As the school year draws to a close, it is a good time to reflect on the successes we have enjoyed throughout 2016. It is pleasing to know Year 10 have been well prepared for the transition to senior studies and 99% of students have received the ROSA credentials to allow them to continue to Stage 6. At our recent Recognition and Farewell to Year 10 we recognised students who had demonstrated outstanding commitment in their academic studies and in the wider community. In 2016 Amy Jane Large was awarded the Balmain Award for her consistent approach to her studies, her involvement in our IMP, performing arts, and her commitment to school events. Two students Lilli Taranto and Laura Fazio-Nagy received the Principal’s Medallion which is part of the Awards System at Balmain Campus. These students were also able to demonstrate their outstanding success in two areas – academic, performing arts, citizenship, sport or community involvement. I congratulate these three students on their awards.

Special thanks to our outgoing School Leaders who have demonstrated fine leadership skills and have provided support for the School Executive and student body. Minna Kilelainen, Silvan Bluett, Snow Dodgson and Fiona Morton are to be congratulated on a fantastic year.

On Thursday we celebrated with our Year 7 to 9 students and again many awards were received by students who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to studies and extracurricular activities. Many of our Year 7 received Principal’s Medallions and these are listed in this edition. It is wonderful to see so many students who have followed the Balmain Way and in their first year of high school have been able to achieve this prestigious award.

The new student leadership team was inducted on Thursday at our Recognition Assembly and I have pleasure in announcing Jacob Leong, Ailia Ardon, Francis Smith and Angus MacDougall as the 2017 School Leaders. I would like to congratulate all students who
participated in the process. They demonstrated maturity and professionalism in presenting themselves in the application process as well as the interview process. I feel confident they will have a very successful year as leaders of our Campus.

Balmain Campus will be very busy during the holiday season. The much anticipated oval upgrade will commence on Monday 19 December and towards the end of the holidays the replanting of the new tress in the main quadrangle will begin. Special thanks to our P & C for their efforts in ensuring both these programs will be completed by the start of the year. Two portable classrooms will also be established along Terry Street to accommodate the growing school population.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Balmain Campus community for welcoming me in Term 4. I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside the dedicated and passionate teachers and the equally committed students who make this campus a very vibrant middle school. A very peaceful and safe holiday for all our families.

Jan Cuke
Acting Principal

The students listed below received a Principals medallion in 2016:

Sean Jung           Chloé Rattray
Veronica Sainsbury  Benjamin Pearcy
Alice Cagney        Marcus Mallard
Lucia White         Christian Sullivan
Oliver Carter       Zoe Kerr
Gisella Pipino      Zoe Cooper
Myrtle Xanthakos    Estelle Cutler
Hazel Bluett        Nina Kelly
Monica Paroli       Jonathan Dimitropoulos
Nikki Murray        Oscar Iredale
Milo Taylor-Westermann        Nicolai Kristerson Campbell
Lucy Austen-Paine  Vassili Xanthakos
Max Parker          Lee Ou
Alexander Parker    Nevo Hyams
Sophie Ogilvy       Thu Doan
Naomi Johnston      Maxwell Sharpe
Caitlin Kerr        Michael Kennedy
Florence Collins    Kevin Zheng
Ansel Lee           Lauren Watt
Zara Onay
Asha Angus
FAREWELL SPEECHES FROM SOME OF OUR 2016 SCHOOL LEADERS:

Snow Dodson:

Jamie Parker addressed the new coming Year 7 at the beginning of the year. Darcy Byrne continues to visit the White Ribbon garden, after his memorable speech at the assembly last year. On Wear It Purple Day, councillor Linda Scott talked about the Safe School program with Mr. Levingston. There are the students who have organised these events and made them happen. The SRC, led by Lola Collingbourne, Zahra Plumsted and many others, is full of creative and active people.

We have had three principals this year. Mr. Wright who was here for a long time, had a very emotional farewell. He was a personal mentor for me, and many others. Mr. Levingston, inspired us with his personable manner, and currently Ms Cuke has already tightened Balmain’s bond with Blackwattle Bay. I am very grateful to have been elected as a school leader of this school, and to be a part of the development of the community leadership appreciation award. Time and time again, I hear that Balmain is the school of the most socially active students. This school is only as good as the leaders in it, and congratulations to the two award winners here, Thomas Tapia and Jemima Wood, for actively standing up in the community. This congratulation extends to all the leaders who go unrecognized.

My vision is for the coming Year 10 is to continue to develop as socially active, community involved leaders and improve Balmain further. Let's bring the Balmain spirit to Blackwattle Bay. See you all at the formal.

