



PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.

NEWS  
JUL 2025



The guests gathered for the smoking ceremony conducted by Ash Garlett Penfold.

# *Kadadjiny Dandjoo* Launch of the Perth Modern School Business Plan 2025–2029

**On Wednesday 11 June, Perth Modern School proudly celebrated a significant milestone with the launch of our 2025–2029 Business Plan, alongside the unveiling of a visionary Campus Masterplan.**

Titled *Kadadjiny Dandjoo*—a Noongar phrase meaning *Listening, Thinking and Learning Together*—the Business Plan captures the spirit of unity and shared purpose that defines our school community. It outlines a bold and thoughtful direction for the next five years,

grounded in tradition, driven by innovation, and focused on excellence and inclusion.

Complementing this, the Campus Masterplan was introduced as a forward-thinking conceptual document, developed by EIW Architects with valuable input from Modernian Peter Farr and

Associate Principal Philippa Roy. While aspirational in nature, the Masterplan presents a range of ideas and possibilities for the future of our learning spaces—imagining what could be achieved if resources were unlimited.

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## From the Principal

This term began with a landmark moment for Perth Modern School—the launch of our new **Business Plan: Kadadjiny Dandjoo – Listening, Thinking and Learning Together**. This forward-looking document sets the tone for the next five years, reflecting our collective vision, unity of purpose, and thoughtful direction. It also introduces a refreshed set of school values—**Courage, Curiosity, Compassion, Commitment and Collaboration**—which will guide our students and staff as we continue to grow and evolve. The launch event in the **Cyril Tyler Auditorium** was a wonderful celebration of community, and I extend my sincere thanks to all stakeholders who attended and contributed to this milestone.



We were also proud to celebrate the **50th anniversary of NAIDOC Week** with a special assembly, featuring a moving **Acknowledgment of Country** by **Ash Garlett Penfold**. This event honoured the rich cultural heritage of First Nations peoples and deepened our commitment to reconciliation and respect.

It was fantastic to see so many students involved in the **Bloom Future Leaders: Building Skills for Tomorrow** and **Bloom Future Founders: Pitching with Purpose** programs. These initiatives, proudly supported by the **Sphinx Foundation** and **Malka Foundation**, are helping our students develop leadership and entrepreneurial skills that will serve them well into the future.

Our students continue to lead with heart. Congratulations to the five students who took part in the **World's Greatest Shave**, bravely cutting or shaving their hair to support cancer research. We also commend those who participated in the **Push-Up Challenge for mental health awareness**, raising an impressive amount of \$5,151 and helping to spark important conversations around wellbeing.

It's also great to see such strong interest in our **Outdoor Education programs** for Year 9 and 10 students. From campfire cooking and bushwalks to surfing at Trigg, these experiences offer a chance to step outside the classroom and into the real world—building resilience, teamwork and a deeper connection to nature.

The arts have been a true highlight this term. Our **Year 10 Drama production of *Animal Farm*** delivered mature and compelling performances, while the **House Dance concerts** and **Dance Showcase**, held in collaboration with **Bob Hawke College**, demonstrated the growing strength of our dance program. The term also featured a stunning **Visual Arts Exhibition**, featuring a diverse array of student artworks that sparked thoughtful conversations and celebrated creative expression.

In HASS, Year 9 students engaged deeply with Aboriginal history through the **Walking on Country: Koora Waangkininy Boodjar** incursion, learning about the Stolen Generations in a meaningful and respectful way. Our **Year 8 and Year 9 Focus Days** were also a great success, offering students a chance to refresh and recharge through fun and engaging activities.

### VALE MICHAEL ROGERS

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the recent passing of Michael Rogers, a deeply respected and passionate Music Teacher at Perth Modern School. Michael's warmth, dedication and love for music touched the lives of many students and staff.

A memorial organised by his family will be held at the school to honour his life and legacy within our community.

These are just some of the amazing events and activities that took place during Term 2. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the term so memorable. I look forward to continuing our journey together in Term 3.

MITCHELL MACKAY  
PRINCIPAL



# Marking 50 Years of NAIDOC Week: Celebrating Culture, Honouring the Future



**In Week 10 of Term, 2, the school community came together for a special assembly in recognition of the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC Week—a milestone that celebrates the richness, resilience, and beauty of Indigenous culture across Australia.**

Held on Noongar boodja, the traditional lands of the Whadjuk people, the assembly began by acknowledging the custodianship of this country that has spanned over 50,000 years. Respect was paid to Elders past and present, and to the continuing cultural, spiritual and environmental connection First Nations peoples maintain with this land.

NAIDOC Week 2025 carries the theme 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy', reminding us that Indigenous culture is not just rooted in history, but continues to thrive, evolve, and inspire. The strength of culture is drawn from over 50,000 years of knowledge and continuity. The vision lives in young Indigenous Australians leading change across diverse fields—from sport and science to the arts and advocacy. And the legacy is being shaped every day, as traditions are honoured while new possibilities unfold.

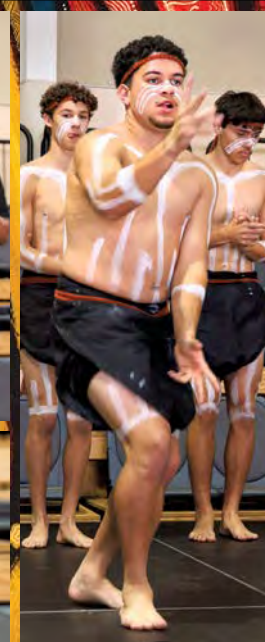
Guest speaker Ash Garlett Penfold, a proud Noongar man and founder of Corroboree for Life, exemplified the theme. Through his work, Ash promotes cultural connection and community empowerment via dance, arts, and employment. His personal story—shared alongside an Acknowledgement of Country—highlighted how culture can create meaningful pathways for young people.

Students also enjoyed a powerful cultural performance that reflected the skill, depth, and vibrancy of Indigenous traditions. It served as a reminder that NAIDOC Week isn't just about reflection, it's about celebrating the present and looking to the future.

As we mark this 50-year milestone, we're encouraged to keep learning, listening, and recognising the value Indigenous perspectives bring to our shared Australian story. The next generation has the opportunity to build a future shaped by understanding, collaboration and respect.



FROM LEFT: Mitch Mackay and Ash Garlett Penfold;  
and MCs Quifei Li and Isobel Doe.





# Kadadjiny Dandjoo: Listening, Thinking and Learning Together



The 2025–2029 Business Plan launch was led by Principal Mitch Mackay, who acknowledged the collaborative efforts of Associate Principal Robyn Verboon, staff, students, and key stakeholders in shaping the Business Plan.

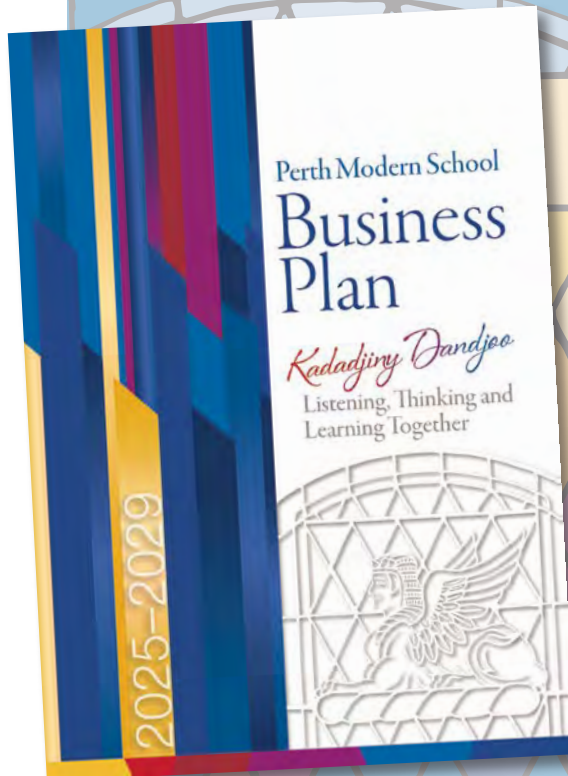
A powerful Acknowledgment of Country and Smoking Ceremony was delivered by Ash Garlett Penfold from Corroboree for Life, setting a respectful and reflective tone for the occasion.

We also extend our sincere thanks to Amanda McGovern from Step Within Solutions—Leadership Consultant, Coach, and Team Development Specialist—whose expertise was instrumental in helping us shape our School Values and develop the Business Plan. We were delighted to have Amanda join us at the launch to celebrate this important moment with our community.

Later in the week, the Business Plan was also launched with the Student Council, who will play a key role as student advocates in bringing the plan to life and ensuring its values are reflected in everyday school life.

This visionary document reaffirms our commitment to academic achievement, strong relationships, and a nurturing environment where every student is empowered to grow, lead, and thrive.

**We invite all members of our community to explore the Business Plan and reflect on the values that guide our collective journey forward.**



ABOVE LEFT: Principal Mitchell Mackay launches the Business Plan.

ABOVE RIGHT: Ash Garlett Penfold from Corroboree for Life delivered the Acknowledgment of Country.

FAR LEFT: Food Technology teacher Alison Soraru participates in the smoking ceremony.

Left: Amanda McGovern from Step Within Solutions.

The core of *Kadadjiny Dandjoo* is guided by the values that shape our thinking, the choices we make, and the actions we take every day.





Philip Idle, Chloe Summers and Reka Balogh from EIW Architects.



FROM LEFT: Associate Principal Kym Tan, Coordinator of Facilities and Assets Lorraine Clarke and Manager of Corporate Services Trisha Bebek; and Head of English Danae Brazier, Associate Principal Robyn Verboon and Head of Arts and Technologies Sally Floyd.



FROM LEFT: Humanities and Social Science teachers Ray Driehuis and Rick McMahon with Modernian Peter Farr; P&C Secretary James Lear and P&C Vice-President Steven Paradiss from the P&C Executive; and Head of Health and Physical Education Mark Muir with Honorary Archivist Deb Beresford.



