



### Celebrating Excellence

Our Week 9 Presentation Ceremonies were a wonderful opportunity to recognise individual students who have shown commitment to their studies and contributed positively to school culture.

See highlights on page 5.

### Debating State Champions

Our Stage 4 Debating Team are the State Champions of NSW after defeating Armidale Secondary College in the State Final last Thursday. They are such a talented and dedicated team and we are incredibly proud of them. For more, visit page 2.

### IEC Expo of Learning 2020

Students from our Intensive English Classes have put together a sensational exhibition of their learning to share with our families.

Visit the news section of our website to see the complete Expo or page 3 for highlights.

## Principal's Message

*By Ms Hayley Macdonald, Principal*

As 2020 draws to a close we have much to reflect upon and be grateful for. The year has been one of challenge and change for us all, yet we have much to celebrate and to be proud about.

As a school community, we have risen to the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic by learning, adapting, problem solving, creating, innovating and supporting each other.

Overnight, school changed dramatically and our students quickly adapted: learning Canvas, Microsoft Teams, Zoom and the joy of completing school work in their pyjamas. Many seized the opportunity to develop greater independent learning skills which will serve them well as they progress through high school and beyond.

We are incredibly grateful to our school community for your support over the year. Our teaching staff went to extraordinary effort to maintain the continuity of learning for students and were buoyed by the messages of gratitude received from our families.

Last week, we gathered to celebrate all that we have achieved as a school community over the course of the year. Our students were recognised for a wide range of skills, qualities and interests - from academic and sporting pursuits to the arts and music, citizenship, love of reading, leadership and innovation. We are truly a diverse school community with many different talents and skills and we support, celebrate and encourage them all. You can see the highlights from these very special events on page 5.

*Continued back page.*

# Out & About

A snapshot of learning beyond the classroom



Our State Champion Debating Team (L-R front) Tesla, Rifah, Emarehi and Chelsea with their super coaches, Miss Rose and Mrs Seferovic, as well as Ms Macdonald. The girls finished overall winners out of 238 teams across the state. The grand final debate topic was that Australia should boycott the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in China. Our girls argued the negative.



Students from Year 7, 8 and 9 participated in Sports Gala Days in Soccer, Mixed Sports and Mixed Netball respectively.



Our Year 9 PASS and 10 PASS students did a fabulous job of coaching Year 7 in swim and survive skills at Lambton pool.



Ariana S. (Year 9) proudly shared an Acknowledgement of Country for the NSW Psychology Association Conference.



Our CAPA Teacher, Jody Hooker has done an amazing job teaching dance to all our partner primary students.



Year 7 Forensic Science students share their crime scene dioramas. They've been learning about a variety of techniques used by Forensic Scientists, including ballistics, fingerprinting and fibre analysis.



# Intensive English Centre Expo

Our Head Teacher of English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D), Georgie Gallagher talks about our Intensive English Centre at Waratah and the wonderful collaborations we've formed with community organisations to provide holistic support to our students from refugee backgrounds.

Teaching is rarely a solo experience, as seen in the Intensive English Centre (IEC) at Callaghan College Waratah Campus. Collaboration is key to successful language teaching, particularly when engaging a diverse range of students from refugee backgrounds in the IEC. Students come from across the globe, from Syria, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Pakistan and Jordan, and speak a range of languages including Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi, Dari, Kirundi, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Pashtu and French. Many have large gaps in their education or have had limited access to formal schooling.

Collaboration is embedded in daily practice in the IEC, with students supported by EAL/D staff, a Community Liaison Officer and Bilingual Student Learning Support Officers in the classroom. The school also partners with several other organisations to deliver a range of programs to support refugee students. STARRTS provide specialist in-school counselling support and facilitate a number of wellbeing programs, including the Capoeira Project Bantu, a dance, fitness and music program and the Settling In / Teens in Cultural Transition programs. Northern Settlement Services provide a Weekly Homework and Study Centre at the school and Youth Cultural Exchange Program. The Hunter Multicultural Communities Centre partner with us to offer students work placement opportunities in aged care support, horticulture and carpentry. MYAN NSW run youth advocacy consultations and leadership training for students and Wesley Mission also runs counselling support services for our students.

Staff also strive to engage students in positive collaborations on campus, as seen in our Harmony Day and Refugee Week celebrations. Harmony Day celebrations are a much anticipated whole school event each year, as students share live music, performances and cultural foods. Community guests come onsite to share skills, stories and culture with the school community. This year the event went digital, as staff and students produced and shared our Taste of Harmony Recipe book, featuring staff and students' recipes from around the globe as well as short stories about the significance of the dishes to their families and communities. Many of the recipes and stories were provided by our IEC students.

