

orara high school

showcase



issue eight

term three

week eight

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# content

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**02**

# showcasing CAPA

The Creative and Performing Arts faculty at Orara High School offers a range of courses across the creative and performing arts, including drama, visual arts, photography, visual design, and music, with our teachers being specialists in their subect areas.

## HSC Drama

**Chloe Johns, Imogen Oakes, Josh Desmond, Raymond Reid, Matthew Wallace.**

Are we there yet?

What a wild ride it's been for 2021 HSC Drama students; navigating the relentless script rewrites of NESA's performance guidelines and maintaining positive tribe vibes amidst so much uncertainty after months of hard work creating their HSC theatre products.

Orara High's HSC Drama class have managed to



complete their Individual Projects (monologues and script writing) and the holy grail of the HSC Drama course - the Group Project!

Creating an original 12

minute play is no easy feat but Chloe, Imogen, Josh, Matthew and Raymond have successfully made a black comedy piece that explores the aging problem Australia will face in the future.



What will we do when we run out of cemetery space and golf course greens to convert to graveyards? Send the corpses to Tasmania? China? Mars???

These are the questions/suggestions year 12 Drama explores in their play and it must be said... it's taboo but terrific! Hopefully they can perform this for a wider audience to appreciate before they graduate.

### Year 11 Drama Meeting Alana Valentine

Studying a contemporary playwright's work and then meeting them in person is not something that happens

to Drama students often! Lucky for Orara High School's year 11 Drama class they had the honour of hosting Alana Valentine, one of Australia's most in demand playwrights, on campus for a day.

Alana ran a 2 hour workshop and fielded many curious questions the students had about how Verbatim Theatre is created.

She also shared exclusive archival footage of productions from her plays at Sydney's Belvoir Theatre that cannot be accessed by the general public - we felt very privileged to view this material!

Seeing these professional performances helped deepen the students' understanding of the plays we studied in term 2.

This amazing CAPAtunity came about through our ongoing relationship with the Bellingen Readers Writer Festival who offer these educational enrichment experiences to OHS for free.

We are immensely grateful for their generosity and continued support of Drama by inviting playwrights to feature on their program.

Alana Valentine was also extremely generous, giving the year 11 students signed copies of her latest collection of plays (see photograph).



Year 11 Drama meeting with Alana Valentine, who generously signed copies of her latest plays for students.

### Let's get physical... with Taylah Barker, Abigail Klassen, Jemmiah Stuart, Pink Tha and Jake Weller.

Physical Theatre is an important part of playbuilding; it's a dynamic storytelling style using actors' bodies to make dramatic shapes to communicate extra meaning to the audience and enhance the entertainment factor.

In term 1, Year 11 Drama enjoyed this type of theatre making immensely and devised an 8 minute original



play that featured physical theatre at the core of the scene work.

This type of playbuilding required the students to confront their comfort zones, negotiate creative ideas and collaborate respectfully to perform a physically demanding piece of drama with a powerful message.

The end result was “Over The Wall” - a play about curiosity and the importance of keeping a sense of worldly wonder alive when so often young imaginations are blunted by addiction to devices and their digital content.

Abigail, Jake, Jemmiah, Pink and Taylah were pumped to

be asked to perform their piece in Port Macquarie at the “Shows Up” regional Drama festival but alas, the latest Covid plot twist prevented that CAPAtunity from happening this year.

Hopefully in term 4 they can debut “Over The Wall” at the Coffs Harbour regional Drama festival, “Enter The Players” at the Jetty Theatre.

## OHS Dance 2021

Although we’re in the midst of a crazy year, with one of the consistent features being ‘change’, we have had some wonderful highlights in Dance. As much as we have not performed consistently, it has helped us value the opportunities we have had.

Our excursion to Port



Macquarie to see Sydney Dance Company perform 'Impermanence' was inspiring.

We had the chance to get away together as Dancers, connect, rehearse and be consumed with all things dance.

We experienced some firsts: Rehearsing on a tennis court, early morning boot camp training outdoors, site specific improvisation on a jetty and the beach and experiencing the wonder, power and artistry that is Sydney Dance Company.

We saw a sneak peak of the company rehearsal and got to ask questions of the Rehearsal Director.

It was amazing to see the dancers quirky, fun personalities on stage, but also the excellence in the way each person conducted themselves.

Their physical intelligence was mind blowing to witness.

At the conclusion of the performance, it was time to take the ridiculously high heels off and make our way back home in the van.

