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<th>Average score, 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>581.8</td>
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### Year 7 NAPLAN Writing

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>550.7</td>
<td>537.2</td>
<td>502.1</td>
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### NAPLAN Year 7 - Numeracy

Students again achieved overall numeracy results above state average.

### Year 7 NAPLAN Numeracy

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<tr>
<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
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<th>School</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>570.9</td>
<td>582.6</td>
<td>540.9</td>
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### NAPLAN Year 9 - Literacy

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 near or above SSG averages.

### Year 9 NAPLAN Reading

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
<th>Average score, 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>612.9</td>
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### Year 9 NAPLAN Grammar and Punctuation

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<th>SSG</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>605.4</td>
<td>610.7</td>
<td>584.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year 9 NAPLAN Writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
<th>Average score, 2013</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSG</th>
<th>State DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>619.3</td>
<td>607.6</td>
<td>565.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NAPLAN Year 9 - Numeracy

Students again achieved overall numeracy results above state average.

### Year 9 NAPLAN Numeracy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Band Distribution</th>
<th>Average score, 2013</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSG</th>
<th>State DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>619.8</td>
<td>634.8</td>
<td>584.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Higher School Certificate (HSC)

Our HSC class of 2013 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 81.6%, 9.6 marks greater than the state mean with 23% of students receiving band 6 (over 90 marks) which is almost 3 times the state rate, and 78% receiving 80 or more compared to 45% in 2012 and 34% statewide

• 38% of students in Biology achieved 80 or more, compared to 32% in 2012 and 33% state-wide

• In Dance, our students achieved results 9.1 marks above state average, 30% received 90 plus (up from 20% in 2012) and 75% in the top 2 bands compared to 38% state-wide

• with an average score of 83.8 (6 over the NSW mean), 26% of Drama students achieved marks over 90 (compared to 14% state-wide) and 72% gained marks in the top 2 bands (43% state-wide)

• 2013 saw our best ever results in English Standard with a first in the state, 4% in band 6 (compared to 0.4% statewide) and 18% in the top 2 bands (compared to 7% statewide and up from 7% last year)

• English Advanced results saw an average of 81% with 64% of students receiving marks over 80 compared to 53% statewide

• With an average mark of 42/50 our Extension 1 English results saw 94% of students in the top 2 bands compared to 88% state-wide

• 33% of Extension 2 English students received marks in the top band compared to 23% statewide

• Our Food Technology results were very impressive, 7 marks above the state mean, 24% in band 6 and 47% of students gained marks of 80 or more compared to 38% in 2012 and 28% of the state

• with an average mark 5 above the state, 50% of Legal Studies students achieved 80+ marks compared to 43% of the state

• with an average 5.4 above the state, General Maths continued the great improvement of recent years with this year 32% achieving 80+ compared to 21% of the state and 28% in 2012

• our Extension 1 Maths results, with a mean of 79, were up 7 marks on 2012 with 85% of students achieving marks in the top 2 bands, up from 60% in 2012

• Extension 2 Maths results were equally strong with 75% in the top 2 bands which also translates to 89% of students receiving a notional band 5 or 6

• 17% of our Modern History students received 90+ compared to 11% statewide

• Music 1 results were excellent this year with an average of 86%, 33% in band 6 (over double the state rate), and 94% in the top 2 bands (compared to 49% of the state and 65% in 2012)

• our Music 2 results were equally impressive with 4th in the State, an average of 88, and 95% of students gaining marks of 80 or more, compared to 85% state-wide

• Music Extension results were again outstanding with a 1st in the State, an average of 47.5/50 and 92% in the top band compared to 70% of the state

• Our PDHPE results, 3.7 above state average, were the best in many years with 42% in the top 2 bands compared to 28% of the state and also 28% in 2012

• Our Physics results showed pleasing improvement with a mean of 75% (up 6 marks from the previous year), and 42% of students scoring 80+, compared to 31% statewide and up from 24% in 2012

• with an average mark of 78 (4 above state average), our Textiles and Design students achieved great success with 47% receiving marks of 80+, compared to 35% statewide

• with an average of 84 (4.5 above the state), 79% of our Visual Arts students gained marks in the top 2 bands
compared to 51% state-wide and 67% in 2012

- French Beginners students achieved very pleasing results with an average of 79%, 23% of students achieved a top band and 54% scored 80+ compared to 47% statewide
- our Italian Beginners students achieved excellent results again this year. With a mean of 80 (8.2 above state average) and 46% in the top 2 bands compared to 30% statewide
- Jaimee Hassos was awarded 1st in the State in English Standard
- Oliver Shermacher placed 1st in the state in Music Extension and 4th in Music 2
- 3 students will receive a Premier's Award for gaining marks of 90+ in over 10 units. These outstanding students are Jennifer Balcomb, Georgia Melville and Indiana Tappin
- 71 students were placed on the NSW Distinguished Achievers list for receiving 90+ in at least one course
- an incredible 47 students achieved marks of 80 or more in 10 or more units. This represents 28% of the cohort, equal to 2012 and 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 over four times the growth of the similar school group.
**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Aboriginal education**

The Aboriginal Education Team was established in 2013 to better support our indigenous students as well as to raise awareness of aboriginal culture and to develop resources to support aboriginal perspectives across all KLAs.

Every indigenous student at the school was mentored by members of the aboriginal education team. Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs) were developed in consultation with the students to identify and better meet their learning needs.

In 2013, we commemorated ‘Sorry Day’ with a whole school assembly. Aunty Fay Carroll, a local Aboriginal elder and DEC Officer, talked about the Stolen Generation and the impact the policy continues to have on Aboriginal people.