FROM LEFT: Modernians Ruth Barrett and Daryl Williams; and School Board members Kathryn Trott, Bronwyn Rasmussen and Kati Tonkin.

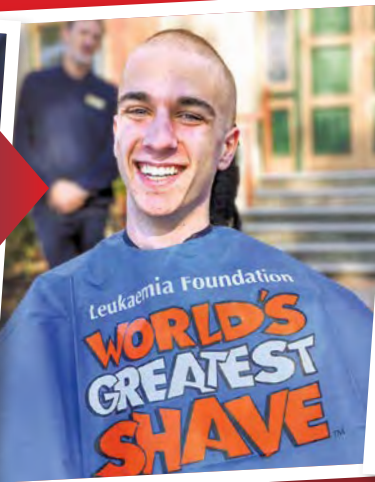


BELOW FROM LEFT: Head of Arts and Technologies Sally Floyd, Manager Middle Years Michelle Edwards and Italian Language Teacher Antonella De Gregoris; Student Councillors Alex Vanopulos Suri Le and Abigail Koh; and Year 12 Student Councillors Yifei Li and Ethan Kelly at the Business Plan Student Launch.





# World's Greatest Shave raises around \$6000



**On Friday, 27 June, five amazing students participated in the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave, raising almost \$6000 to support Australians living with blood cancer. This is a fantastic achievement as each donation is vital in helping to support research and for providing care for families.**

The concourse was crowded at lunchtime with students and staff showing their support of these committed students and the cause. School Officer Natalie O'Brien, a former hairdresser, was on hand with scissors and shaver to ensure a professional result. Each participating student embraced

the challenge, demonstrating the values of courage, compassion and commitment. These students' positivity and selflessness was a true reminder to us all that acts of kindness and demonstrating empathy have a significant impact on the life of others and bring attention to important issues.

To put the impact these students have made into perspective, the funds raised through their involvement is equivalent to supporting a vital blood cancer research program for an entire day. This kind of support enables researchers and clinicians to fast-track breakthrough therapies and diagnostics from the lab into clinics, making real change possible for Australians living with blood cancer.

A special mention of our wonderful students—Bhuvika Garg and Mohit Napaa in Year 10, and Yvan Johnston, Manas Gowda and Aaron Thow in Year 11—for their courage and selflessness. Thank you also to everyone who coordinated the event, donated or came to show their support for this very worthy cause.

TOP FROM LEFT: Aaron Thow getting his shave; and Student Councillors Sam Vallabhaneni and Thevindu Karunarathne.

BELOW FROM LEFT: Mohit Napaa (before and after); and Manas Gowda (before and after with Principal Mitch Mackay).

BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT: Bhuvika Garg with Natalie O'Brien, School Officer; and Yvan Johnston braves the shave.





# Student Accolades



## Geography takes Ben Bauer to the world stage in Thailand

**Year 12 student Ben Bauer has won a Bronze medal in the 2025 International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) held in Bangkok, Thailand. Before he left Australia to participate in the competition, Ben was interviewed by *The Post* newspaper. His answers are below.**

Ben Bauer in Year 12 is the only student from WA who will compete for the 2025 International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) competition from 26 July to 1 August. Ben is excited to attend the iGeo competition.

Ben and his teammates from around Australia will compete against other countries in three academic challenges over a week: a written response test, a multimedia test and a fieldwork exercise.

"It is so great to have the opportunity to be the only student from WA attending the competition this year. It's going to be awesome," Ben said. "We will get to do field work in the city of Bangkok, conducting surveys and creating maps, which is one of the greatest ways to experience a new city.

"If the competition goes well, I'll be stoked, but at the moment I'm just looking forward to meeting other people in the competition from different countries."

The program also includes a presentation from each team which showcases a geographic challenge faced by their country, and events where students share cultural traditions and practices.

The annual competition is open to geography students aged 16 to 19 from all over the world, who have enthusiastically participated in the National Geography Olympiads.

In 2025, Lithuania took out first place, with Kazakhstan placing second, Poland coming third and Australia ninth overall.

**WA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

Stella-Maria Suuronen



Isabelle Ham



## Young champions make waves at the Aqua Technics Junior State Championships

**Two rising stars from Perth Modern School have made a splash at the 2025 Aqua Technics Junior State Championships, showcasing exceptional talent and determination in the pool.**

Stella-Maria Suuronen, a Year 7 student, delivered a standout performance by securing the silver medal in the Girls 12 Years 400m Individual Medley. Her achievement in this demanding event, which tests swimmers across all four strokes, is a testament to her versatility and endurance. But Stella-Maria's success didn't end there. She qualified for an impressive lineup of additional events, including the 800m, 400m, 200m, 100m and 50m Freestyle races, as well as the 100m and 200m Breaststroke and the 200m Individual Medley.

Joining her in the spotlight is fellow Perth Modern student Isabelle Ham, who earned a bronze medal in the Girls 12 Years 50m Butterfly. Isabelle's powerful sprint and precise technique in the butterfly event earned her a place on the podium. She also competed in a variety of other races, including the 50m Freestyle, 50m and 100m Backstroke, 100m Freestyle, and 200m Individual Medley, demonstrating her versatility and competitive spirit.



# Student Accolades



## Dylan Karunanayake wins 2025 Apple Swift Student Challenge

Perth Modern School is proud to announce that Year 10 student Dylan Karunanayake has been named a winner of the 2025 Apple Swift Student Challenge, a global competition that celebrates innovation and creativity in coding.

The challenge invites students from around the world to design and build app playgrounds using Apple's Swift programming language. Dylan's submission stood out for its originality, technical skill and thoughtful design. In a personal letter from Susan Prescott, Apple's Vice President of Worldwide Developer Relations, Dylan was praised for his imagination and drive to create inspiring apps.

This recognition places Dylan among a select group of young developers who are shaping the future of technology. His achievement reflects not only his talent and dedication but also the growing importance of coding and digital innovation in education.

Congratulations to Dylan on this outstanding accomplishment. We look forward to seeing where his passion for coding takes him next.

## Celebrating excellence in Computational and Algorithmic Thinking

Perth Modern School is proud to celebrate a major milestone in mathematics and computer science education. For the first time, a student has won a Prize in the prestigious Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT) competition—a national event that challenges students with complex, multi-stage problems designed to develop logical reasoning and algorithmic skills.

Year 10 student Tiger Varol earned a Prize, placing him among the top performers in the country. His achievement marks a significant moment for the school and highlights the strength of our STEM program.

In addition to Tiger's success, several students received High Distinction awards: Olivia Coulson and Samuel Wong in Year 7, Grace Zhu in Year 8, Shanjayi Jeyageethan in Year 9, and Siddharth Sankara Subbaiyan and Maduricaa Yohanathan in Year 10. These results reflect their outstanding problem-solving abilities and commitment to academic excellence.

Seventeen other students were awarded Distinctions, further demonstrating the depth of talent and enthusiasm for computational thinking across year levels.

The CAT competition is a key part of our mathematics curriculum, encouraging students to think creatively and logically. Congratulations to all participants for their impressive achievements and to Ms L Zhang, our CAT organiser and Mathematics teacher, for her guidance and support.



## Prince Teo recognised for dramatic talent at Perth Festival

Congratulations to Year 10 student Prince Teo on being awarded a Highly Commended recognition in the Dramatic Monologue category at the 2025 Perth Speech and Drama Festival.

This award highlights Prince's expressive performance and strong stage presence, standing out among a competitive field of young performers. His achievement reflects both his natural talent and the effort he has put into developing his dramatic skills.

Prince Teo







## Artistic excellence: Raadin wins Shaun Tan Award for Young Artists

**Bravo to Year 10 student Raadin Ebadi, who has been awarded First Place in the Upper Secondary category of the 2025 Shaun Tan Award for Young Artists. His winning piece, *Future Serenity*, captivated judges with its emotional depth and technical mastery.**

Described by the judging panel as “subtle, beautiful and skilfully rendered, especially the way the light reflects in the dark hair,” Raadin’s work stood out among entries from across Western Australia. The Shaun Tan Award, now in its 23rd year, honours creativity, diversity and artistic excellence in young people. Raadin is a self-taught artist who enjoys art as a personal hobby, having worked on and developed his talent for countless hours of his free time over the past two years.

The award not only recognises Raadin’s individual brilliance but also highlights the importance of artistic expression in education. His piece invites viewers into a contemplative space, blending imagination with refined technique to create a truly memorable work.



## Kian Arquiza-Relenas named WA’s Top Athlete in Children’s Kata

**Kian Arquiza-Relenas in Year 9 was recently honoured at the WA Karate Federation Gala Awards Night as Western Australia’s Highest-Ranking Athlete in the Children’s 12/13 Male Kata Category for 2024.**

This recognition highlights Kian’s dedication to his sport and his consistent performance throughout the year. Earlier in 2024, Kian reached a major milestone by earning his Shodan (Black Belt), becoming the youngest member of his club to do so.

Kian’s success is a testament to his discipline, focus and passion for karate. His achievements continue to inspire fellow students and reflect the strength of character nurtured at Perth Modern School.

Kian Arquiza-Relenas

## Mary McCusker dances her way to top Honours

**Year 11 student Mary McCusker has achieved an outstanding milestone in Spanish dance, earning the highest grade of Honours in her Elementary exam with the Institute of Spanish Dancing.**

Her performance was met with high praise from the examiner, who described it as “beautifully executed and presented,” noting her crisp castanet work and excellent use of the upper back and head—key elements of refined Spanish technique.

Mary McCusker





# Student Accolades



## Levi van Bruchem performs with brass legend Steven Mead

**Levi van Bruchem in Year 12 recently took the stage with world-renowned euphonium soloist Steven Mead in a standout concert at the Government House Ballroom. The event, hosted by the City of Perth Brass Band, featured a program of brass band masterworks and drew a captivated audience.**

Levi earned his spot after impressing during a rehearsal and audition with the band, showcasing his talent and musical maturity. Performing alongside Steven Mead—celebrated globally for his expressive and virtuosic playing—was a major milestone in Levi’s musical journey.

