



# 'Empowering Hearts'

## Our community's impactful charity event

**Community Day 2024, held on the last day of Term 1, was a fantastic success, raising around \$15,000 for Fostering Hope Australia.**

Students in Years 8, 10 and 12 advocacies were tasked with creating a 'stall'—either food-based or activity-based—that would tempt other students to spend their 'Community Dollars'.

From a thrift shop selling clothes, to basketball shootouts, guessing baby photos, ping pong, sponge the teacher, balloon animals, guess the number, hair colouring and fortune telling, there was an activity for everyone to enjoy.

The always popular sausage sizzle was a smash hit, with a large line forming to purchase a delicious sausage in a bun made by Student Councillors.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone in our community who participated in our annual Community Day charity event. Your contributions, whether

through time, donations, or the impressive number of Community Dollars, have made a significant impact.

These proceeds will directly benefit Fostering Hope Australia, a registered charity that supports children and young people in care. It warms our hearts to witness our community rallying together to uplift and support others. Thank you for being part of this meaningful endeavour!

**We were fortunate to have donors give prizes for our Community Dollar raffle.**

**Thank you to:**  
Perth Social Sports  
Coates Family – Eyes West Bunbury  
Campion Book Sellers  
Family of Kye Ng.

See more on pages 10 and 11...



*In this issue*



PAGE 7  
NASA Robotics  
Engineers visit



PAGES 8–9  
Year 12 School Ball:  
An Enchanted  
Evening



PAGES 32–33  
The Tempest  
performed under  
the fig tree



## From the Principal

Perth Modern School stands out as a premier institution in public education in Western Australia, upholding exceptional standards year after year. Our school's dedication to outstanding teaching and learning practices was recently acknowledged, leading to an invitation to participate in the Quality Teaching Strategy. Through this program, our educators at Perth Modern School will leverage their expertise to support schools and teachers state-wide. This recognition of our school's excellence underscores our unwavering commitment to enhancing education for all students in Western Australia.

As we continue the 2024 school year, there is a real sense of enthusiasm and optimism at Perth Modern School. Renowned as the preferred choice for both educators and students, our institution has commenced the term with a diverse range of engaging activities and opportunities, with students excelling in their academic pursuits. The exceptional support from parents has been truly remarkable, highlighting their understanding of the significance of their children's involvement in a myriad of extracurricular activities. These experiences collectively contribute to our students crafting a narrative of achievement and confidence, equipping them to enter the world as healthy individuals and the future leaders of tomorrow.

I acknowledge and congratulate the following students for their achievements in Term 1:

- In the **MAWA Have Sum Fun** competition, **Sathvik Chirlamcherla, Ethan Yang, Aadi Arora, Ashvin Balavignan, Jayden Lee** and **Daryl Kuh** achieved First Place in the Year 7 division; **Bryan Xia, Mark Lee, Tiger Varol, Pushp Gupta, Adarsh Natarajan** and **Ethan Yap** achieved First Place in the Years 9 and 10 division.
- In the **Australian Maths Olympiad**, **Ethan Yap** and **Joel Bariss** in Year 12 won Gold medals, **Rayden Oliveiro** in Year 10 and **Atharva Sathe** in Year 12 won Silver, **Jayden Yip** in Year 10 won Bronze and **Beatrice Chong** in Year 11 received an Honourable Mention.
- The team featuring **Euan Strachan** in Year 11, **Paul Hodges** and **Malachi Knight** in Year 10, and **Kingsley Wong, Sean Chan** and **Oliver Liu** in Year 8 won the Engineering Excellence Award in the **First Robotics Competition** in Sydney.
- **Abigail Koh** in Year 7 and **Jennifer Chen** in Year 9 have achieved the **Associate Diploma of Performance in Piano**.

- **Isabelle Ho** in Year 8 has achieved the **AMEB Silver Award**.
- **Luvania Yeo** in Year 10 has been awarded the **Australian Strings Association WA John Dean Award**.
- **Jackson Ji** and **Amani Kariuki** in Year 12 were selected for the **National Schools' Constitutional Convention** held in Canberra.
- **Abhigyan Ghosal** in Year 12 has been awarded the **Queen's Scout** by Scouts Australia.
- **Mahek Aribenchi** in Year 11 won her District Final of the **Lions Youth of the Year Award**.
- **Spandan Kankumbar** in Year 12 achieved second place in the **Young Doctors Essay** competition.
- **Amelie Qiao** in Year 11 was selected as a finalist in the **2024 Youth Lester Portrait Prize**.
- **Sachi Elliott, Millani Booth, Annika Carleton** and **Aaron Yong** from the Class of 2023 had their artworks selected for exhibition in **The West Australian Pulse**.

- **Thomas Cooper** in Year 8 and **Xavier Bates** from the Class of 2023 won the final race of the **WA Etchell States** competition.
- **Mia-Maria Gstaettner** in Year 7 won six gold at the **Aqua Technics Junior State Swimming Championships**.
- **Tobi Zhou** in Year 9 is the national champion in cycling's **U15 Men's 500m Time Trial**.
- **Rosanne Arul Raja, Ishika Balram, Jessica Wilson** and **Jaun Yum; Rene Catovic, Oliver Nguyen, Joshua Vong** and **Chudy Isiendu; and Keefen Wilson, Princeton Chueng, Arharaj Chudasama** and **Kiran Finn** were runners-up in their respective grand finals of the **Secondary Schools Tennis Championships**.
- **Jaun Yum** in Year 12 was selected to represent WA in the **Pizzey Tennis Cup**.
- **Nishan Alagoda** in Year 12 was named MVP in the Grand Final and a member of the All-Stars team in the **National Club Futsal Championship**. He has also recently represented WA in futsal.

### VALE DON TYLER

The Perth Modern School mourns the loss of Modernian Don Tyler. A true advocate for the school and its students, Don's generosity extended to various school initiatives and he was a major donor to the Tyler McCusker Sports Centre, the Cyril Tyler Auditorium and the Sphinx Foundation.

In his later years, Don enjoyed many visits to the school and loved chatting to students. Don was one of life's gentlemen who always sought to 'lift people up.'



Don Tyler (right) with Modernian and former Prime Minister Bob Hawke at the School's Centenary in 2011.

