

# Board Bulletin



BOARD OF STUDIES NSW

August 1997 – Vol 6 No 7

## THE ART OF SCIENCE

The annual presentation ceremony for the John Lambert Art Collection and the Mary Besley Memorial Award for Excellence in Biology was held at the Office of the Board of Studies on 25 July.

Each year the Board hosts an official function to present the Mary Besley Memorial Award to the student who comes first in the HSC Biology exam and to congratulate the students whose artworks are purchased for inclusion in the John Lambert Art Collection.

The President of the Board of Studies, Sam Weller, presented the students with certificates at the ceremony, which was attended by the students' parents, former principals and teachers, and Board Inspectors.

The John Lambert Art Collection began in 1990 under former President of the Board of Studies, John Lambert. The collection reflects some of the finest examples of works produced for the HSC by Visual Arts students, and is on permanent display at the Office of the Board of Studies.



L-R: Jane Cass, Gregory Phillips, Jessica Shirvington, Loredana Petrella and Luke Plummer in front of one of the works purchased for the John Lambert Art Collection, I'm sorry Imelda Marcos.

Last year over 9000 HSC students studied Visual Arts. Each of these students completed an artwork as part of their HSC examination and from this enormous selection the Board chose four students' works.

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## Update on English K-6


### Board endorsement for draft documents

A special meeting of the Board of Studies was held in the school holiday period to consider draft documents developed for the revision of the 1994 *English K-6 Syllabus and Support Document*. The Board endorsed three completed draft documents for consultation:

- the draft *English K-6 Syllabus*,
- *English K-6 Modules*; and
- *English K-6 Student Work Samples: Writing*.

Copies will be distributed to schools later this term.

Additional materials developed to support the draft syllabus will be made available during the consultation period. These materials include student work samples for reading, talking and listening; additional modules of work; parent support material; and a syllabus guide for principals.

Questions you would like considered for inclusion in a future *Update on English K-6* can be faxed to Maria Hardy (Senior Curriculum Officer, English) on (02) 9367 8476. 

## HSC and SC Important Dates

### Year 10

- 22 Aug** Final date for decision letters to schools on Board Endorsed Course applications.
- 26 Sept** Final date for submission of deferred courses to Board of Studies Liaison Officer for final rulings.

### Year 11

- 22 Aug** Final date for decision letters to schools on Board Endorsed Course applications.
- 19 Sept** General entry form for JSST courses to be undertaken in Term 4 sent to schools.
- 26 Sept** Final date for submission of deferred courses to Board of Studies Liaison Officer for final rulings.

### Year 12

- 18 Aug** Commencement date for HSC Dance practical examinations.
- 22 Aug** Final date for decision letters to schools on Board Endorsed Course applications.
- 22 Aug** Assessment Collection Schedule (combined Board Developed and Board Endorsed Courses) sent to schools.
- 23 Aug** Commencement date for HSC Oral/Aural examinations in Languages.
- 29 Aug** Latest date for principals' determinations of 'U' Assessments; notification of decision to award a 'U' Assessment and provision of appeal form(s) to student(s).
- 31 Aug** Final completion date for Drama Individual Projects, 3 Unit Food Technology Independent Research Projects, and Industrial Technology Major Works.
- 1 Sept** Commencement date for HSC Drama practical examinations.  
Commencement date for HSC Industry Studies practical examinations.
- 7 Sept** Final completion date for Music (Board) Composition and Musicology essays. Submission details to be advised.  
Final completion date for Design and Technology Major Design Projects.  
Final completion date for Visual Arts artworks. Submission details to be advised.
- 8 Sept** Commencement date for HSC Music practical examinations and Design and Technology itinerant marking.  
*HSC Presiding Officers' Handbook* and associated documents to principals and Presiding Officers.
- 12 Sept** HSC assessment marks (Board Developed and Board Endorsed Courses) due at the Board.  
Principals' determinations of 'U' assessments.  
Final date for principals' approval for reduction in unit value in related courses.  
Latest date for student appeals against 'U' determinations to be lodged with principal.
- 14 Sept** Final completion date for Agriculture 3 Unit Research Projects and Rural Technology Regional Farm Projects.

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## CHECK YOUR MAILBOX



- ❖ *On Board* — Years 10, 11 & 12
- ❖ HSC Portfolios
- ❖ SC Folios
- ❖ Studying for the HSC — for Year 10 Candidates
- ❖ Executive Summary — English Stage 6 Syllabus Consultation
- ❖ HSIE K-6 Writing Brief and Survey
- ❖ 1996 HSC Visual Arts Exam Report
- ❖ 1996 HSC Applied Studies Exam Report

## Documents currently being developed

- ❖ 1997 HSC Examinations Timetable and Poster
- ❖ ACE Manual
- ❖ Guidelines for Accelerated Progression

The *Board Bulletin* is a regular publication by the Board of Studies NSW. Principals are requested to circulate it among teachers and members of the School Council, P & C and parents. One copy should be filed for reference. Schools may only photocopy this publication for use by teachers, students and parents. Contributions or suggestions for articles are welcome.

