



# PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.

NEWS  
OCT 2023



## Wellness Week Wrap-up

A fabulous House Bake Off kickstarted Wellness Week for 2023. There was a fantastic variety of activities for students to participate in to focus on their wellness—from Mindful Art, Pot Painting, Chalk and Talk, Cycling Circuit, Yarn Bomb, Staff vs Students Theatre Sports, Chit Chat with a Kit Kat, Wellness Wayfinder and Just Dance.

The Food for Thought café served up delicious meals for lunch each day, including gyoza, beef bourguignon, noodle and wonton soup, and chicken cacciatore.

R U OK? Day was held on Thursday, 7 September with students dressing in bright colours for a gold coin donation and having an extended lunch with a sausage sizzle, fairy floss, music bands, stress ball creations, a gratitude board, staff v student volleyball, penalty shootout, plus more! Several mental health organisations, including City of Subiaco – Blender Bike, zero2hero, Helpingminds and We Are Womxn, set up booths to provide support and resources to students.

*You can see more Wellness Week photos on pages 22–23.*



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Year 7 Focus Day

# From the Principal

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE YEAR 12 CLASS OF 2023

**After six years of schooling our wonderful Year 12 students' time at Perth Modern School has come to an end.**

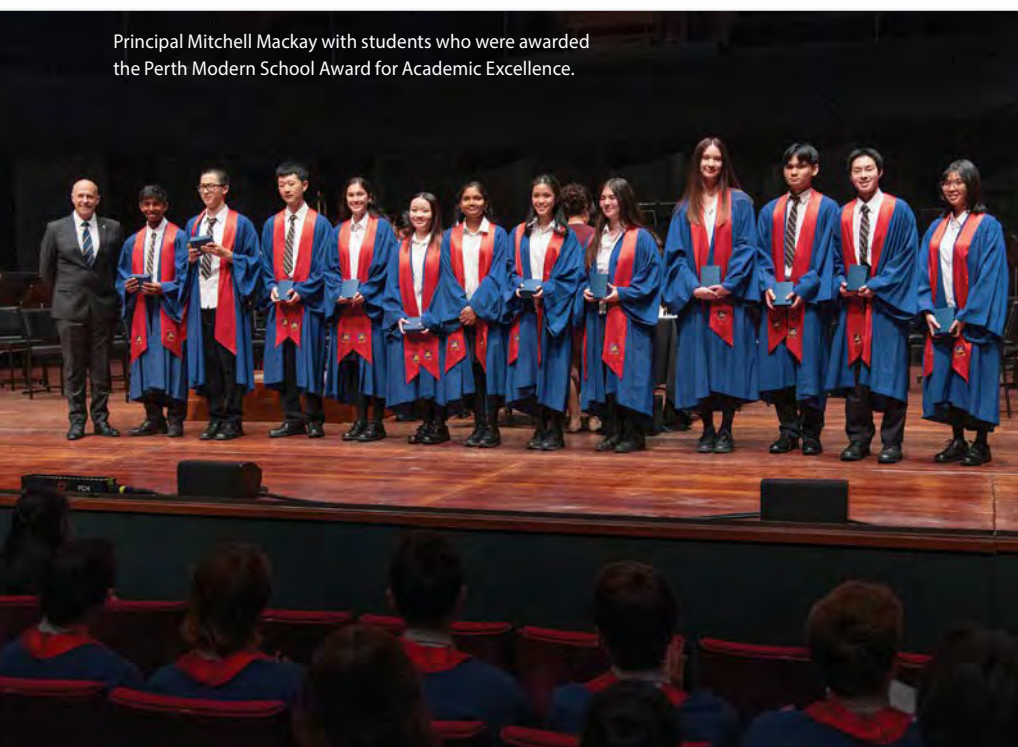
There have been a range of activities for students to look forward to in this period of transition from school to adulthood. First was the Year 12 Dinner Dance held at the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club. Year 12 students returned to the term with two dress-up days celebrating their past and their future aspirations. Next was the traditional Running of the Bells on the school oval. The week concluded with the Year 12 Farewell Assembly, where Year 12 students thanked all the staff and students in the school for making their journey here a memorable and kind experience. This was followed by the Ringing of the Bells where each student rings the 100-year-old plus bell to signify their time at the school and to acknowledge to the world that they are our next generation of leaders, professionals, and amazing young adults.

Throughout these events every student conducted themselves with the utmost integrity and responsibility and they have left a legacy of kindness and care for all the students in the school to follow.

## PRESENTATION EVENING

We then celebrated the Year 12 students' outstanding achievements at the 2023 Presentation Evening held at the Perth Concert Hall. There are so many incredible students at Perth Modern School that nearly every student was worthy of an award. There is no other school like Perth Modern School with so many students achieving academic results that are amongst the highest in WA. They have combined these with a huge number of community support activities that demonstrate the care they have for others and the maturity they display every day. Congratulations to **Lillie Sartori** and **Chau Tran** who were acknowledged on the evening as Dux and Runner Up Dux of Perth Modern School. The event was celebrated by the family, friends, community members and Modernians who have been part of these students' lives since they began their time at Mod. A huge thank you to all the staff who have helped these students turn their gifts into talents.

Principal Mitchell Mackay with students who were awarded the Perth Modern School Award for Academic Excellence.



**I acknowledge and commend the students below for their wonderful achievements in Term 3:**

**Mahek Aribenchi** in Year 10 won the **Rotary 4 Way Speech Competition**.

**Bhuvika Garg** and **Zhilang Han** in Year 7 won First Place in the Picture Book category for Years 7/8 in the **2023 Children's Book Council of WA Book awards**. **Emmelyn Fong** achieved Second Place for Year 8 in the Story Book category, and **Lucy Zhou** and **Rose Zhang** achieved Third Place for Year 8 in the Picture Book category.

**Matthew Champness** in Year 9 achieved 100 per cent in the Year 9–10 category of the **Australian History Competition**, topping the nation and winning the medal.

**Kieran Ho**, **Jayden Yip** and **Phelan Sabel** in Year 9 won First Place in the Secondary Line Rescue category of the **RoboCup Junior Competition**.

**Paul Hodges** in Year 9 and **Alice Tanner**, **Madeleine Maxwell** and **Euan Strachan** in Year 10 won First Place in the **West Australian Robotics Playoffs**.

**Kieran Ho** in Year 9, **Vrinda Varma** and **Maduricaa Yohanathan** in Year 8 and **Josephine Siburian** in Year 7 won First Place in the **State Numero® Competition**.

**Raahim Zaidi** in Year 11 has been selected for the **Australian Air Force Cadets Training Program**.

**Ryan Eastwood** in Year 12 was awarded **Rookie of the Year** by the WA Baseball Umpires Association.

**Paula Gruber Loo** in Year 9 won the **WA Girls Chess Championship** at the State Junior Chess Championships.

**Sidney Eric** in Year 12 won the 2023 Japanese Language Speech Contest for WA with **Ryan Ang** in Year 11 also competing in the final.

Prize winners in the **Australian Maths Competition** for achieving in the top 0.3 per cent nationally were **Thomas Dong**, **Ashvin Balavignan**, **Lucas Nguyen**, **Menagan Manoharan** and **Abigail Htoo** in Year 7; **Cassie Lee**, **Isabelle Lim**, **Celeste Toh** and **Mark Lee** in Year 8; **Caiyan Yu**, **Rayden Oliveira**, **Adarsh Natarajan** and **Luke Antenucci** in Year 9; **Anoushka Gupta** and **Shajin Islam** in Year 10 and **Max Wu** in Year 12.

**Freeman Wei** came First in WA for Year 7 and **Lachlan Belstead** came First in Western Australia for Year 8 in the **2023 Australian Geography Competition**.

**Diya Sanjay** achieved a Highly Commended for Year 8 in the **2023 Australian Young Geographer of the Year Competition**.

**Imogen Manfield** in Year 7 won the Aleitha Hunter and Faith Stewart Award for Most Promising Instrumentalist in any section at the **2023 Recital and Concerto Competition**.

**Tom Qiu** in Year 11 and **Matthew Choy** in Year 10 received Gold medals in the **Australian Informatics Olympiad** which is run by the Australian Maths Trust at the University of Canberra.

**Ishika Balram**, **Asha Scaddan**, **Anoushka Gupta** and **Avishi Prasad** in Year 10 won the **Australian Brain Bee Challenge** for WA. Ishika came second in the individual result.

**Jasmine Wu** in Year 10 and **Chelsea Wu** in Year 8 won gold and silver medals at the Global Round of the **World Scholars Cup** and have qualified for the Tournament of Champions.

**Arielle Ang** in Year 9 has achieved Gold and **Abhigyan Ghosal** in Year 11 has achieved Silver in the **Australian Music Examinations Board Award** program.

**Lodinu Kalugalage**, **Heidi Gstaettner** and **Kshithij Chandrashekar** in Year 10 who have been selected for the **Earth and Environmental Science Olympiad Summer School**.

**Atharva Sathe** in Year 11 has been selected for the **Physics and Chemistry Olympiad Summer Schools**.

**Kiara Arthur** and **Elliott Dunn** in Year 12 achieved the **Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award** through the Australian Air Force Cadets.

**Ellie Malonzo** in Year 9 performed the violin with the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra as part of the **Young Artist Concert Series**.

Award winners on the **Outside the Frame Art Awards** were **Lucas Briggs** in Year 11 and **Annika Carleton**, **Aaron Yong** and **Loic Dutry** in Year 12. **Sachi Elliott** in Year 12 and **Lexie Kent** in Year 11 were selected as exhibitors.

Students selected for the **META exhibition** were **Darcie Schneider**, **Hayley Mills** and **Claire den Hollander** in Year 11 and **Loic Dutry**, **Matilda Kosok**, **Olivia Meaney**, **Parker Kenworthy** and **Annika Carleton** in Year 12.

At the **St George's Cathedral Art Exhibition**, **Lucas Briggs** in Year 11 won the Mixed Media and Textiles category and **Rachel Tan** in Year 12 was the 2D category winner.

**Jennifer Mullan** in Year 12 won the Experimental Award in the **Hypervision** exhibition for her artwork *For the Stars*.

**Hannah Chen** in Year 8, **Kat Wilson**, **Alice Lin** and **Ava van Dommelen** in Year 10 and **Olivia Meaney**, **Matilda Kosok** and **Loic Dutry** in Year 12 were selected to exhibit their artworks in the **Young Originals** exhibition.

**Jake Wallace** in Year 7 had an artwork selected for the **Canning Art Awards** and another artwork selected for the **City of Belmont Art Awards**.

**Oliver Nguyen** in Year 10 was Vice-Captain of the State Under 15 Volleyball team that won the gold at the **School Sport Interstate Volleyball Championships** in Canberra.

**Marcel Williams** in Year 7 won a gold medal

as part the WA team contesting the national **Under-13 Ice Hockey Championships**.

**Jason Dong** in Year 8 has placed in several ice-skating competitions including Third Place in the Intermediate Novice Boys division in the **Swan Trophy** and Third Place in the **Crystal Challenge** in Melbourne.

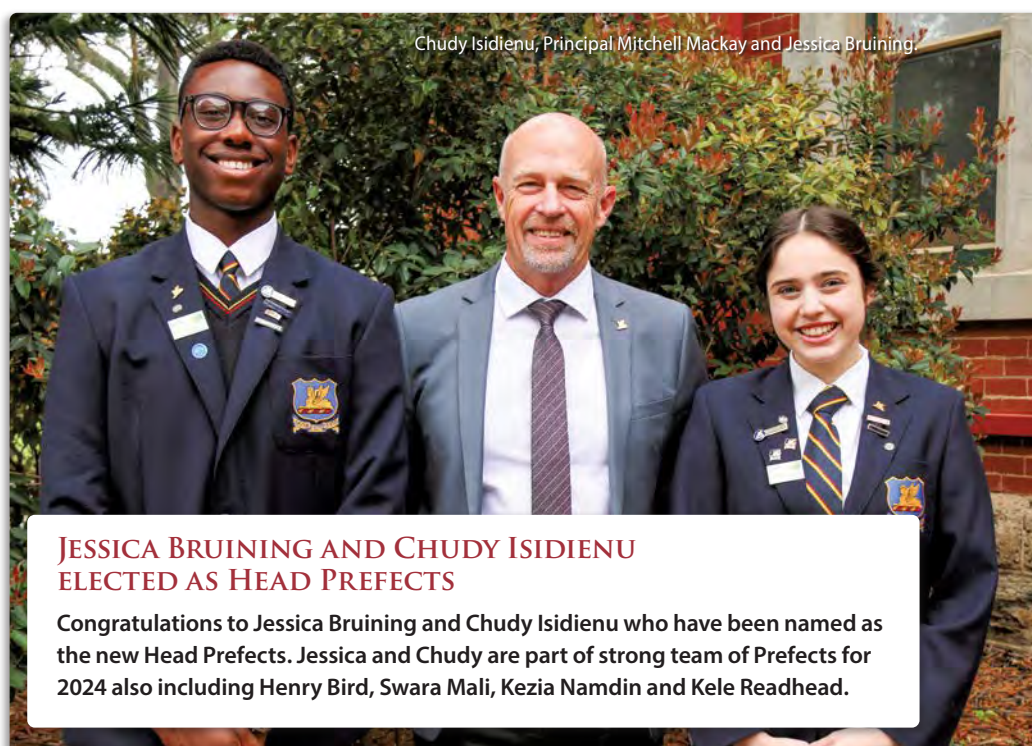
**Kiran Finn** in Year 7 and **Devan Finn** in Year 9 were selected for the **State Hockey team** in their respective age divisions.

**Jasmine Wu** in Year 10 won Silver for U15 Girls Doubles at the **2023 Table Tennis Australia National Championships**. Jasmine teamed up with **Jethro Chen** in Year 8 to win the **WA A-Grade Open Pennants Championships**. **Chelsea Wu** in Year 8 played above her age level to win Bronze with her team in **A-Grade Open Pennants**.

**Keefen Wilson** in Year 7 was selected to represent WA in the **Bruce Cup Tennis Tournament** in Brisbane.

At the **2023 Karate Australia National Championships**, **Cayden Arquiza-Relenas** in Year 9 won a Silver medal, **Marcel Williams** in Year 7 won an individual Bronze medal and team Silver, **Kian Arquiza-Relenas** in Year 7 won an individual Silver medal and team Silver as well as the Highest Ranking Athlete award for Children Male Kata and **Reece Miyamoto** in Year 8 won an individual Silver medal.