Our deepest condolences to Don's family and friends. A more detailed obituary for Don will feature in the July newsletter.

# Interview with the Minister of Education Dr Tony Buti MLA

THANOS LIMNIOS, YEAR 10

## The recent ATAR bonus changes and the priorities of the education system in WA

Due to the proposed changes to the ATAR bonus structure by TISC, Erik Kao and I wrote to the Hon Tony Buti, Minister of Education, to request a hearing. We wanted to understand the Minister's position on this important issue and were impressed by his honest and direct answers, articulating dissatisfaction with the recent suggested alterations to the ATAR bonus system and the decision-making process behind it.

Below are extracts of the Questions and Answers session we undertook with the Minister:

### ATAR Boost subjects and the impact of the changes to the workforce of tomorrow

**Q:** The removal of the ATAR bonus points system for Languages and Maths Specialist will mean schools with lower number of students in these classes would probably not have a large enough class to be able to offer these subjects at all. What is your perspective on this?

**DR BUTI:** 'I was disappointed with the decision by TISC to remove the bonus. They made the argument that this is done on equity grounds because many schools don't have the same resources. At some schools where there would only be a few students, or there would be some unsure that would give it a go because of the bonus, they may not take it, so there will be even less opportunity for these kids to undertake those languages and the maths [attracting the bonus].'

**Q:** Should such important decisions that impact the skillset of the future workforce be in the hands of organisations such as TISC or be determined by the department of education?

**DR BUTI:** 'TISC is an independent organisation owned by the universities. TISC assists the universities in developing a method of ranking students for selection of tertiary education. The universities are independent entities, so it wouldn't be possible for us to determine these outcomes. Maybe government should have a greater say, maybe we should be involved in it somehow. We should have a seat at the table.'

**Q:** Consultation on forthcoming changes is said to involve 'TISC stakeholders', yet clarity is lacking regarding who these stakeholders are and how the consultation process will unfold. How can students be more actively engaged in this decision-making process?

**DR BUTI:** 'You can write to TISC or the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA, a petition has already taken place. There is an opportunity for you to make representation to TISC, I have made it quite clear to them that they need to consult with the students.'



Thanos Limnios, Minister for Education Dr Tony Buti and Erik Kao.

### The education system in WA

**Q:** According to the Australian Council for Education Research, just over half of our students achieved the National Proficient Standard in key subjects last year. As Minister of Education, what is your vision for enhancing students' educational performance, and what actions are you taking to effectuate this vision?

**DR BUTI:** 'My philosophy is for every student to reach their full potential capacity, whatever that may be. To do that we are going back to primary school, and we have introduced a new phonics check in Year 1 and we have negotiated a 10-year agreement worth \$1.6 billion with the federal government that will support reforms such as catch up tutoring, ways we can improve student well-being and support to attract and retain the teacher workforce.'

**Q:** Do you believe university education should be more affordable or even free and how can the government ensure the quality of education in WA and across the country?

**DR BUTI:** 'The [Universities] are institutions that are going to carry us for the next 40–50 years economically in civil society. But there needs to be an increase in funding, but not everyone needs to go to university. There needs to be alternative and maybe I think there needs to be a better coordination between TAFE and the Universities.'

**Q:** What would be your recommendations to us as Year 10 students looking to further study, are there specific skills or areas that you recommend?

**DR BUTI:** 'What I would say is two things, try and get as broad an education as possible. So even if you're a math genius, don't do just mathematics but do some humanities as well. And my second piece of advice is to always follow your passion. Find the subject that you like the most.'

Thank you to Dr Buti for taking the time to meet with us.

# Annual House Swimming Carnival: A resounding success!

DYLAN MACDONALD, YEAR 11



In Week 7, our Annual House Swimming Carnival took place, and it was a tremendous success. Students enthusiastically participated, creating an atmosphere of excitement and camaraderie. Let's dive into the highlights of this memorable event...

The carnival kicked off with the freestyle races, drawing particularly strong participation from Year 7 students. As the adrenaline flowed, we transitioned to the butterfly stroke. Simultaneously, the novelty events sprang to life, with students eagerly joining the kickboard and water polo relays.

Throughout the day, a delightful mix of races, relays, and novelty activities unfolded. Our skilled MCs, Mr. Marshall and Ms. Lhota, kept the energy high and the crowd engaged. But the pinnacle awaited us—the student vs. teacher swim relay. Teachers showcased their aquatic prowess, adding an extra layer of excitement to the proceedings.

A round of applause for all the participants! Special recognition goes to the swimmers from Parsons House, who clinched the overall trophy this year. Individual champions and runners-up also deserve commendation for their outstanding performances.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of Mr. Muir and the Health and Physical Education staff, as well as the invaluable assistance of our student volunteers. To everyone involved in making this event a reality, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

## Individual Year Champions

|                   | Female                         | Male                        |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Year 12 Champion  | Sarah Harris (Parsons)         | Marc Dickson (Parsons)      |
| Year 12 Runner Up | Angela Guo (Downing)           | Santi Chua (Parsons)        |
| Year 11 Champion  | Helen McCaul (Parsons)         | Matthew Wong (Parsons)      |
| Year 11 Runner Up | Zoe Selsmark (Sampson)         | Aidan Jang (Downing)        |
| Year 10 Champion  | Sasha Ginige (Sampson)         | Tristin Lin (Sampson)       |
| Year 10 Runner Up | Tara Vulin (Downing)           | Kenneth Cheong (Brown)      |
| Year 9 Champion   | Lily Sell (Downing)            | Sam Vallabhaneni (Sampson)  |
| Year 9 Runner Up  | Arya Sims (Brown)              | Artem Akselrod (Parsons)    |
| Year 8 Champion   | Ella Ward (Downing)            | Jie Wan (Sampson)           |
| Year 8 Runner Up  | Hannah Nguyen (Parsons)        | Olaf Jastalski (Brown)      |
| Year 7 Champion   | Mia-Maria Gstaettner (Sampson) | Ray Shen (Parsons)          |
| Year 7 Runner Up  | Lana Choy (Downing)            | Sergei Chernyshenko (Brown) |

RIGHT: Parsons House Captains Venuja Silva and Loren Wilde with the cup.