Set in the elegant surrounds of Government House Ballroom, the concert highlighted both Levi’s promise and the strength of Perth’s music community. It was an inspiring afternoon of brass brilliance and a proud moment for Perth Modern School.

Levi van Bruchem playing the trumpet the 2025 Perth Modern School Anzac Service.

## Perth Modern shines at WA State Table Tennis Championships

**Students from Perth Modern School delivered a stellar performance at the 2025 Table Tennis Western Australia State Open Championships, with multiple state titles and medals being awarded.**

Year 10’s Chelsea Wu led the charge, winning six gold medals in U17 Girls Singles, U19 Girls Singles, U19 Girls Doubles, U19 Mixed Doubles, Open Teams, and Open Women’s Doubles. She also earned silver in Open Mixed Doubles and bronze in Open Women’s Singles, marking one of the most dominant individual performances of the tournament.

Her sister, Jasmine Wu in Year 12, added to the success with silver medals in both the U17 and U19 Girls divisions.

Year 10’s Jethro Chen claimed gold in the U17 Boys division, while Year 7’s Nikita Balam impressed with gold in both U13 Girls and U15 Girls categories.

With such strong results, Perth Modern is well-placed to defend its WA Secondary Interschool title later this year.



TOP RIGHT: Chelsea and Jasmine Wu.  
RIGHT: Nikita Balam and Jethro Chen.





## Perth Modern students excel at Fremantle Eisteddfod

Some outstanding results have been achieved by Perth Modern students at the 2025 Fremantle Eisteddfod, one of Western Australia's most respected music competitions.

Victor Chen, Year 9, was named Senior Overall Best Strings Player and performed at the Senior Winners Concert. His cello performance was praised for its depth and musicality.

Grace Zhu, Year 8, excelled in the piano sections, winning first place for her Bach performance, second for Classical Sonata, and third for a Chopin Nocturne. She was invited to perform at the Government House Ballroom, where she played the third movement of *Sonata in D minor*, Op. 31 No. 2.

Imogen Manfield, also in Year 9, was awarded Junior Overall Best Brass Player. She performed Bernstein's *Rondo for Lifey* at the Winners Concert and won first place in both the Brass Grade 6 and the 13 and Under Brass Recital categories.

Crystal Lee, Luvenia Yeo and Shan-Mei Wan in Year 11 also impressed. Crystal won first place in Classical Vocal Solo and Wind Recital, and third in Contemporary Vocal Solo. Together, the trio placed third in the Small Ensemble category.

Well done also to Aaron Zhang in Year 7 who achieved third place in the U13 Guitar Recital.

These achievements reflect the students' dedication and the strength of Perth Modern's music program. Congratulations to all for their exceptional performances.



Crystal Lee, Luvenia Yeo and Shan-Mei Wan.



Grace Zhu



Imogen Manfield



Victor Chen



# Empowering Minds: A Celebration of Innovation, Leadership, and Learning

## RoboCup Junior WA Metro Event: A top day of innovation and inspiration!

On Saturday 14 June, 36 of our brilliant students across nine teams took part in the RoboCup Junior WA Metro event at All Saints' College.

With the fantastic support of Mr Chillapa and Mr Kocaj, our students dived into the world of robotics—designing, coding, and solving tricky challenges alongside students from schools all over WA.

It was a ripper of a day packed with creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving. The students tackled real-world challenges head-on and came away with fresh ideas and heaps of experience.

Many of them said the event was both inspiring and educational—and we couldn't agree more!

We're thrilled to announce that our teams will be back at it for the State Competition this September. Watch this space for more updates as they continue their robotics journey!



^ Dylan Yang, Yojit Dhillipkumar, Aarav Garg and Jeremy Wilkins in Year 7 enjoyed participating in the competition.



## 2025 Boyd Dinner for Emerging Leaders

The 2025 Boyd Dinner for Emerging Leaders held at St Catherine's College brought together students, alumni and schools from across Western Australia for an evening that honoured legacy and inspired future leadership. Perth Modern School students Japleen Singe, Samantha See and Ranjeev Nambiar were in attendance.

Samantha Bloom, the bestselling author of *Penguin Bloom*, four-time World Para Surfing Champion and Wings for Life – Spinal Cord Research Foundation Global Ambassador, shared her remarkable journey, reminding us that strength, hope and connection can emerge even in the most challenging moments.

The Boyd Dinner is about inspiring emerging leaders in Western Australia to lead with purpose, resilience and passion.

Samantha See, Ranjeev Nambiar, Japleen Singe and Career Advisor, Wellbeing Coordinator and Academic Progress Coordinator Michelle Edwards with Samantha Bloom at the Boyd Dinner.





# Modern Minds in Motion: From Rocket Science to Mental Health Advocacy

## Taking flight: Aeronautics Club launches into model rocketry

LACHLAN MURPHY, AERONAUTICS CLUB TEACHER

**Perth Modern School's Aeronautics Club has been diving into the dynamic world of model rocketry, combining hands-on experimentation with technical learning and teamwork.**

The term began with students studying the essential components of rockets—nose cones, body tubes, and fins—while exploring the principles of aerodynamics and stability. Armed with this knowledge, members designed and built their own paper rockets, each with a unique configuration. Students tested different fin shapes and nose cone styles to improve flight performance and stability.

To enhance their design process, members were introduced to OnShape, a 3D CAD platform. Using the software, students modelled custom components, particularly nose cones, gaining valuable experience in digital design and engineering.

So far, the Club has held two launch days, with rockets soaring across Beasley Gardens. While some reached impressive heights and others veered off in unexpected directions, each launch offered insight into design flaws and opportunities for refinement.

It's been a term filled with creativity, learning, and high-flying fun—and with more challenges ahead, the Aeronautics Club is just beginning its journey into the skies.



Year 8 students involved in the Push-Up Challenge: Reon Jophy, Shayan Dash, Saksham K C, Vikash Vimalan, Noah Bridges, Barbod Mirzadeh and Edward Dias.

## In the news: Perth Modern kids push it for mental health

POST NEWSPAPER

**Students from Perth Modern School are pushing hard to raise awareness about good mental health. The students are taking part of the Push-Up Challenge, which is a national suicide prevention campaign. Their efforts are to raise money for Lifeline, a charity that offers crisis support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.**

Student Sana Khosraviani said the challenge was to remind everyone about the importance of mental health, and remove the stigma around talking about it.

"The Push-Up Challenge doesn't avoid talking about the big questions and raising awareness, including how many people lose their lives to suicide," Sana said.

"I also like the practical information it is spreading, like how much time we should spend in nature a week, which is at least 120 minutes. After finding this out, I walked to my local park and just thought a bit, and afterwards I felt really good."

The students have promoted their Push-Up Challenge on posters and social media.

Perth Modern School Principal Mitchell Mackay said the school community was incredibly proud of the students for their dedication to this cause.

"Their commitment to mental health awareness shows the power of young people to make a real difference in their community," he said.

Lifeline receives up to 400 contacts a day from people in crisis and money raised through the Push-Up Challenge will help it to ensure that no one faces their darkest moments alone.





# Year 7 Camp: A Memorable Start to High School Life



As part of our Thriving Minds school program, Perth Modern School continues to prioritise building a strong “Sense of Belonging” among students. A recent highlight of this initiative was the highly successful Year 7 Camp, held at Ern Halliday Recreation Camp.

This camp forms a key component of our Year 7 Advocacy program and provided an invaluable opportunity for students to connect with their peers and staff in a relaxed, supportive environment. Through shared experiences and team-based activities, students developed lasting friendships and a deeper sense of community.

In keeping with our focus on mindfulness and presence, the camp was device-free—though students were welcome to bring cameras to capture special moments. Activities included house challenges, the flying fox, archery, a walk under the stars, a screening of *Shrek*, and an engaging presentation from the Perth Observatory.

We’re proud of how our Year 7s embraced the experience, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact of these connections throughout the year.









# Bloom Future Leaders and Future Founders Wrap Up with Impact



Two of Bloom's flagship youth programs—Bloom Future Leaders and Bloom Future Founders—were celebrated at a special award ceremony, showcasing the creativity, confidence and capability of the next generation of changemakers.

## Bloom Future Leaders: Building skills for tomorrow

The Bloom Future Leaders program offered students a series of engaging workshops focused on leadership, design thinking, problem-solving and collaboration. These sessions were designed to help participants develop a strong foundation in entrepreneurial thinking and personal growth.

At the conclusion of the program, each participant was awarded a Bloom Future Leaders certificate, recognising their commitment, development, and contribution throughout the course.

## Bloom Future Founders: Pitching with purpose

The Bloom Future Founders program culminated in a *Shark Tank*-style pitch event, where students presented their startup ideas to a panel of expert judges:

- Henry Cooper: Strategic Partnerships and Engagement Manager @ CEOs for Gender Equity
- Matthew Allen: Parent and successful entrepreneur, Director at WaveX
- Peter Farr: Sphinx Foundation Treasurer.

The event highlighted the students' ability to identify real-world problems, develop innovative solutions, and communicate their ideas with clarity and confidence. The judges were impressed by the level of professionalism and creativity on display.

## A shared celebration of youth innovation

Together, these programs reflect Bloom's commitment to empowering young people with the tools, mindset, and support to lead and innovate. Whether through leadership development or entrepreneurial exploration, participants demonstrated the potential to make meaningful contributions to their communities and beyond.

Congratulations to all involved for their outstanding efforts and achievements.



Michael Hillam, Youth Coordinator from Bloom, presented certificates to the Perth Modern School participants.