*Mitchell Mackay,  
Principal*



Chudy Isidienu, Principal Mitchell Mackay and Jessica Bruining.

### JESSICA BRUINING AND CHUDY ISIDIENU ELECTED AS HEAD PREFECTS

Congratulations to Jessica Bruining and Chudy Isidienu who have been named as the new Head Prefects. Jessica and Chudy are part of strong team of Prefects for 2024 also including Henry Bird, Swara Mali, Kezia Namdin and Kele Readhead.

# Parsons and Brown prove victorious at House Athletics

MARK MUIR, HEAD OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION



ABOVE: House Athletics Year Champions and Runners Up.

After many years of Sampson dominating, 2023 was the year that Parsons proved too strong in our whole school House Athletics Championship. Brown finished victorious in the Novelty Cup.

The participation rates were the highest ever and several new records were set during the day. The Year 12 Race/Parade was the highlight with the Class of 2023 thrilling the crowd with their creative, vibrant outfits and sense of fun!

Congratulations to all participants for their enthusiasm and a big thank you to all staff, parent and student officials who helped make the day so successful.

## 2023 House Athletics Champions

Gender	Year	Category	Name
Female	7	Runner Up Year Champion <b>Year Champion</b>	Caitlin Ding Hannah Nguyen
Male	7	Runner Up Year Champion <b>Year Champion</b>	Jie Wan Shayan Islam
Female	8	Runner Up Year Champion <b>Year Champion</b>	Lily Sell Skye McCaffrey
Male	8	Runner Up Year Champion <b>Year Champion</b>	Riley Kinsella Tobi Zhou
Female	9	Runner Up Year Champion <b>Year Champion</b>	Adele Stegink Stephanie White
Male	9	Runner Up Year Champion <b>Year Champion</b>	Ming Guo Toby Gollagher
Female	10	Runner Up Year Champion <b>Year Champion</b>	Fearne Van Beek Jasmine Wu
Male	10	Runner Up Year Champion <b>Year Champion</b>	Adeolu Adebayo David Nguyen
Female	11	Runner Up Year Champion <b>Year Champion</b>	Sarah Harris, Spandan Kankumbkar Jaun Yum
Male	11	Runner Up Year Champion <b>Year Champion</b>	Venuja Silva, Jonathan Foster David Esdale
Female	12	Runner Up Year Champion <b>Year Champion</b>	Samsara Mattin Chelsea Lee
Male	12	Runner Up Year Champion <b>Year Champion</b>	Mitchell Morris Conor Blycha



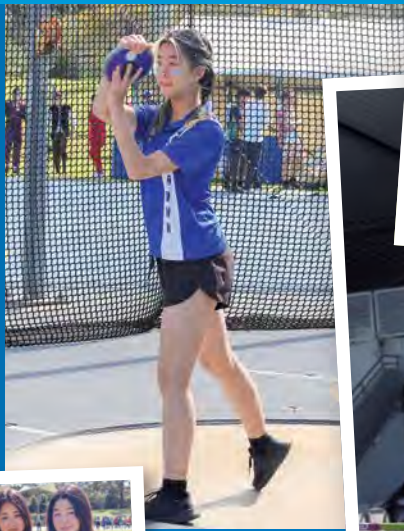
1st	Parsons	4046 points
2nd	Downing	3989 points
3rd	Sampson	3497 points
4th	Brown	3164 points

1st	Brown	550 points
2nd	Downing	440 points
3rd	Sampson	335 points
4th	Parsons	275 points



ABOVE: Parsons House Captain Chelsea Lee with the House Athletics Trophy.





# NAIDOC Week Assembly



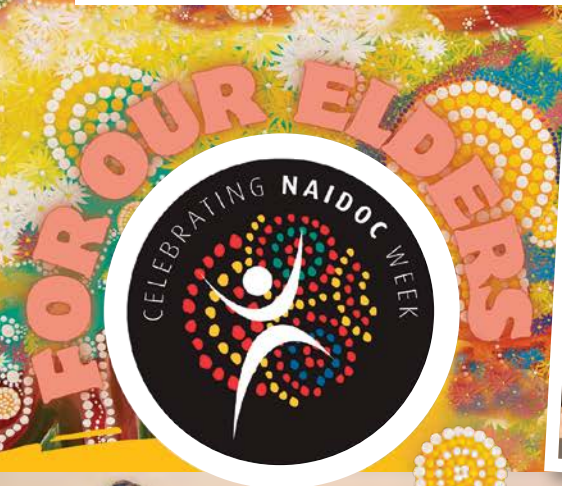
Perth Modern celebrated NAIDOC Week with a special whole school assembly. The theme for NAIDOC 2023 was 'For Our Elders'.

Students gave an Acknowledgment of Country and Student Councillors spoke about the importance of Aboriginal culture, history and knowledge. Staff members read from the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. Author Brenda Matthews spoke movingly about her story of growing up in

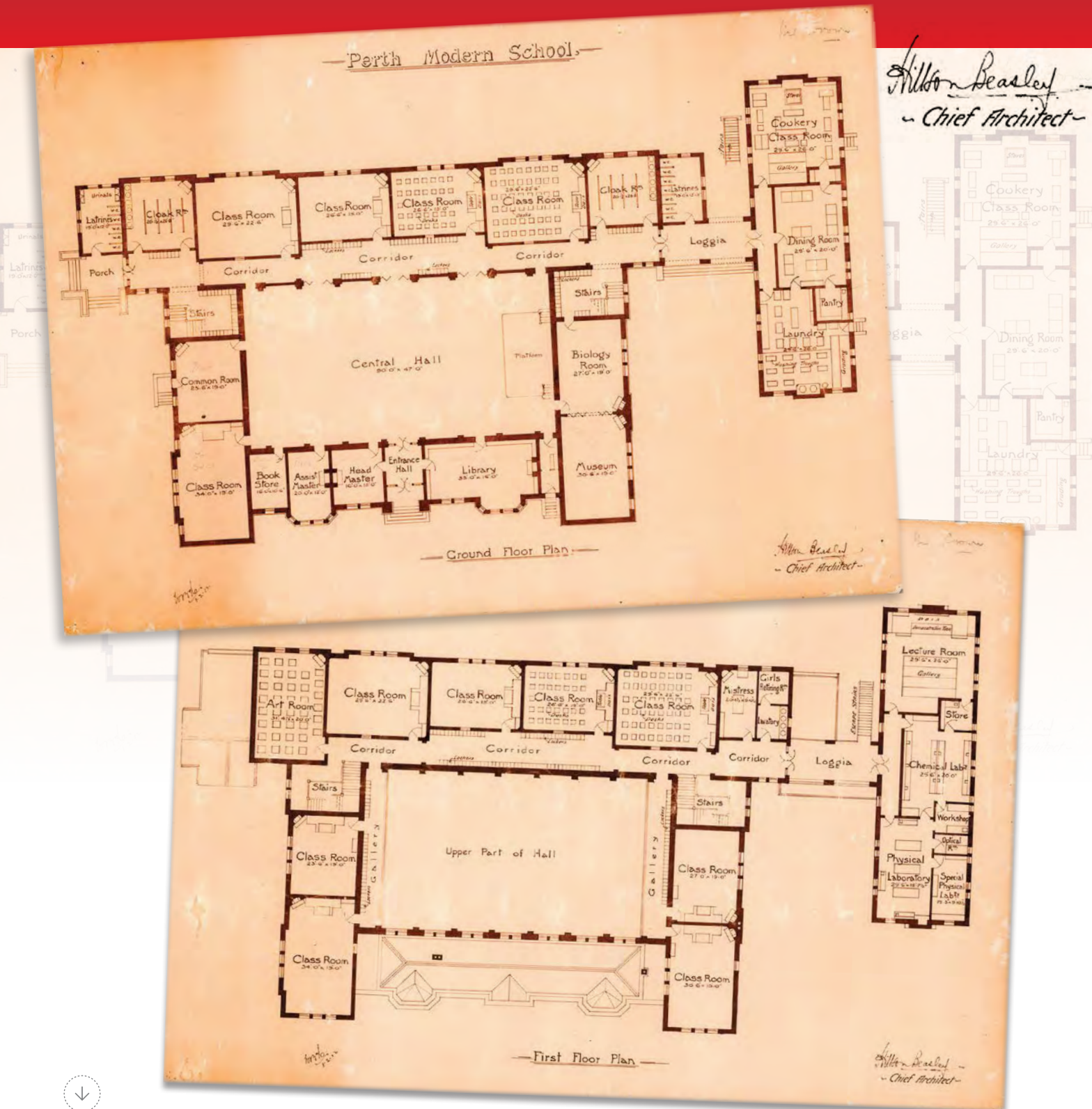
two families—white and black—and the importance of 'collective healing'.

The Years 8 and 9 Treble Choir performed *Tjitijl Lullaby* by Electric Fields, Zaachariaha

Fielding and Michael Ross, and Aboriginal group Koolankas Kretae sang *Over the Rainbow*, played the didgeridoo and the younger members of the group performed traditional Aboriginal dances.



# Architectural plans for Perth Modern unearthed



These are the original architectural plans for Perth Modern School produced by the State's Chief Architect Hillson Beasley (for whom the Beasley Building is named) ... wow, how the school has changed!

Interesting things to note:

- The School only consisted of what is now called the Beasley Building.
- The former library is now the McCusker Boardroom.
- The Central Hall (Beasley Hall) was on one level without tiered seating.
- There was no cafe or canteen—students ate in the 'Common Room'.
- Cloak rooms were important—there were two.
- Bathrooms were called 'Latrines'. The *Oxford Dictionary* states that a latrine is 'a toilet, especially a communal one in a camp or barracks'.
- The School had a museum (used for science).
- The 'Mistress' had her own office.
- The Principal's (then the Headmaster's) office hasn't moved.
- There was one bookstore for all subjects and no designated 'staff room'.
- There was a big laundry (only the girls had cooking and laundry lessons).

# Robotics on the ascendency



Perth Modern School students at RoboCup Junior.

**Mod students have made exceptional strides in robotics in Term 3, winning first place in the West Australian Robotics Playoffs and winning the State Championship for Secondary Line Rescue in the RoboCup Junior Competition.**

In the Playoffs, Paul Hodges in Year 9, and Alice Tanner, Madeleine Maxwell and Euan Strachan in Year 10 competed as part of the Curtin University team '4788 - Can't Control' with their robot 'Whiplash'.

The students were busy building/coding/training for months, with the competition taking place over two days.

The team was very lucky to have been mentored by Perth Modern alumni and robot guru, Anna Pedersen from the Class of 2022.

In the RoboCup Junior competition, participants must program and build their own robot to complete a set task.

A total of eight teams comprising 23 students participated and competed in five different categories, and Perth Mod teams progressed to the finals in all five categories – Mighty Maze, Soccer, Secondary Line Rescue, Open Rescue Line, and Open Maze.

We clinched the State championship in Secondary Line Rescue and secured third place in both Mighty Maze and Open Line.

Paul Hodges said he enjoyed the competition as he was enthusiastic about programming.

'In our Open Rescue Line category, our robot had to follow a line avoiding obstacles and get to a chemical spill and find and rescue a can. We came third in the open category as we had participated in the secondary competition for more than two years, so we were competing against Year 12 students.'



West Australian Robotics Playoffs winners: Paul Hodges, Euan Strachan, mentor Anna Pedersen, Madeleine Maxwell and Alice Tanner.

Kieran Ho said he enjoyed being involved in RoboCup as it brought out the competitive side of him. His team came first in Secondary Line Rescue.

'My team spent lots of hours working on our robot at the Robotics Club at school, so it was great feeling to win the trophy,' said Kieran.

**Secondary Line Rescue – First Place Winners: Kieran Ho, Jayden Yip, and Phelan Sabel (Year 9).**

**Open Rescue Line – Third Place Winners: Danny Edwards, Paul Hodges and Malachi Knight (Year 9).**

**Open Rescue Maze – Third Place Winner: Freeman Wei (Year 7).**

Team coordinator Hari Chillapa said: 'All students had a wonderful time. They not only helped each other but also demonstrated their leadership skills and sportsmanship by assisting and mentoring the teams from other schools.'



LEFT: Danny Edwards, Malachi Knight and Paul Hodges came third in the Open Rescue Line category.

RIGHT: Rhea Kewalram, Emily Chen, Sadhika Santhosh and Madison Thiel.



# Raahim and Ryan at the top of their games



Raahim Zaidi with his plane at Jandakot Airport.

## From passenger to pilot

**While most 16-year-olds work towards a licence to get behind the wheel of a car, one Perth Modern School student is spending his weekends with his eyes to the skies.**

Year 11 student Raahim Zaidi has been selected for the prestigious Australian Air Force Cadets Powered Flying Training Program where he will learn how to become a pilot.

Raahim is one of only five cadets from WA chosen to take part in the program. The program runs for 18 weeks at the Airflite Flying College at Jandakot Airport and involves both theoretical and practical lessons.

Speaking to ABC Perth, Raahim said his frequent overseas travels fostered an interest in aviation and inspired him to move from passenger to pilot.

*'The interest for flying really awakened about three years ago when I joined the Australian Air Force Cadets. When we started learning about aviation through cadets it really sparked a deep interest in me to get behind the controls of the plane and fly,' he said.*

'I feel like I am probably going to get my pilot licence before I get to drive.'

Raahim said he had already begun flying planes as part of his training.

'The first three weeks were all about theory and learning about the plane I will be flying. It's quite small really, you can feel every little bump in the air as you are flying,' he said. 'The next 15 weeks it is all about just getting in the air ready for a first solo flight.'

'Most of the time it is usually me behind the controls flying the plane, doing what the instructor is telling me to do. I do the take-offs right now actually and I follow the instructor on the controls with the landing. The landing part is a lot more dangerous than taking off. It is going to be quite eventful leading up to that moment.'

Raahim said he enjoyed being in the air and hoped aviation would continue to be part of his life.

'It is quite nice because the flying training only happens on the weekend. It is a really nice time to unwind from the whole school week and get into a good mindset in preparation for the upcoming week,' he said.