BELOW: Principal Mitchell Mackay (left) and Mr Muir (right) with the Year Champions.



|     |         |      |
|-----|---------|------|
| 1st | Parsons | 2420 |
| 2nd | Sampson | 2325 |
| 3rd | Downing | 2142 |
| 4th | Brown   | 1767 |

|     |         |     |
|-----|---------|-----|
| 1st | Downing | 805 |
| 2nd | Brown   | 590 |
| 3rd | Parsons | 555 |
| 4th | Sampson | 395 |

## 2024 Records

Year 7 Sampson Freestyle Relay 2:21.33

Year 7 50m Breaststroke: Mia-Maria Gstaettner

Year 11 50m Breaststroke: Abigail Brown

Year 10 50m Backstroke: Tristan Lin

Year 10 50m Breaststroke: Tristan Lin

Year 10 50m Butterfly: Tristan Lin

Year 10 50m Freestyle: Tristan Lin





# Engineering excellence



Seneja Willamune, Ocean Oakley, Ishika Balram, John Peiris, Santi Chua, Beatrice Chong, Ethan Widjaja and Gnanadeep Kaza.

## Mod's asteroid busters travel across the world

**A team from Perth Modern School has won the 2024 Australian Space Design Competition (ASDC) and will go to the US in July to represent Australia at the international level of the competition.**

The Mod's team design for a fully functional, asteroid repelling space settlement won judges over in the national competition, making Perth Modern School the first WA school and the first public school to take out the gong.

The challenge involved creating a settlement called ATLAS, capable of moving small asteroids while accommodating a population of 9000 people all within a very short time frame.

Teams of up to 12 Year 7 to Year 12 students responded to an engineering Request for Tender (RFT) and design of the futuristic space settlement—spanning areas such as structural engineering, operations and infrastructure, personnel factors, automation, and business development.

### FROM THE POST

Demands of the challenge meant the team spent 27 hours straight on their design and tender, with some students pulling an all-nighter before making their 20-minute pitch to a panel of engineers from the Australian Space Agency, L3Harris, BHP, and Insitu Pacific.

Year 12 student Santi Chua said: 'Throughout the competition we were able to receive valuable feedback from industrial experts such as Boeing, and collaborate with like-minded students across the country.'

Fellow team member Oceana Oakley in Year 10 said: 'As students passionate in STEM, we saw this as an exciting opportunity to apply the various STEM principles learned at school to aerospace, a field that still has so much to be explored.'

Perth Mod Principal Mitchell Mackay said: 'This competition was a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase a range of skills and talents, not only in STEM fields but also in teamwork and collaboration. We are so excited they are the national champions in this hard-fought competition, and we look forward to seeing them shine in the international arena when they compete in the international version.'



## Mod achieves 'Engineering Excellence' Award in First Robotics Competition

**Perth Modern students Euan Strachan in Year 11, Paul Hodges and Malachi Knight in Year 10 and Kingsley Wong, Sean Chan and Oliver Liu in Year 8 competed as part of the Curtin University team 4788 'Can't Control' in the First Robotics competition in Sydney, coming third overall.**

Mentored by Perth Mod alumnus Anna Pederson and Tom Wellman, the team won the Engineering Excellence award for their innovative robot electro-mechanical design and software.

In this national competition, teams of high school students must contend with strict rules and limited time and resources, to build industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game in alliance with other teams, while also fundraising to meet their goals, designing a team 'brand,' and advancing respect and appreciation for STEM within the local community.

Tom Wellman, Euan Strachan, Paul Hodges, Kingsley Wong, Sean Chan, Oliver Liu, Modernian mentor Anna Pederson and Malachi Knight with their third-placed robot, 'Can't Control.'

# Exploring the Artemis Program with Evan Laske



NASA Robotics Engineer Evan Laske generously gave of his time to present to students and was treated like a rock star on his visit to Perth Modern School.



## NASA Robotics Engineer Evan Laske visited Perth Modern School to present on the Artemis Program that he is working on.

The Artemis program is a Moon exploration program that is led by the United States' NASA and was formally established in 2017 via Space Policy Directive 1. The Artemis program is intended to re-establish a human presence on the Moon for the first time since Apollo 17 in 1972. The program's stated long-term goal is to establish a permanent base on the Moon to facilitate human missions to Mars.

Students from Shenton College and John XXIII were also in the audience.

The students were fascinated by Evan's presentation and enthusiastically participated in a Q&A with him.

Also in attendance was Mrs Siriana Nair, Consul-General of the United States of America.

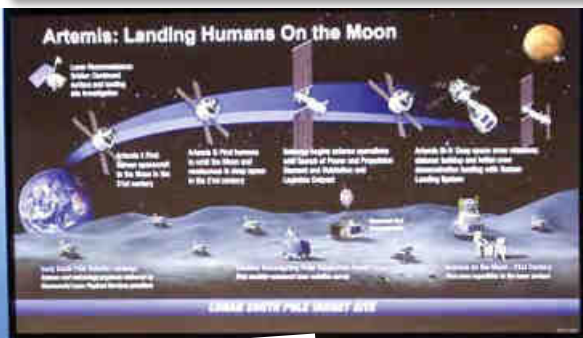
Thank you to the Fogarty Foundation who sponsored Evan's presentation.



The Consul-General of the United States Mrs Siriana Nair with Perth Modern School students.



ABOVE: Shamiata Ray and Anu Sathe were thrilled to get a NASA sticker; and Oliver Liu, Choon Kai Wee, Sean Chan and Kingsley Wong.  
BELOW: Evan Laske signing students' NASA stickers.



Evan Laske is working on the Artemis Program, a NASA program intended to re-establish a human presence on the Moon.

LEFT: Many students took the opportunity to ask Evan a question.



# An Enchanted Evening: Year 12 School Ball

AMANI KARIUKI, ARYA PANDEY AND SHYNA SHAH, YEAR 12



**March 1 marked the crown jewel of the Perth Modern social calendar, the Year 12 Ball.**

After weeks (or months) of anticipation, finally climbing the beautiful spiral staircase at the Ritz Carlton was a memorable event for all. Students arrived dressed to impress, with countless colourful gowns and dashing suits filling the ballroom.