A school can be a transformative community for staff and students. In the Intensive English Centre at Callaghan College Waratah, staff are always working on ways to engage and collaborate with students and the community in a positive and respectful way for the benefit of all students.

To celebrate our year of learning in the IEC, our students have put together an Expo of some of their favourite class work from the year. Please take the time to visit the news section of our website and check out their beautiful work. We are really proud of all they have achieved during this year of challenge and change.



"I made this Self Portrait painting in IEC class. I used paint and black lines to make my portrait painting of myself. I like this because it help me to know how to describe my face and my emotions."



"I made this painting of a scene from a fairytale in English. I enjoyed this because I love art."



"This was the best artwork , I made it in IEC class. I have used designs from my background from Syria and Kurdistan. Also I used heartbeat symbol of surgeon. I like it because it has lots of detail."

## Meet Waratah Alumnus Chris Velovski

*Chris Velovski, Managing Director of the EDC Consultants shares about his successful career journey in the design and engineering fields.*

### Can you tell us about your time at Waratah Campus?

I was at Waratah from Year 7 to Year 12, graduating in 1988, and I have absolutely wonderful memories. I studied Maths, English, Chemistry, Engineering Science, Business Studies, Art and Photography for the HSC. My best subjects were Maths, Engineering Science and Business Studies.

### What is your fondest memory from Waratah Campus?

When we won the Bill Turner Cup (Soccer) against St Francis Xavier. At the time, we were the underdogs - even our own school was doubting we could win. Our coach, Mr Scevak was a passionate football man himself, and really helped us beat the odds.

### Describe the journey you embarked on post leaving Waratah Campus.

After I finished Year 12, I started an apprenticeship with Allco Steel (in Tomago), which was the largest steel fabrication and manufacturing company on the East Coast. I studied Engineering (Structural) Diploma and Advance Diploma of Management, thinking my life was set with a large firm. During 1991-1992 a recession hit and Allco Steel was bought out by another firm which closed down the Newcastle Office, making us all redundant. I was devastated at the time. However, it was a blessing in disguise, as we started up our own company, EDC Consultants in 1992, which has been running ever since.

### What is your current role and what does it involve?

I'm the Managing Director of EDC Consultants - we do all kinds of technical projects all over Australia in commercial, industrial, mining, oil & gas, health and infrastructure fields. Some of our projects include The New Sydney Metro Stations between Chatswood and Rouse Hill, Luna Park Project and Western Sydney Bus T-Way. We provide advance data to manufacturing with 3D Modelling, Building Information Modelling (BIM) and many other advanced technologies. I am really blessed to have a great client base and great staff to support what we do.

### What are some of the challenges you've faced in establishing your career?

I made a conscious choice in 1986 to get involved in engineering and design fields from Year 10. However, some of the greatest challenges I have



faced have been times when the market has chosen to outsource technical projects overseas because it was cheaper. Over the years, we have seen these low-cost centres come and go. I am really committed to training people locally and retaining people locally in Australia and building our talent pool. We have been involved with STEMship programs for over 7 years.

### What's the most rewarding part of your work?

The most rewarding part of my career and everything I strive to do is "Leaving a Legacy" of our project. We have been fortunate to be involved with some very high profile projects and it feels awesome that me and my team have achieved these legacies.

### What advice would you give current Waratah Campus students wanting to pursue a similar path?

Try and make up your mind in what you want to do, and strive in achieving this. University is not everything, and you are not a failure if you don't achieve this. The sky is the limit when you are genuinely doing the right thing for you. Trust the person in the mirror and be genuine with yourself (I strongly believe you cannot find the answers on social media, however speak to industry and listen to the advice they provide).

### Who or what inspires you?

The entire team at Waratah was very inspirational and supportive.



# Celebrating Excellence during 2020



First in Year - Joshua S. (Year 7), Rifah S. (Year 8), Shaqayeq B. (Year 9) and Griffin E. (Year 10)



Krishna K. receiving the Campus Principal's Award

End of year celebrations at Callaghan College include a number of awards ceremonies. These special events give our school an opportunity to celebrate all that we have achieved as a school community over the course of the year.

It is also a chance to recognise individual student success for students who have shown commitment to their studies and have contributed positively to the culture of our College.