It was also the first year that the school celebrated NAIDOC week. During the week Year 8 lessons in all subjects had an Aboriginal theme. A special NAIDOC assembly was held where students of Darlington Public School performed along with our Year 7 music students. We had ex-student Carla McGrath, Head of Sustainability at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence as guest speaker at the assembly.

Our participation in the AIME program continued in 2013. 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.

Amy Johnson of Year 11 was awarded a Sydney Region “Deadly Kids” award for outstanding achievement.

Kate Lienert, Amy Johnson and Maddison Paluch were selected to be members of the NSW Public Schools Aboriginal Dance Ensemble. They performed at many prestigious events such as the Kids Deadly Awards, Corroboree Sydney Official Ceremony, Education Week at Town Hall, Australia Day Luncheon at Luna Park, Australia Day at Darling Harbour, Premier’s Awards at Town Hall, Corroboree Launch at Lady Macquaries Chair as well as at the Schools Spectacular. Being members of the Aboriginal Dance Group also meant that they represented the school at the State Dance Festival.

These students were members of the co-curricula dance companies and ensemble and had the opportunity to perform at the Semester 1 and 2 Dance Showcase concerts and the Regional and State Dance Festivals.

In July 2013, our indigenous students visited a Rabbitohs training sessions at Redfern oval.

The Aboriginal Education Team, also initiated “Acknowledgement of Country” workshops conducted by Kirk Page for our indigenous students.

**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 2013, “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 highly popular “World Earth Festival”. It included environmental and various other stalls aimed at promoting ecological sustainability and fundraising for ‘Greenfleet’.

Greenfleet is a carbon offset organisation who planted 880 native trees across Australia on behalf of the school. Each of these natives will grow in excess of 20m high and store tonnes of CO2 as well as provide an important habitat for a variety of wildlife.

The Environmental Committee hosted a regional student and teacher environmental conference where other schools and their environmental committees attended and student led sustainability projects were showcased and ideas exchanged.

During 2013 the environmental committee students attended various environmental youth forums. These included the annual ‘Taronga Zoo Youth Environmental Forum’ where students learnt about environmental and social responsibility; and the ‘Youth Eco Summit’ in Homebush, a curriculum-based sustainability
School planning 2012—2014: progress in 2013

School priority: Excellence

Intended outcomes 2012-2014

- To increase the number of HSC students achieving Band 5 and Band 6 by 5%.
- 75% of Stage 5 students to achieve their personal best in a nominated area.
- To increase by 20% the number of students (in Years 7-10) achieving grade A or B in school-based assessment.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- an increase in the number of HSC students achieving Band 5 and Band 6 by 5% from 459 instances in 2011 to 482 in 2013.
- 70% of Stage 5 students achieved their personal best in a nominated area.
- A 25% 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 4210 in 2013.
- Establishment of the Learning Centre staffed appropriately to provide support and opportunities for students to work collaboratively or independently.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014

- implementing a targeted acceleration program for Year 9 drama students.
- Develop individualised learning plans for identified GAT students.
- Analyse NAPLAN results to identify areas to be targeted in ILP’s

School priority: Creativity

Intended Outcomes 2012–2014

- A 10% increase in the results from the quality of school life by 2014.
- 90% of students display, exhibit or perform their work in two or more areas of school life by 2014
• 10% increase on student demand for performing arts programs both curricular and co-curricular.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:
• 12% 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 1709 for 2014 subject selections.
• A student work section was added to the school website displaying a variety of written, audio visual and performance works.
• The Showcase program was broadened to include a junior visual arts exhibition and an additional Seymour centre concert

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:
• Review the structure of the co-curricular program in terms of its ability to meet student needs with regards to creativity and excellence.
• Conduct a major cross-KLA excursion that promotes creativity and enhances individual KLA outcomes
• Establish the position of School Project Coordinator to lead a team of teachers to develop and design creative assessment tasks
• Survey students in regard to the quality of school life

School priority: Equality

Intended outcomes 2012-2014
• To increase by 50% the number of targeted students involved in whole-school based individual learning programs/plans.
• To increase by 25% the availability of technology resources in learning spaces
• Enhance welfare systems/programs to decrease partial truancy by 5%.
• To increase levels of literacy and numeracy for all students through a consistent approach across all faculties

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:
• A 21% increase in student achievement in the top two bands in Year 9 NAPLAN data from 223 (2012) to 270 in 2013 over the 5 NAPLAN areas.
• A decrease in partial truancy by a further 35% from 900 instances in 2012 to 582 in 2013.
• The iPad for Learning trial distributed an additional 60 devices to students and staff
• Class sets of DER laptops were distributed to faculties and the library for in class use
• In establishing the Learning Centre new desk top computers were installed for student use.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:
• Establish a broader Learning Support team to co-ordinate the development and monitoring of Individual Learning Plans
• Investigate the possibility of extended hours for access to the library
• Review and reinforce procedures for monitoring and addressing student lateness and truancy

Professional learning

In 2013 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 2013:
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, Australian Curriculum, executive functioning and presentations on Child Protection, mental health and leadership development.
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.

**Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction**

In 2013 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 Semester 2 Showcase, iPads for Learning and parent-teacher nights, and the quality of school life survey distributed to targeted students.

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

The quality of school life survey continued to demonstrate that students were very connected with the school and largely engaged with the teaching and learning process.

**School contact information**

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School Code: 8530

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:

**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
Lani Castle, SRC President