The girls were annoyed that I needed to get a coffee (for



"Awareness of the impermanence of everything makes me feel that we must use every moment - that every moment counts - and that the transitory nature of life inspires a need for energy, urgency and radiance."

Rafael Bonachela

the drive home), but that quickly dissolved when they realised they were outside the stage doors, and the dancers started to exit.

With Livy's bravery and boldness to ask, everyone got a selfie with one of the dancers. Needless to say, we left buzzing and inspired out of our brains.

We came back, to go straight into the Mid North Coast Dance Festival.

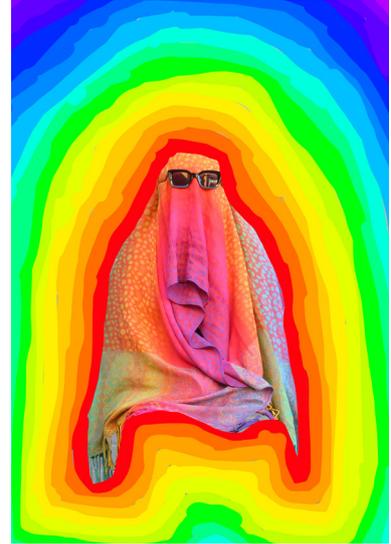
We were a dancer down, providing the chance for me to step in and get to perform with Year 12.

It was a highlight for me to share the stage with the girls, in support of their

Both the choreography and music of *Impermanence* were inspired by the fragility and, as the name suggests, impermanence of human life, the planet and human relationships. Rafael Bonachela and Bryce Dessner explored these themes when they were both working in Paris in 2019, shortly after the Notre-Dame fire. Later that year, the devastating [bushfires in Australia](#) started, burning more than 17 million hectares and killing over an estimated 1 billion animals. Even as these unprecedented fires burned, the first cases of COVID-19 were being diagnosed around the world. In March 2020, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, resulting in lockdowns, physical distancing and mask-wearing.

These three events became the backdrop and socio-cultural context for the creation of *Impermanence*, a work that explores beauty and devastation through music and choreography.





performance.

These beautiful dancers put so much time, energy and effort into their practical performances, but also the theory that underpins all we learn.

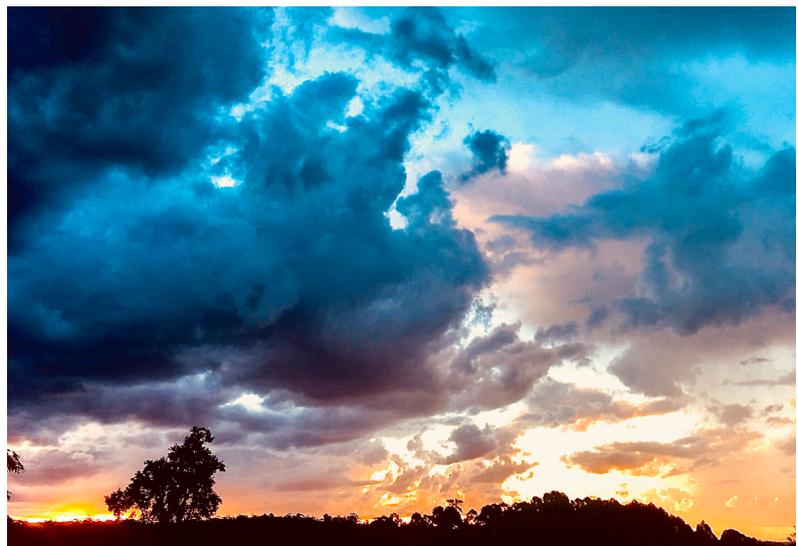
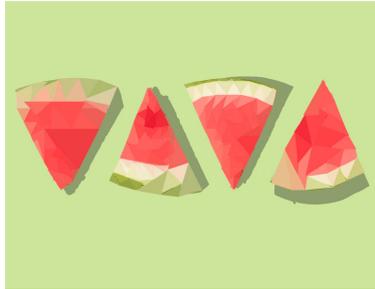
They have been amazing leaders in their collaboration with younger students as they have created their own works for composition.