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## President's Message



*I had hoped this edition of Board Bulletin would be able to present the major decisions from the HSC White Paper. While many teachers are waiting anxiously for these decisions, it should be realised that the greatest possible care must be, and is being, taken to determine an educational blueprint that will take us successfully into the next century.*

*In the meantime, considerable work is continuing at both primary and secondary levels. By now schools will have received the long-awaited HSIE K-6 Writing Brief. Schools have until 15 September to consider this document as the basis on which the syllabus will be developed.*

*There are many issues to consider, including whether primary teachers support the concept of making some subject matter compulsory while at the same time having access to optional topics. Teacher reaction to the strong emphasis on Citizenship Education will also be most interesting.*

*At a recent special meeting the Board endorsed the Draft English K-6 Syllabus, an exciting document that already has received some positive comment. Teachers will be pleased to note the reduced number of outcomes, the absence of jargon and the accessibility of the document. All schools will receive copies of the syllabus in the near future, together with modules of suggested teaching strategies and samples of student writing, which have been annotated to illustrate the achievement of syllabus outcomes.*

*The development of a second booklet on assessing and reporting is progressing satisfactorily. There is no doubt that teachers are demanding practical solutions to the challenge of assessing outcomes and reporting achievements effectively. This has been a central issue facing all of us since outcomes became a focus of educational attention in the early 1990s. With the assistance of schools, we hope to deliver a useful document in Term 4 this year.*



Sam Weller, President

## What's New on the Internet?

The **1997 HSC Timetable** is now available along with information about this year's HSC Advice Line.

The first Board of Studies 'Learning and Technology Forum' was highly successful. Following requests for more information, Dr Peter Ellyard has kindly consented to allow us to put some of his writings and conference addresses on the website. These conference papers can be accessed from the Board **Index** page.

Many new documents have been added to the **K-6 News** page, including downloadable copies of the parent information brochures, English K-6 monthly updates and new syllabus materials.

Check the **Reading Room** for more copies of Board of Studies syllabuses, HSC papers, and 1995 and some 1996 HSC Examination Reports. Digital copies are being added regularly to the website. This edition of *Board Bulletin* and the Official Notices can be found in the growing archive of information on the **Board Bulletin** page.

Be sure to check the **What's New** page each visit to keep informed about the latest announcements, new documents and recent changes.

To showcase your school's website on our growing **School Links** pages, register at:

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/links/schoolnsw.html>

If your school has not yet set up a home page, you can register your school's e-mail address here as well.


Find the Board of Studies NSW on the web at:

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au>

## On Board in Schools

The new-look *On Board* is in schools this month. Sent to students in Years 10, 11 and 12, the magazine addresses the issues relevant to senior students. With the new 10-member student editorial committee on deck, the aim is to provide this information from a student's perspective.

The Office of the Board of Studies is keen to hear what teachers think of *On Board* and has sent a survey to all schools asking for feedback.

The next edition, due out in September, will be packed full of information about the HSC as well as support and advice for students in Years 10, 11 and 12. 



# Primary Matters

## National Benchmarks

Curriculum Branch officers have provided continuing advice to the Curriculum Corporation on the development of material for the National Benchmarking Project.

The National Benchmarking Project is an initiative of the Federal Government agreed to by the states and territories. The current objective of this project is to develop descriptions of student performance in literacy and numeracy in Years 3 and 5. This material will be used by states to collect data to compare student achievement across Australia.

The clear principle that is being reinforced by Board officers is that the material developed for the benchmarks must be compatible with syllabus content and outcomes in New South Wales. The Board will continue to provide advice to the Curriculum Corporation on the quality and relevance to New South Wales of draft material.

## Creative Arts — trialling of units of work

Trialling teams have been providing responses to the syllabus writers on draft units of work developed to support the draft Creative Arts K–6 syllabus. The writing of units as well as the collection of work samples in Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance are proceeding well.

Teachers who have had very little experience in teaching Visual Arts said they found the units of work, which present sequences of learning experiences, rewarding and informative. They were particularly surprised with the quality of work their students produced and believe this is because the students have been exposed to the work of other artists. The units have provided the teachers with a structured series of lessons and students have been able to develop both their works and understanding over several weeks to arrive at a final piece of work.

