



# KHS Newsletter

Martin St, Katoomba, 2780 | Ph: (02) 4782-2622  
katoomba-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

2020  
Term 3  
Week 9

## September

- Friday 25th Last day of term
- Mon 21st - Vaccinations Yr 7 & 10
- Mon 21st & Tues 22nd Sept - Year 11 Life Ready program
- Wed 23rd Sept - Year 8 Wellbeing Day -Birriban

## Terrific TAS

TAS stands for Technological and Applied Studies. The courses the TAS faculty are running this year include:

*Mandatory Technology (MT)*  
*Agricultural Technology*  
*Food Technology*  
*Industrial Technology -*  
*Multimedia, Timber and Metal*  
*Textiles Technology*  
*Textiles and Design*  
*Child Studies*  
*Community and Family Studies*  
*Hospitality*  
*Construction*

TAS teachers have just assisted their year 12 students to complete their major works for the HSC. The online learning system was particularly challenging for students undertaking their HSC studies but the Terrific TAS Team has excelled in helping them to meet the challenge.



## Meet the TAS Faculty

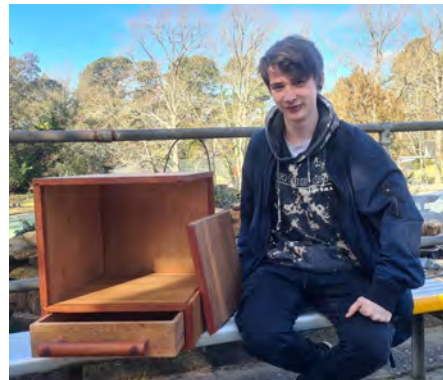
*Back row L-R*  
Nikolai Liu  
Peter Murray  
Stephen McFarlane  
Jock McLaurin  
*Front row L-R*  
Jane Atkinson  
Louise Hanrahan  
Michele Draper  
Michelle Holder  
Marianne Harper (absent)



*Chas Taylor-Colless - Bedside Table.*

## Year 12 Major Work

Congratulations to the Year 12 students who have completed their major project for Industrial Technology - Timber.







*Luca Skelly - Electric Guitar*



*Will Lanyon- Liquor Cabinet*



*Reilley Hunt- Card Storage Box*







*Jasper Tobin - Gaming Table*



*Tia Marmion - Birdcage stand*



## Year 9 STEAM students make it to the 2020 Game Changer Challenge State Semi-Finals

Four students from this year's Year 9 STEAM elective class have made it to the 2020 Game Changer Challenge State

Semi-Finals to be conducted via Zoom in early Term 4. The students included are Abbie Payne, Ethan Brown, Lewis Peterson and Christopher Wells. What is perhaps most impressive with the effort from the Year 9 STEAM students is that they created their submissions during the statewide COVID-19 lock-down at the beginning of Term 2 using whatever technology the students had available at home including smartphones, laptops and webcams. The theme for this year's challenge was "How can we use technology to bring people together?", which was very pertinent given the situation we find ourselves as a human race in 2020. Ideas students came up with included travelling to the moon to reignite the vision of the moon landing in 1969 and a cable based rapid transportation system for the CBD making the most of the space in between our cityscapes. Mr Liu was impressed with all of the ideas and pitches students came up with across both the Year 8 and Year 9 STEAM elective classes but in the end these students were the ones who showed the extra bit of courage in entering their work to the panel of judges – and they were successful! Well done and best of luck with the semi-finals next term from everyone in the KHS community.



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Mr Liu – STEAM Teacher/TAS  
Faculty



Abbie Payne: Skyliner  
Transportation System

## KHS Young Historian

Elise Paterson has been selected as a Regional Finalist (Young Historian Silver Award) in the Year 10 category this year in The National History Challenge with the theme of Contested Histories. Elise wrote a brilliant essay on the contested space of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and is progressing to the state level of judging. The National History Challenge is a research-based competition for students. It gives students a chance to be an historian, researching world history, examining Australia's past, investigating their community or exploring their own roots. This is very exciting for Elise and KHS is very proud of her achievement.



Elise with HSIE teacher Ms Mah

## Get Ready! - Bush Fire Season



During the 2019 -2020 fire season Katoomba High School had four students who were eligible to support our community's firefighting efforts. **Reilley Hunt and Cooper Tancred from Wentworth Falls RFB, Morgan Cox from Lawson RFB and Ewan Ruse from Blackheath/ Mount Victoria RFB** demonstrated professionalism, dedication and courage while volunteering during the fires. The NSW Rural Fire service needs young people to help continue their ongoing fire fighting work and we are proud of students' commitment to protecting their community.

Given the relentless and all-consuming fire season of 2019-2020 people in our community may feel apprehensive about this year. This is normal and we would encourage families in our community to review their fire

safety plan for the 2020-2021 fire season. Families should consider:

- when they will leave
- where they will go
- what they will take and where these items are located
- alternative plans if parents are separated from their children.