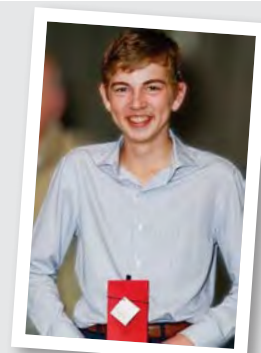
*'I am keeping my avenues open, but I do know flying will definitely be a part of my life in the future, whether it be recreationally or professionally.'*

## Ryan named Baseball Umpiring Rookie of the Year

**Ryan Eastwood in Year 12 has been awarded Rookie of the Year by the WA Baseball Umpires Association.**

Ryan started umpiring baseball when he was in Year 7, after playing for three years. Last year he qualified from Green Shirt trainee to full umpire while still only 15 years of age, and he also went to the Gold Coast to umpire in a national tournament.

Ryan loves all things baseball, and umpiring gives him the opportunity to immerse himself in the game while earning some money and gaining experience of managing potentially unpredictable situations.



Ryan Eastwood

# High flying HASS students lead the way



## Matthew is a 100% certified champion

**Year 9 student Matthew Champness has won a national accolade for his knowledge of Australian history.**

Matthew achieved 100 per cent in the Years 9–10 category in the Australian History Competition, topping the nation and winning the medal.

The competition requires students to interpret and critically analyse historical sources based on Australian history. In addition, 45 Perth Modern School students were awarded a High Distinction.

'I find learning about Australian history interesting as it is a fascinating story, the results of which play out to this day,' Matthew said.

'The competition consisted of a source analysis challenge, in which sources were presented about various periods in Australian history, and we had to answer questions relating to these sources. [The test] covered a lot of ground, and I particularly remember there being questions about the Twentieth Century and Second World War.'

The Mosman Park teenager said he had been very excited and proud of himself when he found out he had won the competition and couldn't wait to tell his parents.

'I find many areas of history interesting as all throughout history are great people and events,' he said. 'History can give people a deeper understanding of the world around them, and how it came to be. We can take many lessons from history which can inform our decisions into the future.'



Principal of Perth Modern Mitchell Mackay said Matthew's achievement was tremendous as he had topped all Year 9 students throughout Australia.

*'This is a fantastic effort by Matthew in demonstrating his deep and thorough understanding of Australian history and he deserves to be thoroughly commended for this accolade,' Mr Mackay said.*

## Model United Nations Security Council

AVANI ROOPRAI, YEAR 9

**An extensive, innovative and creative project, undertaken by all Year 9 students in HASS at the end of Semester 1, further developed our understanding of global citizenship. The unit of Civics and Citizenship included us looking into international relations, and bodies such as the United Nations.**

Classes conducted their own model United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Each person, or group of two, was assigned a country about which they had to research political, geographic, and historical aspects. This meant that not only did they learn general knowledge about a specific country, but the role-playing of the United Nations Security Council allowed them to understand more about international law. Each class had to prepare speeches and amendments to

debate a resolution that was specific to the use of nuclear weapons in North Korea.

Such an interesting topic meant that there was bound to be engaging conflict and critical thinking involved. Mr McMahon also taught us the complexities of meeting procedures and processes and how forums for debate such as these are conducted in accordance with agreed protocols to ensure open and transparent fairness.

We learnt all about the methods of amendments and voting within the UNSC chamber and were given chances to enhance our public speaking. We were excited and enthusiastic about this task, leading to many of us exploring this topic outside of the classroom. Overall, we really enjoyed this task and gained a useful knowledge of international relationships.

Mr Rick McMahon's Year 9 class who participated in the Model United Nations Security Council activity.



# Mahek wins the Rotary 4 Way Speech Competition



**The Rotary 4 Way Speech Competition is a prestigious and highly competitive speaking contest, and Perth Modern School recently produced the State winner—Mahek Aribenchi in Year 10. This was the first time a Perth Modern School student had won the prestigious title since 2008.**

Mahek won a cash prize and three trophies; one for herself, one for Perth Modern School and one for the Rotary Club of Subiaco which sponsored her.

Prior to the finale, Year 10 students Naomi Wibowo, Finn Bradfield, Mahek Aribenchi, Aaryan Singh, Sophie Nham and Shermaine Chan had participated in the heats, with Mahek placing first, Shermaine Chan placing second, and Finn Bradfield placing third.

After a gruelling three rounds of competition, on the day of the final which was on September 4, Mahek used a series of public speaking techniques to craft and present a six-minute speech on the topic 'Down Syndrome Discrimination' while integrating and analysing the values of Rotary 4 Way Test:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- Is it beneficial to all concerned?

Mahek said although preparing and improving one round after another was a tough and tedious process, it came with a lot of satisfaction. She said her goal was to profoundly touch the hearts of the audience and inspire them to seek change in their perception of people with Down Syndrome.

**In her grand final speech, Mahek asked the audience:**

*'Firstly, is it the truth? Put your hand up if you have a child or a younger sibling. Imagine, they tell you, tears rolling out their eyes, that no one wanted to play with them at lunch time—how would you feel? The pain we share is indescribable, unbearable, but think about those that face it every single day. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, over 74% of children with Down syndrome experience bullying regularly.*

*'I am sick of being put in a box. Just because I attend an academically selective school doesn't mean book-smart defines me! Similarly... people with Down syndrome are not defined by "incapable and flawed". Each one has unique talents that we must embrace but also acknowledge that their difficulties are no barrier to success.*

*'Motivating examples like Ellie Goldstein—a world class model, Tazia Fawley—an artistic treasure, and Steven Brandon—an accomplished actor, prove this fact. As a society, it is something we must encourage to dispel past prejudices, and inspire others with Down syndrome to dream big, therefore cultivating goodwill in our community.'*

When announced the winner, Mahek said it felt 'unbelievable.'

'When my name was announced as the overall winner, I didn't even register it at first. After I realised that this was actually happening, I felt shocked, relief and yet absolute joy all at the same time! But more than anything I will never forget the fulfilling expressions of pride on my parents' and teacher's faces.'



Overall winner Mahek Aribenchi with Rotary Club of Subiaco President David Musarra and Associate Principal Nicola Reilly.

## Thank you from Mahek

'I would like to extend a huge thank you to my parents for eternally supporting me and always listening to my practices and giving me feedback; Mrs Nicola Reilly, the one who started my Rotary journey, for her attention to detail, enthusiasm and motivation in helping me grow as a speaker; and the Rotary Club of Subiaco that has been integral in assisting me and this program. Specifically, Wilma McBain the Rotary Club of Subiaco president, David Musarra, the treasurer, Robyn White, the youth director and especially Shauna Kinney, the assistant youth director and an amazing organiser.'



ABOVE: Mahek Aribenchi with her father Rajendra at one of the earlier rounds.  
LEFT: Shermaine Chan and Finn Bradfield.



Perth Modern School speech contest participants.

# Student accolades

## Jake's artwork selected for Canning and Belmont Art Awards

Artworks by Jake Wallace in Year 7 have been exhibited in the Canning Art Awards 2023 and City of Belmont Art Awards 2023. Jake likes to complete his artwork in his spare time while relaxing at home. Well done Jake and keep up the great work.

Jake Wallace; and one of Jake's artworks that were on display.



## Paula is the 2023 WA Girls State Chess Champion

Well done to Paula Gruber Loo in Year 9 who recently won the WA Girls Chess Championship at the State Junior Chess Championships run by the Chess Association of Western Australia.

Paula said, 'I really enjoy the strategy and tactics of chess and the competition element. I always want to try to improve my results. I would like to see more girls playing chess as it is a really fun hobby and it's good for you.'

Paula Gruber Loo is the WA Girls Chess Champion.



## Top of the world in Geography

Well done to the following students for their results in the 2023 Australian Geography Competition:

**First in Western Australian (Year 7): Freeman Wei**

**First in Western Australia (Year 8): Lachlan Belstead**

Congratulations to Diya Sanjay in Year 8 for achieving Highly Commended in the 2023 Australian Young Geographer of the Year Competition.

Freeman Wei came first in WA for Year 7.

Top Geographers Diya Sanjay and Lachlan Belstead.



## Imogen's winning baroque and jazz trumpet performance

**Imogen Manfield in Year 7 has been awarded a top Music prize for her skills in trumpet. Imogen competed in the West Australian Music Teachers' Association (WAMTA) Recital and Concerto Competition and was highly commended for her baroque and jazz trumpet performance.**

She was also selected for the special prize of the Aleitha Hunter and Faith Stewart Award for Most Promising Instrumentalist in any section of the 2023 Recital and Concerto Competition.

Imogen attended the Winners Concert and Award Ceremony at UWA to receive the award and was asked to perform Duke Ellington's *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*.



## Jason excelling in figure skating at the National level

**Year 8 student Jason Dong has been figure skating on ice since the age of seven, when he discovered his passion for skating. By the time he was nine, he had started to compete at State level.**

Jason's results in major figure skating competitions since 2019:

- 2019 Mary Ellen Holland Memorial: Third place in the Preliminary Men Division.
- 2019 Spring Challenge: Second place in the Preliminary Men Division.
- 2020 Winter West and Spring Challenge: Second place in the Preliminary Men Division.
- 2021 Autumn Cup: Jason won third place in the Elementary Men Division.
- 2021 Winter West and Spring Challenge: First place in the Elementary Division.
- 2022 Swan Trophy: Second place in the Basic Novice Boys Division.
- 2022 Winter West and State Championship: First place for Basic Novice Boys Division.
- 2023 National Championships in Brisbane representing WA: Fourth place in the Basic Novice Boys Division.
- 2023 Swan Trophy: Third place in the Intermediate Novice Boys Division.
- 2023 Crystal Challenge in Melbourne: Third place.

Jason Dong performing on the ice and Jason with one of his ice skating trophies,



## Sidney wins the WA Japanese Language Speech Contest

**Sidney Eric in Year 12 has won the 2023 Japanese Language Speech Contest held at The University of Western Australia.**

Also representing Perth Modern School was Ryan Ang in Year 11.

Sidney spoke about what young people can learn from master Japanese craftsmen, and Ryan spoke about the importance of media literacy for young people.

As a result of winning the State final, Sidney represented Western Australia at the national final via video entry where she acquitted herself very well

Ryan Ang and Sidney Eric at the Japanese Language Speech Contest.

## 2023 Karate Australia National Championships

Four Perth Modern School students and one incoming student for 2024 had some fantastic results at the 2023 Karate Australia National Championships held at the Gold Netball Centre.

Results are below:

- Cayden Arquiza-Relenas (Year 9): Silver Medal Cadet – Junior Team Kata.
- Marcel Williams (Year 7): Bronze Medal Kumite Individual Male U14 (-55), Silver Medal Children Team Kumite.
- Kian Arquiza-Relenas (Year 7): Silver Medal Kata Individual Male U14, Silver Medal Cadet – Junior Team Kata.
- Reece Miyamoto (Year 8): Silver Medal Kumite Individual Male U14 (-40)
- Thiraj Muthukudasinghe (Incoming Year 7): Competed in Kata individual Male U14/Kumite Individual Male U14 (+55).

A special well done to Kian was who awarded Western Australia's Highest-Ranking Athlete for Children Male Kata.

Prior to this competition, Marcel Williams achieved First Place in the Karate New Zealand Open – Kumite Division (12/13 years Elite Boys).

TOP RIGHT: Mod Karate: Cayden Arquiza-Relenas, Marcel Williams, Kian Arquiza-Relenas, Reece Miyamoto and Thiraj Muthukudasinghe.

RIGHT: Kian Arquiza-Relenas with his award for Children's Male Kata.

FAR RIGHT: Marcel Williams won First Place in the Karate New Zealand Open.



## Mod wins big in the Children's Book Council of WA Book Awards

Five Perth Modern School students were the recipients of awards in the 2023 Children's Book Council of Australia WA Division Make Your Own Story Book and Picture Book Competition. Bhuvika Garg and Zhilang Han in Year 8 won First Place in the Picture Book category in Years 7/8 for their entry *Oh My God!*

Emmelyn Fong achieved Second Place for Year 8 in the Write Your Own Story Book category. Lucy Zhou and Rose Zhang achieved Third Place for Year 8 in the Make Your Own Picture Book category.

Bhuvika was invited to make a speech about the book at the award ceremony. Emmelyn, Lucy and Rose also attended the ceremony, however Zhilang had moved to Canada by then.

Bhuvika said their story *Oh My God!* is about 'different religions and their cultures, and how all cultures are different but aim to achieve the same things, and it is about learning to accept different cultures, but displayed in a way a child could understand it.'

Zhilang said their winning book 'explores the contrasts as well as the similarities between three prominent religions of the modern world: Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Bhuvika came up with the original idea while I added the idea that we should incorporate a Zoom meeting into the framework of our story to bring an interesting contrast between ancient religious ideas as well as modern innovation.'



Lucy Zhou, Rose Zhang, Emmelyn Fong and Bhuvika Garg at the Book Council awards ceremony.

Bhuvika Garg presents a speech on her winning book *Oh My God!*



## Mod's top table tennis talent

**Three Perth Modern School students have been super successful in Table Tennis Championships in Term 3.**

Jasmine Wu in Year 10 was part of a doubles team that won a Silver medal for U15 Girls at the 2023 Table Tennis Australia National Championships at Sydney Olympic stadium in July.

Jasmine continued her winning streak at the inaugural Perth PTTC International Open, winning the Women's Singles Runner-up Champion amongst highly ranked international players from Japan and China.

In addition, Jasmine and her fellow Modernian Jethro Chen in Year 8 formed part of the team which recently won this year's biggest WA A-Grade Open Pennants Championships.

Chelsea Wu in Year 8 also played above her age with her team winning Bronze in the State A-Grade Open Pennants.

Jasmine Wu (right) won Silver for U15 Girls at the 2023 Table Tennis Australia National Championships. She is pictured with her doubles partner.

## 2023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2-9 JULY, SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK



## Arielle and Abhigyan win medals from the Australian Music Examinations Board

**Well done to Arielle Ang in Year 9 for achieving a Gold medal and Abhigyan Ghosal in Year 11 who is the recipient of a Silver medal in the AMEB Award Program.**

The reward program recognises the sustained and significant effort by the candidate. It recognises the commitment the individual makes to the performing arts community of their school. The award acknowledges the individual's engagement in ensembles, productions and other collaborative activity under the tutelage of their teacher, while advancing their skill development through an internationally recognised program.

Principal Mitchell Mackay met with Arielle and Abhigyan to present their awards and personally congratulate them on their achievements.

