

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

## Newsletter No 5 - 2020

### Remote learning again

We are now well into remote learning for the second time this year. I hope everyone is looking after themselves and that students are contacting their teachers, our Youth Support Worker - Leanne, Mental Health Practitioner - Shayne or the college if they have any issues. We have been through this before and whilst I know that this second time is frustrating and challenging for a number of students who had hoped to get stuck into their practical work. The positive news is that if students can get through their theory work now, teachers will be able to focus on the prac work when we are back.

### Easier entry to tertiary institutions

VCE students can take heart from the fact that a number of universities are instituting special schemes to allow for easier access for VCE students. Swinburne University has an early entry scheme which students can apply for which required an English score of only 20, down from the 25 minimum usually required. The Australian Catholic University has an entry scheme whereby Year 11 results are taken into consideration. VCE students should be checking out the Moodle Careers site and also read any posts or emails from Ian McKey, the Careers Coordinator or from me.

### Subject selection for Year 10 students

Michelle Andrews has been sending out notices on this process via Compass. We have decided that rather than a live presentation from three different Coordinators it would be more efficient to record these and make them available for viewing at a time convenient to parents and students. These will be completed shortly. Parents of Year 10 students will be receiving details of this from Michelle Andrews in the next week. Do look out for these and contact her if there are any issues.

### Parent/Teacher/Student conferences online on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August

You would have received notification via Compass regarding the Parent/Teacher/Student conferences on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August from 11.00am to 6.30pm. These will be done online and via Zoom for ease of access. Details and instructions are in the notice on Compass. If you have any queries, please contact the Office.

### Gardens planted

Because of a Gardening Blitz grant to schools last year, we were able to have the new garden areas planted in the first week this term. Liam, Lia and their team from Indigenous Design Landscaping did a terrific job planting all the garden beds along Murray road and between B & C-Wings.

### Mural for the former Koori garden area

In NCAT's former incarnation as Northland Secondary College, the area between A and B-wing was a designated Koori Garden. The garden was a project that involved Koori and non-Koori students in planting the area, making iron sculptures, painting a mural on the B wing wall and some of our local Koori men led by Uncle Reg Blow building a winding path along the area bringing in huge rocks for a gathering circle.

Over the years, many a NAIDOC Celebration Day started in the Koori Garden with a cleansing fire and a traditional welcome to country before moving to the hall for formal proceedings. The pic here is of one such occasion in 2009.

This college has always been a trailblazer in terms of Koori Education attracting Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander students from around Australia, many of whom have become leaders in their community. As Northland SC it was renowned for its whole school approach that embedded Aboriginal history and culture and celebrated it in all aspects of school life. It was this acknowledged unique and inclusive approach to education that brought Koori and non-Koori together that was the key reason for the college being reopened in 1995 after a 2 year court battle led by two Aboriginal students, Muthama Sinnappan and Bruce Foley on behalf of the entire school community. Today we continue to maintain this inclusive culture as a key hallmark of this college.



NAIDOC Celebration Day 2009

As part of the current rebuilding of the college we wanted to keep the spirit of the Koori garden. So we ensured that the path that leads to the entrance to the Music area is a winding path as in the old Koori garden, retained the rocks from the gathering circle along the path and we commissioned one of our former Koori students, Coree Thorpe with support from his mother, Lyn Thorpe

one of our former Koori Educators and also an artist in her own right, to create artworks as part of a mural to honour the heritage and history of this college. See page 6 for pics of the mural and its meaning.

We had hoped to have an official launch of the new buildings and the mural with Aunty Joy Murphy welcoming us to country and the Koori Youth Will Shake Spears, made up of former Koori students performing dances for us. Unfortunately COVID put paid to this. I am hoping that we may be able to do this next year when we have the art exhibition on the history of Northland SC and its closure and reopening currently being put together by a team of former students, Koori Educators, teachers and community members.

Do look after yourselves, stay safe and don't hesitate to contact us if you need any support.

**Raffaella Galati-Brown**  
PRINCIPAL

## Stressed? Worried? Not feeling quite right?

*We all at some point feel stressed, worry, or are not sure what's happening.*

Good news is things can improve, like anything we want to improve, singing, dancing, playing sport, or instrument, with practice you get better at improving your mental health is no different (practice makes progress!!). By practising tips and strategies proven effective by others in similar situations, you too can strengthen your coping capacity, your resilience, gaining more power to live the life you want to live. Check out some of options below on how to do just that!