I would encourage all families to consider their leave early plan. Waiting until the fire is visible at your fence boundary is too late. If you try and leave at this time you could end up being trapped, or creating delays with emergency service vehicles due to the narrow streets and limited exits common across Blue mountains villages.

The NSW RFS holds their annual Get Ready Weekend on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of September. Families can use the weekend of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss their fire plans and prepare their homes and properties for fire season.

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/getready>

If you can't make a local event for Get Ready Weekend complete the online survey to check your fire safety plan using the link below.

<https://www.myfireplan.com.au/>  
Caroline Jose (HSIE and a member of Katoomba/Leura RFS).





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## HSC Drama

Congratulations to our HSC Drama students. All Major Projects done and dusted. We had amazing performances today. Other projects included some very well written scripts and a set of beautiful costume designs. Well done to all!



## Yr 10 Photography

Year 10 Photography have been exploring ghost figures and how art making has developed during 'Covid'



## Year 8 Visual Arts

The Year 8 Visual Arts class have turned their art theory into

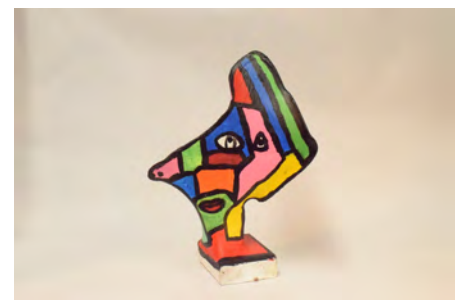
practice by making Cubist Sculptures. The students learnt quickly as they engaged with non-traditional and found materials. Safety and care were required as the students manipulated wire coat hangers and wood blocks to create their forms.

Next, the students carefully rolled a stocking over their sculptures, before painting a base layer of white gesso to strengthen their artworks. Students have considered colour palette, drawing inspiration from Karel Appel's use of complementary colours. Students have created a bold effect by layering and using black paint to outline.

Well done to all our Year 8 artists!



Marilyn



Siona



Lucious

thanks as always to Mr McLaurin and Mr Liu from TAS, they are legends!



## Attendance Procedures

If a student has cold/flu-like symptoms they must not come to school and should get a COVID19 test.

If a student has a COVID19 test, a copy of the results need to be forwarded to the school upon return (note: HSC students are given priority status and their test results are fast-tracked).

If a student is absent for more than three days a medical certificate is required (in some instances a statutory declaration is acceptable). Doctors are taking many telephone appointments to accommodate these demands.

If your child is absent you can either contact the school prior, or simply reply to the daily sms/emails to explain their absence (this should be done within 7 days of the absence).

Thank you for your help with these requirements. Please contact the school if you have any concerns.

## Biodiversity Garden

Students have started on the works for the biodiversity garden during Wednesday sport sessions. There has been great input from Mr Dear's Year 8 Maths class who took measurements, made scale drawings and created the preliminary designs for the raised garden beds. Year 7, 8 and 9 students have now begun cleaning up the site which will host the new waterways mural, a raingarden and new vegetable garden plots to be used by the whole school in 2021. We thought as an ode to biodiversity and to connect to the beautiful Birriban land next to the site- we would make insect hotels as a mini-project. Check out these incredible hotels students made recently. Watch this space as the project grows and more students are involved in creating it. Please see Ms Ladd in HSIE if you would like to be involved. A big







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## Massive Murray Paddle Fundraiser

Every year the Massive Murray paddle hosts kayakers and paddlers from around Australia to paddle down the Murray river and fundraise for a local organisation. KHS has sent a team since 2018. The team travels down the 400+km course in relay legs. The 2020 Massive Mighty Paddle is cancelled but the KHS team is still going to fundraise with a charity garage sale for **West Connect DV Services: Wimlah Women and Childrens' Refuge**. The refuge provides emergency accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic violence in the upper mountains.

Garage Sale details:

**When:** Saturday 10/10

**Time:** 8.30am - 12 noon

**Where:** 5 Bundarra St  
Blackheath

We are still collecting High Quality donations

Items: Furniture, Sporting items, tools, good quality second hand clothes and accessories, quality books, kitchen paraphernalia, plants and random objects.

### Item Collection:

We will be collecting items from **3-3.30pm on Wednesday 23/9** at **Kurrawan Rd between Martin and Stephen Streets, Katoomba**.

If you have great quality items you would like to donate but

can't do that time please text Suzanne on 0491 676 380 to arrange a suitable time for pick up. Only quality items - thanks.

If you're interested in joining next year's KHS paddle check out:

<https://www.massivemurraypaddle.org.au>

It's a great way to see this fantastic part of the country, meet new people, spot the occasional koala and get inspired by the spirit of this unique event.



Lily Roth at the 2019 finish line



## Writers Shine

Congratulations to Lily Wardell and Abbie Payne for their success in the Lithgow Youth Council Short Story Competition. Lily's story, "The Ocean" won first prize and Abbie's piece, "The Window is a Single Pane" won the people's choice award. Their short stories are included in this newsletter.