## Vice-Captain Oliver brings home Volleyball Gold for WA

**Oliver Nguyen in Year 10, the Vice-Captain of the State Under 15 Boys Volleyball team, helped his team bring home a Gold medal for WA in the School Sport Interstate Volleyball Championships held in Canberra. Well done, Oliver.**

Oliver Nguyen (second from left) won a Gold medal for WA in interstate volleyball.



## Devan is multi-talented at sport

Devan Finn in Year 9 is playing high level hockey and competing in karate. He has been selected for the WA Under 15 Boys Hockey team, as well as achieving second place in the 2022 National Karate Championships and also contesting the Shobukan Open.

'I play hockey, karate, and cricket,' Devan said. 'My favourite sport is hockey which I have been playing since pre-primary. I took it up as my dad loves hockey and he has been playing for a long time.'

'For the State Hockey competition held in Darwin, we had to train every weekend, Saturday and Sunday.

'The WA team did well, but due to bad weather two of our games were cancelled and we got knocked out of the finals and came fifth.

'My goal in hockey is to maintain my place in the state team.

'Last year in the national karate competition in Queensland, I came second [in my division], but this year I have pulled out to concentrate on my hockey.

'I also play club and district cricket which keeps me pretty busy.'



ABOVE: Devan (second from left) was competing at the state level and winning medals in karate, before deciding to concentrate on state team hockey.

RIGHT: Devan (third from left, middle row) with his hockey team.



## Wu sisters qualify for Tournament of Champions Final

Sisters Jasmine and Chelsea Wu won gold and silver medals at the recent Global Round of the World Scholars Cup held in Seoul, South Korea, which was attended by thousands of students from countries across the globe including Canada, China, Japan, Kenya, UK and Australia.

Jasmine, who is in Year 10, joined forces with two students from Japan in the senior division while Chelsea, in Year 8, collaborated with two students from Indonesia in the junior division, with both teams qualifying for the final 2023 Tournament of Champions to be held at Yale University in the USA in November.

Sisters Chelsea and Jasmine Wu have qualified for the Tournament of Champions Final at Yale University.



## Mod team wins the Australian Brain Bee Challenge

**The Year 10 team featuring Ishika Balram, Asha Scaddan, Anoushka Gupta and Avishi Prasad have won the Australian Brain Bee Challenge (ABBC) for WA.**

The ABBC is a competition for high school students in Year 10 to learn about the brain and its functions and neuroscience research.

Ishika Balram came second in the individual result.

Ishika said, '[The competition] involved studying neuroscience topics and then completing a quiz through Education Perfect. Each round took about 10 hours and there were two rounds.'

'[Neuroscience] is a topic I find really fascinating. I hope to go into neuroscience—research or clinical—becoming a neuroscientist or neurosurgeon in the future.'

'We know so little about the brain compared to other body parts and there are new discoveries happening all the time.'



Brain Bee winning team: Ishika Balram, Asha Scaddan, Anoushka Gupta and Avishi Prasad.

Anoushka said, 'For our topic, we chose the part of the brain, known as fusiform face area, which helps with facial recognition.'

'We made a short three-minute video with visual aids, we drew diagrams which helped us explain conditions in layman's terms.'

'In the video we discussed pareidolia, which is how people see faces in objects, and prosopagnosia, which is face blindness.'



## Marcel nabs medal on ice and karate mat

THE POST

**Perth Modern School student Marcel Williams has won a gold medal in both ice hockey and karate this year.**

He arrived home from Melbourne with a gold medal won as part of the WA Under-13 ice hockey championships and beating NSW in the final. Marcel said it felt amazing to win gold for WA and all his early morning starts for 6am training had paid off.

He began playing ice hockey in early 2018 after a family trip to Finland where he saw professional ice hockey on TV, inspiring him to take up the sport when he returned to WA.

He made the state team in May this year after playing with the U13 Flyers with John Fox as his team coach and Sydney Fricker as his state team coach.

'I love the game and I'm going to continue playing for my team and hopefully represent WA again,' he said.

Marcel has won gold this year in both ice hockey and karate.

# Variety of experiences enriches understanding



## Kele joins the Ministerial Reference Group

In May, the Federal Minister for Education, the Hon Jason Clare MP, announced the members of the National School Reform Agreement Ministerial Reference Group. Year 11 student Kele Readhead has been selected as a student representative, one of seven students from around Australia.

This Ministerial Reference Group will be a sounding board and source of advice to the Expert Panel, led by Dr Lisa O'Brien AM, that will advise Education Ministers on the specific reforms that should be tied to funding in the next National School Reform Agreement.

The Group will be chaired by the Minister and includes teachers, principals, students, parent organisations, education unions, and other education experts and stakeholders.

Kele travelled to Canberra to attend the Education Ministers' Meeting which dedicated half a day for a discussion with the Expert Panel and the Ministerial Reference Group.

Kele says, 'I'm passionate about ensuring that socioeconomic status does not define students' opportunities.'

RIGHT: Kele Readhead addresses the National School Reform Agreement Ministerial Reference Group.

BELOW: Kele Readhead (right) with the Minister for Early Childhood Education the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP (third from right) and other student delegates.



Below: Kele (right) chats with the Minister for Education the Hon Jason Clare MP.



## Perth band Voyager rocks the Year 12 students

As part of their Focus Day, Year 12 students enjoyed a special visit by Alex Canion and Danny Estrin from progressive metal band Voyager. The band was chosen to represent Australia in the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest, where they placed ninth with their song *Promise*.

Alex is a Modernian and enjoyed catching up with some of his former Music teachers while here. Danny and Alex presented a clip of Voyager performing at Eurovision, spoke about the contest and how they got involved, their history as a band, their day jobs (Danny – Immigration Lawyer, and Alex – Graphic Designer) and their general love of everything music.

We thank Alex and Danny for taking the time to visit and inspire us with their music and pursuit of their dreams.



Danny Estrin and Alex Canion.

INSET: Video of Danny Estrin performing at Eurovision.



# Going green with Sustainability Club

BETH DUURING, YEAR 10

**Greetings from the Sustainability Club! Our dynamic community comprises both the Gardening Club and the Aquaponics Club. We are always looking for new members, and we extend a warm invitation to all students. Look at what we have achieved so far.**

This year, our big project has been the Garden behind Stokes (a better name is still pending). During club hours and holiday busy bees, we've diligently pulled weeds, laid down protective mulch, put in reticulation, and introduced a variety of indigenous flora. Every task has been orchestrated by our diligent student members, under the watchful guidance of Dr Bouwer, Mr Dean, and School Groundsperson Paul Carmody.

As part of the garden, we're currently engaged in the construction of a frog pond. We have installed a pump and waterfall,

plants in and out, and we now have some Pygmy Perch (small native fish). With advice from Mr. McMahon, we are working hard to make our pond a safe and inviting home for our future frogs. It will take time and care for the plants to grow, our hope is for the garden to become an outdoor classroom and a peaceful place for students.

In the realm of achievements, this year we've not only organised a flourishing plant stall during the parent-teacher interviews but also played an active role in the Trillion Trees planting initiative (see page 24).



ABOVE: A colourful trolley of succulents for sale at the parent-teacher interviews.  
RIGHT: Ella Bellworthy hard at work.



ABOVE: Aadi Arora, Oceana Oakley and Noah Kong.  
LEFT: The reticulation in action.



BELOW: New plants in the aquaponics system.



ABOVE: Freeman Wei and Adam Faseeh working in the garden.  
RIGHT: Plants left over from Wellness Week have been repurposed to make a tipping pot feature.



ABOVE: The garden behind Stokes.

# Magical Mathematics at Mod



Kieran Ho, Josephine Siburian, Vrindaa Varma and Maduricaa Yohanathan with their award and prizes for first place.

## Australian Maths Competition

Early in Term 3 our students sat for the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC). We won 16 Prizes and 123 High Distinctions. To win a prize a student must score in the top 0.3 per cent and to win a High Distinction the top two per cent.

The AMC is one of the largest competitions on the Education calendar and is held in over 40 countries and has been running for more than 50 years.

Well done to all students who participated in this marvellous competition.

### Prize Winners

#### Year 7:

Thomas Dong  
Ashvin Balavignan  
Lucas Nguyen  
Menagan Manoharan  
Abigail Htoo

#### Year 8:

Cassie Lee  
Isabelle Lim  
Celeste Toh  
Mark Lee

#### Year 9:

Caiyan Yu  
Rayden Oliveiro  
Adarsh Natarajan  
Luke Antenucci

#### Year 10:

Anoushka Gupta  
Shajin Islam

#### Year 12:

Max Wu

## Numero® Maths State Competition First Prize

MARK WHITE, HEAD OF MATHEMATICS

**Numero®** is a fun card game that uses mental arithmetic to work through mathematical challenges. A Perth Modern School team called 'The Modernian Mathematicians' took First Place in the final of the Numero® competition held at North Harrisdale Primary School.

During Weeks 3 and 4 of Term 3, eight students from Year 7–9 competed against other schools in the Numero Secondary Competition. The Numero® card game can be played individually, cooperatively with peers or competitively against another player, with the objective of the game to collect the greatest number of cards using a string of operations to form equations that connect the cards together. The competition consists of four rounds involving the use of the Numero® card game: individual top take, team top take, card gameplay and scramble.

The central heat was held at Carine Senior High School, and 'The Modernian Mathematicians' (Team 1) placed second while the 'Perth Mod Pi-thons' (Team 2) placed fourth. Both teams successfully made it to the final, where team 'The Modernian Mathematicians' won first place. Congratulations to our winning team, and to all the students who competed in the finals! Special thanks to teachers Ms Diep and Mr Young for mentoring these students throughout the year.

**Congratulations to:**

**Overall First Place winners – 'The Modernian Mathematicians':** Kieran Ho (Year 9), Vrindaa Varma and Maduricaa Yohanathan (Year 8), and Josephine Siburian (Year 7).

**Fourth place in the heat – 'Perth Mod Pi-thons':** Rhea Kewalram and Sushree Mangla (Year 8), and Kingsley Wong and Chenuthi Bandara (Year 7).



Chenuthi Bandara, Rhea Kewalram, Sushree Mangla and Kingsley Wong.



Teacher Victoria Diep accepting the certificate for the winning school.

# Love of learning thrives in Languages



## Inspirational fun in Italian

ANTONELLA DE GREGORIIS, ITALIAN LANGUAGE TEACHER

Italian language students have been fortunate to learn from three talented Italian assistants this year, with each one bringing their unique perspective and expertise to our Italian language program. They have been instrumental in creating an immersive and engaging learning environment for our students. In Term 3 we have had Virginia from Milan, who has enjoyed assisting the Italian program.

Students in Years 7 and 9 enjoyed attending the renowned Italian Film Festival, which provided them with the opportunity to immerse themselves in Italian cinema, gaining a deeper understanding of Italian culture, art, and language through the power of film.

We are delighted to announce that there will be a tour to Italy in 2024. This will be an unforgettable experience for our students as they get to explore the breathtaking beauty, rich history, and vibrant culture of Italy firsthand.

Language Assistant Virginia from Milan has assisted our students learn Italian in Term 3.



FROM TOP LEFT: Owen Prosser; Jonah Lockwood Jones; and Annie Lu and Sienna Barrett.



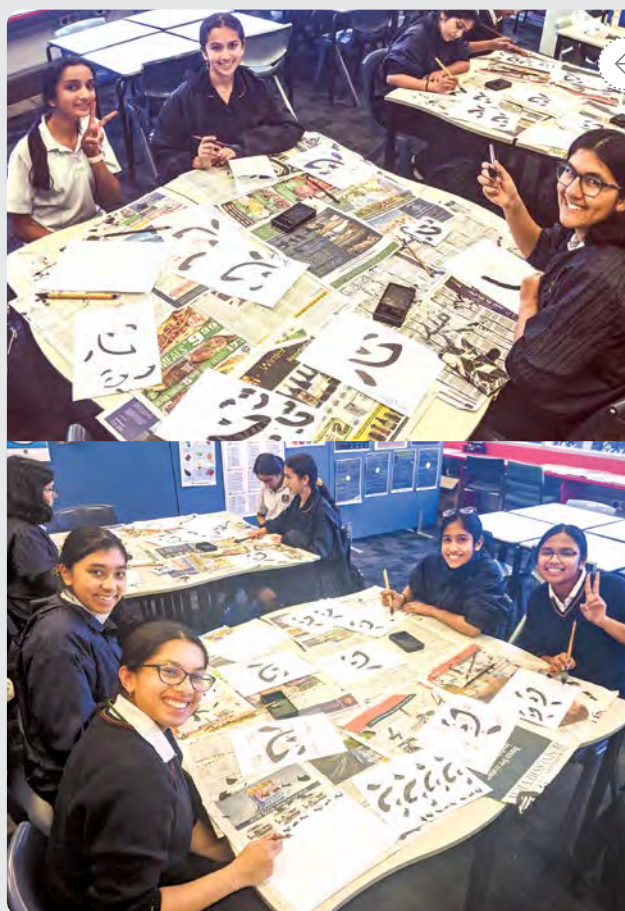
## Japanese Calligraphy Competition

SURI ZHANG, YEAR 9

**This term there has been a Japanese calligraphy competition for the word 心 (kokoro), meaning 'heart'. There had been many tools prepared, and we learnt what they were called in Japanese.**

I have always liked doing calligraphy, and I participated both last year and this year. It was a fun and interesting experience, writing calligraphy with my peers, and learning new things. I really enjoy Japanese culture and hope to engage in other activities.

It was a great experience, and I recommend younger years to participate in the future, to enrich their Japanese learning and involve themselves in the amazing culture.



TOP LEFT: Diya Sanjay, Sara Rajwani and Grace Sarma.

LEFT: Maira Singh, Sharmaita Ray, Anu Sathe and Sushree Mangla.

RIGHT: Suri Zhang and Shan-Mei Wan.



# Wellness Week embraced at Mod





# SPROUT! Schools Planting Day



The SPROUT! Schools Planning Day at Mandoon Moitch (Guildford Meadow) was wet and muddy but the 90 students from Perth Modern School and Melville SHS got stuck in and put 3000 native trees and plants safely in the ground between the showers.

SPROUT! is the Trillion Trees' unique environmental education program that has empowered over 80,000 young people to plant more than 2.5 million trees in the past 34 years.

Well done to our enthusiastic students and staff for all their hard work on the day!