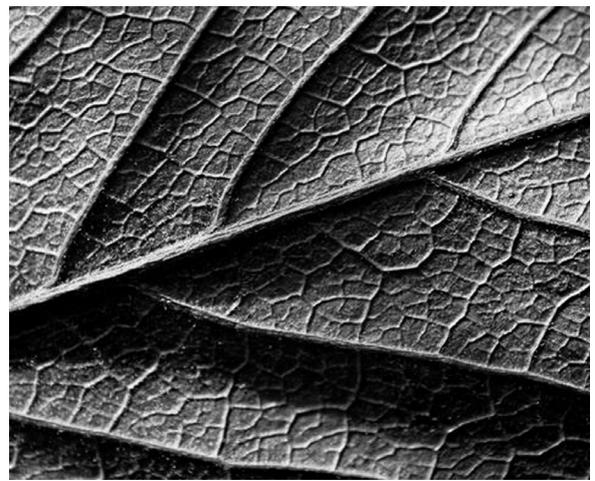
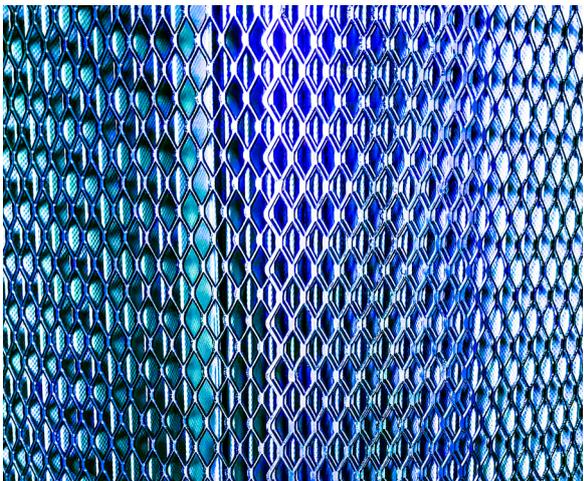
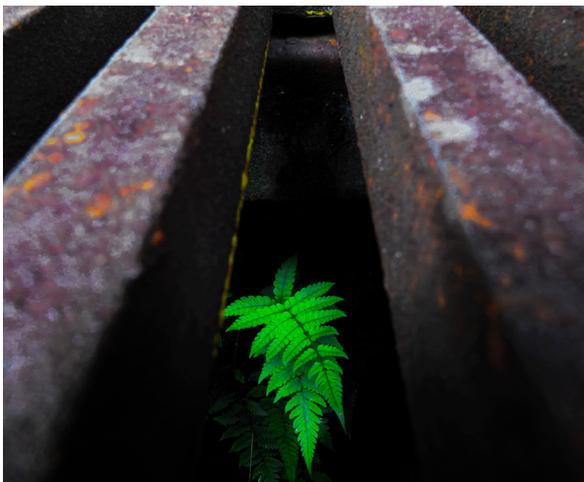
The dancers are a great support to each other in class, each bringing varied strength that benefits the whole group.

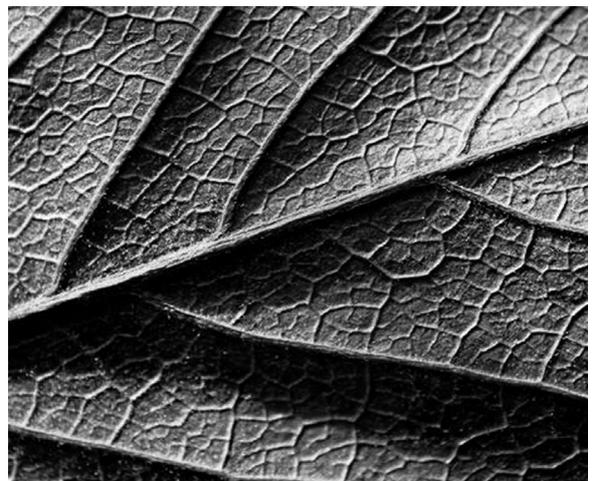
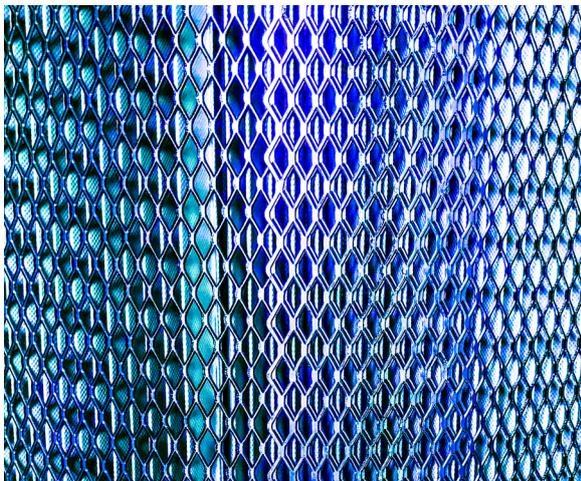
### **Year 9 Photography & Digital Media (PDM)**

Year 9 Photography and Digital Media students have been learning how to

apply different digital effects to their photos and the elements of design.