### Special Prizes

Congratulations to the following students for winning special prizes on the day:

**Inspiring Leader**

**Rhea Kewralam**

**People's Choice: InvolveU**

**Lishaanth Karthikeyan, Josh Gilgallon  
and Andy Huynh**

**Most Innovative Idea: Pebble**

**Olivia Lim, Aisha Mubashar, Isabella Ho  
and Amindi Elvadura**

**Best Validation: EduX**

**Isabelle Lim, Grace Sharma and Maira Singh**







# Year 9 Aboriginal History Incursion: *Koora Waangkininy Boodjar*



Year 9 students participated in the deeply moving and educational incursion, *Koora Waangkininy Boodjar*—meaning “Long time ago talking on country.” This immersive experience was designed to enrich students’ understanding of Aboriginal history and the Stolen Generations, complementing their HASS curriculum.

The incursion used symbolic elements such as rugs to represent land and ropes to illustrate the timeline of Aboriginal presence on Country. These visual metaphors helped students grasp the scale of dispossession and the enduring impact of colonisation.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our presenters, Charmaine Climo and Renarta Coyne, Aboriginal Support Coordinators, who generously shared their cultural knowledge and personal stories.

Their powerful storytelling and interactive approach left a lasting impression on all who attended.

This incursion was not only an educational opportunity but also a moment of reflection and empathy. It will remain a significant part of our students’ learning journey, fostering a deeper understanding of Australia’s shared history.



**Student reflections highlight the profound effect of the experience:**

*“The program has shown me a more in-depth history of the injustices that Aboriginal people face. The symbolism of the rugs being land, and people being moved around effectively showed the scale of how many people were forcibly removed, or killed, and their land taken away. The personal experiences shared really left an emotional impact.”*

*“The program was both informational and emotional for the people present, allowing us to truly understand what they felt and how other Aboriginal Australians may have felt about what happened.”*







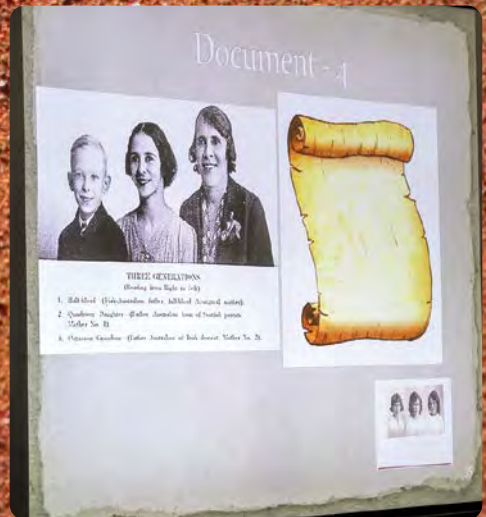
*"I liked the symbolism of the rugs being folded to show the taking of the land and the rope that symbolised the time Aboriginals had lived on their land. The presenters' personal stories made the program much more interesting. It was very interactive and engaging."*

*"The visual representation helped explain the atrocities experienced by Aboriginal people during colonisation. It showed the decreasing numbers of Aboriginal people and the shrinking land they cared for."*

*"The carpets and 'trading cards' were a good addition, showing the dwindling population and territory. The thread showing how little time Europeans have been in Australia compared to Aboriginal people was very impactful."*



*"I liked how interactive and engaging the incursion was. It taught me many things, including the stories of John and Yagan, and the citizenship bribery. The personal experiences about going to school in a segregated class were very eye-opening."*





# Revolution on Stage: Year 10 Drama's Bold Take on *Animal Farm*



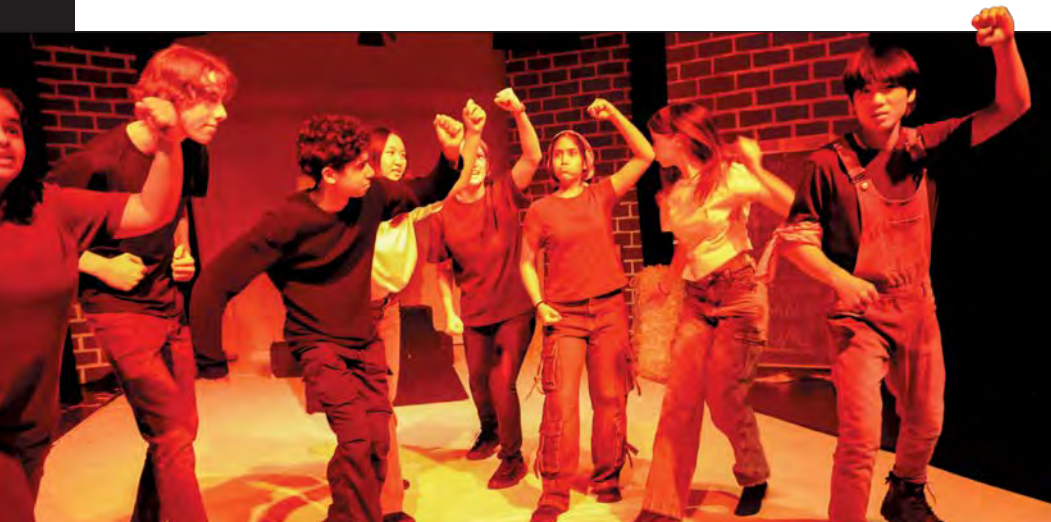
Under the direction of Sally Floyd, on June 23 and 24, the Year 10 Drama students delivered a gripping and visually arresting production of *Animal Farm*—a timeless allegory reimagined with striking relevance for today's world.

This student-led performance transported audiences to a rural dystopia, where the line between liberation and control blurred with chilling clarity. Through powerful performances and evocative design, the cast and crew explored how noble ideals can be twisted into tools of oppression. The production was rich with historical propaganda imagery, immersing viewers in a world where truth is manipulated and power is absolute.

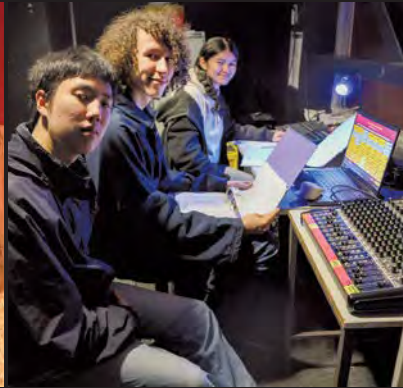
Guided by Lee Strasberg's Method Acting techniques, students crafted emotionally grounded characters whose struggles felt deeply human. Their portrayals of hope, fear, and betrayal resonated with authenticity, drawing the audience into the animals' revolution—and its tragic unravelling.

More than just a performance, *Animal Farm* served as a call to critical reflection. It challenged viewers to examine authority, question media narratives, and consider the role of education in resisting ignorance. The production asked a powerful question: What is our responsibility when faced with injustice?

Congratulations to the Year 10 Drama students for a thought-provoking and courageous performance that left a lasting impression.









# The Power of Passion: A Celebration of Courage, Creativity and Commitment in Music



This year, our music students didn't just rise to the occasion—they soared. What a dazzling, heartfelt and courageous journey it has been. From the hush of reverence at St George's Cathedral to the electric beat of jazz finals, from Tolkien's mythical lands to the fiery energy of INXS, our students embraced every opportunity with curiosity, creativity and unwavering commitment. Here's a look back at the unforgettable moments that defined a semester brimming with music, memories and magic.

## From Middle-earth to Crown Theatre: Drama and Music unite

On March 23, our Year 10 Extension Music students joined the Drama cohort for a truly unforgettable evening—*The Lord of the Rings* live in concert at Crown Theatre. As the orchestra swelled and the lights dimmed, students were transported into the heart of Tolkien's epic world. This wasn't just an arts excursion—it was an immersive experience. Towering, inspirational set designs, dazzling effects, and a powerful live score combined to create something extraordinary. It was a night that ignited the senses and stirred the imagination, reminding us to be transported beyond the everyday and to dream without limits.

## Voices of remembrance: ANZAC Day at St George's Cathedral

On April 25, amid the stillness of reflection and the soaring acoustics of St George's Cathedral, Schola Cantori, Chorus Angelicus and Phoenix lent their voices to one of the most sacred community events of the year—the ANZAC Day Ceremony.

With a rehearsal the day prior, during the school holidays, our students demonstrated commitment beyond the classroom. Their performance brought solemn beauty to the occasion, delivered with power and grace. Their presence and performance reflected not only their remarkable talent but also their maturity and deep understanding of the significance of the event.

Meanwhile, Year 11 student Frank Holdom performed *The Last Post* and *Reveille* at West Leederville Primary School with poise and professionalism—an act of quiet courage that inspired all who heard it.







### Trad Jazz triumph: Battle of the bands

Jazz Band 1 made us all proud by reaching the finals of the inaugural Jazz Club of WA High School Trad Jazz Battle of the Bands. What a night! Laughter, dancing, and pure musical joy lit up the venue. The ensemble delivered a bold, brassy performance that earned them fourth place in a fiercely talented field. Congratulations to Mr Rickman and the students for a truly creative and courageous showing—proof that jazz lives vibrantly in the hands of our young musicians.

### Autumn Concert: A tapestry of excellence

The Cyril Tyler Auditorium came alive on May 14th with the 2025 Autumn Concert. From the delicate harmonies of Chorus Angelicus to the mighty force of the Symphony Orchestra, this was a performance filled with polish and power. Every ensemble brought their best. Parents and families left with their hearts full and spirits lifted, having witnessed a celebration of months of rehearsals, curiosity-driven learning, and artistic growth.

### Winter Concert Series: Music blooms in the cold

Two Winter Concerts warmed our hearts in Term 2:

- **Winter Concert 1** on June 20 showcased the rising stars: Treble Voices Choir, Junior Guitar, Wind Bands 2 and 3—and more. Their performance was a statement: these young musicians are blooming with confidence and commitment.
- **Winter Concert 2** on June 25 featured our brave Year 7s—many performing for the very first time. Ensembles like Wind Band 4, Ripieno and Chanteurs showed just what can happen when courage meets opportunity. For students, it was a night of “firsts,” and they took to the stage with shining eyes and eager hearts. A truly inspiring display of beginnings in music.