Consultation on the draft Creative Arts K–6 syllabus is scheduled to take place in the latter half of 1998.

## Mathematics

Careful analysis of the survey returns from schools on the Mathematics K–6 outcomes is now taking place. A working party of the Board's Mathematics K–6 Syllabus Advisory Committee has been formed to consider quantitative and qualitative data obtained from the surveys so that changes to the draft outcomes can be made.

The collection of student work samples, which is currently taking place in 25 New South Wales primary schools, will also assist in making amendments to the draft outcomes. The teachers and members of the working party will be able to use these examples of mathematics learning — the real work of students — as well as findings from the consultation to arrive at a final set of outcomes. The student work samples for Mathematics K–6 will be used to illustrate the achievement of the outcomes. They will accompany the outcomes in an addendum to the syllabus expected to be completed by the end of this year.

*If you would like further information regarding these items or K–6 curriculum matters in general, contact Phil Lambert, Inspector, Primary Education, ph (02) 9367 8199 or fax (02) 9367 8476.*



## Aerial Photographs

High-focus aerial photographs are available to schools through the Land Information Centre at Bathurst. Students can use the photographs to study boundaries, crop plantings, creeks and dams for efficient land management, allowing them to see the topography of the land as they've never seen it before.

For a free catalogue and information brochure contact:

The Land Information Centre, Panorama Avenue, Bathurst on (063) 32 8245 or the Sydney Map Centre, 23 Bridge Street, Sydney on (02) 9228 6465.



*The Art of Science continued from page 1*

‘Each of the four artworks displays a sound understanding of artmaking practice, reflecting the very high quality of Visual Arts education in NSW,’ Mr Weller said at the presentation ceremony.

Former Riverstone High School student Luke Plummer’s series of photographs, *Does the Divine Have a Form?*, appropriates 15th century imagery by manipulating famous artworks and placing them on the surface of bodies. His works play on other artists’ works and the way other artists have approached artmaking.

Gregory Phillips of St Patrick’s College, Strathfield, created a series of computer-generated works using computer scanning and editing equipment. *Super turbo icons for the art market* explores the concept of artist as marketer, icon and superstar.

Jessica Shirvington’s artwork, *The Watchers*, is a series of three silk-screen prints. A former student of Loreto Normanhurst, Jessica’s works have a strong juxtaposition of images and her sophisticated use of symbols makes reference to other times and places.

Loredana Petrella’s acrylic and mixed media painting, *I’m sorry Imelda Marcos*, is a sumptuous, sensuous look at shoes. Loredana attended St Vincent’s College, Potts Point.


As has been the practice in the past, works selected for the John Lambert Art Collection are chosen from the entire range of HSC artworks, not just those exhibited in ARTEXPRESS.

Jane Cass, a former student of James Ruse Agricultural High School, was presented with the Mary Besley Memorial Award for Excellence in Biology, having topped the subject in the 1996 HSC.

Jane is continuing in the field of science, studying medicine at the University of NSW.

The award was established in memory of Dr Mary Besley, who died in 1994. Mary Besley was a senior lecturer in Biology at the University of Sydney for most of her career as a science educator. She was also actively involved in the Leaving Certificate and HSC marking for more than 30 years, before retiring from marking in 1993.

Her sudden death in 1994 was a great loss to her colleagues at the marking centres. In 1994 the Biology marking group, which represents the many markers who have participated in marking over the years, established an award to perpetuate her memory.

The Board of Studies contributed to the collection and holds the funds in a trust account, which will provide an annual award of \$200 and a certificate to the top HSC Biology student for each year from 1994 to 1998. 

## MULTILINGUAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ON THE HSC, SC AND K-6




Three new booklets that provide information in seven different languages for parents and students on the Higher School Certificate, the School Certificate and primary schooling are being sent to schools this month.

Produced by the Board of Studies, each booklet contains information in Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese and English, which schools can photocopy and send home to parents.

The booklet on the HSC explains exactly what the HSC is, the requirements students must meet, a brief overview of courses and subjects, and an explanation of the Tertiary Entrance Rank.

The School Certificate booklet explains how the Reference Tests determine the quota of grades each school receives, the requirements for the awarding of a School Certificate and a description of the documents students receive.

*What will my child learn in primary school?* lists the Key Learning Areas, providing parents with an outline of the subjects students will study from Kindergarten to Year 6. The booklet also advises parents of the role of the Board of Studies in developing curriculum and informing parents about what their children are learning.

‘The Board wants all parents to be well informed about what their children are learning at school and these new booklets are just one of the ways we can help with that,’ Sam Weller, President of the Board of Studies, said. 