This year there was a wide range of skills, qualities and interests acknowledged – from sporting and academic pursuits to the arts, music, citizenship, innovation, love of reading, leadership and more.

Congratulations to all the students who were recognised at our individual Year group presentation ceremonies, as well as those students who received College Excellence Awards at the College Principal's morning tea last Tuesday.

For more photos visit our [website gallery](#)



Shahira N. receiving the Jesmond Senior Campus Scholarship



Ashley W. receiving the Year 7 Special Education Award



Tony N. receiving the Future Learning and Innovation Award



Year 7 award recipients



Year 8 award recipients



Year 9 award recipients

# Keeping teens safe online over the holiday season

*Adapted from an article by Kirra Pendergast from Safe on Social*

As the school holidays approach, check out these tips for navigating the online world safely.

## 1. Have healthy boundaries in place.

Set healthy digital boundaries, such as all devices are banned from the bathroom or bedroom, and be very clear about how long your child can be online each day.

## 2. Talk as a family about what is ok and what is not ok to share online.

- Whether any member of the family can share photos of the house or pet's name online, and respecting siblings wishes if they do not want photos of themselves posted on social media platforms.
- When to share family holiday photos and what photos can be shared.
- What is not to be shared online.

If your child is receiving their first device this Christmas, get them to do a little presentation to the family on cyber safety in the lead up to using any social media apps on the device.

For suggestions, check out <https://www.esafety.gov.au/kids> for information from Australia's eSafety Commissioner.

## 3. Protect personal information.

- Never give away personal information like their full name, address, age, phone number, or where they go to school.
- Be aware of what is in the background if your child is using video that could identify a location or person.
- Turn off location tracking in their device settings.
- Set all of their accounts to private and have strong passwords (don't use the same password for everything).

## 4. Respect the classifications on games.

If your child is playing online games, set healthy boundaries around game choices and playing time. Always check the classifications as they are there for child safety - the average age of a gamer is 35 years old, so not all games are designed or appropriate for teenagers.

## 5. Teach your children to think twice before they accept a friend request.

Is this a person that you know and like? Just because someone is a friend of your child's older sibling or cousin, should not automatically mean they accept a friend request too.



Regularly remind children that they don't always know who they are talking to through online chat rooms and games. Make sure your children do not accept invitations from people they don't know in person to follow them onto another platform.

## 6. Know how to block and report on every app and game your child is using.

That way you can help if things go wrong.

## 7. Be a good role model.

Keep your screen time in check and set a good example for your children. Teach them to review who they are following and unfollow accounts that make them feel bad about themselves. Follow accounts that inspire them or are focused on areas of personal interest.

## 8. Look for the verification symbol.

All social media sites have symbols to verify it is the actual celebrity or group. It is normally a little blue circle with a white tick next to the name; or on YouTube, a grey circle with a white tick; and Snapchat uses a yellow circle with a black star.

## 9. Strategise with your children.

It's important that children know when to get a parent or a trusted adult involved, especially if:

- Friends sharing inappropriate photos
- Friends going to meet someone they have met online
- Someone is self-harming or talking about self-harm.

## 10. Taking action against online bullying.

Follow the steps outlined at <https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people/cyberbullying>



## Celebrating an outstanding year across the College

*By Kylee Owen, College Principal*

Thank you to our families for your connection and partnership this most incredible year at Callaghan College. It has been a delight to see all of the students who have been recognised for their excellence at Campus and College Awards in 2020.

With our Year 12 students receiving their HSC results this week, we have much to celebrate, with more than 40 students receiving early entry offers to University of Newcastle; and a number of students being offered ongoing traineeships from our Apprenticeship Incubator program. 2020 has seen a range of our Year 12 students recognised for Excellence and most recently this includes three young ladies who have excelled in the area of Visual Arts. Haylee Mills and Niamh Currey have been successful in gaining entry into the Art Express Exhibition and Amelia Bannister to the First Class Exhibition. We wish all our Callaghan Class of 2020 future success.

In preparation for a great start to 2021, we have had a number of transition activities running at each of our campuses, from interviews and information sessions for our incoming Year 7s at Waratah and Wallsend, to our three week intensive transition program at Jesmond Senior Campus for 2021 Year 11 students. The staff welcomed almost 400 Year 10 students who got an opportunity to experience their timetabled classes for next year, as well as present their Learning Portfolios and get involved in wellbeing and study sessions.