Lily and Abbie



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## The window is a single pane. by Abbie Payne

It is old but not attractively so and standing in front of it has the same effect as standing in front of an open refrigerator. As the harsh rays of nuclear fusion pierce the passive glass a single shadow begins its leisurely ascent, straining with all its capacity to touch the stars. The possessor of this soulless outline situates themselves in the damp, tragic looking corner of the room furthest away from the hopeful window to the outside world.

Since the exile began the once frilly curtains at the window are thick with, what appears to be, over a decade of grime. The filtered light that fights to get through fails to reflect the once cheerfully yellow carpet that now resembles more closely a forest floor in colour and texture. The vintage red wallpaper, ridden with decay, has started peeling off the wall and now hangs like earring on a dead woman's ears.

After being locked away for countless cycles of moon and sun the longing to smell the flowers and dance among the trees has become immense. The old window dampens the warming light of nuclear fusion and traps the smell of chemically induced sanitizer, slowly poisoning the mind into submission. At the end of the day the risk is too great to dare to set foot on the dazzling grass, swaying to the song of the wind.

Another dreary day passes as darkness engulfs the once climbing shadows. As the sun takes her final breaths of light the sky befalls her nightly transformation. As this occurs the clear canvas that is the window is painted a deep blue and sprinkled with stars and countless new worlds all of which reflect the promise of freedom and light in darkness.

The previously pessimistic owner of a shadow now feels a weight lifted off their shoulders as if a particularly heavy child has just left of their shoulders after a satisfying piggy back ride. With a final feeling of relief they descend into a dream with too many lights to count dancing on an ocean too vast to see.

As dawn begins to ascend to her golden throne, glorious rays of pure hope illuminate an empty chair situated in front of an old window. The previous owner of a shadow now dances outside to the song of the wind and the beat of the trees.

Never to be locked away again.





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## The Ocean by Lily Wardell

The ocean let out a breath.

Her shallows exhaling in a rhythmic pulse that sighed with resentment at each receding wave.

If I hadn't once been claimed by her watery depths then I may have been lured in by the tranquil facade.

It had been a hot summer day, the back of my neck blistering under the raking sun. The sea was thrashing like a wild bull beneath my small boat, and I was captivated in its vast expanse. I felt utterly helpless as I clung to the side, the sharp metal digging into my skin.

The waves tossed me up and down, jerking my small frame as if I was nothing but a china doll. With one last desperate roar, the bull succeeded, and I was thrown into the hungry waves – frantically kicking as I was dragged into her embrace. She pulled me *down, down, down* into her frigid depths, and I was trapped in her web of deep blue hues.

After a minute, I stopped. I relaxed my muscles and gazed up to the surface, watching the rays of sun break through the waves, burning through the hazy water and creating beams of light that reached down into the tempestuous abyss with elongated fingers.

As if in a daze, I floated through the water. My tattered shirt billowed around me like the reeds below that longed for even a taste of the salted breeze that kissed your skin with tenderness.

I closed my eyes, welcoming the darkness that enveloped me, as the sea held me in a cradle of brine.

I stayed like this until my lungs begged for respite, for a breath of air, choking on the salt that burned like a steady flame. I kicked my flailing legs, finally remembering how to use my water-logged muscles that had once weighed me down like pitiless stones. Tiny bubbles flitted around me like small fish as I was propelled towards the surface, my heart feeling lighter with every second as I went *up, up, up*.

At last, I broke free. I stared around in a daze, bobbing up and down in the now gently rolling waves. I greedily inhaled the air, rasping as I let the crisp breeze fill my scorching lungs.

The sun no longer burned me, and the once roaring wind now tickled my slick skin in welcome. I looked around for the upturned boat, but it seemed that it had not been granted mercy from the ravenous waves.

When I had finally collapsed onto the grainy sand, I stared out to the vast ocean. I was vaguely aware of a dull throb on my temple, and I frowned when I brought my fingers away and found them stained with dark blood. The sun was perched on the horizon, sending out golden rays that made the water shimmer like a jeweled blade, sharpened by the grueling heat and the watchful gaze of the squawking gulls overhead. I shivered as the calm waves nipped my toes apologetically. How quickly the tides could turn, how quickly the raging beast could be reduced to a mere husk of what it was before.

But then again, the most innocent of faces often masked the wildest of hearts.

## 2020 BLUE FRINGE ART & LITERATURE



# CALL FOR ENTRIES

ART | PHOTOGRAPHY | SCULPTURE  
TEXTILES | SHORT STORIES | POETRY

## BLUE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2020

The Blue Fringe Art & Literature Festival celebrates the creativity of people with a lived experience of mental illness and the benefits of creativity for mental wellbeing and resilience.

### MONETARY PRIZES AWARDED IN EACH CATEGORY

General Entry is open to people 18yrs+ with a lived experience of mental illness.  
Youth Entry is open to anyone High School age in celebration of mental wellbeing.

### ENTRIES CLOSE 12:00 MIDDAY MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

For details on how to enter go to [www.bluefringe.org.au/entry](http://www.bluefringe.org.au/entry)  
or call Springwood Neighbourhood Centre on 4751 3033 or Belong BM on 4782 1117