Student Wellbeing on Moodle

<https://ncatlms.com.au/course/view.php?id=125>

**Mental Health Practitioner** direct confidential counselling (in school or remotely via phone & video). Shayne Johnston is our practitioner who is available at NCAT on Tuesday and Thursday from 9.00am to 3.00pm. See attachments for further details & referral.

**HeadSpace Enhancing Mental Health Support in Schools (EMHSS)**

Students can access confidential one-to-one counselling by phone or video from HeadSpace. For questions & referrals: email Shayne Johnston NCAT Mental Health

Practitioner: [shayne.johnston@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:shayne.johnston@education.vic.gov.au) (see attached [Fact Sheet](#) & [Consent](#) for further details).

**Pandemic related anxiety & depression?** Swinburne is offering free counselling by video conferencing & online self-help platform ([click here](#) for further details).

**Free online & Phone support:**

[Reachout](#) (Parents version [click here](#))

[HeadSpace](#) 1800 650 890

[1800 RESPECT](#) 1800 737 732

[Kids Help Line](#) 1800 55 1800

[Lifeline](#) 13 11 14

[Parentline](#) 13 22 89

[Parentline](#) 13 22 89



**Shayne Johnston**  
MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> August	Years 10-12 Progress Reports published on Compass
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	School Council
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences online, 11.00am – 6.30pm (No Classes)
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Term 3 ends
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Term 4 starts
Wednesday 7 October	GAT Exam

## Year 10 Arts Working Remotely....

The Year 10 Arts Program includes a pastoral care session called 'ROCKS' which aims to combine the cohorts as a collective group and participate in activities aligned with our college values. Each week, students have been assigned a weekly 'ROCKS' challenge while working remotely. Challenges are designed to prompt questions, expand worldviews and empower each of them with the tools to **be** the change.

During this pandemic, they may feel a sense of hopelessness. It may feel like there is an alarming story every time they switch on the news: illness, pollution, poverty, species extinction, food scarcity, the list goes on. But all of us can do a simple challenge per week to make a difference.

We called on all Year 10 Students to Step Up and make a pledge heading into Remote Learning. Could they Step Up to support their local community or family? Action for the environment? What did they want to achieve by the end of our state lockdown?

Below are some amazing submissions! We look forward to more students engaging with the challenges and submitting to Moodle!

*Natalie Gates - YEAR 10 ARTS COORDINATOR*



## Congratulations to ex-student Alister Thorpe

On 10<sup>th</sup> June Alister Thorpe, a former student, made an impassioned maiden speech to the First People's Assembly of Victoria.

Alister Thorpe is an Aboriginal man from the Gunai (East Gippsland) Yorta Yorta (Goulburn Valley), and Gunditjmara (Western Districts) clans in south-eastern Australia with many family and connections throughout Victoria. He was a student here from 1992-1997 and a founding member of the school's Koori dance troupe, Koori Youth Will Shake Spears.

After leaving the school he went on to study at Latrobe University, then RMIT. He went on to work as a Research Assistant with the Aboriginal Health Service for a few years before becoming the Deputy Regional Services Manager of the Aboriginal Housing Board.

In 2006-7 he came back to work for us as the Koori Youth Worker, supporting Koori students, running cultural activities and further developing the cultural resources for teachers and students.



He went on to do a Master of Public Health from Deakin University in 2013 and the commencement of his PhD at The University of Melbourne in 2016.

For the last 9 years Alister has worked at the University of Melbourne and been involved in a number of Aboriginal research projects including the Taking Care of Business project, the development of a Victorian Aboriginal Child Health Development and Wellbeing Survey and the Injecting Drug Use Project at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service. He has made a tremendous contribution to his community and was awarded the Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership in 2019 as an Emerging Leader 2018-19

In 2019 Alister designed and developed a treaty booklet outlining the ancestors, clans, and country of all the Aboriginal tribes in Victoria and is also a Member of the Victorian First Peoples' Assembly.



Still Images from video reproduced with thanks to Lyn Thorpe

Our congratulations to Alister!