# All things science the focus at Youth ANZAAS

ISABELLA HENRY, YEAR 12



↓

**Youth ANZAAS is a conference organised by the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) and in 2023 was held in Melbourne. It was an amazing opportunity for us to meet like-minded students from around Australia and New Zealand, explore all the amazing things that Australia is doing for the advancement of science and learn how many different careers there are on offer.**

Six students from Perth Modern were invited to attend out of eight West Australian student delegates. Raphael Ho, Santi Chua, Kele Readhead, Shiya Zhang, Adib Ahmed and myself had the opportunity to visit the Australian Synchrotron, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research's wet labs, Scienceworks, the Melbourne Museum and the Defence Science and Technology's research facility, along with visiting various universities in Melbourne.

It was a once in a lifetime experience and we were all lucky to go and make some great friends and memories while learning a lot about the future of science and technology.

*'For me it was a great experience meeting like-minded people from all over Australia and New Zealand. It was extremely insightful in helping me decide a career pathway as it shone a light on just how many diverse careers in science there are. We all had the best time over the week and I'm sure we're all walking away with memories and friends that will last a very long time.'*

Kele Readhead, Year 11



TOP FROM LEFT: Adib Ahmed at the Melbourne Museum; at the ANZAAS Conference; and visiting the Australian Synchrotron.

FAR LEFT: In 2023 ANZAAS was held in Melbourne.

LEFT: Visiting Ormonde College at the University of Melbourne.

RIGHT: Santi Chua at Scienceworks.



# Inaugural Middle Years Production: *Puffs*

SALLY FLOYD, DIRECTOR



August is becoming synonymous with block colour. In 2022 it was pink, as we staged *Legally Blonde* in our new Auditorium.

In 2023 yellow was the colour of choice as Years 7, 8 and 9 students presented our first Middle Years' production *Puffs*.

*Puffs, Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic* echoes the story of a 'certain wizard boy with a scar'.

In the production, Wayne, an orphan, makes friends with maths geek Oliver and goth-lite rebel Megan. They are sorted into the House of Puffs, a group of well-meaning loyal rejects, who are the side characters of those other wizards destined for greatness. *Puffs* shines the spotlight on the underdogs and unsung heroes in the world of magic, as besties Wayne, Oliver and Megan go on adventures together and mirror the experiences of aforesaid scarred wizard boy of friendship, loyalty and self-discovery.

*Puffs* provided Middle Years students with the opportunity to undertake the production process and be the stars of their own show, with the actors being supported by production and backstage crew comprised of students from Years 7–11. The added benefit was the involvement of Senior School Drama students who were able to practically demonstrate creative and design roles studied in the ATAR Drama course.

For some students *Puffs* was their first time 'onstage' or 'backstage'. Other students have been involved in class productions and school musicals. The Year 9 students embraced the magic of the production process, sharing their insightful ideas for interpretation and design with the Directors and creating a Drama community by scheduling prop-making workshops and Sunday picnics before rehearsals. The leadership of the Year 9 students has been inspirational, defining a new standard of inclusivity and engagement in Drama at Perth Modern School.

An additional benefit of being involved in *Puffs* was experiencing the combined efforts of three 'magical' Drama teachers: Mrs Pacecca, Mrs Floyd, and Mr Papathanassiou.





# Dancing inspired teamwork

## Here comes the Youth on Health Festival Grand Final

JIAYING GU, YEAR 11

Perth Modern School dance students have come away with the 'Most Commanding Performance' and 'Best Delivery of a Health Message' certificates of merit in the Youth on Health Festival heats.

The heats were held across the State throughout August and September, with our dance students performing at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre on Wednesday, 6 September.

The Act-Belong-Commit YOH Fest health theme this year was RESPECT, and our eight-minute dance item titled *Be True to Yourself* delivered a message about self-respect.

I remember at the start of this year when students from Years 8, 10 and 11 got together for the first time. We were all a little shy at first, and the dance just didn't



The Youth on Health Festival dancers.

seem to come together, especially with disruptions and only one hour each week after school to rehearse. However, we managed to pull it off in the end, securing a spot in the Grand Final, which is incredible!

I'm happy to be blessed with a multi-year group troupe this year, and I am more than proud of all the effort everyone has put into practice. YOH Fest has been an amazing experience for all of us and we are really looking forward to performing again in the Grand Final.

## Parsons wins House Dance

MELANIE WILCOCK,  
DANCE COORDINATOR

The House Dance competition was a tightly fought contest, with Parsons taking home the trophy for 2023 for their performance of *Annie*. Judges Mr Mackay and Ms Tholet had a difficult time choosing the winner this year as every House performed so well to represent their chosen theme, based on a musical. House Dance was an after-school club this year, with students in Year 7–10 participating with energy and enthusiasm.

Congratulations to Parsons for their winning dance item with *Annie*. Second place went to Brown House for *Mamma Mia* and equal third place went to Downing for *Aladdin* and Sampson for *Descendants*.

Co-choreographer of Parson's winning team Sophie Litic in Year 8 said: 'To my Parsons House dancers—thank you for making this such a memorable experience and for keeping our winning streak alive. I know you guys gave it everything you had and I'm so proud of the effort you all put in to make our dance great.'



ABOVE LEFT: Winning House Parsons whose performance inspired by *Annie* wowed the judges.



# A colourful House Bake Off



Well done to the following students for their results in the 2023 House Bake Off competition! Thank you to our judges Mr Mitchell Mackay, Ms Robyn Verboon and Mr Aaron Carroll for their hard work judging all the great entries.

## Sponge Cake

First Place: Rebecca Yates (Brown)  
Second Place: Vanille Zhang (Sampson)  
Third Place: Ryan Hemy and Ashlee Hemy (Sampson)  
Fourth Place: Imogen Manfield (Parsons)

## Sculptures

First Place: Caitlin Ding and Shanata Cheong (Downing)  
Second Place: Rutvi Khale (Downing)  
Third Place: Elyshia Ooi (Sampson)  
Fourth Place: Cormac Best (Parsons)

## Cupcakes

First Place: Isabella Ho (Downing)  
Second Place: Liliana Baldwin and Mia Saranovic (Sampson)  
Third Place: Sara Rajwani (Downing)  
Fourth Place: Bee Barnes (Brown)

## Biscuits

First Place: Isobel Teh (Sampson)  
Second Place: Cormac Best (Parsons)  
Third Place: Charlotte Dell (Sampson)  
Fourth Place: Elyshia Ooi (Sampson)

## House results

**First Place – Sampson:**  
11 participants and six placings = 23 points  
**Second Place – Parsons:**  
14 participants and three placings = 20 points  
**Third Place – Downing:**  
9 participants and four placings = 17 points  
**Fourth Place – Brown:**  
11 participants and two placings = 15 points



ABOVE: Manager Student Services - Senior Years Aaron Carroll, Principal Mitchell Mackay and Associate Principal Robyn Verboon had the tough task of judging the competition entries; and Sampson House Leader Aaron Bell.



# Marvellous opportunities in Music

PHILIPPA ROY, HEAD OF MUSIC

## Heather Buchanan Workshop

Term 3 commenced with a fantastic opportunity for vocal students and chamber choir members to participate in a practical workshop with Dr Heather Buchanan, Professor and Director of Choral Activities at Montclair State University.

Dr Buchanan presented on Body Mapping Education for musician health, with many great tips for vocal technique and body awareness.

Students even got the opportunity to perform their repertoire for her. What a great start to the term!

Students with Dr Heather Buchanan at the workshop.



## Music Festivals

The Contemporary, Jazz and Classical Guitar ensembles, as well as Chanteurs and Wind Band 4, wowed at the Festivals this term. With great opportunities to perform in different venues as well as in front of adjudicators and their peers from other schools, these students are to be congratulated on their outstanding performances and on representing Perth Modern School so well.



## Year 6 performance

Senior Wind Orchestra students, along with their directors Miss Celia Christmass and Mr Neil Coy, welcomed the Year 6 students to Perth Modern School in style with a packed concert. Featuring great music, fun solos and even a sing-a-long, this was a magnificent first event for our new 2024 students.

The Wind Orchestra performs and (below) with soloist Elena Sioneholo.



## Spring Into Music

Sinfonia, Sinfonia Strings, Junior Guitar Ensemble, Changing Voices Choir and Treble Voices Choir brought the term's performance season to a close with their wonderful performances in 'Spring into Music'. With over 250 students involved, this concert was a showcase of the development of the ensembles throughout this year.



Sinfonia Strings



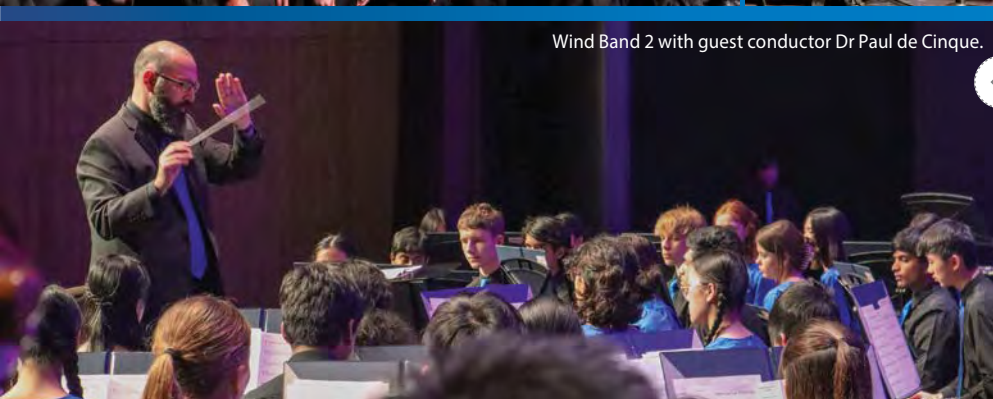
Sinfonia



Changing Voices Choir



Junior Guitar Ensemble



Wind Band 2 with guest conductor Dr Paul de Cinq.

## A Little Spring Music

The Middle Years ensembles welcomed us to the sounds of Spring with 'A Little Spring Music'.

Featuring Jazz Band 2, Ripieno, Concertino, Wind Band 4, Wind Band 3 and Wind Band 2 this was a great night of music-making before these students joined their 2024 ensembles.



Concertino



Combined Ripieno and Concertino ('Rippertino')



Jazz Band 2



Wind Band 4



## Showcase Concerts

We farewelled the Year 12 students of 2023 in two amazing night concerts, as well as a farewell event where they demonstrated their myriad of talents, ranging from matters of the law to public speaking and musical performances.

A dedicated year group, who have enjoyed making music together in a wide range of genres and ensembles, they demonstrated this love and exceptionalism in performance one more time throughout these events.

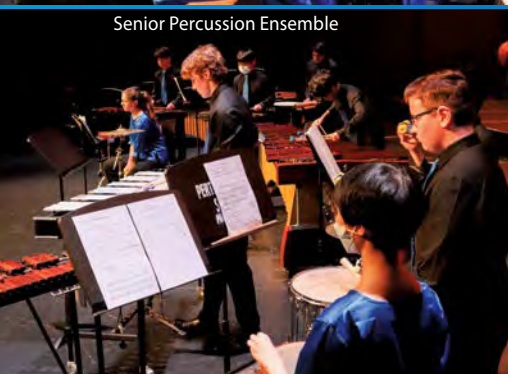


Year 12 Music students

Symphony Orchestra



Senior Percussion Ensemble



Wind Quartet



Schola Cantori



Senior Wind Orchestra with soloists Xuan Tang, Sophie Royle, Ethan Chua, Janelle Lee, Seth Pinto and Matthew Arnold.



Chorus Angelicus



Jazz Band 1



Senior Wind Orchestra



Symphony Orchestra



Chorale



Senior Guitar Ensemble



Phoenix



Georgia Stewart, Ethan Chua, Sophie Royle, Joshua Hwang and Janelle Lee went to China for the Chengdu Sister Cities Youth Music Festival.

## Chengdu

**The Perth Modern Wind Quintet, comprising of Ethan Chua, Joshua Hwang, Janelle Lee, Sophie Royle and Georgia Stewart, were fortunate to be invited to perform in Chengdu as part of the Chengdu Sister Cities Youth Music Festival in August this year.**

Along with the Head of Health and Physical Education Mark Muir and myself, they excitedly boarded the plane to embrace this opportunity. This venture was full of new experiences, cultural immersion, delicious food, the chance to interact with artists from 15 other countries (and even learn to play their instruments!), shopping, and awesome performances.

The Wind Quintet performed to great acclaim in indoor and outdoor venues, learnt some of the local language to speak and sing for the local media, and met a lot of Giant Pandas.



Year 11 Piano Quartet

# From entrepreneurship to charity Mod students shine

## Bloom's Future Leaders and Future Founders

**Students in Years 10–12 signed up in large numbers for Bloom's 'Future Leaders' and Bloom's 'Future Founders' programs. The programs offer an opportunity to enhance students' skills and help them make their mark in the world.**

The Future Leaders program empowered students to become a true leader by developing key skills such as communication, empathy, networking, goal setting and time management. Students heard from inspiring guest speakers and learnt how to put their new-found skills into practice.

Comprising one full-day workshop and three after-school workshops, the program offered a great way for students to level up their leadership abilities.

The Future Founders program offered students the chance to start building their own business. Participants learnt how to identify problems, define their target audience, come up with unique ideas, create a value proposition, validate their market, and even learnt how to pitch their business to potential investors.

After attending a full-day workshop and four after-school workshops, students had all the tools they need to turn their entrepreneurial dreams into a reality.



ABOVE: Bloom 'Future Founders' participants. BELOW: Bloom 'Future Leaders' participants.



Kele Readhead receives his Bloom certificate.



Robert Gray from the Sphinx Foundation presents Amytis Kabir with her Bloom certificate.



## Huge collection for the Vinnies Winter Appeal

**Perth Mod families, staff and students were extremely thoughtful once again this year, contributing lots of fantastic items for the Vinnies Winter Appeal, in aid of the homeless.**

Organised by School Chaplain, Natalie Fergusson, the conference room was overflowing with bags of donated goods. Well done and thank you to everyone who contributed!

The theme of this year's Winter Appeal was 'What if your mum, grandma, aunt or sister became homeless?', shining a spotlight on the fact that women over 55 are one of the fastest-growing groups of people at risk of and experiencing homelessness across Australia.

The current cost-of-living crisis is an additional driver with everything from housing, food, utilities and day-to-day essentials placing older women at heightened risk of homelessness. In the last financial year, the Society in WA supported over 1700 women aged over 55 with emergency assistance.

Nimar Gill and Alisha Balavignan in Year 8 take in the bags and bags of the donated items.