We were all greeted by a grand foyer with multiple backdrops for photo opportunities plus a photo booth, along with welcome drinks overlooking the Swan River.

The dance floor was the highlight, where students and teachers alike enjoyed music and laughter in between the delicious three-course meal. Although *Nutbush City Limits* was unfortunately not on the DJ's playlist, the mix of throwbacks and new hits still left everyone with sore feet on the way back home.

A special thank you to Ms Lhota and the Year 12 Ball Committee for their efforts in organising the Ball and to all the teachers in attendance for making the event a night for the history books!

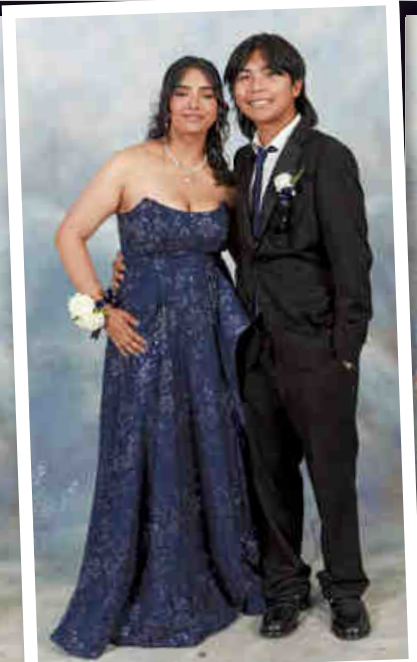
## *2024 Ball Awards*

**Greatest Gown:** *Yilin Chi*

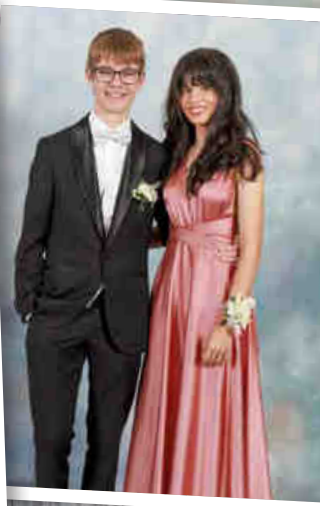
**Suavest Suit:** *Ren Ho*

**Best Dressed Duo:** *Callum Dekkers and Sophie Harris*

**Dapper Dancer:** *Tony Nguyen*







# Community Day: Rallying to support Fostering Hope





# Mod shines in MAWA Maths 'Have Sum Fun' Competition and Australian Maths Olympiad!

Perth Modern School has demonstrated exceptional mathematical prowess in both the MAWA Have Sum Fun competition and the 2024 Australian Maths Olympiad. Let's celebrate their remarkable achievements...

## MAWA Have Sum Fun Competition

- **Years 7 and 8 Division:** Perth Modern secured First Place with an outstanding team effort. Congratulations to Sathvik Chiralamcherla, Ethan Ang, Aadityapal Arora, Ashvin Balavignan, Jayden Lee, and Daryl Kuh!
- **Years 9 and 10 Division:** Our school dominated this category, clinching both First and Second Place. The winning Years 9 and 10 team, comprising Bryan Xia, Mark Lee, Tiger Varol, Pushp Gupta, Adarsh Natarajan and Ethan Yap, achieved a perfect score.

- **Years 11 and 12 Division:** Perth Modern claimed Third Place, showcasing the mathematical prowess of Anoushka Gupta, Ishika Balram, Beatrice Chong, Atharva Sathe, Joel Bariss and Ethan Yap.

A heartfelt thank you to teachers Ms Divya Khetarpal, Mr Phil Young and Mr Khuan Chua for their guidance and support during these intense competitions.



Years 7 and 8 First prize team: Sathvik Chiralamcherla, Ethan Ang, Ashvin Balavignan, Jayden Lee, Daryl Kuh and Aadityapal Arora.



Years 9 and 10 First Prize team: Adarsh Natarajan, Pushp Gupta, Bryan Xia, Mark Lee, Tiger Varol and Ethan Yap with Mr Phil Young.



Years 9 and 10 Second Prize team: Rayden Oliveiro, Matthew Wang, Angela Huang, Cassie Lee, Jayden Yip and Catherine Yu with Mr Phil Young.



Years 11 and 12 team: Ms Divya Khetarpal with Ethan Yap, Atharva Sathe, Joel Bariss (at back), Anoushka Gupta, Beatrice Chong, Ishika Balram and Mr Mark White.

## Australian Maths Olympiad

In the prestigious 2024 Australian Maths Olympiad, Perth Modern students truly shone. Only 100 students across Australia receive invitations to participate in this highly regarded event, and our school made a significant impact:

- Gold Medallists: Ethan Yap and Joel Bariss (Year 12)
- Silver Medallists: Rayden Oliveiro (Year 10) and Atharva Sathe (Year 12)
- Bronze Medallist: Jayden Yip (Year 10)
- Honourable Mention: Beatrice Chong (Year 11).

Congratulations to all these exceptional students for their dedication, problem-solving skills, and mathematical brilliance!

**MARK WHITE, HEAD OF MATHEMATICS**



LEFT: Front: Beatrice Chong and Angela Huang.  
Back: Ethan Yap, Atharva Sathe, Joel Bariss, Jayden Yip and Rayden Oliveiro.

RIGHT: Jayden Yip, Catherine Yu and Rayden Oliveiro in Year 10.





## Rotary-Interact Club serve up delicious sandwiches

The Perth Modern School Rotary-Interact Club delighted visitors to the Stirling Farmers Market with their mouth-watering bacon and egg sandwiches. The proceeds from this fundraiser will support the Interact Youth and Community projects.

LEFT: Amaya Gunawardana and Elaine Chan cooking egg and bacon sandwiches..



## Namgay's perfect line markings...

Have you ever wondered how the line markings appear on the school oval? They are put there by our groundsmen, in this instance Namgay Dorji, who doesn't need a ruler to create a perfectly straight line!