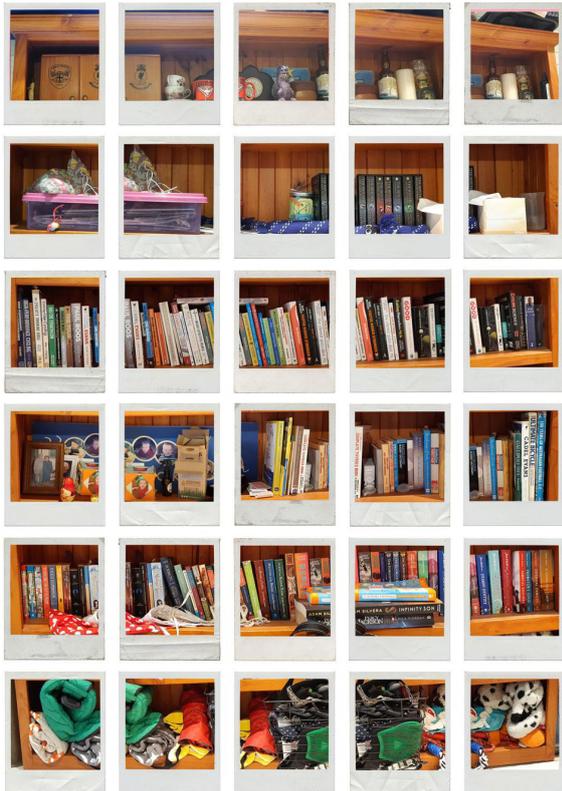


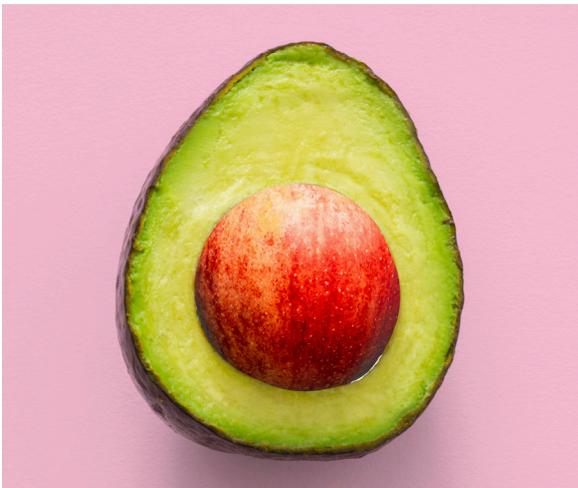
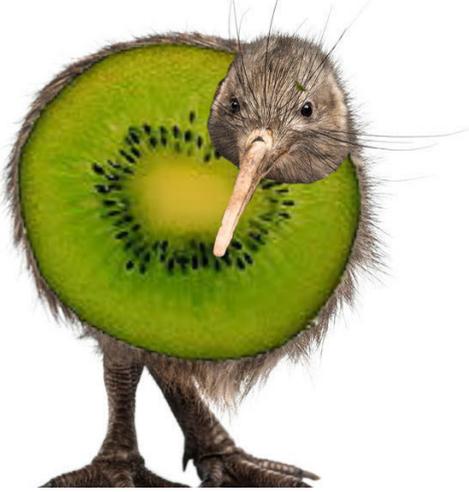




## Year 10 PDM

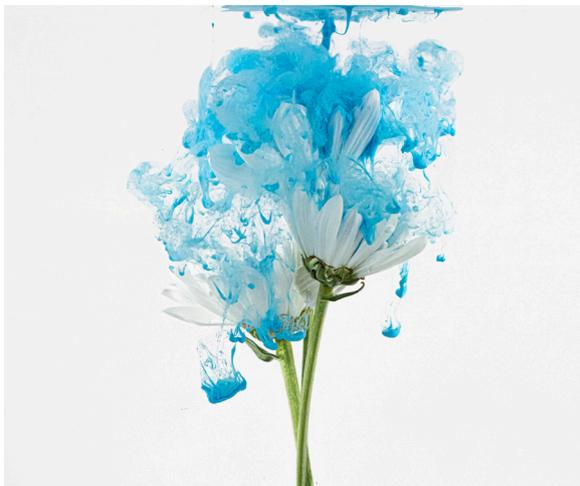
Year 10 PDM have been learning how to join photos together and create surreal and fantastical images.