# English Literature Conference

DANAE BRAZIER, HEAD OF ENGLISH

**In 2020, in response to the cancellation of the Curtin Uni English-Lit Conference due to COVID-19, we ran the first conference for our Year 12 students. This was a limited endeavour with a concurrent program for Literature and English students.**

Since then, each year we have developed the Conference, culminating in this year's event which catered for 530 students across Years 11 and 12, and involved fourteen external presenters, along with six of the English team across thirteen different venues.

Presenters included lecturers from UWA, authors, a poet, an oral storyteller, a PhD student, a renowned rapper, a Literature expert, and Modernian, internationally recognised filmmaker, Radheya Jegatheva.

Our Conference began with our keynote speaker, Brenda Matthews, author of the memoir *The Last Daughter*, and co-creator of the documentary film of the same name. Brenda shared with us the harrowing story of being taken from her parents, along with her six siblings, and her return five years later. Following this, Brenda conducted an insightful and moving Q and A, giving students the opportunity to further explore her story, and ask about the impending referendum etc.

The Conference was a highly successful event, and we thank all those people who assisted in helping us to bring this event to life. In 2024 we will be returning to the Curtin Conference.



# Year 10 Aquatic Recreation Camp



**'The Aquatic Recreation Camp was a wonderful time filled with delightful students and colleagues. Not only were the activities both enjoyable and educational, but the creation of many happy memories and furthering positive relationships with the fantastic students at this school were major highlights.'**

John McNight, Health and Physical Education Teacher

**See below to find out what some of the participating students thought:**

*'Running along beaches and hiking trails, playing ultimate frisbee, holding an all-sports golf battle, and even sitting on the bus: these were my favourite memories. Also great to be with mates and a blasting JBL speaker. And the best feeling came from catching a green wave perfectly at the beach and surfing the furthest.'*

Aidan Jang

*'What do points make?? Prizes!! The teachers along with the students combined to make this camp a memorable time with not a dull moment. Everyone enjoyed the challenge of surfing and admired the beauty of Ngilgi Cave.'*

Joshua Saragih

*'Year 10 Aquatic Rec camp was 100 per cent an experience that we will all never forget. With our friends and the amazing teachers, we managed to make the most out of every single activity (even the clean up on the last day!).'*

Ben Bauer

*'The aquatic recreation camp was an enriching and soul awakening experience in which I truly and deeply connected with my peers. From the crashing waves we encountered at the beach to the dark and wondrous depths of the Ngilgi Caves, every hour spent awake was fulfilling and educational. Beyond this, I gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of the traditional practices of the Aboriginal peoples. From the late-night awakenings to the early starts, every step of the way was enjoyable.'*

Drew Stanborough

- ^ Fun in the canoes.
- ✓ The whole group at the campsite.



- ✓ Surf's up!





FROM TOP: Aboriginal food tasting; bush tucker  
 tasting; canoeing was a fun activity;  
 and Charlotte Hoy and Amber Chai.  
 BELOW: Monkeying around!



v Cultural awareness workshop  
 by the campfire.





## Hidden identities and unrequited love

SALLY FLOYD, HEAD OF ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Years 10 and 11 Drama students enjoyed a visit to the State Theatre Centre to watch Bell Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Bell Shakespeare is a national theatre company who specialise in recontextualising the work of William Shakespeare. Through the beauty of Shakespeare's ideas, language and imagery Bell Shakespeare presents a lens through which we can explore and question the present and imagine the future.

Heather Fairbairn's fresh retelling of Shakespeare's romantic comedy provided Year 10 and 11 students with a contemporary exploration of hidden identities and unrequited love.



Years 10 and 11 Drama students at the State Theatre.



## Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Several current and former Modernians were awarded their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at special ceremony at Government House attended by Associate Principal Nicola Reilly.

Recipients were presented their Gold Award by His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia.

Students who achieve the Gold Award have challenged themselves to achieve in five areas: Service, Physical Recreation, Skills, Adventurous Journey, and Gold Residential Project.

Congratulations and well done to:

- Kiara Arthur and Elliott Dunn in Year 12: their Gold Awards were achieved through the Australian Air Force Cadets.
- Hannah Waldron from the Class of 2022.
- Tamara Mertens from the Class of 2016 who also achieved the Gold with AAF cadets.
- May Sung from the Class of 2019 who did her Gold through WA Virtual Open Award.

Associate Principal Nicola Reilly, Elliott Dunn, May Sung, Tamara Mertens, Hannah Waldron and Kiara Arthur.



## New Year 7 Student Councillors

Congratulations to our newly elected Year 7 Student Councillors Dana Anmar, Kian Arquiza-Releas, Vincent Solanki and Abigail (Abby) Sun.

Students who are chosen as Student Councillors reflect the school values and display leadership qualities.

We look forward to their contributions on the Council and to the School.



## Kele presents to the WACSSO Conference

Year 11 Prefect Kele Readhead attended and spoke at the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations (WACSSO) conference in front of 400 plus P&C Representatives from all over the State. In the audience were the Director General of Education Lisa Rodgers and the WA Education Minister Dr Tony Buti MLA.

Kele, who is a member of the West Australian Student Council, spoke for 15 minutes alongside another Student Council member, introducing the Student Council, explaining what the Council is and what it hopes to achieve, and then took time taking questions from the audience.

RIGHT: Kele presents to the WACSSO Conference.

FAR RIGHT: Kele Readhead with WA Education Minister Dr Tony Buti MLA, Director General Department of Education Lisa Rodgers, his fellow Council member and presenter John Curtin College of the Arts student Lucy Adams, and Pania Turner, WACSSO President.



## Science Week: Powering future industries

Perth Modern School celebrated Science Week with various activities being held to promote the 2023 theme of 'Powering future industries'.

For the annual Physics Breakfast, Professor Igor Bray delivered a lecture to around 60 Years 7–12 students on topics such as Entropy and Robert Pirsig's evolutionary hierarchy.

At the Breakfast, Shehan Weeraratna was awarded the prize for being the top Year 11 Physics student in 2022.

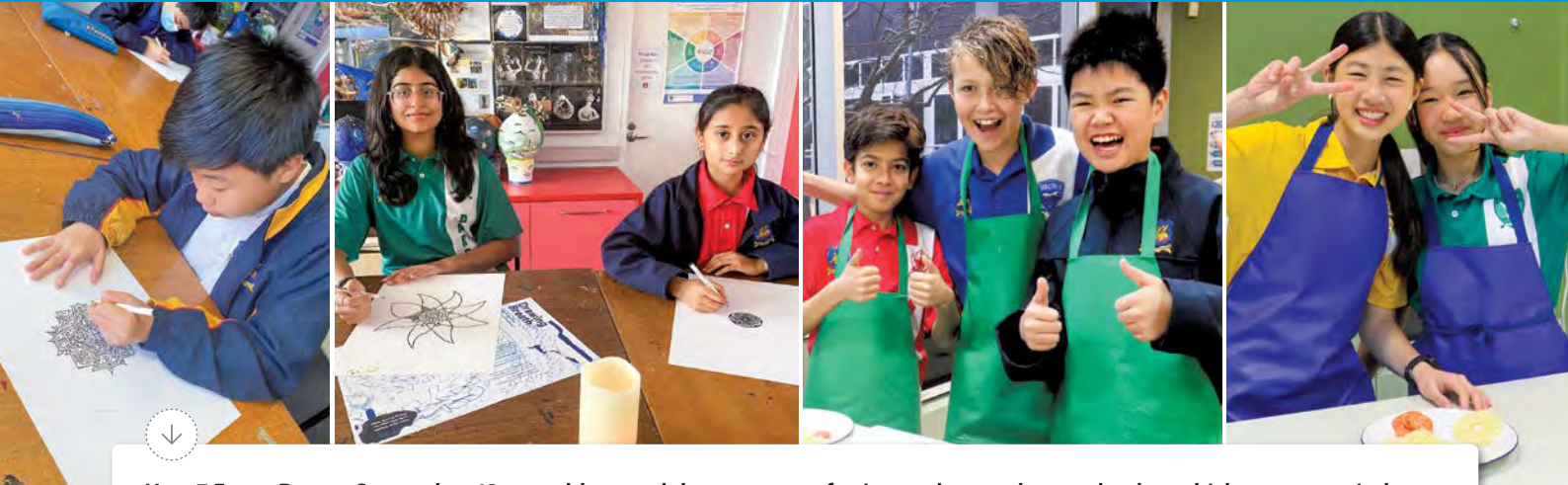
Students have also been enjoying activities including the 'Escape Room' based on *Hydrogen: Fuel of the future* and producing bioplastic, a potential alternative to plastic made from fossil fuels.

FROM TOP: Dr Ormonde Waters with Professor Igor Bray and some of the students who attended the Physics Breakfast; a group of students produced bioplastic; and solving problems in the Escape Room activity.



# Year 7 Focus Day

JACQUELINE CARTER, YEAR 7 COORDINATOR



**Year 7 Focus Day on September 13 was a blast, and that was not referring to the weather on the day, which was very windy, rainy, and cold, but rather the fantastic time the students had completing activities on a wide variety of interests.**

The students embraced the Perth Modern School Thriving Minds model through engaging with wellness activities and the Year 7 theme, 'Sense of Belonging', by continuing to develop positive relationships and flourishing in the school environment.

Belonging is the deep and lasting connection we seek, the profound sense that we are an integral part of something greater than ourselves.

Through a large variety of choice including cooking (definitely the most popular option), Lego challenge, chess, board games, jigsaw puzzles, decorating tote bags and pencil cases, scattergories, Numero and origami, the students were looked after by Year 7 teachers who led them through these engaging and fun activities.

The Health and Physical Education Department had many activities including basketball, dodgeball, soccer and bench ball

which had to be cancelled or crammed into a small space due to the weather, but students still had great fun, with teachers managing the crowd and keeping them happy and engaged.

FIT boxing, Meditation, Yoga, Boot Camp and Dance were activities run by outside providers, and students who did them, enjoyed them, and would do them again.

For the more energetic Year 7 students, Karaoke and Dance Dance Revolution provided the opportunity for them to expend some energy and laugh together.

An icy pole at lunchtime was followed by a creative House activity where each of the Advocacy groups designed and made newspaper outfits. The final Fashion Parade was great fun, and some of the designs using newspaper, sticky tape, and string, showed what a truly talented group they are.



# Graduation Files: Anastasia (Annie) Buettner-Moore



**Modernian Anastasia (Annie) Buettner-Moore graduated from the BMus at The University of Western Australia in 2012. Annie always wanted to be a piano teacher and runs her own business offering lessons all over the world (as well as wrangling chickens and juggling renovations!).**

Annie and more than 1,400 staff and graduates of the Perth Modern School music program are in the *Music at Mod* book: "Three music students received 100% in their 2008 Tertiary Entrance Performance Examination ... Stephanie Davis, Anastasia Buettner-Moore, and Donata Ostrowska ..."

**The following featured on the UWA Conservatorium of Music Facebook page.**

**PMS Student 2004–2008 | Bachelor of Music | Specialisation: Piano Performance | Class of 2012 | Current job: Piano Teacher and Founder/Director at Play Well Piano**



## Tell us a bit about your background

I grew up in sunny Toodyay, a little country town about an hour out of Perth where music education was quite limited. We had a basic music program for a short stint at our primary school and I had a lovely external piano teacher who could only teach me up to Grade 2 AMEB then swapped to another lovely teacher 40km away in rural Northam. They were both fabulous and encouraging and gave me a real love for music. I went to Northam SHS for Years 8–10 and studied the saxophone, as piano wasn't an option in the public school, but this gave me the experience of playing in the school's concert and jazz bands. I then received a music scholarship at Perth Modern where I studied saxophone at school, sang in several choirs and bands, including WAYJO, and kept my piano studies going on the side.

## What did you study at UWA?

I studied a Bachelor of Music at UWA, majoring in Piano Performance. I auditioned at both UWA and WAAPA on both piano and saxophone and was successful at both institutions on both instruments. I chose UWA at the time as the course was longer, it seemed more thorough somehow and I wanted my piece of paper at the end to have the UWA branding, to be honest. I also visited the campus prior to my studies and totally fell in love with the environment.

## What did you enjoy about your experience at UWA?

I enjoyed studying music at UWA mostly because of the staff. I had a good rapport with all of my lecturers (and still like to think I do as I have worked there for the past 10 years or so). Graeme Gilling was totally my hero and one of the best mentors I could have asked for. We are still very close friends to this day and I am eternally grateful for his time, wisdom and professionalism both during uni and afterwards. He has been responsible for a lot of the opportunities I have had in performance, teaching, lecturing, running conferences and all sorts (even Baroque dance workshops!).

## When you started at UWA what was your career plan?

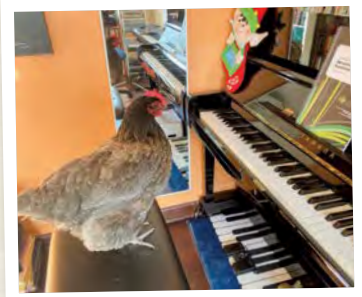
I always wanted to be a piano teacher since I was a little girl. It seemed like the coolest job—and it really is! I am very passionate about the subject. But I also really enjoy performing, especially chamber music, so the degree definitely gave me the skills to be competent in both of these areas.

## What was your favourite performance at UWA?

My graduation recital definitely took the cake. I don't think I have ever spent so much time preparing for a project of this scale in my life! I have since done far more intense projects but going through the recital certainly gave me the skills to tackle all future challenges head-first.

## What have you been up to since leaving Uni?

Gosh, soooo many things! I have been teaching in schools, performed several times with the Australian Youth Orchestra, been a collaborative pianist for various duos, trios and chamber groups, retrained my entire technique and pursued more studies in the Taubman approach as well as other things, hosted concerts, started my own multi-teacher online lesson business and lots of travel, usually for presenting at conferences and lecturing. On the side we have been renovating houses and chasing after chickens ... all of the usual stuff ... It has been a busy 11 years!



## What do you do now and what does a typical week look like for you?

I run a multi-teacher online piano school with students in 9 different countries. I have recently added examining for the AMEB WA, play in a trio and various accompaniment projects. Most of my week is spent at home or abroad teaching my students online or managing the business.

## What part of your career do you most enjoy?

I adore working with our students and finding out what makes them tick and helping them break the barriers for whatever they are trying to achieve. I especially love working with older adults and empowering them with technology. I also love presenting, lecturing, making video content, mentoring other teachers ... There are so many things I enjoy, I couldn't just pick one!