On behalf of the College, I hope you all enjoy your end of year celebrations, and thank you for being part of our College community this year.



## News from the Gunya Room



Emily G. (Year 10) receiving the College Deadly Award. Congratulations also to Bayleigh B. (Yr 7), Amelia D. (Yr. 8) and Arianer S. (Yr 9) who received the Deadly Awards for their respective year groups.



Darren Woodhouse and Alex Nean proudly represented our College at Walk A Mile Koori Style this year. They joined a small group of invited guests who walked together to say no to domestic violence in our homes and communities.

## Thanking our Community Supporters



Our campus has received support from numerous community partners throughout the year, including Baker's Delight Waratah, Awabakal Land Council and Tilly's Childcare Waratah. Shaqayeq and Grace (Year 9) thanked these partners on behalf of staff and students.

## Wrapping up the year in Sport

It has been a very quiet year in representative and inter-school sport due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. However, our staff have worked hard to provide loads of opportunities for students to stay active on campus with Breaktime sports, Canvas sports challenges and modified carnivals. We are very grateful to all the students who embraced these opportunities and helped keep the House Championship running by earning points for their house.

Congratulations to all our Sport award recipients at last week's ceremonies, particularly our Junior and Senior Sportspeople of the year, and to our House Champions for 2020 - The Sharks.

### Junior Sports Boy of the Year

Paddy C.- Year 8

### Junior Sports Girl of the Year

Amie S. - Year 8

### Senior Sports Boy of the Year

Jed G. - Year 10

### Senior Sports Girl of the Year

Amber C. - Year 10



## The Best Christmas Gotcha Draw Yet!

On Monday morning we held our annual Christmas Gotcha Draw with loads of fun and frivolity from start to finish. Staff and some students dressed up in their best Christmas cheer and there was loads of presents and prizes for students.

Activities included a staff versus students Christmas Tik Toc challenge, a Reindeer Roller Derby, Performances from Ms Hooker's Dance Group and Ms Salter's Music groups, a staff versus students tree decoration challenge and a year group Christmas dance off.

A huge thank you to Mr Derry and his team of helpers for organising this fabulous event.



Musical performance of "Rip Tide" by our Year 9 Music Group.



Miss Lenton, Mr Tarrant, Miss Bradley and Miss Taylor join in the Tree Decoration challenge.



## Principal's Message

*Continued from page 1.*

During Week 9 our school community also recognised and said farewell to our 2020 Year 10 cohort. Year 10 – as a year group you have gained such respect from the teaching staff who have often commented to me about your maturity and attitude to schooling. You have been a wonderful influence on our younger students and as a year group we will miss you.

We know that you will undertake the transition to senior school with confidence and strength. You are ready and well prepared to take on the challenges of Stage 6 and will shine on your entry to senior schooling.

I would like to especially acknowledge and thank our out going senior leadership team, Griffin, Ava, Joy and Miranda. Although this was not the year they expected, they have done a wonderful job. They made themselves available for every online assembly we filmed, continued to work with our SRC leaders whilst learning from home and strengthened these roles on their return to schooling. They have been resilient and cheerful in the captaincy this year and nothing has ever been too much trouble. They are wonderful young leaders and we look forward to seeing where their next leadership journey takes them.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate our Stage 4 Debating Team for their magnificent win in the State Final last week. They are such a talented and dedicated team and we are incredibly proud of them. What a great finish to the year!

Well done everyone for making it through 2020. Have a wonderful, relaxing and restful holiday.



*Thank you to our out going School Captains*

## Administration Office Messages

### Canteen

Our school canteen will be closed on Wednesday 16 December 2020.

### Cash payments

No cash payments will be accepted from our School Administration Office from 12pm on Tuesday 15 December to Friday 29 January 2021.

### Over the phone payments

In accordance with new Department of Education policy, our School Administration Office can no longer accept credit card payments over the phone. If you wish to pay by card, please come in person to our School Administration Office or use the payments tab on our website.

### Office hours

Our School Administration Office will close from Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 3:30pm to Friday 29 January 2021 at 8:30am. We will be available to respond to phone calls and enrolment enquiries from Wednesday 27 January 2021 at 8:30am.

### Communication to the School

Please remember that the school will be closed over the Christmas holiday period. If you have any questions about 2021, please contact our Administration Office on (02) 4968 1939 from Wednesday 27 January or send an email to

[waratah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:waratah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

We will not be replying to messages via Facebook over this period.



*Year 10 hit the dance floor at their formal last Thursday night.*