## Year 10 students learn how to bstreetsmart

SARAH LIGHTFOOT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

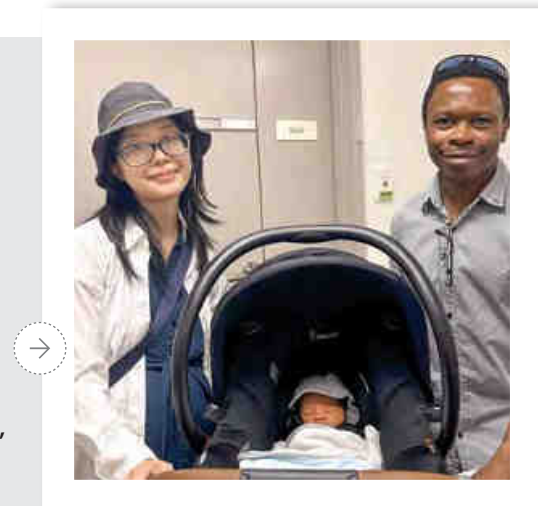
All Year 10 students are actively participating in the Keys4Life driver education program this year. As part of this program, students had the opportunity to attend the RAC bstreetsmart event at RAC Arena. This impactful event showcased the real-life consequences of distracted driving, speeding, and drink driving. It aimed to inform students about ways to reduce risky behaviours on the roads.

During the event, students witnessed a crash scene re-enactment, complete with the presence of emergency services—just as it would occur at an actual crash site. Additionally, they had the privilege of listening to speakers who shared their personal experiences of being directly affected by road trauma. Conversations with emergency services personnel further enriched their understanding.

LEFT FROM TOP: Adele Stegink, Ella Blythman-Kirk and Grace Dowley; Rania Phillips, Claire Champion, Dakota Cole and Jencie Wan. INSET: Nicholas Leendertse and Gregorius Widjaja.

## New baby mathematician for Mod

Mathematics teachers Isaac Kikodi and Lu Zhang are the proud new parents of a son, Leon Zhang Kigodi. Fittingly, as his parents are both Maths teachers, his birth weight was  $\pi - 3.14$ kg.



# Student Accolades

## ← AMEB Awards highlight musical talent

Several Perth Modern School students have recently received prizes as part of the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) annual awards.

Abigail Koh in Year 7 and Jennifer Chen in Year 9 were each awarded the Associate Diploma of Performance for Piano, which culminates their piano learning journey from preliminary through to Grade 8 and now, diploma level.

Isabella Ho in Year 8 has achieved the AMEB Silver Award and Luvenia Yeo in Year 10 has been awarded the Australian Strings Association WA John Dean Award.

The AMEB Award program is a culmination of sustained and significant effort by the candidate. It recognises the commitment that individuals make to the performing arts community of their school and acknowledges an individual's engagement in ensembles, productions and other collaborative activity.

Abigail Koh and Jennifer Chen have achieved the AMEB Associate Diploma for Piano. INSET: Luvenia Yeo



## Abhigyan awarded Queen's Scout

Abhigyan Ghosal in Year 12 has been awarded Queen's Scout, the highest award for the Venturer section in scouting. In a ceremony organised by the Scouts, His Excellency Chris Dawson AC APM, the Governor of WA, presented him with the award. This award has been the culmination of his long journey in scouting during which he achieved many other milestones including the Australian Scout Award.

Abhigyan's involvement in scouting transcends his own unit. He actively participates in the WA Branch councils, contributing valuable insights and leadership. He is currently the Secretary of the Branch Venturer Council and a member of the Branch Youth Council, where he plays a pivotal role in organising activities and developing programs for all Scouts.

Last year, he travelled to Switzerland as part of the Scouts Australia contingent to commemorate the centenary of Kandersteg International Scout Centre. He is currently involved in promoting the Australian Jamboree 2025 as an ambassador for Scouts WA.



Abhigyan Ghosal was presented with his award at a special ceremony.

## GT Online student Lilly Moses is runner-up in the Simpson Prize

SARAH MIRCO, GT ONLINE COORDINATOR

The Simpson Prize is an essay writing competition for Year 9 and 10 students that focuses on Australian military service in World War I. Lilly's well considered argument that the ANZAC legend is an integral part of Australian Identity and that there will always be a place for the commemoration of Anzac Day was awarded as runner-up for the 2024 Simpson Prize

Lilly's entry focused on the different historical interpretations around the nature and significance of the ANZAC legend. Lilly spent considerable time researching this topic and wrote a very poignant entry arguing that despite many challenges, the ANZAC legend and commemoration of Anzac Day still has widespread support across Australia.

As part of the competition, Lilly has very recently returned from a study tour in Canberra. GT Online is so proud of Lilly's achievement and we encourage other students to take on the challenge of writing an entry for the Simpson Prize 2025. Lilly is a student at Champion Bay SHS in Geraldton and studies Humanities and Social Science, English, Maths and Science with the Gifted and Talented Online Program delivered from Perth Modern School.



Lilly Moses receiving her award from the Minister for Education, Jason Clare MP.

## Mahek wins Lions Youth of the Year District Final

Mahek Aribenchi in Year 11 was awarded the Lions Youth of the Year Overall Winner for the District Finals on 24 March. This was the second round of the competition where Mahek competed against six other club round winners. Mahek has now progressed to the State Finals.

The Lions Youth of the Year Competition assesses the well-roundedness of a student in leadership, academics, extra-curricular activities, community involvement, and citizenship qualities. The competition involves components of CV writing, an interview process, decision-making on general knowledge questions, impromptu questions, and a prepared speech.



## Spandan achieves second place in Young Doctors Essay Competition

Spandan Kankumbar in Year 12 achieved second-place for her essay, 'Applying Medical Ethics to Make a Decision Regarding a Heart Transplant' in the Young Doctors Essay Competition.

Her essay was described by the judges as displaying 'intellectual acumen but also a professional grasp of ethical considerations in the medical landscape.'



## Mia-Maria wins six swimming gold medals

SARAH MIRCO, GT ONLINE COORDINATOR

Perth Modern student Mia-Maria Gstaettner in Year 7 swam brilliantly at the 2023–24 Aqua Technics Junior State Championships.

Recognised as a standout performer at the meet, she achieved a staggering ten medals over the three-day competition, including six gold medals. Her incredible speed in the water resulted in her taking out the 100m and 200m backstroke, 200m, 400m and 800m freestyle, and 400m individual medley. In the 200m backstroke she secured her third national qualifying time, even though she must wait another year to be old enough at 13 to compete.