## Do you have a plan for the future?

Yes! Keep doing what I'm doing but keep improving, start a family and more travel.

## If you could give one piece of advice to someone out there with a passion for music what would it be?

Good ol' Nike: Just Do It! You won't regret it. Even if music isn't your primary degree, there are broadening units and ways of including music into your life. A life without music would not only be tragic but incredibly dull!



## SIR PHILLIP HARVEY BENNETT AC KBE(M) LOM DSO

1928–2023

PMS student 1944–1945, School Prefect 1945

**Sir Phillip Bennett had a distinguished military career which began with his selection to attend the Royal Military College at Duntroon.**

Following his graduation in 1949 he served with the forces of occupation in Japan. He was posted to Korea in 1950 where he was wounded in action. Until Australia entered the Vietnam War, he filled a variety of roles. He trained with the Royal Marines and was then posted to Portsea, Victoria, where he became chief instructor. In 1968 he commanded the 1st Battalion when it was serving in Vietnam. A series of promotions followed and in 1984 Sir Phillip was appointed the first chief of the Australian Defence Force. After his retirement in 1987, he was appointed to the position of Governor of Tasmania. In retirement, Sir Phillip has given his active support to several organisations, including the Australian War Memorial Foundation.

Phillip Bennett entered fourth year at Perth Modern School in 1944 having gained a Junior certificate from Fremantle Boys High School during World War II. In February 1946 he left Perth to attend the Royal Military College at Duntroon. By joining the Army, he was following a family tradition. His father, Cyril, was a sergeant in World War I and fought at Gallipoli. He enlisted again in World War II and had the rank of captain.

At the conclusion of his three-year course at Duntroon, Phillip was posted to the 67th Infantry Battalion which was serving with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. From 1950 to 1952 he served with the 3rd Battalion in Korea where he was wounded in action.

The newspaper account of his wounding said that Phillip was one of the first two Australians to be wounded in the Korean War. A Korean soldier had approached him to surrender, but instead produced a hand grenade from behind his back. Quick action by Phillip enabled him to shoot the Korean and to use his body to shield most of the explosion from the grenade. Towards the end of the Korean War, Phillip became a tactics instructor at the School of Infantry.

Before he was posted in 1965 to army headquarters in Canberra, Phillip again served overseas. He was an adjutant with the Pacific Islands Regiment in Papua New

Guinea. In 1957 he was attached to the Royal Marine Commandos in the United Kingdom and served with them in Malta and Cyprus. His experience qualified him to be made officer in charge of the 2nd Commando Company, a position he held until 1961. From 1962 to 1965 he was chief instructor at Portsea's Officer Cadet School in Victoria.

When the 1st Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment was sent for its second tour of duty in Vietnam, Phillip was in command. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Order for his service in Vietnam. Upon his return from Vietnam, Phillip received further promotion and undertook several courses that were designed to prepare him for higher responsibilities. First, he attended the Australian Staff College, followed by courses at the Joint Services Staff College and the Royal College of Defence Studies, both in the United Kingdom.

Upon his return he became assistant chief of defence staff, chief of the general staff, and in 1984 Phillip became the first person appointed to the newly created position of Chief of the Defence Force, responsible for all three services. He retired from the services in 1987.

Upon retirement he was sworn in as Governor of Tasmania. It provided General Sir Phillip Bennett with several challenges, for it was at this time that an inconclusive state election result created some constitutional difficulties in Tasmania. As Governor he had to adjudicate the circumstances in which the Gray Government fell, to be replaced by a coalition between the Australian Labor Party and the Greens. He retired from the position in 1995.

Since 1995 Phillip has served as the first chairman of the Australian War Memorial



General Sir Phillip Bennett, 1984.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

Foundation, patron of the 2nd Commando Association, and national president of the Order of Australia Association.

Phillip's service has been recognised by the award of several very significant honours. In 1985 he was made a Companion in the Order of Australia, and in 1982, a Knight Commander in the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire. The government of the United States of America made him a member of the Legion of Merit (degree of Commander) in 1983, and in 1985 the Republic of Korea awarded him an Order of National Security Medal. The University of New South Wales made Phillip an honorary Doctor of Laws in 1995 for his contribution to military education and the Australian Defence Forces Academy. Similarly, the University of Tasmania awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws.

### ROGER STUBBS

*From A Celebration of Contribution: Tales of the courage, commitment and creativity of Modernians 1911–1963 (2016).*



21 May, 1983. Chief of Staff Sir Phillip Bennett inspects the 51st Supply Battalion at Karrakatta.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS LTD.

## HIS EXCELLENCY THE HON KEVIN HORACE PARKER AO RFD

PMS student 1950–1954

**Tributes have been paid to one of Western Australia's most venerated legal minds—former judge Kevin Parker—who has died, aged 86.**

Former Supreme Court Justice Parker had a career in the WA law of almost no equal, admitted to practice in 1960, having enrolled in law school after his father refused to consent to him joining the air force.



Kevin Parker, Assistant Crown Counsel.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS LTD.

He became chief Crown prosecutor in just over ten years and the state's solicitor general less than a decade after that.

He was tasked with adjudicating on widespread alleged war crimes—mass killings, genocide, mass rape, and also the deaths of alleged war criminals.

In 2006, he led the inquiry into the death in custody of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, the most notorious suspect to be indicted for crimes committed during the Balkan wars.

Attorney General John Quigley said Justice Parker's service to WA was "immeasurable".



Kevin Parker AC became a Supreme Court Justice.

*'I cannot overstate his contribution to the law and justice in Western Australia, and beyond,' he said.*

And Chief Justice Peter Quinlan said the law of the state was not only served by Justice Parker himself, but in the legacy he had left.

*'Kevin's influence extended to generations of Western Australia lawyers, that he encouraged and mentored throughout their careers,' Chief Justice Quinlan said.*

'(Corruption and Crime) Commissioner John McKechnie KC regarded Kevin as playing a seminal role in his own career and there are presently four judges of the Supreme Court who started their careers working with Kevin Parker: Justice Janine Pritchard, Justice Robert Mitchell, Justice Jennifer Smith and myself.'

In a rare interview with *The West Australian* in 2009, Justice Parker told of the toll the role at the International Criminal Tribunal had taken.

'The notion of hundreds, in some cases thousands, of dead people at the end of a very short period of extreme criminality is something that is very hard to get hold of mentally,' he said.

'I find I need the support of my faith to help me to calmly and impartially identify what is right and wrong, and then to give me the courage to come to decisions impartially and as fairly as I can.'

That faith saw him appointed as chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Perth, chancellor of the Diocese of North-West Australia, a trustee of the Diocese of Perth and a Member of the Anglican Church's Canon Law Commission.



Kevin Parker in 1987.

In 1989, Justice Parker was honoured by being made an Officer of the Order of Australia, for service to the Law and the Anglican Church. In 2008 he was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia, for service to International Law.

Justice Parker's wife Joan died in 2020. They had five children and many grand and great-grandchildren.

**TIM CLARKE**  
**THE WEST AUSTRALIAN**

Hon Kevin Parker AC and Dr Ken Michael AC.



Kevin Parker visiting Perth Modern School in 2013.

# Finding *Bille Bob* in Subiaco

KATIE CHIN, VISUAL ART TEACHER



ABOVE: Arya Sims, Audrine Lee, Adriel Beh and Aurni Rahman.

Year 8 Visual Art students had a fascinating and creative experience during their pilgrimage to find the Subiaco Giant, *Bille Bob*. The setting in the Subiaco Theatre Gardens was a serene and inspiring place for their artistic endeavours.

The combination of capturing *Bille Bob*'s likeness through drawings in watercolours, while listening to the poem about giants, *The Rhythm of Raindrops*, created a truly immersive and enriching experience. The excursion also integrated cultural elements of the Noongar Six Seasons which connected with their next sculpture project.

Engaging students in hands-on activities and providing them with opportunities to explore local culture and history can have a significant impact on their artistic development and understanding of the world around them. Students benefit greatly from these experiences and gain a deeper appreciation for art and culture.



# Thrilling success in Visual Art

## Outside the Frame Art Awards

SARAH EVE, VISUAL ART TEACHER

The *Outside the Frame Art Awards* is an eagerly anticipated event for our Years 11 and 12 ATAR students, where a select group of six students have the honour of being preselected for the exhibition. This year, the spotlight shone brightly on the talented young artists as they showcased their creations at the Armadale District Hall, at the 2023 City of Armadale's *Outside the Frame Awards* evening presentation.

The Mayor of the City of Armadale, Ruth Butterfield, marvelled at the opportunity to delve into the minds of our youth through their art. She expressed her ongoing astonishment at the boundless imagination and creativity demonstrated by these young talents in Years 11 and 12. Their art, she emphasised, serves as a unique reflection of their perspectives on the world and their place within it.

'It's truly exhilarating to witness such raw talent, and these awards play a pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of artists,' Ruth said. 'Who knows—their careers might very well be launched thanks to the exposure gained through this platform.'

Congratulations to the exceptional individuals who were not only selected as exhibitors but also emerged victorious in their respective categories:

**Mixed Media:** Lucas Briggs in Year 11 for *Disparity*

**Printmaking:** Annika Carleton in Year 12 for *From the Library Of*

**Drawing:** Aaron Yong in Year 12 for 你回来了 *You Are Back*

**Sculpture:** Loic Dutry in Year 12 for *A Natural Disaster*

**Exhibitors:** Sachi Elliott in Year 12 and Lexie Kent in Year 11

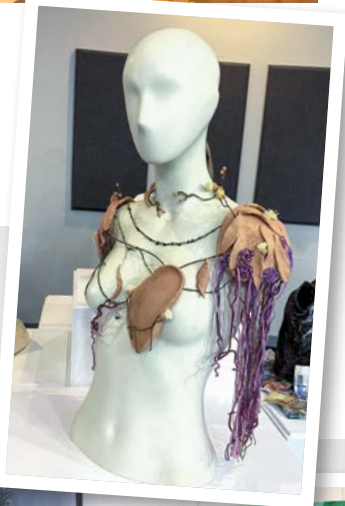
In addition, the Perth Modern School Art Department earned the prestigious award **School with the Best Collective Works** for the fifth consecutive year.

The *Outside the Frame Awards* continue to be a beacon of inspiration and artistic exploration for our talented youth.



FROM TOP: Lucas Briggs (right) won the Mixed Media award at *Outside the Frame*; and painting by Sachi Elliott.

RIGHT: Sculpture by Lexie Kent.



## Excellence and originality on display at META

SARAH EVE, VISUAL ART TEACHER

The artworks of eight students from Perth Modern were selected for this year's *META* exhibition at Gallery Central at the Central Institute of Technology in Northbridge.

**Year 11:** Darcie Schneider, Hayley Mills and Claire den Hollander

**Year 12:** Loic Dutry, Matilda Kosok, Olivia Meaney, Parker Kenworthy and Annika Carleton.

*META* is an art and design exhibition that has been developed to acknowledge and promote the excellence and originality achieved by senior secondary school students.



ABOVE: Parker Kenworthy

ABOVE RIGHT: Hayley Mills

RIGHT: Annika Carleton





ABOVE: Rachel Tan's artwork *1 Cup of Coffee, 2 Friends*.  
BELOW: Principal Mitchell Mackay with Lucas Briggs.



## St George's Cathedral Art exhibition

SARAH EVE, VISUAL ART TEACHER

The *St George's Cathedral Art* exhibition proved to be a splendid showcase of artistic talent and community spirit. The event was graced by a diverse and enthusiastic audience from our school and the broader community. We are especially proud to announce that three students from Perth Modern School had the privilege of representing our institution in this prestigious exhibition, with two of them receiving well-deserved recognition and prizes for their outstanding creative works. Congratulations to Lucas and Rachel for their remarkable achievements.

### 2D Category Winner: Rachel Tan for *1 Cup of Coffee, 2 Friends*

Rachel's artwork serves as a poignant reminder of the profound impact we can have on the lives of those less fortunate when we simply take the time to listen and show kindness. Inspired by conversations with individuals who have experienced homelessness, Rachel's piece encapsulates the idea that we all possess the capacity to demonstrate love through listening, emphasising the value of human connection and community.

### Mixed Media and Textiles Category Winner: Lucas Briggs in Year 11 for *Disparity*

Lucas's thought-provoking piece, *Disparity*, delves into the often-overlooked experiences of lower-class children and the harsh reality of poverty in our society. By combining oil paint and fabrics, he conveys the stark contrast between the lives of those in different socio-economic situations. Lucas's work serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of raising awareness about poverty and fostering a deeper understanding among our peers.

The artwork of Year 10 student Ava van Dommelen, whose acrylic painting *King Street* was exhibited, depicts a historic King Street building located in the heart of Perth's iconic shopping and commercial district. Her artwork beautifully encapsulates the theme of exploration, reflecting her personal journey through the city and highlighting the enduring presence of this architectural landmark during urban growth.

The *St George's Cathedral Art* was once again a wonderful community exhibition.

## Art Club embraces Artificial Intelligence

MEISHA RAYNES, VISUAL ART TEACHER

Art Club in Term 3 embarked on an exciting artistic journey. Our talented students delved into the captivating world of portraiture, where they honed their skills in creating stunning paintings. The focus was on self-portraits or depictions of individuals who hold great significance in their lives. What set this term apart was our exploration of cutting-edge technology. We harnessed the power of artificial intelligence to infuse a unique and modern touch to our artworks. By transforming ordinary photographs into remarkable pieces of art, we embraced innovation in our creative process.

We also dived into the realm of colour mixing and various painting techniques. This exploration enabled our students to expand their artistic horizons, giving them a deeper understanding of the tools and methods used in painting. As we moved forward, these newfound skills allowed us to bring our artistic visions to life, resulting in a term filled with awe-inspiring creations. Our Art Club continues to be a hub of creativity and learning, and we can't wait to see where our artistic endeavours will take us in the future.



Artworks by Riya Shrestha (above) and Abby Sun (right).

## Mod finalists at *Hypervision*

SARAH EVE, VISUAL ART TEACHER

The Perth Modern School Visual Art team are thrilled to share the success of our young artists at this year's Drug Aware *Hypervision* exhibition. Several of our Years 11 and 12 students were not only accepted but also celebrated as finalists for this prestigious exhibition. The exhibition featured the creative endeavours of talented individuals aged 15–25 from across WA, all interpreting the theme of 'Space'. Space is a concept that transcends boundaries and dimensions, captivating the human imagination with its limitless possibilities. The young artists' interpretations resulted in a captivating blend of traditional and experimental artistic expressions.