### Mastering the craft: Woodwind Workshop with Dr Philip Everall

On June 25, our woodwind students participated in a dynamic masterclass with WAAPA's Dr Philip Everall. His expert guidance on phrasing, tone, and performance left a lasting impact. Senior students performed with confidence and artistry, setting a high standard. Soloists Adele Stegink, Crystal Lee and Stella Anthony, along with the Chamber Wind Quintet—William An, Stella Anthony, Adele Stegink, Luvenia Yeo and Hank Zhang—were outstanding and truly inspiring for younger musicians. ►







## OPUS Concert 2025: An elite showcase of statewide talent

June 30 marked a monumental evening. The IMSS OPUS Concert brought together WA's top-performing students, and our choirs—Schola Cantori, Phoenix, and Chorus Angelicus—shone with poise and polish. Perth Modern students also featured in the Combined Percussion Ensemble, including James Lazuardi, Shi Yin Wee, Daniel Tan and Despina Prastides Brown. The energy, the execution and the ensemble synergy were nothing short of perfection.

Miss Christmass's leadership and direction were instrumental in delivering a concert that was inspirational and technically immaculate. What a proud moment for Perth Modern School, surrounded by excellence from across the state.

## Eisteddfods and achievements: Personal triumphs

Throughout the semester, many students challenged themselves individually, entering eisteddfods and competitions across the state. Week by week, we watched the school noticeboards fill with awards, and well-earned recognition. Each achievement was the result of curiosity, dedication, and the desire to grow. These efforts have not gone unnoticed—we are proud of every student who stepped onto a stage and gave it their all.

## And thank you...

Looking back on this remarkable semester, we extend our deepest thanks to all those who made these experiences possible: To our music staff, thank you for your creativity, your belief in our students, and the hours you dedicate behind the scenes. To our instrumental instructors and ensemble leaders—your guidance and passion continue to shape not only our students' musical growth, but their confidence and resilience.

To our wonderful Friends of Music (FOM) volunteers—your support, whether behind the curtain or at the door, makes every concert feel like a celebration.

Stay curious. Stay courageous. Keep creating.

PERTH MODERN SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT



## A LIFE IN HARMONY: REMEMBERING MR MICHAEL ROGERS

**The Perth Modern School community is mourning the loss of Mr Michael Rogers, a cherished music teacher whose dedication, creativity and warmth shaped the lives of countless students over nearly three decades.**

Michael joined the school in 1998, bringing with him a rich background in jazz and a deep love of learning. His passion for music was infectious, and his teaching style reflected a genuine joy in making music with students. Whether guiding ensembles, nurturing budding musicians, or simply sharing his love of sound, Michael created a space where students felt inspired and supported.

His impact extended far beyond the classroom. Known for his humour, kindness and sincere interest in others, Michael was a beloved colleague and friend. He was a devoted father and grandfather, enjoyed playing soccer, and valued staying active. His connection to Perth Modern School was especially meaningful, as his daughter was also a student here—a reflection of the deep ties he held to the community.

Michael faced a long illness with remarkable courage and grace. His strength during this time was a quiet inspiration to those around him, and his resilience reflected the same spirit he brought to his teaching.

Mr Michael Rogers leaves behind a legacy of music, mentorship, and humanity.

**Vale, Mr Rogers.  
You will be deeply missed but never forgotten.**





# WHAT. A. NIGHT. INXS Reimagined 2025



**Over 2,000 guests. Four powerhouse vocalists. One epic choir. A fearless orchestra.  
An explosive, electrifying, and utterly unforgettable tribute to the legends of INXS.**

Vocalists Justin Burford, Abbe May and Vince Trikeriotis, alongside the exceptional Perth Modern School Senior Chorale, brought the house down—culminating in a euphoric finale that had the entire theatre on its feet.

Visionary Creative Director Fiona Campbell OAM and dynamic conductor Sara Duhig led the charge, crafting a night of pure musical magic.

This event was proudly presented by Piper Alderman, and Concert Partners Barton Family Foundation and ModnTech—helping to deliver Music For Everyone.

The event was fun, fresh, and fearless—a wonderful occasion for all on stage and in the audience. The students involved will never forget it.





# House Dance 2025: A Dazzling Display of Dedication, Diversity and Dynamism



The final day of Term 2 ended with a burst of energy as the Cyril Tyler Auditorium hosted the much-anticipated House Dance 2025. A highlight of the school calendar, this year's performance dazzled with creativity, teamwork and cultural flair.

Planning began in late 2024, led by student choreographers who shaped the theme 'Countries'. Their vision guided everything—from storyline and music to costumes—laying the groundwork for a truly memorable show.

Throughout Term 1, the House Dance Club met every Friday, with students from Years 7 to 11 bringing choreography to life through dedication and enthusiasm.

The final performance was spectacular. Each House showcased unique cultural influences, strong storytelling, and impressive technique. The atmosphere was electric, and the judges faced a tough decision.

## Results



Congratulations to all choreographers and performers—you made House Dance 2025 a resounding success!

## Reflections from the Choreographers

**Sampson:** "What a journey! We're so proud of our team's spirit and dedication—it was a masterpiece in motion."

Esme, Asees, Deishiga, Aurora and Andrea

**Downing:** "From first rehearsal to final bow, we felt like a true team. The passion and house pride made it unforgettable. Un Dos Tres Vamos Downing!"

Tehara, Amaya, Raani and Noelle

**Brown:** "House Dance gave us a space to connect, express ourselves, and have fun. It was a unique and unforgettable experience."

Chelsea, Lexie, Tehzeeb and Shreya

**Parsons:** "Working with such a committed team was amazing. We're proud and grateful for everyone's effort—it made the dance truly special!"

Ain, Dinagee, Sophie and Suvi

MELANIE WILCOCK, DANCE COORDINATOR





# Dance Showcase Lights Up the Cyril Tyler Auditorium

MELANIE WILCOCK, DANCE COORDINATOR



The Cyril Tyler Auditorium came alive on Thursday, 26 June as Perth Modern School and Bob Hawke College united for a vibrant evening of dance. The highly anticipated Dance Showcase featured students from Years 7 to 11, captivating a full house with their passion, creativity and talent.

The program offered a rich variety of dance styles—from the bold beats of hip-hop and the fiery flair of flamenco, to the emotional sweep of lyrical and the high-energy precision of jazz. Students performed both class routines and original choreography, delivering a dynamic and diverse lineup of performances.

A standout moment was the preview of the four House Dance items, giving the audience an exciting glimpse of the upcoming competition on the final day of Term 2.

The evening concluded with a spectacular grand finale, as more than 160 dancers filled the stage for a final bow. The audience's enthusiastic applause was a fitting tribute to the incredible talent and dedication on display.

Congratulations to all the dancers, music students, lighting and sound technicians, ushers, backstage crew, and teachers involved. Your energy, commitment and love of dance made the evening truly unforgettable.





# Year 8 Focus Day: A Celebration of Wellbeing and Connection



Across two days, our Year 8 students took part in a vibrant and uplifting Focus Day, split across two sessions to ensure every student had the chance to fully engage in the experience. The day was designed to promote wellbeing, creativity and connection—offering a refreshing break from the usual school routine.

Students rotated through a wide variety of activities, each aimed at nurturing both body and mind. From the peaceful calm of meditation and yoga to the energetic fun of fit boxing, team sports and cheerleading, there was something to suit every personality and interest.

Creativity and collaboration were at the heart of activities like craft, speed puzzles, board games and card games, while karaoke brought plenty of laughter and a chance for students to shine. A special highlight was the tree planting session, where students contributed to a greener school environment and learned about sustainability.

One of the most popular stations was Good Mood Food, where students made their own bubble tea—a fun and tasty way to explore food preparation and enjoy a refreshing treat.

Focus Day was a wonderful opportunity for students to recharge, connect with peers and explore new interests. The enthusiasm and positivity across both days reflected the strength and spirit of our Year 8 community.





# Year 9 Focus Day: Creativity, Connection and Challenge



**Year 9 students took part in a dynamic and engaging Focus Day on Wednesday, 28 May that was designed to promote wellbeing, teamwork and personal growth through a wide range of hands-on activities.**

The day was packed with opportunities to explore new interests and build connections. Students tested their problem-solving skills in the Escape Room Challenge, worked on self-awareness and relaxation through sound healing, and expressed their creativity in tote bag art and Mindful Gem Art.

Physical wellbeing was front and centre in sessions like MMA/Self Defence, team sports, and Mood Food, where students learned to prepare and enjoy bubble tea. For those who love a bit of friendly competition or quiet concentration, LEGO® building, board games and card games offered the perfect outlet.

And of course, karaoke brought plenty of fun and laughter, with students cheering each other on and enjoying the chance to perform in a supportive environment.

Focus Day was a fantastic opportunity for students to step outside their usual routines, try something new, and strengthen their sense of community. The energy and enthusiasm throughout the day were a testament to the creativity and spirit of our Year 9 cohort.





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Linda Black at her Welcome Ceremony as Judge.

### Linda Black: Judge of the District Court

**Modernian Linda Black (1983–1987) was appointed Judge of the District Court following more than 25 years as a top lawyer in the criminal courts. Her appointment to the District Court took effect from August 1, 2022.**

Linda was a State Prosecutor at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for almost a decade before returning to private practice to specialise in criminal, disciplinary, regulatory and human rights law. She worked as a lawyer for more than two decades with most of that time in the criminal courts defending and prosecuting some of WA's highest profile and complex matters.

Before her appointment as a judge, Ms Black was one of the State's leading barristers and a specialist jury trial advocate. She is an accredited advocacy teacher, one of two founding directors of Murray Chambers Perth and a former President of the Criminal Lawyers Association of WA.

Linda Black at Government House being sworn in by WA Governor and fellow Modernian His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM.



## VALE CLIVE KENDRICK



Clive Kendrick when at Perth Modern School and in later years.