In April, Mia-Maria will be cheering for her sibling Heidi, in Year 11 at Perth Modern School, who will compete in Freestyle and Butterfly events at the 2024 Australian National Championships held on the Gold Coast.

Well done Mia-Maria and good luck Heidi at the national championships.



## Thomas and Xavier make a splash in the WA Etchells States

Thomas Cooper in Year 8 and Xavier Bates from the Class of 2023 have made a splash with their team 'Hustler' in the WA Etchells State Championship. Sailing alongside helmsman Jason Poutsma on *Hustler*, crew members Xavier Bates, George Elms and Thomas Cooper sailed exceptionally well to win the final Race of the States against some of the biggest names in yachting.

The fleet was also made up of significant senior sailing talent including John Bertrand AO, skipper of *Australia II*.

Thomas and Xavier also took to the water on board *Hustler* for the 2024 Etchells World Championship, which was hosted in Fremantle from 15–22 March.

Thomas Copper (left) and Xavier Bates (right) won the Race of the States at the WA Etchells State Championship.



# Ancient Chinese Cultural Traditions explored



## Whispers of porcelain: Unveiling China's artistic soul

JACKY CHE, YEAR 11

During the last week of Term 1, we had the incredible opportunity to visit the China Library of Western Australia, courtesy of the China Friendship Society. Our guide was a Chinese artist who immersed us in the rich traditions and culture of China. But that wasn't all—we also got hands-on experience with air-dry clay, using it to craft three-dimensional blue and white porcelain chinaware.

When we first laid eyes on the teacher's art pieces, they seemed almost unattainable. Yet, after two hours of dedicated effort, each of us managed to create our own personalised three-dimensional work. It was a rewarding experience, especially since we had never attempted anything like this before. Beyond the artistic aspect, this excursion allowed us to deepen our connection to Chinese culture and reinforce our sense of the Chinese identity.



ABOVE: Chinese language students with their blue and white chinaware pieces.

TOP RIGHT: Students learning the chinaware process from the guide at the China Friendship Society.



Santi Chua



## Discovering Chinese culture: My journey with the Chinese Club

HERMAN XIAO, YEAR 8

This year, I joined the Chinese Club to learn more about Chinese culture and to expand my literary Chinese knowledge. Since last year, the teaching and guidance I have received in Chinese class have allowed me to progress from someone who could barely write Chinese to someone who is now reasonably fluent in the language.

Through the interactive lessons provided by the Chinese Mod Club, I have gained valuable insights into Chinese culture. We engage in hands-on activities such as making traditional foods and crafting red envelopes. Additionally, we watch Chinese movies to deepen our understanding of the language, culture, and the Chinese people.

Despite my Chinese background, this club has provided me with new knowledge and a deeper appreciation for my heritage. I have discovered things about my cultural roots that I never knew before.

Students having fun in the Chinese Club.



# Empowering student excellence: OzCLO and West Tech Showcase

## OzCLO triumph: Perth Modern students shine in National Round

HELEN LYDON, PROGRAM COORDINATOR,  
INNOVATIVE LEARNING AND TEACHING

Perth Modern School was a hive of activity in February and March as a record 60 students in 15 teams trained for the first round of OzCLO, a computation linguistics competition.

We were delighted to hear that two teams from Mod ranked in the top three in the state, for both Junior and Senior divisions. Next was the National Round, where four of our teams competed against other State teams.

In the National Round we received these awards:

- Silver certificate to Year 9: Rhea Kewalram, Sophie Litic, Sushree Mangla and Anushree Sathe.
- Gold certificate to Year 10: Emily Bleakley, Matthew Champness, Aditi Rajput and Sean Yang.
- Bronze certificate to Year 11: Ishika Balram, Beatrice Chong, Samantha See and Monroe Wang.
- Bronze certificate to Year 12: Jamie Brooker, Leo Maher, Siobhan O'Connell and Hannah Symons.



ABOVE FROM LEFT: Diya Sanjay, Sara Rajwani, Shamaita Ray and Grace Sharma; Edward Huynh, Jvander Klaw, Henry Bui and Santi Chua.

BELOW: Magdalene Tey, Isabell Ho, Hannah Nguyen and Olivia Lim.



## West Tech Innovation Showcase: Unleashing entrepreneurial potential

VINURA ELVADURA, YEAR 12

During the West Tech Innovation Showcase, I learnt about the myriad of businesses run by young ingenious individuals. At the showcase, visitors received a firsthand look at the latest inventions, exciting products, and new technologies that are on the cusp of revolutionising industries from across Western Australia.

The opportunities I discovered by networking opened doors to new partnerships, collaborations, and clients. Not only did I gain invaluable experience from in-demand practices and competitor strategies, I recognised how easy it is to increase your visibility for your business and reputation as a young entrepreneur.

ABOVE RIGHT: All the students involved in the West Tech Young Entrepreneurs Showcase. Perth Modern School students Aarnav Negi, Bailey Paton and Vinura Elvadura attended.

RIGHT: Bailey Paton in conversation with a booth visitor.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY TURKS



# Celebrating Unity: Perth Modern's vibrant Harmony Day Concert

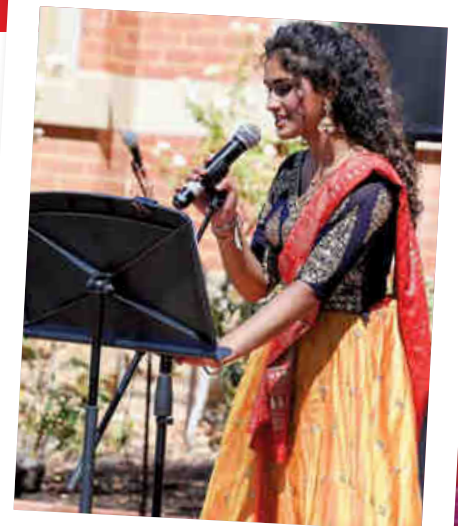


On a sun-kissed day at Perth Modern School, the spirit of Harmony Day enveloped the campus. Students and teachers adorned themselves in a kaleidoscope of colours, representing their diverse cultural backgrounds. Yellow and orange hues danced through the corridors, echoing the theme of unity.