**Raffaella Galati-Brown**  
PRINCIPAL

## NCAT Create

The NCAT Create students are using remote and flexible learning during the lockdown. In order to complete their practical tasks, they had to come in to collect their special art packs. Imagine Tracy's surprise when Rose arrived to collect her pack in a hot pink, COVID busting gorilla outfit! Brilliant. Perhaps we could all start wearing them?

[@chongrose2020](#) [@rosechonghire](#) [@lacontrapposto](#)  
[#ncatcreate](#) [#ncatcreate2020](#)

Follow NCAT on [@ncateducation](#) on Instagram and Twitter

Web: [ncat.vic.edu.au](http://ncat.vic.edu.au)

Blog: [ncatfoliopreparationcreate.blogspot.com.au](http://ncatfoliopreparationcreate.blogspot.com.au)

Instagram: [@ncateducation](#)

Twitter: [@ncatfolioprep](#)

Tracy Paterson  
NCAT FOLIO PREPARATION | CREATE PROGRAM LEADER



# NCAT Mural Story

“CONNECTING RESPECTING PROTECTING IDENTITY KNOWLEDGE & COUNTRY”



This visual story pays respect to the Ancestors, Elders & people of the Wurundjeri as Custodians of their Country where this educational facility formerly known as Preston East Technical School/Northland Secondary College and now the Northern College of the Arts & Technology, NCAT still stands today.

This place also holds the spirit of multiple significant memories for many Aboriginal people from all different mobs across Australia. Over many years this place was enabled to evolve into a thriving educational community hub where Aboriginal perspectives & value systems were embedded across the school community & curriculum. It was a place where Aboriginal education was able to bloom and grow across the whole school & where Aboriginal & non-Aboriginal people were able to collaborate & work holistically. The Arts in particular was at the centre of a collective vision that grew & evolved over time through the input from many creatives from all cultures & walks of life. This opportunity made people realise, that their contribution not only added value to people's personal sense of educational success but was also instrumental in creating a collaborative learning environment that would benefit all.



The two moieties Bunjil the Eaglehawk & Waa the Crow protects the multiple layers of cultural intelligence that are embedded in the knowledge systems & practices of the Wurundjeri & their deep connection to Country.



The essence of this story is about valuing & respecting Aboriginal knowledge systems & world views that value different ways of knowing, doing, seeing & being. It's about the importance of identity & stories that connect people to place, each other & all living things in the natural world.



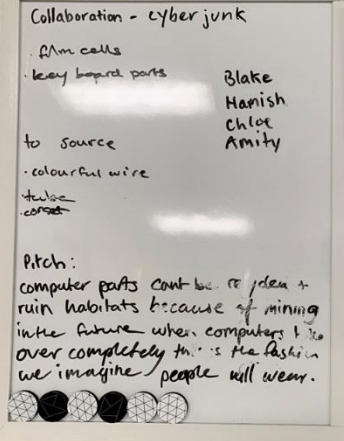
It's about understanding how identity & stories, knowing who you are & where you come from, is the foundation of pride and promise for all people, & especially for Aboriginal people who are deeply connected to Country all across Australia.

It's about recognising & nurturing the strength, potential & humanity in all of us. Critically it's about validation & growing understanding as to why it's important to maintain the connection between Aboriginal knowledge systems, people & Country. It's also about highlighting & recognising the quality & value that Aboriginal knowledge systems add to western systems. It's not about being in competition. It's about Celebrating the best of both worlds!!

*Coree Thorpe and Lyn Thorpe [FORMER STUDENT & FORMER KOORI EDUCATOR]*

# Visual Arts Immersion- Fashion Week

For the last few weeks of Term 2, we took advantage of being back in the studio to do some group-based work. Students collaborated in groups of four to come up with a design for a piece of wearable art made from recycled plastic, in order to bring awareness to an aspect of the issue of plastic in the environment. They then worked together to create these pieces: holding regular design conferences; working to measurement specifications from their models; ironing, pleating, braiding, knitting, melting and stitching recycled plastics into shape.



Once the garments were complete, they were styled on models and photographed in professional photoshoots with our wonderful photography teacher Marina Lamari.