Jennifer Mullan in Year 12 won the Experimental Award for her work titled *For the Stars*. This interactive piece utilises oil paint and lighting to reveal hidden aspects of the artwork and its underlying message. Jennifer's artwork explores the evolution of her perspective on life—in her own words, 'In youth, I had a clear image of what my future would hold, but as I grow older, I find that I have replaced a portion of my childhood innocence with cold practicality.' Her work draws inspiration from childhood role models like Bob Ross and Van Gogh, as well as media influences like Disney and *Barbie* movies, *The Sound of Music*, and ballets like *The Nutcracker*. The hands illuminated from behind symbolise her youthful optimism for life after school, while the figure in the window represents the expectations she has placed on herself and the feeling of being under surveillance. Her innovative use of Louis Daguerre's diorama theatres creates two opposing scenes, revealing how perspectives evolve with age or life experiences.

Congratulations to our semi-finalists:

**Year 11:** Ray Lui, Ashlee Hemy, Emilia Le, Jasper Kennea and Hanna Symonds.

**Year 12:** Cora Stanborough, Milia Arthur and Liv Meane.

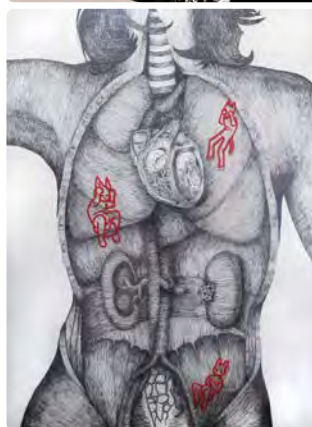
Jennifer Mullan



Jasper Kennea and his artwork (below).



Olivia Meaney



Sculpture by Ray Lui



## Visual immersion at AQWA

KATIE CHIN, VISUAL ART TEACHER

The Year 9 painting project undertaken in Term 3 is centred around exploring the underwater world and the relationship between humans and sea life—delving into both the positive and negative impacts that humans can have on marine environments and creatures. A visit to the Aquarium of WA (AQWA) gave students a chance to make direct observations and take notes on sea creatures in their habitat.

The variety of sea creatures and spectacular coral formations provided students with a deeper appreciation of the underwater world and its inhabitants. Using their observational drawings, notes, and personal reflections, the students will have the opportunity to translate their thoughts and emotions onto canvas. Their paintings can serve as a visual expression of their understanding of the intricate balance between human interaction with the ocean and its impact on marine life.

TOP: The Year 9 Visual art students at AQWA.

ABOVE: Visual Art teacher Sarah Eve depicted as a mermaid.

RIGHT: Students hard at work sketching the sea life at AQWA.



## Young Originals exhibition

SARAH EVE, VISUAL ART TEACHER

The annual *Young Originals* exhibition is a prestigious event exclusively for secondary public school students, aimed at recognising and promoting excellence and originality in the field of art and design among young talents. This exhibition takes place at the Spectrum Gallery, at the ECU Mt Lawley campus. Students are selected to display their creativity and artistic skills through a diverse range of mediums and themes, making the *Young Originals* exhibition a wonderful platform for them to share their unique perspectives and artistic visions with the public.

In 2023, seven students were chosen to showcase their remarkable artworks:

**Hannah Chen in Year 8:** Hannah presented a sculpture of an endearing tree-like protector creature. This creature serves as a symbol of protection for the Muennink's spiny rat, an endemic species found on Okinawa Island, Japan, which is threatened by deforestation.

**Kat Wilson in Year 10:** Kat presented a beachscape painting, titled *Mindalong at Sunset*, beautifully capturing the colours of a WA sunset against a coastal backdrop.

**Alice Lin in Year 10:** Alice exhibited an urban façade titled *Regression*, capturing an era of federation architecture against a modern cityscape.

**Ava van Dommelen in Year 10:** Ava contributed to the exhibition with her urban landscape painting, depicting the beauty of the building facades of King Street, Perth.

**Olivia Meaney in Year 12:** Olivia's artwork, titled *The Pork Paradox*, challenges the audience to reflect on their relationship with eating meat, addressing important ethical and environmental considerations.



Olivia Meaney

**Matilda Kosok in Year 12:** Matilda's ceramic sculpture, titled *When the Seasons Return*, explores the deeply personal and widely experienced theme of the menstrual cycle.

**Loic Dutry in Year 12:** Loic's installation piece, *A Reflection on the State of Our Oceans*, combines ceramics and found objects to examine the devastating impacts of human activities on turtle species and the overall health of our oceans.

## Community Mural to inspire Studio 64 Group children

SARAH EVE, VISUAL ART TEACHER

**This amazing South Perth mural is now complete, spanning an impressive 30 metres in length. Over the past few years, Visual Art students, along with the guidance of Mrs Chin and myself, collaborated with the local day care centre in South Perth called Studio 64 Group to create this standout mural.**

The mural was created in four distinct phases, with the final section being completed this term. Nine Year 10 students, under the supervision of Ms Raynes and myself, dedicated their daytime hours to paint this magnificent mural.

This segment of the mural, measuring two metres in height and four metres in length, beautifully portrays the scenic view of Perth city and the Swan River from South Perth. The artwork showcases the graceful

wildlife of swans, seagulls, and crabs, as well as iconic landmarks such as the Elizabeth Quay Footbridge and the sculpture *First Contact (Bird in a boat)* by the talented artist Laurel Nannup.

This remarkable artwork will be cherished by the centre and the children who attend there for many years to come. Our talented Visual Art students found great satisfaction in utilising their creative talents as well as giving back to the community.



Enru Chu, Ava van Dommelen, Aanisha Siddique and Monroe Wang.



Abigail Brown and Laura Simmonds



Alice Lin



Amalie Qiao



Aanisha Siddique

# Exploring Urban Art and Australian Multicultural Identity

SARAH EVE, VISUAL ART TEACHER

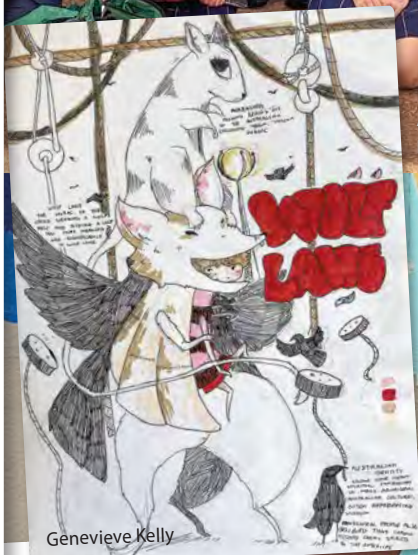


ABOVE: Urban Art walk group.  
FAR LEFT: One of the urban art murals students drew inspiration from.

**Our Year 10 Visual Arts students recently visited Perth City where they explored the world of urban artworks and representations of the modern aspects of multicultural Australian identity.**

This excursion allowed our students to immerse themselves in contemporary art within the vibrant outdoor environments of Perth. This was a unique opportunity for them to witness Perth's modern, artistic flair firsthand, as they discovered urban artworks that seamlessly fuse cultural traditions from both Australian and non-Australian backgrounds into larger, more modern pieces.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the day, immersing themselves in the world of urban art and documenting their favourite paintings in their visual diary. During the excursion, our students encountered artwork that not only embraces diversity but also prioritises community engagement, such as the large street murals that adorn Perth. Gaining valuable insight into the profound impacts of urban art and its effect upon our surroundings, our students will use this experience to contribute towards their future projects in Term 4.



Genevieve Kelly

Rose Fairey



Enru Chu





Enjoying the fitness upgrade: Shajin Islam (on the leg press), Jerry Wang, Brendan Goh and Dheeraj Karthikeyan.

## Fitness Centre Facelift

MIKE BRUTTY, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Over the last two years, the fitness centre has been getting a much-needed facelift. The very old machines have gradually been replaced with more modern, versatile gym equipment, and a couple of coats of paint have freshened up the look. The fitness centre already had a small number of dedicated students using it regularly but the new look and improved range of equipment has seen a significant increase in students and staff using the space throughout the day.

The benefit that this space provides for the physical and mental wellbeing of our staff and students is significant. We are glad to see so many people in the school community making use of the fitness centre as part of their weekly and daily routine.

We would like to thank the P&C for a grant which helped fund the new equipment—parent contributions are much appreciated. We would also like to acknowledge the various Health and Physical Education staff who contributed their time and effort, whether it was researching the equipment, coordinating delivery and installation, painting or lending muscles to move heavy equipment.



ABOVE: The Year 10 team.  
BACK ROW: Wember Xu, Adi Adebayo, Ranjeev Nambiar, Harrison Sartori and Dylan Wood (Coach). FRONT ROW: Josh Vong, David Nguyen, Oliver Nguyen and Karrar Majri.

LEFT: Karrar Majri received an MVP award.

BELOW: The Year 8 team: Taj Wynne, Leon Gonzalez, Jerome Tan, Oliver Liu, Jethro Chen, Jayden Cho, Loong Xu and Krutav Tiwari.



## Mod wins Volleyball WA Boys Cup

JAN SONDER-SORENSEN, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**I'm thrilled to share the exciting news that our boys' volleyball team emerged victorious in the recent Volleyball WA Schools Cup tournament, winning the VWA Boys Cup for the first time!**

The tournament, held in Term 3, showcased the school's dedication to volleyball with 17 teams competing across the two weeks of the tournament. After months of training, it was fantastic to challenge ourselves against the best schools in the state. Four of our teams qualified for the Honours division finals, with the Year 9 and 10 Boys both winning their respective State titles and the Years 8 and 11 Boys finishing as runners-up.

I'd like to thank the members of the volleyball program who helped to coach our junior teams through the tournament—the positive attitude towards helping others is greatly appreciated. Our coaches, Menzie, and past students, Dylan Wood, Alex Majri and Kieran Underwood all continue to add great value to our teams.

Congratulations also to Karrar Majri and Junehee Lee who were awarded the Player of The Match awards for their divisions.

All four of the teams that made the State Championship are competing in the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup in December. I look forward to more victories and achievements from our talented students.



FROM LEFT: The Year 10 Boys' netball, Year 10 Girls' netball and Year 12 Boys' netball teams.

## Shooting for the stars: Interschool Netball

KELLIE MORGAN, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Perth Modern's talented netballers competed at this year's Interschool Netball Cup in numerous day competitions. The Senior Years Girls carnival was a great day filled with friendly competition and fun with the Year 10 Girls' team and the Year 12 Girls' team winning all games except one. Both teams experienced a lot of improvement and success and came second in their pool.**

The Junior Girls' netball teams and the eight Boys' teams played at Gold Netball Centre in a day competition. All teams were fantastic, demonstrating good sportsmanship and a competitive spirit against a variety of teams around WA.

Our strong Year 10 and Year 12 Boys' teams that made the finals competed in a day carnival competition later in the term at Frank Gibson Park.

Both teams did very well and got to the semi-final where, however, they were defeated.

Most Valued Player awards went to Jazz Ohayan, Talon Pittaway, Vivienne Loo, Lillie Satori and Bethan Li among others.

Congratulations to all the players who participated in this event. Special thanks to the volunteers who coached the teams, helpers and teachers for making this event possible.

## WAIS Talent Identification Program

AARON BELL, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Selected students in Years 7–11 were paid a visit by the esteemed Western Australian Institute of Sport (WAIS) in Term 3. Known for identifying and fostering young talent in various sporting disciplines, WAIS conducted a Talent Identification Program at our school, focusing on students with potential in Rowing, Kayaking, and Cycling.**

Students looked forward to participating in the trials with anticipation and enthusiasm. Led by experienced WAIS coaches, the program involved rigorous assessments to evaluate students' physical aptitude, technical skills and overall potential.

The students eagerly showcased their dedication and commitment during the assessments, vying for a chance to be part of a program that has produced numerous national-level athletes. Being selected for the WAIS program is a prestigious opportunity that could potentially pave the way for a promising future sports career.

The program also offers mentorship, personalised coaching, and access to elite level facilities. Students selected for the program will join the ranks of Western Australia's most promising athletes.

As the event concluded, Perth Modern students were abuzz with excitement. Students left with newfound determination, ready to pursue their dreams in rowing, kayaking, or cycling.

We eagerly await the results of the Talent Identification Program and wish our students the best of luck in their pursuit of sporting excellence. Perth Modern is proud to support our students' sporting aspirations and looks forward to witnessing their future achievements.



TOP: Elijah Swartzentruber during the Cycling Test.

ABOVE: Nuala Holland completes the Cycling Test.

RIGHT: Jarrod Clark taking the Air Bike Test.

# Mod Rowing Club goes from strength to strength

RAAHIM ZAIDI, YEAR 11



The rowing club had a great time racing at All Schools State Championships this year. Between smashing (a little bit of) the competition in some of our races, and not capsizing at all, it was a huge success. Everyone could see the huge amount of effort that we had put into our training and the gains that we had made over the year. The turnout was amazing, with basically everyone from the club showing up to race, although I think some of them came for the brownies (which were outstanding, if I do say so myself).

A huge shoutout to our coaches Jo and Jack, who have helped us train throughout the year, and to Ms Holland, who helped make the rowing club possible. Also, to our parents for getting up at 4.00am in the morning and getting us to our races on time. We can never thank you all enough.

Here's hoping for a great season next year!

ABOVE FROM LEFT: The Boys Eight— Claire Levey (coxing), Sam Whitehouse, Loic Dutry, Methul Gunaratne, Fergus May, Kaelan van Zyl, Japleen Singh, Carter Ridgway and Pierce Brady.



TOP ROW FROM LEFT: Fergus May, Lachlan Anderson, Loic Dutry, Kaelan van Zyl, Methul Gunaratne and Jasper Lindsay. MIDDLE ROW FROM LEFT: Pierce Brady, Abhigyan Ghosal, Raahim Zaidi, Japleen Singh, Carter Ridgway and Sam Whitehouse. FRONT ROW FROM LEFT: Isabeau van der Kooy, Alice Ryall, Claire Levey, Candace Cheng and Isabella Henry.

BELOW FROM LEFT: The Girls Quad—WARC club rower (sub), Isabella Henry, Isabeau van der Kooy and Alice Ryall.



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