### Clive Kendrick: Former Senior Master of Music

**It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Clive Kendrick, a remarkable educator and mentor whose influence shaped the lives of so many at Perth Modern School.**

Clive became the Senior Master of Music in 1984, having already made an impact the year before in an acting capacity. His leadership saw the expansion of the Specialist Music program, increasing student intake and introducing a structured three-cycle program of camps, tours and local study years.

One of his most significant contributions was incorporating the Kodály Method into music instruction at Mod, recognising the voice as a powerful tool for musical literacy and collaboration. His dedication to choral excellence enriched the school's music program, fostering an environment where students thrived in their musical development.

Beyond his administrative and educational innovations, Clive was a guiding force for many young musicians, offering support and mentorship that extended far beyond the classroom. His legacy lives on in the hearts and talents of those who had the privilege of learning under his leadership.

Our deepest condolences to Mrs Kendrick and the family. Clive's passing is a profound loss, and his influence will never be forgotten.

Clive Kendrick with the Year 12 Music class in 1984.







# John Stone: Former senator and Secretary of the Federal Treasury dies aged 96

## JOHN OWEN STONE AO

PMS student 1941–1945

**John Stone, an influential public servant, senator and advocate for free-market policies and smaller government, died recently at his Sydney home.**

The exact cause was not immediately disclosed, but the 96-year-old had been diagnosed in recent years with leukaemia.

Secretary of the Federal Treasury from 1979 to 1984, Mr Stone emerged as one of the most outspoken and controversial figures in Australian public life and a hero to political conservatives.

He was so influential in the Fraser Coalition Government, and devised its unpopular “fight inflation first” strategy, that journalist Paul Kelly described him as one of the two men who ran the nation. The other was Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser.

Labor treasurer Paul Keating refused to fire him when the Labor Party was elected in 1983, fearful the loss of the senior economic bureaucrat would damage the new government’s credibility.

After famously opposing Mr Keating’s decision to float the dollar that year, he left government and supported a campaign by the Queensland National Party to elect Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen leader of the Federal Coalition.

While the push quickly failed, Mr Stone was elected a Nationals senator for Queensland in 1987, the first and only Federal department head to enter Parliament.

He was appointed shadow finance minister, a position he used to defeat plans by the Hawke Labor government to introduce a national identity card.

As a senator, he mounted arguments that became accepted by both sides of politics and pre-empted the major policy reforms of the Hawke, Keating and Howard governments.

He complained Australia’s economy was inefficient. Business costs needed to be reduced, he said, tariffs cut, government businesses sold, the workplace deregulated and more competition introduced into shipping.

An attempt in 1990 to switch to the House of Representatives failed. He spent the rest of his life promoting his beliefs through speeches and articles. In 1992 he founded the Samuel Griffiths Society, a conservative group that continues to oppose what it regards as judicial activism.

In between the Treasury and Senate, he co-founded the H. R. Nicholls Society, a group that became the intellectual home of industrial relations deregulation.

“John was perhaps our most prominent contrarian: someone who exposed the orthodoxies of the day to withering and fearless scrutiny, saying what he believed needed to be said but that almost no one else would,” wrote former Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who hired one of his sons, Andrew, as an economic adviser.

### Forceful debater

Living in Sydney’s lower north shore, Mr Stone attended a regular lunch hosted by Greg Lindsay, the founder of the Centre for Independent Studies free-market think tank. At his last appearance, in April, he appeared weak but alert.

He was a forceful debater with a soft side who would sometimes contact opponents and apologise for hurting their feelings.

Born to a West Australian wheat farmer from the town of Korbel, he went to Perth Modern School and the University of Western Australia, where he graduated with first class honours in mathematical physics.

Attending Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship, he switched to economics. He joined the Treasury in 1954 and became deputy secretary in 1971. Over the following years he saw the devastating political consequences for the Whitlam Labor government from its inability to control inflation, an experience that contributed to his fiscal conservatism.



FROM LEFT: Mr John Stone, Mrs Joy Miller and Mr John Wheeldon, at a Perth Modern School reunion. GREG WOOD, ‘THE WEST AUSTRALIAN’

*“Whatever your view of John Stone’s legacy, there’s little doubt that modern Australia would benefit from a few more like him: clear in purpose, anchored in conviction, and unafraid to challenge consensus when it counted,” Mr Lindsay said.*

John is survived by five children. His wife of 70 years, biologist Nancy Enid Stone, died of pancreatic cancer in 2023.

**AARON PATRICK  
THE NIGHTLY**



# Winter Sport Lightning Carnivals

MARK MUIR, HEAD OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION



**Lightning Carnivals are all about getting involved and embracing the spirit of friendly competition with other local schools across netball, hockey, volleyball, soccer, AFL and basketball.**

While many teams celebrated impressive results, the true highlight was the enthusiasm and camaraderie shown by all participants. Every team enjoyed a fantastic day connecting with peers in a fun, inclusive, and supportive atmosphere.

A huge congratulations to all students for the outstanding way they represented our school—including those who stepped up as coaches and officials. Your teamwork, sportsmanship and leadership made us proud!





# Turbo-Charged Triumph: Perth Mod excels in Cross Country Championships



In Week 5 of Term 2, Perth Modern School made a powerful impression at the 2025 School Sport WA Cross Country Championships. With a record-breaking 200 per cent increase in participation, an energetic team of 70 runners surged into Yokine Regional Open Space, ready to test their limits.

The results were nothing short of outstanding. The boys' relay team secured an impressive fifth place finish, while Drew Stanborough placed ninth in the fiercely competitive Boys 17+ category. A standout performance came from Year 9 student Matthew McNally, who claimed First Place in the Boys 14 Years event—outpacing more than 200 competitors.

With such incredible enthusiasm and achievement, we're already looking forward to an even bigger and bolder team in 2026. Until then—happy running!

**LAURA BALLINTIJIN AND BOB HAN-BUSI, YEAR 10**



LEFT: Boys 14 Years event winner Matthew McNally.  
RIGHT: Drew Stanborough

BELOW CENTRE: Sharvi Kandhare, Lily Nakaseko and Olivia Coulson.  
BELOW RIGHT: Arthur Redfern, Phong Nguy and Harry Sujivan.





# Visual Arts Exhibition: Curiosity, Commitment and Courage

MEISHA RAYNES AND KATIE CHIN, VISUAL ARTS TEACHERS



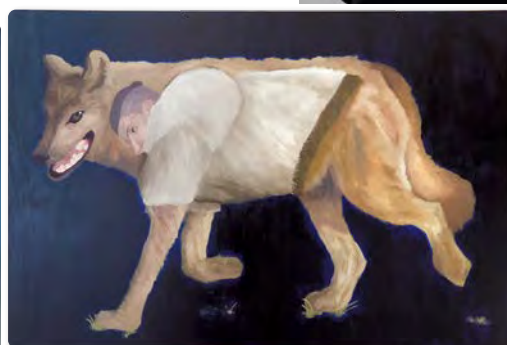
The Mills Building gallery spaces were no longer just walls and windows—they became portals into the minds of young artists, transformed in a burst of colour, texture and emotion. Each artwork told a story, whispered a secret, or shouted a truth, inviting viewers to step into the world of our students and see through their eyes.

In Week 5 of Term 2, we welcomed families, friends, students and staff to an evening that celebrated not just artistic achievement, but the spirit behind it. The gallery opening was filled with warmth and wonder as guests explored the diverse works created during the first half of the year.

From the vibrant pieces born in Art Club and the Rottneft Enrichment Camp to the beautifully constructed tables by our Year 10 Materials Design Technologies students, the exhibition was a testament to the imagination and dedication of our Years 7–12 cohort. The senior students, in particular, offered deeply personal works—reflections of private thoughts, social commentary and artistic exploration.

Their journey has been marked by curiosity, commitment and courage. These are not just words—they are the forces that shaped each brushstroke, each design, each decision to share something real.

Thank you to everyone who came to support and celebrate our young artists and designers. We can't wait to see what stories they'll tell next.









# Seasons, Sculptures and Self-Portraits: Art in Motion



## Mural magic at Studio 64: Continuing our creative journey

MEISHA RAYNES, VISUAL ARTS TEACHER

During Term 2 our talented group of Years 8, 9 and 10 students continued their work on the community mural at Studio 64 in South Perth. This stage of the mural explored Makuru and Djilba, two Noongar seasons that mark a time of change, cooler weather and renewal in the natural world.

Our students researched local flora, fauna and prehistoric creatures, thoughtfully blending these elements into their designs.

Using spray paint, acrylics and paint markers, they layered colour and texture to bring their ideas to life and create a striking and meaningful artwork for the children at Studio 64 to enjoy.

Students involved were Liliana Baldwin, Kaylee Chen, Amadi Dissanayake, Zoe Edwards, Mia-Maria Gstaettner, Elena Harrison, Jia Maske, Aurora Pontre-Gibson, Chloe Ren, Arya Sims, Misri Umaretiya, Methaya Weerasinghe, Jiaxin Xue, Rose Zhang and Lucy Zhou.



## Lester Prize Youth Awards spotlight: Qiyan Zhang

Qiyan Zhang in Year 10 was amongst 300 finalists in this year's Lester Prize Youth Awards for her self-portrait titled *Teatime*.

*"This portrait explores my own identity. Tea is a traditional Chinese drink, however, was later traded as an Orientalist commodity and as a result lost much of its culture and traditions along the path—eventually becoming a Western icon."*

The Lester Prize for Portraiture's Youth Awards exhibition ran from Friday, 2 May to Sunday, 20 July in the Old Gaol building at the WA Museum Boola Bardip.

Qiyan Zhang, *Teatime*, oil and acrylic on board, 102 x 72 cm.