Minna Kilpelainen:

Before we leave to go off to Blackwattle Bay, leaving most of our high school education here, I just want to say a massive thank you. Thank you to all the teachers who have put up with us for the last four years. Only joking. Well, partially. Thank you so much for, well, teaching us, letting us grow and express ourselves, and, ultimately, guiding us through this wonderful journey of our years at Balmain. A special mention to Ms Wolf for stepping in this year to take over the role of year adviser, on possibly the hardest year to manage. Also to all the student teachers and casual teachers we’ve had throughout the years. As well as to the SASS staff, managing all our notes and fees, thank you. To all the teachers and staff, you’ve helped us to grow, to learn, and to achieve, not just academically, and for that, we are grateful. Again, on behalf of all year 10, I just want to say, thank you so much for everything you’ve done for us. I know, out of Balmain, we are the best year group to teach, but don’t worry, we’ll miss you guys too.
**Term 4 news from our Faculties:**

**SCIENCE Faculty:** Marine and Aquaculture studies continues to be a popular and well offered course at Balmain and the programs are continuously being refined by our very own Dr. Brunner and adapted to our local environment with the Harbour right at our door step. Using student directed learning, the marine life and tanks have been cared for by our dedicated and budding young scientists. The Science faculty have been so generously gifted with a beautiful Marine tank, by a very kind parent of Luca Economidis. The tank will be used and valued so highly as a resource by our future Year 9 and 10 Marine Biologists. Thank you so kindly Nick.

On another exciting note, Balmain Campus will be embarking on an enrichment STEM classes in Term 1 and 2. The trained team of teachers will work on an exciting “WaterBotic” Project Based Learning - with the focus for Year 8 students to engage and understand real world examples. A excursion to the Australian Maritime Museum and teaching students how to Code are only some of the experiences that will be offered to the STEM class. Please look out for Harbour Life for more information on our STEM project, which will be offered to our wider community in 2017.

*By Raheela El-Rakshy, Head Teacher Science*

**SUPPORT UNIT:** Term 4 was busy in the support unit with a big focus on transition programs. The year 10 students completed transition days at their year 11 schools and the year 6 students attended weekly visits at Balmain. Everyone seemed happy during these days and these transition programs ensure that students feel prepared and even excited for their new schools next year. Work Experience was a highlight for the S4 class as the students gained many skills in the workplace as well as becoming independent travellers. Other highlights this term include the excursion to Sculptures by the Sea, Swim Fitness program, community access to Manly and the big fundraiser to raise funds for a modified bus. Individual Education Plan meetings were completed with all families and new goals have been established ready for 2017.

*By Kim Moddel, Head Teacher Support Unit*

**LOTE Faculty:** Congratulations to the Year 8 students who came second in the Linguafest State wide film festival. Students needed to demonstrate their language skills through a creative and entertaining short film. Our students were up against a range of highly talented students and proved themselves more than capable of achieving success. Thank you to Ms Gregory for all her hard work assisting the students to achieve their goals. Once again congratulations and we look forward to more success in future Linguafest competitions.

*By Kate Graham, Head Teacher HSIE/LOTE*

**WELLBEING FACULTY:** Some students in Years 7 and 8 have been participating in building positive relationships workshops being run by counsellors from the Ted Noffs foundation. Some students have been participating in Rock and Water workshops with Mr Adamson. The workshops have run across the term over a number of lessons. During these lessons a series of exercises and games are practiced to develop confidence and self-
reflection. Year 9 and 10 have participated in the Digital Thumbprints workshops. Years 7 & 8 have already participated in similar activities earlier in the year. The workshops for Years 9 & 10 focus on creating a positive online identity and the impact students have on themselves and others, including how to help friends who may be facing anti-social activity. The concepts covered include intention and impact, online identity and defending friends. Students in Year 9 also participated in Drug education workshops.

*By Shere Hinchey, Head Teacher Wellbeing*

**TAS Faculty:** Term 4 has been very busy with wonderful items produced in all areas. Below are some photos of a few things such as:

- Gingerbread making in food technology
- Cushion Design in Technology
- Year 9 & 10 Multimedia excursion to the Powerhouse museum, focusing on virtual reality and video editing
- Textiles and Design Major Projects
- Eco Lamps - Technology
Year 7 Swim School

Year 7 participated in a Learn to Swim and Water Safety program at Drummoyne Olympic Swimming pool. For three days, we walked from Balmain Campus to the pool, and each day were split into 4 groups: non-swimmers, semi-confident and advanced swimmers. In the non-swimming group, they were able to use floatation devices including noodles and kickboards to assist in their confidence in the pool.

The students who said they weren’t confident or they were average in regards to swimming were completing similar activities such as 10 metres laps of various strokes and practising kicking and floating. They were also completing water safety exercises including when one student would lie on the edge of the pool and use a noodle to pull their partner in.

The advanced swimming group did 50 metre laps of various strokes, and also completed drills practising their techniques. The group also participated in water safety exercises and witnessed one of the instructors demonstrating CPR on the dummy.

Students were given breaks throughout the day to have recess, lunch and drinks break as it was really hot. All the swimmers enjoyed the program and we highly recommend it for Year 7 2017.

Written by Alice Cagney & Keira Jones
BYOD - Bring Your Own Device

From Term 1, 2017, Sydney Secondary College, Balmain will be a fully 'Bring Your Own Device' campus. The expectation of all students is that they will bring their devices to school to enable them to properly access the teaching and learning programs in all subjects.