The works communicated students' feelings of outrage and dismay at issues ranging from plastic in the ocean, to e-waste, to planned obsolescence during product design. The photos were shared on social media, communicating these issues with a broad audience and gaining recognition from organisations such as PlanetArk.

Thank you to the Dance students who volunteered to model our garments: Alex, Tenille, Elyse, Ema and Lachlan. Thanks also to all the staff who donated plastic from their homes, and to NCAT Photography for the use of their excellent photographic studios.

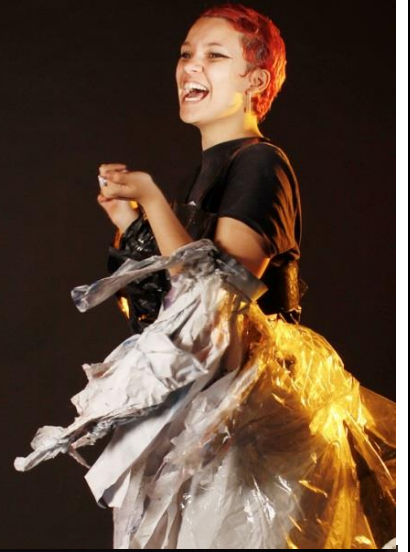


A huge congratulations to our brilliant students who worked with creativity and determination in what has been a stressful and difficult time.

We hope to see a change in the way that we, as a planet and as a school community, use and dispose of plastic products.

**Kylie O'Malley**  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Photography - Collaboration photography by Kylie O'Malley / Studio Shots (left) by Marina Lamari



## Dance News

Year 12 VCE Dance students Alex Knights and Tahlia Calabrese are featured in the current national Dance Train magazine July/Aug issue.

Alex's story features his recent successes in Top Class 2019 and various awards and scholarship he has received this year.



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### ALEX KNIGHT

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Year 12  
Northern College of the Arts & Technology (NCAT)  
Bev Palmer Performing Arts

Alex was accepted into Top Class Dance for VCE VET Dance in 2019 scoring him an A for his performance exam. He also has been selected via audition to perform at the VCAA Season of Excellence Top Class showcase in February 2021 at the Melbourne Recital Centre. The dance students and schools Head of Dance, Lee-Anne Di Stefano will be in the audience to cheer him on and celebrate his success. The Year 12 cohort for 2021 will be watching this performance closely as they are about to commence on their own VCE subjects. Knowing what a top mark or "A" scoring solo looks like is invaluable.

2020 has also seen Alex awarded 2 scholarships, one from his dance studio, Bev Palmer Performing Arts, which included a Summer Workshop scholarship and photoshoot and the other was awarded to him as a result of attending a workshop at Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance. Alex was awarded a scholarship for their 2021 Summer School.

— What were you most looking forward to when returning to dance class? —

*"Being back in the studio training and getting pushed by both my teachers and peers to be the best that I can possibly be, and to be pushing my peers to be the best that they can possibly be."*