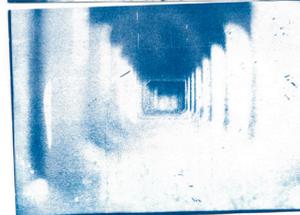
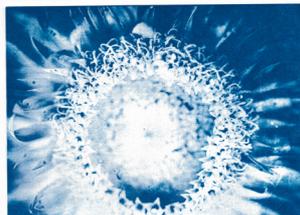
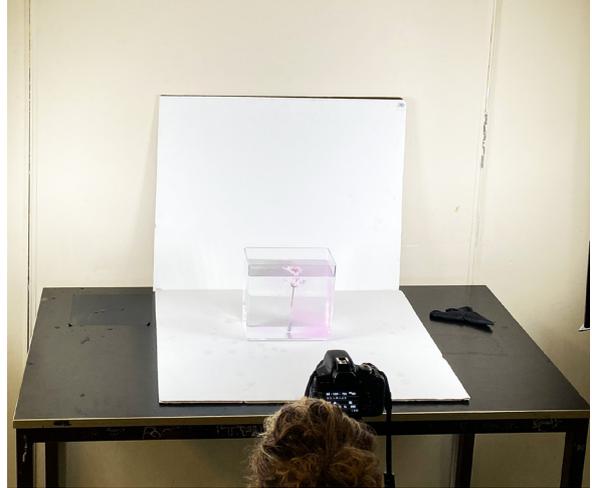


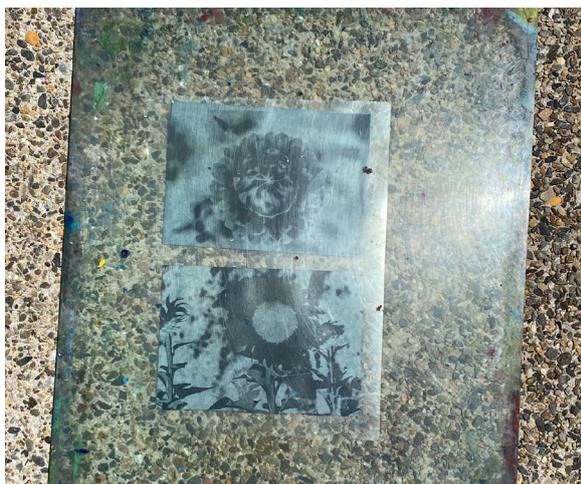


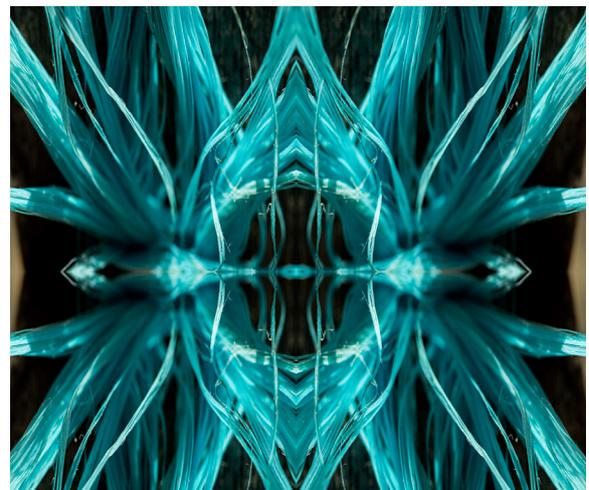


Year 12 Photography, Video and Digital Imaging











## Visual Arts

In Visual Arts, students across all years have been very busy creating fantastic artworks.

Year 7 students have started with fundamental skills and are applying them through their studies of portraiture and landscape artists.

Year 8 have been exploring Manga and Surrealism in Semester 1.

Just prior to the commencement of home learning most students started to create sculptures in clay of 'creatures out of this world'.

We are really excited to see the resolution of these sculptures after the return of students to school.

Year 9 are currently working on figurative drawing and will be heading into some figurative sculpture when classes recommence.

It is particularly challenging to recreate what the student sees from life in front of them but both classes have taken to life drawing with great enthusiasm.

Year 10 have been creating beautiful functional pottery like bowls, jugs and mugs.

These will be decorated with glazes and fired when the students are back in classes.

Senior students have been busy creating their Bodies of Work which will be

assessed very soon. They are now self directed and get to choose their media and subject matter. This means they are starting to operate much like artists, designers and creators in real world contexts beyond school life.

We look forward to seeing the resolved state of their creations.