**Board Bulletin**  
*Extra copies available*

Schools may request additional copies of the *Board Bulletin* if the standard quantity is not enough.

Secondary schools may request 20 copies instead of the standard 12, and primary schools may request 12 instead of the standard 4 copies.

Principals should complete the coupon and return to the address below.

*Please post this coupon to:*

Publications Branch  
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GPO Box 5300  
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Please increase the number of copies of the *Board Bulletin* sent to this school:

Primary school – 12 copies

Secondary school – 20 copies

School number: .....

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**Mathematics Years 9–10 Teaching Kit**  
***Building Design*** Price \$16 each

A new resource book that supports the Mathematics Years 9–10 Standard course. It focuses on the development of practical geometrical and measurement skills, within the context of building design, through innovative and practical activities.

**Mathematics Years K–6 — four resource books**  
***Problem Solving Through Chance and Data,***  
***Calculators K–6, Outdoor Activities,***  
***Patterns in Mathematics K–6*** Price \$16 each

These four titles provide material specific to each year from Kindergarten to Year 6 and follow the three levels indicated in the NSW syllabus. Check to make sure your school has copies on hand.

**Arabic Resources — Years 7–10** \$70 per set

A set of ten books together with a teacher's handbook (*Reading Arabic; School Life; Going Places; Meeting People; Celebrations; Shopping; Free Time; Life at Home; Eating and Drinking; Seasons and Weather*).

**Arabic Resources — Years 11–12** \$90 per set

A set of nine books (*The Media; Leisure; The Community; Aspects of Contemporary Life; Memories; Environment; Language in Use; Current Issues; World of Work*).

**Korean for Secondary Schools — Years 7–10**

Teacher's Handbook	\$10 each
Four student books (topics cover meeting people, school life, life at home, free time, and health and illness)	\$10 each
Four cassettes	\$5 each

**Japanese 2UZ Resources** \$75.00

Includes written material, taped material and flashcards. Areas cover meeting people, family and friends, home life and education.

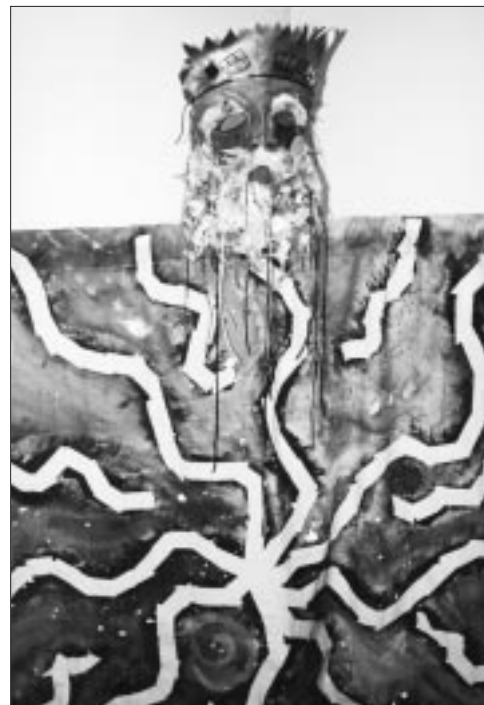
For further information, please contact:

**Helen Griffin**  
**Marketing Officer**  
**Office of the Board of Studies**  
**Tel: (02) 9367 8331 Fax: (02) 9262 6270**  
**e-mail: [griffin@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](mailto:griffin@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au)**  
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# Students get smart about art

Talented Visual Arts students from schools in Sydney's south-west spent three days honing their skills at ArtSmart, an annual art camp organised by the South West Visual Arts Network. Three of the works are currently on display at the Office of the Board of Studies.

Held at Casula Powerhouse in May this year, the camp targets students who show a keen interest in art, and gives them the opportunity to develop their understanding and skills by taking part in a three-day workshop.



King Neptune by Carolyn Meyers,  
Liverpool Girls High School.



Spirit Woman by Lisa Denny,  
Picton High School.

Students were able to choose from three different workshops — ceramics, moulded leather and painted fabric, or wire and recycled materials — and were encouraged to work on projects they couldn't normally do at school, such as large-scale works.

The camp finished with an exhibition of all the students' artworks, giving them the opportunity to observe first-hand the responses of people to their work.



Ceramic Urn with Snake by Marina Cuenca,  
James Busby High School.

Sheree Dietrich, organiser of the camp and a Visual Arts teacher at Eagle Vale High School, said ArtSmart allows students to 'immerse themselves in their art, working further in the processes they are learning at school'.

The theme for this year was *Reflections* and the works on exhibit at the Board reflect both personal and cultural interpretations of the theme. 