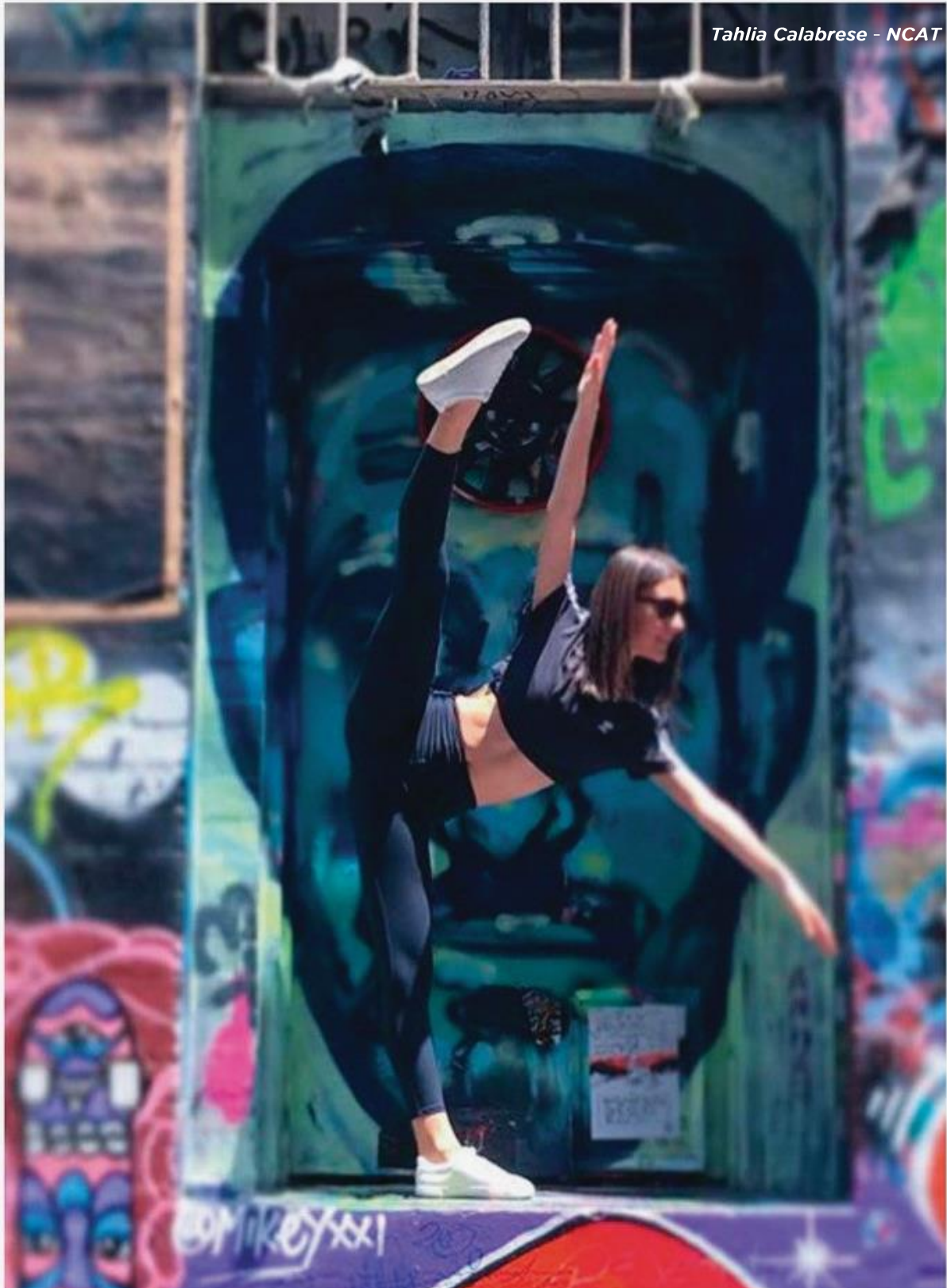




## Dance News

Tahlia's picture and quote illustrates not only her amazing flexibility but also her passion and longing to return to school and face to face learning.

*"Dance has always been a big part of my life and has always been my safe place. I just can't wait to get back into the studio and let all my feelings out. Also getting to see my friends will be amazing."*



Congratulations Alex and Tahlia on your feature in a national dance industry magazine!  
**Lee-Anne Di Stefano - NCAT DANCE CO-ORDINATOR**

## ‘Dear Dexter...’

*An advice column, where Dexter answers your most important questions*

Dear Dexter,

*I can't believe how much you've grown – it feels like just yesterday I saw you on my laptop having a snooze! I can't wait for you to properly handle my panic attacks and take my mind off the world a little bit. Before we went on break, I said to you, "Aim high and catch your opportunities!" because I knew you were about to head off to dog school. I hate to ask, and no pressure, but how did the training go? **Kiara - VCAL***



Hi Kiara,

I PASSED! No-one is more surprised than me! (My human needs to do a little more work in my opinion, but she also managed to qualify as 'handler'. PPPFFFTTT...)

I am proud to say that I am now a **Certified Level 1 Therapy Dog!** But, I am more proud of the fact that on the morning of the exam, I caught a mouse. When our trainer asked me to give it to her, I did. It was still alive and she put it outside in the drain. (I'd like to live in a drain...) The woman who ran the café next door asked if I would like a job. We had to turn her down as my training (and heart) is with you folks at NCAT.

Unfortunately, mouse catching wasn't on the actual exam, but I passed units in 'Demonstrate Excellent Temperament', 'Be kind to old people', 'Stay on your mat until your human comes back' and 'Walk slowly up and down stairs.' They weren't as much fun as 'Zoom quickly up and down corridors', but I'm adaptable.