For the second consecutive year, the talented Year 11 student Mahek Aribenchi orchestrated a mesmerising cultural concert during lunchtime. The large audience was treated to captivating performances by various groups, each showcasing the rich heritage of their families. From traditional dances to soulful melodies, the stage came alive with the vibrant tapestry of cultures.

As the applause echoed, it became clear that this event was more than just entertainment. It was a celebration of shared experiences, a reminder to cherish our roots, and an invitation to embrace cultural diversity. Mahek's dedication and vision in bringing the concert together so brilliantly is commendable.

Harmony Day, a global celebration, transcends borders and unites hearts. Perth Modern School students deserve applause for fostering an environment where cultural awareness thrives. Let us continue to weave the threads of harmony, one note, one step, and one smile at a time.



Mahek Aribenchi put her heart and soul into organising the wonderful Harmony Day Concert.





# Modernian Gordon Ewers celebrates 108 years of living well

KATE LEAVER, ABC RADIO PERTH



**He's lived through two world wars, the Great Depression and at least two global pandemics but Perth retiree Gordon Ewers says he's nothing but grateful for his life.**

Mr Ewers celebrated his 108th birthday on 16 February leading his family to believe he is now the oldest living man in WA.

He grew up in a faith-filled home in Applecross and worked in customs for much of his life. He raised two daughters and has been married for more than 60 years.

Mr Ewers has always had a love for music, poetry, golf and tennis, and has never touched a cigarette in all his 108 years. He now spends much of his time reminiscing and said he lived with no regrets.

'I don't think I would change anything,' he said. 'I've had a long life which happened to me. I don't feel proud of it, I just kept living it. I am grateful for it and I've enjoyed it.'

Mr Ewers shared his tips for living well in a now popular social media video with more than 360,000 views. He said there was no secret recipe for success in life but encouraged people to be kind and make the most of their days.



Gordon Ewers is believed to be WA's oldest man at 108 years old.  
ABC NEWS: KATE LEAVER

'Do what you can to make the world a better place to live in,' he said. 'Do to others what you want them to do to you, and life will be good to you. You will have your ups and downs you'll have some sorrows and some pain but beyond and above all that you will have things to be happy about. That's the only advice I've got, enjoy yourself.'

Though he tires more easily than before, Mr Ewers said he continues to find the joy in every day.

'My eyesight is poor and my hearing is worse, but I've got so many good friends and my loving family,' he said. 'The Lord blesses me through the days and I look forward to whatever he's got in the future for me.'



Gordon Ewers chats to Principal Mitchell Mackay at his birthday party.

**Principal Mitchell Mackay and Associate Principal Matthew Healy went to Gordon's birthday party, held at Gordon's Brightwater Nursing Home in Madeley.**

Mr Mackay reported that Gordon told him to just 'keep breathing' if you want to get to 108. He also talked about how proud he was to marry one of Perth Modern School's Head Girls, Elma Elliott, and the fun he had playing cricket for Perth Modern where he held the record as the highest scoring batsman in cricket as he was a 'tail ender and never got out.'

## From the Perth Modernian Society Archives

Gordon was born in Perth in 1916. He attended Applecross Primary School and entered Mod on a Secondary School Scholarship. He worked hard at School and his principal sport was tennis. He went on to study for an Accountancy Degree (ACOA). He became Senior Assistant Collector of Customs in WA.

He married Elma Elliott, PMS student 1929–1933, and they had two daughters who attended Perth Modern School: Shirley (PMS 1957–1961) and Marian (PMS 1960–1964).

Gordon is an active member of the Churches of Christ and held several offices—Secretary of Perth Church, Secretary of State Conference, State President 1954 and Federal President of Churches of Christ in Australia 1982–1984.

Now a Life Member, he took an active part in the Gilbert and Sullivan Society in more than 30 stage productions of Savoy operas.

He has travelled extensively and wrote a book on Church History and composed four operettas for the Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

He has attended Annual Reunions and signed the History Centre Visitor's book in 2016.

PHOTOS COURTESY BRIGHTWATER CARE.

# An encounter with internationally acclaimed musicians Zahia and Fettouma Ziouani

**Our school recently had the extraordinary privilege of hosting two internationally acclaimed musicians, Zahia and Fettouma Ziouani. Their visit on March 18 was a delightful experience for everyone involved.**

The journey began with our excursion to the Alliance Française French Film Festival the week before. There, we had the pleasure of viewing *Divertimento*, a film that chronicles the remarkable path of these two sisters. Zahia, now a world-renowned conductor, and Fettouma, a highly skilled cellist, graciously shared their insights with our Year 10 French students and music enthusiasts.

During an inspiring Q&A session conducted entirely in French, students had the opportunity to delve deeper into the challenges Zahia and Fettouma encountered on their path to becoming professional musicians. Their candid responses illuminated the hurdles they overcame to realise their dreams.

Following the engaging discussion, Zahia offered a masterclass to our Symphony orchestra. Her guidance left an indelible mark on both students and staff. Zahia commended our students' rapid progress and attentive demeanour, a testament to their dedication and talent. For our aspiring musicians, this experience was truly unforgettable, and many wished it could have lasted longer.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Zahia and Fettouma for being so accessible and inspiring to everyone who had the chance to meet them. We also express our thanks to The Alliance Française of Perth and the French Embassy in Sydney for facilitating this enriching opportunity for our students. Moments like these are rare and precious, leaving an enduring imprint on all who were fortunate enough to partake.

**YVAN TAILLANDER,  
FRENCH LANGUAGE TEACHER**



ABOVE: Zahia Ziouani is a world-renowned conductor.  
LEFT: Cellist Fettouma Ziouani with cello students Joshua Soon, Haydn Furness, Ethan Kelly and Sofia Aviso.

BELOW: The Perth Modern School Symphony Orchestra was thrilled to have been given a masterclass.

BOTTOM: Zahia and Fettouma Ziouani participated in a Q&A with students conducted entirely in French; French students participating in the Q&A; and Zahia commended our students' rapid progress and attentive demeanour.



# Welcome to our New Teachers, School Psychologists and Executive



## Dr Kym Tan – Associate Principal

With a teaching career spanning more than 40 years and multiple countries, including England, Malaysia, and Perth, I've held roles such as a Science teacher, Level 3 Classroom teacher, and Program Coordinator for Teaching and Learning most recently at Churchlands Senior High School in Perth.