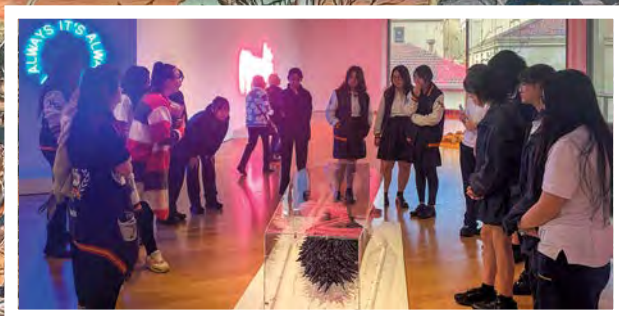
## The West Australian Pulse @ AGWA

KATIE CHIN, VISUAL ARTS TEACHER

**Year 11 and 12 Visual Arts students were treated to a free guided tour and Visual Art Analysis workshop this term, thanks to our 2023 Pulse People's Choice Winner and Modernian Aaron Yong.**

Guides led us through some of the highlights of *The West Australian Pulse* exhibition, featuring WA's talented young artists, which are celebrated in this yearly showcase. It was an inspiring and insightful look at the world through the minds of these talented young artists, as our senior school Visual Arts students begin brainstorming for their second artwork for the year.

One particularly impressive large scale collaborative artwork commissioned by AGWA, residing in the foyer of the art gallery, was a great starting point of the analysis workshop. The expansive banner created by both Indonesian and Australian First Nations artists, vividly expressed the power of solidarity, education, cultural traditions and collective action to heal and resist systemic injustices across Indonesia and Western Australia.



## Art Club: Mini food sculptures inspired by Claes Oldenburg

MEISHA RAYNES, VISUAL ARTS TEACHER

**This term in Art Club, students created mini food sculptures inspired by the playful pop art of Claes Oldenburg.**

Working with air-dry clay, they carefully shaped a variety of food treats, then used acrylic paint to add colour and detail. To give their sculptures a finished look, many students applied a resin coating for added shine and strength.

It was great to see students experiment with these materials while developing their skills in small-scale sculpture. The final pieces are creative, fun and full of character.





# Healthy Body, Healthy Mind: Health and Physical Education News



## ← Perth Modern girls qualify for the SSWA Basketball Finals

**Our Year 11 and 12 girls' basketball team performed brilliantly at the SSWA Senior Interschool Basketball competition held on May 15.**

Representing Year 11 were Bethan Lockwood-Jones, Jasmine Whiteley and Zara Nguyen. From Year 12, Fearne Van Beek, Amber Marsh and Anneke Dekkers brought experience and leadership to the court. Together, this talented group played with determination, skill and teamwork, securing their place in the finals.

Their success reflects not only their athletic ability but also their commitment to training and representing the school with pride.

Fearne Van Beek, Bethan Lockwood-Jones, Jasmine Whiteley, Zara Nguyen, Amber Marsh and Anneke Dekkers.



## Volleyball triumph for Perth Modern School

**Perth Modern School celebrated a remarkable day on the volleyball court recently, with outstanding performances across multiple divisions.**

The school's teams demonstrated exceptional skill, determination, and teamwork, securing victories in the following categories:

- A Division Boys
- B Division Girls
- C Division Boys
- C Division Girls.

These wins are a testament to the dedication and sportsmanship of all our players. Congratulations to everyone involved for representing the school with pride and excellence.

Years 11 and 12 A Division Volleyball Team.



FROM TOP: Ethan Chen; Mina Kim and Olivia Kim; Tara Vulin and Yao Yao Du and Toby Nham and Erik Kao.





## Year 12 Netball Team heads to Finals after undefeated run

Perth Modern School is thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievement of our Year 12 netball team, who have gone undefeated throughout the School Sport WA (SSWA) competition. Their consistent performance, strategic play, and unwavering determination have earned them a well-deserved spot at the Finals Carnival, taking place on August 6.

This remarkable accomplishment reflects the team's dedication, resilience and strong sense of unity. Each player has contributed to a season marked by skilful execution and true sportsmanship, making the entire school community proud.

Other Perth Modern School teams also entered the competition and played admirably and with gusto.

ABOVE LEFT: The Year 12 Netball Team.



## Leading through grit: Harrison captains WA to national volleyball success

Perth Modern School is proud to celebrate the remarkable achievement of Year 12 student Harrison Sartori, who recently represented Western Australia as Captain of the WA Under 19 Men's Indoor Volleyball Team at the Australian Junior National Indoor Volleyball Championships, held in Adelaide this July.

Harrison's leadership on and off the court played a pivotal role in guiding his team to an impressive finish, securing the Bronze Medal against some of the nation's top young talent. His ability to inspire and unite his teammates under pressure was a standout feature of the tournament, earning praise from coaches and spectators alike.

Balancing the demands of Year 12 studies with elite-level sport is no small feat, and Harrison's commitment, discipline and sportsmanship exemplify the values Perth Modern School strives to instil in its students. His performance on the national stage not only reflects his personal dedication but also highlights the strength of Western Australia's youth sporting programs.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Harrison for this outstanding accomplishment. His success is a source of pride for both the school and the wider WA community, and we look forward to seeing where his talent and leadership take him next.

Harrison Sartori in action.





## Skating to victory: Marcel leads WA to ice hockey glory

**We're delighted to celebrate an incredible achievement by one of our own—Marcel Williams, Year 9, has made waves on the national stage as Alternate Captain of the WA Under 15 Ice Hockey State Team!**

During the recent school holidays, Marcel and his teammates competed in the prestigious 2025 U15 Kurt Defris National Ice Hockey Championships. Facing off against the best young talent from across the country, the WA team delivered a stellar performance and skated away with the Gold medal!

Marcel's selection as Alternate Captain reflects his leadership, commitment and skill—both on and off the ice. His ability to support and motivate his team played a key role in their success, and his dedication to the sport is truly inspiring.



## Campfire cooking ignites skills and spirit in Year 10 Outdoor Education

**There's nothing quite like the crackle of a campfire to warm up a chilly morning—and our Year 10 Outdoor Education students embraced the experience with enthusiasm and appetite.**

As part of their outdoor skills program, students gathered around the fire to learn the art of campfire cooking. From preparing ingredients to managing heat and timing, they discovered the practical techniques needed to cook safely and effectively in the bush. Whether flipping damper over hot coals or sizzling sausages on a grill, each student had the chance to get hands-on and contribute to the morning feast.

But the activity was about more than just food. Campfire cooking fostered teamwork, problem-solving and resilience—as students worked together to overcome challenges like wind, smoke and uneven flames. It also offered a moment to slow down, connect with nature, and appreciate the simple joy of sharing a meal outdoors.

The morning wrapped up with full bellies, smoky smiles, and a renewed sense of confidence in their outdoor abilities. A fantastic way to start the day—and a memorable highlight in their Outdoor Education journey.







## Kaarta Koomba Walk on Country: Discovering bush treasures

LISA TAYLOR, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

**Year 9 Outdoor Education students embarked on a beautiful bushwalk that combined adventure with cultural learning. Surrounded by the natural beauty of the Australian landscape, students explored the rich tapestry of bush treasures hidden in plain sight.**

Guided by knowledgeable instructors, the group learned about native plants and their traditional uses—from natural remedies to tools and food sources. The walk offered insights into how Indigenous Australians have lived in harmony with the land for tens of thousands of years, using its resources sustainably and respectfully.

Students were fascinated by the practical knowledge shared, including how certain plants can soothe ailments, provide nourishment or serve as materials for everyday life. The experience deepened their appreciation for the environment and the wisdom embedded in Indigenous culture.

It was a memorable afternoon of discovery, connection, and learning—one that highlighted the importance of understanding and respecting the land we walk on.







## Navigating to victory: Outstanding results at the State Orienteering Championships

LISA TAYLOR, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

**Our Year 10 Outdoor Education students, along with Year 7 student Quinn Lommers, showcased incredible skill and determination at the State Orienteering Championships held in Mundaring.**

With compasses in hand and strategies in mind, students plotted their routes through the bush, planned their attacks, and navigated the terrain with precision—all while embracing the challenges of the great outdoors. Their efforts paid off in spectacular fashion, bringing home a collection of well-deserved medals.

**Gold in the 16 and Over Division**

- Laura Ballantyne and Maya Vu
- Quinn Lommers and Senhas Palliyaguruge

**Silver in the 16 and Over Division**

- Bob Han-Busi and Yongle (Tim) Shi

**Silver in the 15 and Under Division**

- Matthew Wang and Nathaniel Tan

It was a day filled with achievement, camaraderie and connection to nature. The beautiful surroundings of Mundaring provided the perfect backdrop for students to test their skills, build resilience, and enjoy the many benefits of being active in the bush.



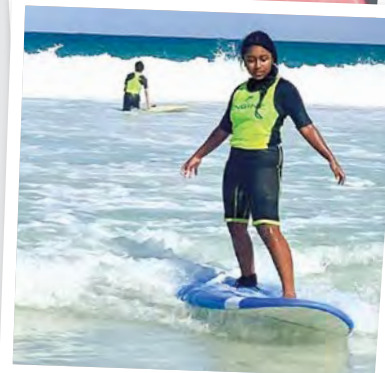
## Year 10 Aquatic Recreation: Surf's up at Trigg!