Over the last year, there has been a huge investment in technology, with most classrooms now having state of the art projection and sound systems in place. Continued investment and professional development will ensure that Balmain has a progressive approach towards the use of technology.

For further information about device specification, free apps and connectivity issues, please refer to balmainbyod.com.

Students can use chromebooks, Windows products or Apple devices.

Please see below for details about the Apple Family Funded Program for Sydney Secondary College, Balmain campus.

Apple provides a number of ways to help families buy devices and accessories for students to use for education. These include Apple Stores and Apple contact centres.

You can visit your local Apple Store, or call 133-622 to purchase through our contact centre. Please let the Specialist know that Balmain is part of the Family Funded Program to receive specialised pricing.

The Apple Store is a great place to learn about, try and buy Apple products for education. Apple Specialists are on hand to help you and your student get to know your new Apple device, and with Personal Setup they can help get new devices up and running before you leave the store.

Apple can also provide support with everything related to your new Apple purchase — from tips for using iPad to troubleshooting iTunes. You can get support by phone, email or online chat, or set up a repair or Genius Bar reservation at getsupport.apple.com.
Sport has continued to be a great success at Balmain Campus in Term 4. Three of our junior grade sport teams have been named Premiers in their respective competitions. Three other Balmain grade sport teams qualified for semi or grand finals in the summer sport competitions.

• **Under 14 Girls Euro Handball.** Balmain 1 and Balmain 2 played each other in the grand final. Special mention to the captains of both team, Libby Smith and Lucia White, as well as exceptional goal keeping, Phoebe Leahey. Coached by Ms Nikki Anderson.

• **Under 14 Girls Basketball.** Balmain 1 finished in 2nd position after playing Leichhardt 1 in the Grand Final at Marrickville PCYC. In a tight game they lost by 9 points in the final. Well done to Hazel Bluett, Miku Johnson and Veronika Sainsbury who were the coaches stand out performers throughout the season. Well done girls on making the grand final. Coached by Mr Bruce Hackett.

• **Under 14 Girls Oztag.** Balmain 1 lost in the grand final to Leichhardt Campus in the Grand Final at Waterworth Park, Tempe. The score was 4-2. Special mentions to Balmain 1 girls Gisella Pipino and Catriona Njo for great skill, sportsmanship and leadership. Coached by Ms Abbie Jones

• **Under 14 Boys Oztag.** The grand final saw Balmain 2 beat Marrickville 3-2 in extra time. The boys played as a team throughout the year and this helped them pull together during a tight grand final. Congratulations boys! Coached by Mr Drew Furey.

• **Under 15 Girls Basketball.** The girls unfortunately lost to Leichhardt Campus in the semi-final in Week 7. Special mention to Year 9 girls Samantha Iglesias, Melisa Unat and Jade Nevell for filing in for the Year 10 girls who were participating in Taster Week at Blackwattle Bay. Coached by Dr Christopher Brunner.

• **Under 14 Boys Cricket.** Balmain 1 were named Premiers in their competition at Beaman Park. The boys’ consistency through Term 1 and Term 4 was excellent. The Grand Final in Week 9 was shorted to a 10/10. Special congratulations go to Hugo Cowdrey-Lack and Clive Manzie for their consistent performances in 2016. Coached by Mr Hassan.

### 2017 College Swim Carnival

The 2017 Sydney Secondary College Swimming Carnival will take place on Wednesday 8th February, 2017 at Drummoyne Swimming Pool. All 2017 Year 7 students will attend this carnival as a compulsory school day. Years 8, 9 and 10 students who wish to compete at this carnival must see the PDHPE Faculty for a permission note to attend this carnival.

Thank you to all staff, students and parents who have continued to support sport at Balmain Campus in 2016. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable year with many outstanding achievements for a diverse range of students.

Mr Angus Glynne
Sports Coordinator
Duke of Ed expedition

The 2016 Duke of Ed is an experience that each of the members of our team will never forget.

Over the course of December 7th and 8th, we (the 33 year nine Bronze Duke of Ed students) set off on our qualifying adventurous journey. A journey through the Kangaroo Valley by canoe where not only were we assessed by Ms Beck but also where we were physically and mentally challenged. The 15 kilometres to the camp weren’t as difficult as the return trip. Naturally there were a few bumps along the way as well as one capsize and the threat of the giant stinging trees, but overall we really only had fun.

We all learnt so much about each other and reconnected with friends we may have not talked to in a while. The nature setting bonded us all together, where we worked together to cook, pack, canoe, swim and even wake up. All in all, it really was a learning experience for us all where we worked together as a team and used our strengths and weaknesses to our advantage.

As a Duke of Ed student I highly recommend the program to any newcomers or prospect Year 9 who might be considering it. (it’s so worth it!!)

A big thank you to Ms Rachel Beck our Duke of Ed coordinator and mentor as well as Darryl, our instructor and Mr Wright our former principal.

- Alia Ardon, year 9 student 2016