Here are pictures of me still learning (with my friend, River), and then qualified. I was pretty keen to run on the oval on the last day, as I'd been calm and sensible for so long.

I'm a bit disappointed that we are back doing some remote learning again, but I will see you online for sure.

I turned 1 during our week of training, and I think when I turn 2, the world will be a bit easier to live in. In the mean time, let's look after each other, and (as Kiara said) aim high and catch your opportunities!



Gosh I look forward to seeing you all again...

Send your questions to 'Dear Dexter' at:  
[shelley.scown@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:shelley.scown@education.vic.gov.au)

**Woof!**  
**Dexter the Moon-Dog**

## MUSIC

### Featured Artists: Mon & B.

Monique and Bianca Hirschfeld have impressively maintained their musical creativity throughout the pandemic. They have been collaborating with many musicians on a variety of projects including an interview and performance on *Benny's Couch Sessions* on Facebook, a pre-recorded live performance collaboration with their backing band THE SLIPS on YouTube, as well as posting many frequent new videos and content on their Instagram account. They are both very excited to reveal that they are currently collaborating with a few producers on collaborative songwriting and recording projects.

*"Through this pandemic, it's really important to maintain your musical creativity during these hard times"*

You can follow Bianca and Monique's content on their Instagram page @mon.and.b and their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/mon.and.b.music>. They also recently performed in the NCAT concert Quarantunes which can be found on the NCATv YouTube page.

**Rachel Sztanski**

**VOICE TEACHER/VET MUSIC INDUSTRY TRAINER**

Photo by Jack Careedy



## Year 10 Digital Art & Design

**Jasmine Ryder**



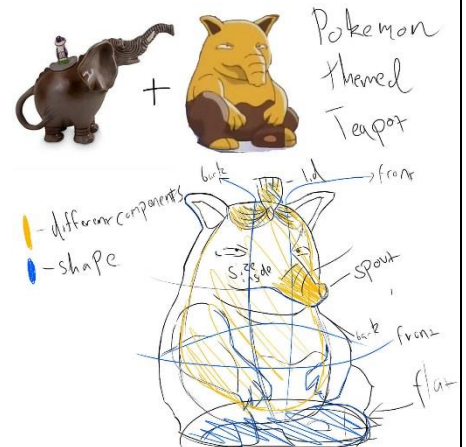
During the brief time we returned to school at the end of last term, the Year 10 Digital Art & Design class started to create electronic folios of their work so far this year.

Despite the disruptions, it was a pleasing surprise to see so much amazing work collected together by each student. Their work ranged from character designs, to designing products & objects, to creating illustrations for foreign words. Pictured here are some examples.

**Neil Davis**

**NCAT PROGRAMS MANAGER**

**Georgie Paice**



**Bailey Murphy**



**Daniel Sword Gusmao**



**Ethan Harris**

## Year 12 Theatre Studies 'The Pineapple War'

On the first day back of Term 3, the Year 12 Theatre Studies class finally performed their play 'The Pineapple War'.

This assessment involved a 6-week rehearsal period and is worth 60% of their Unit 3 coursework.

In an industry under immense pressure due to COVID 19 restrictions, the students worked alongside **The Costume Department (Coburg)** and **Scenic Studios (Preston)** to bring their costume and set ideas to life!

We were absolutely devastated to be reduced to not 50, not 20 but no audience at all! But, we were overwhelmed by the support from Year 12 students and staff who attended and socially distanced in the auditorium.

We would like to thank those who attended and celebrated in the work of our Year 12 Theatre Studies students. Thanks also to all who supported us from afar.

*Natalie Gates*  
YEAR 10 ARTS COORDINATOR



## Year 12 Class of 2020

This is our biggest ever group of Year 12 students. There are 158 Year 12s this year and 137 were present for this photo taken on 26<sup>th</sup> June. We have been fortunate to have had the school photos go ahead with AdvancedLife Photography as with lockdowns this year many schools have not been able to have any school photos taken.

Each NCAT Year 12 student will receive this photo later in the year as part of the Year 12 Graduation in October. Stay tuned for how Year 12 Graduation will happen this year.

**Michelle Andrews**  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