**In Term 2, our Year 10 Aquatic Recreation students swapped classroom walls for crashing waves, kicking off their Mondays with a surfing program at Trigg Beach.**

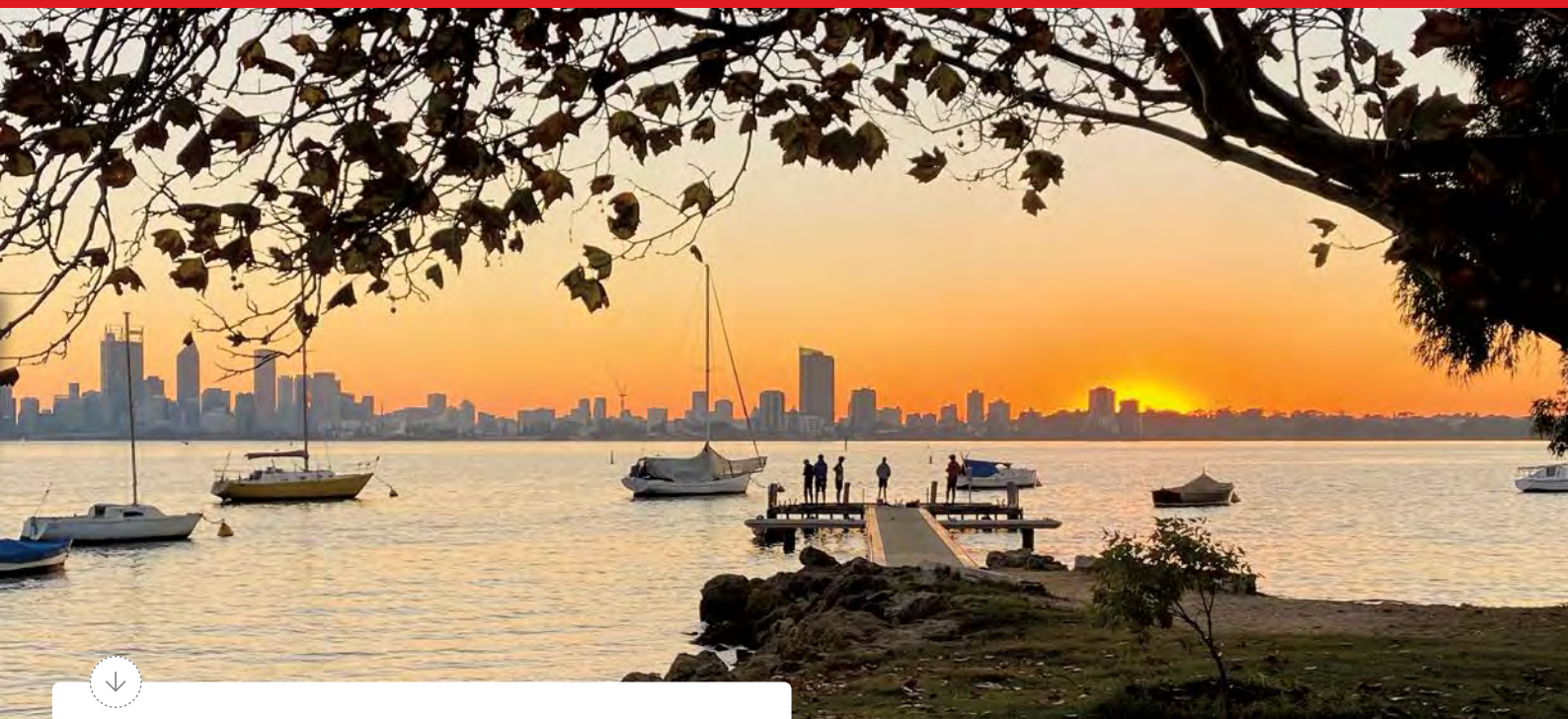
Despite the early starts, students have embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, steadily building their surfing skills under the guidance of experienced instructors. From mastering the basics of paddling and popping up, to navigating the surf with confidence, each session has brought new progress and plenty of smiles.

Beyond the thrill of riding waves, students have also gained valuable knowledge in surf safety and ocean awareness—essential skills for anyone spending time in the water. And with the sun rising over the Indian Ocean, there's no better way to start the week than with salt in your hair and sand between your toes.

It's been a fantastic example of active, hands-on learning, combining physical activity and skill development with a healthy dose of fun. Well done to all our Year 10 surfers!







## Waves, wilderness, and wonder: Year 10 Outdoor Ed Camp delivers unforgettable adventure

LISA TAYLOR, SARAH LIGHTFOOT, JASMINE ZHOU AND AMBER PHUA

**At the end of Term 2, Year 10 students from Outdoor Education and Aquatic Recreation came together for a thrilling three-day, two-night camp that blended surf, sand and scenic exploration into one unforgettable experience.**

The adventure kicked off with an energetic introduction to surfing at Trigg Beach, where students tested their balance and braved the waves. From there, the group headed north to Lancelin, where the towering sand dunes became the next challenge. Armed with cardboard boxes, students attempted to slide down the dunes—with mixed success—but the breathtaking views made every tumble worthwhile.

Camping in tents and cooking dinner on Trangias added a layer of independence and teamwork to the experience. Students had planned their meals back at school, and their culinary efforts paid off with delicious dinners enjoyed under the stars, accompanied by the soothing sound of the ocean.

Day two began with an early surf session at Back Beach, Lancelin, where many students proudly stood upright on their boards, riding the waves with growing confidence. Surfing quickly became a camp favourite, sparking excitement and laughter across the group.

The adventure continued with a kayaking expedition along Moore River. The warm waters invited students to paddle leisurely, with a spontaneous game of cat-and-mouse adding a playful twist to the journey. The final day brought a touch of wildlife and wonder, with koala sightings and a fascinating tour of Crystal Cave in Yanchep.

This camp was more than just an outdoor escape, it was a chance to build friendships, embrace challenges and create lasting memories. From surfing to sand dunes, kayaking to cave tours, the Year 10 Outdoor Education and Aquatic Recreation camp was a celebration of nature, resilience, and camaraderie.





# Sphinx Society Membership

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO OBTAINED SPHINX SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP IN SEMESTER 1, 2025.

## YEAR 10

Jinli Aird	Liam Fok Lok	Mark Lee	Ryan Roshan	Samanyu Vallabhaneni
Ashwath Arunkumar	Natasha Foo	Yongxin Lee	Vidaa Sandeep	Vrindaa Varma
Dharani Attapaththu Arachchige	Nimar Gill	Le Chi Leong	Supreet Sandhu	Danica Vo
Diobett Bangayan	Leon Gonzalez	Isabelle Lim	Diya Sanjay	Matthew Wang
Tegan Barton	Zara Hadingham	Sophie Litic	Mia Saranovic	Jocelyn Wong
Jovianne Bong	Alysha Han	Dinsi Liyanage	Grace Sharma	Chelsea Wu
Allie Chan	Bob Han-Busi	Maxine Mah	Arya Sims	Taj Wynne
Ethan Cheah	Angela Huang	Sushree Mangla	Sasha Singam	Bryan Xia
Hannah Chen	Andy Huynh	Fergus Mansell	Maira Singh	Dongnan Xiao
Yifei Chen	Brijesh Kangeshwaran	Akshayan Mukunthan	Alayna Sirapurna	Yan Xie
Metta Chua	Mudith Kariyawasam	Om Patel	Jerome Tan	Olivia Ye
Lik Sing Chung	Lishaanth Karthikeyan	Amber Phua	Rafael Tan	Maduricaa Yohanathan
Raadin Ebadi	Jacinta Kearney	Amilia Presley	Renee Tan	Charlie Yooh
Zoe Edwards	Saskia Kennea	Auroni Rahman	Vanessa Ting	Kylie Zhang
Lucia Everitt	Rhea Kewalram	Shamaita Ray	Celeste Toh	Tracey Zhang
Pippi Fang	Sofia Kim	Chloe Ren	Dhanvin Trakroo	Jiashi Zhou
Zoya Fatima	Isaac Lee	Gagan Gupta Rohit	Misri Umaretiya	Lucy Zhou

## YEAR 11

Apoorav Aren	Devan Finn	Muhammad Kusumo	Rania Phillips	Stephanie White
Lucas Atkinson	Pei En Gan	Zachary Lam	Luna Prinza	Seneja Willamune
Shea Bartusch	Pushp Gupta	Kevin Le	Arun Rajayogan	Kevin Xu
Aleena Binu Nair	Jacob Heath	Antonina Levichkina	Aditi Rajput	Boran Yang
Claire Champion	Kieran Ho	Andy Lok	Millie Riadi	Kevin Yang
Elaine Chan	Raymond Hopkins	Kavinima Mallawa Thantrige	Adele Stegink	Ethan Yap
Zavie Cheng	Zixuan Hu	Saiish Manjire	Julianne Tan	Luvenia Yeo
Kenneth Cheong	Siheng Huang	Nivethiha Manoharan	Yiliu Tang	Caiyan Yu
Dhairya Chhajer	Rohan Jayaram	Connor McFerran	Aaron Thow	Lisa Yu
Dakota Cole	Christina Jerry	Tejas Narayan	Dharmik Thummala	Joey Yuan
Parmis Delavarpour	Ishaan Kanodia	Johann Ngo	Izabel Tolhurst	Kiefer Yuen
Hantang Dong	Mevindu Karunaratne	Rayden Oliveira	Ky-An Tran	Zihan Zhang
Grace Dowley	Ekaterina Khakimullina	Astha Patel	Ethan Trinh	Yuening Zhou
Isla Durbin	Amethyst Kong	Ajit Penikalapati	Sreenidhi Vaidhyathan	

## YEAR 12

Mahek Aribenchi	Harrison Churchill	Dheeraj Chander Karthikeyan	Bailey Paton	Fearne Van Beek
Ishika Balram	Alex Crosbie	Suhi Kaur	Avishi Prasad	Ava van Dommelen
Trung Thanh Bui	Rijuta Das	Hayden Kelly	Ranjeev Ratheesh Nambiar	Shi Yin Wee
Griffith Carey-Riley	Shreyas Gupta	Chanithma Kudabalage Dona	Harrison Sartori	Liam Welfare
Kshithij Chandrashekar	Charlotte Hoy	Gloria Limas	Samantha See	Matthew Wong
Jaylene Chang	Ran Ji	Ruofan Lin	Rhea Sharma	Jasmine Wu
Teerth Chauhan	Jingnan Jiang	Vivienne Lo	Kalabhan Shiyamasuntharan	Thu Thu Zin
Jacky Che	Aakash Jois	Abbey Luu	Skyla Susanto	
Hannah Chen	Lodinu Kalugalage	Kararr Majri	Marc Tan	



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