Holding an Honours degree in Biology and a PhD in Education, with a specific focus on Gifted and Talented education, my specialisation extends beyond Biology to encompass effective pedagogy across the school. I am passionate about fostering a love of learning, curiosity, and critical thinking.

At Perth Mod, I appreciate the collaborative culture that allows students to excel and encourages staff to work seamlessly as a team. As a member of the Executive Team, I am actively involved in developing the leadership skills of myself and others. Beyond my professional endeavours, I find balance and personal fulfillment through fitness activities like Zumba, Pilates, and Yoga. Additionally, I indulge in reading across various genres, not just as a means of relaxation but as a source of continuous personal growth.



## Rachel Hudman – School Psychologist

I have worked as a school psychologist for several years across a range of settings, in both regional and metropolitan schools, and I am excited to be part of the Perth Modern Student Services team. My primary goal in schools is to create a safe space, whereby I can work with the students and the school community to help improve young people's well-being and fulfilment in life. I am passionate about helping others to develop skills, problem solve, foster self-compassion, and develop psychological flexibility. I feel very privileged to have been so warmly welcomed by the Perth Modern community and look forward continuing to work with the exceptional Perth Modern student body.



## Meredith McKenzie-Murray – School Psychologist

After several years working in schools as a Psychologist in the beautiful Kimberley region of Western Australia, I am excited to be a part of the Perth Modern community.

I believe that people can achieve anything they set their mind to, and a supportive environment can help them achieve their goals and aspirations. I am passionate about helping young people develop the skills they need to navigate difficult situations that occur during periods of transition and change. I believe that people have innate strengths and resilience that will support them to overcome challenges, but sometimes just need a helping hand to reconnect with these parts of themselves.

It's an honour to be working with such a brilliant, vibrant and courageous group of young people and I look forward to contributing to the Perth Modern community into the future.



## Blake Armstrong – Music

I am absolutely thrilled to be joining Perth Modern's esteemed music program as a Music teacher. With a background in Jazz Performance and a deep commitment to music education, I am passionate about creating a vibrant and supportive learning environment where students can flourish. My journey, from studying at the James Morrison Academy of Music to completing my Masters of Teaching at Edith Cowan University, has equipped me with the skills to inspire and mentor young musicians. I firmly believe in the transformative power of music in shaping academic and personal growth.

I am excited to contribute to the ongoing success of Perth Modern's Music program and to share my enthusiasm for music with the talented students.



## Rhea Carter – Humanities and Social Science/GT Online

Perth Modern School is in my bones—I was a student here from 2008–2012 and had an incredibly rewarding schooling experience that instilled in me a love of learning. While I had originally intended to become a veterinarian following my schooling, starting Veterinary Medicine at Murdoch University, I eventually realised that biology was not my true passion and moved to UWA to study a Bachelor of Arts in History. Upon completing my history degree, I studied a Master of Teaching at UWA.

Starting out as a relief teacher, my first-ever teaching work was offered at Perth Modern, and I fell in love with the school all over again. It is a privilege and a pleasure to be working in both the Humanities and Gifted and Talented Online departments, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share my passion for the humanities with engaged, bright young people.

### Harry Cao – Humanities and Social Science

My name is Harry Cao. I am a HASS teacher who specialises in Economics. I've been passionate about the Gifted Program at Perth Modern School for a long time. I've had the privilege of being a pre-service teacher here at Perth Mod before. Since then, I've been in numerous private schools to finally find my way back to Mod. It has been an exciting journey and I have enjoyed every moment at Mod so far.



### Mai Barnes – English

Having commenced in Term 4 of last year, I've been thrilled to join the English Department at Perth Modern School. Prior to this appointment I worked in a variety of learning environments, including Applecross SHS, CBC Fremantle, and a rural high school in Japan. I am thankful for the warm welcome that I have received from the Perth Modern community and am looking forward to an exciting year ahead.



### Mark Douglas – Mathematics

I've come to teach Mathematics at Perth Modern after 2.5 years of teaching Mathematics, Science and Economics in Geraldton, where I was born and grew up. I love the study of Mathematics for its power in developing sophisticated problem-solving skills. Understanding Mathematics is essential to understand the technology that defines our modern world. I went to Curtin University where I studied a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and developed a fondness for helping people learn through tutoring. Teaching at Mod so far has me optimistic for the future, which will no doubt be guided by many of the bright, ambitious young minds at the school. Outside of teaching, my hobbies vary, but my consistent passion over the past few years has been travelling as much as I can, to any place with snow and mountains.



### Mark Gabriel – Mathematics/GT Online

After a decade of working as a programmer, I decided to call it quits and soul search—What exactly did I want to achieve with my life? I went off to study a Master of Data Science degree at UWA, following my strengths, interests and skills. That wasn't it. However, it did reignite my passion for maths and realised that sharing that with the world was what I wanted to do, so I got myself a Master of Teaching degree at ECU. I am now here, with you, in this wonderful school, hoping that my soul search has ended. In my free time, I like to do improv, games (of the board and video varieties), and cooking.



### Braden Grant – Science

I am thrilled to be part of the Perth Modern Science teaching team! I have always had a love and passion for Science ever since I was in high school. This continued through my undergraduate course, where I graduated from Curtin University with an Honours degree in Forensic and Analytical Chemistry. While I had always wanted to be a teacher, I realised how important it was to me when I taught university labs at Curtin so shortly after graduating, I obtained my Master's degree in Teaching. After a year in the private system, I moved to public education and was lucky enough to gain a job at Perth Modern School. I'm excited to share my love, passion and knowledge of science to the future leaders and pioneers of our world, and I hope to do so for many years to come!



### Marvi Islam – Humanities and Social Science

I am honoured to join the Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) team at Perth Modern this academic year as the dedicated Accounting and Finance teacher. Beginning with a bachelor's degree in finance and journalism, I acquired a solid foundation in financial principles and effective communication. Furthering my education, I pursued a master's degree in Secondary Education, honing my pedagogical skills to empower students. With prior teaching experience in Kalgoorlie, WA, I developed a deep appreciation for education's transformative power. Now at Perth Modern, I am excited to collaborate with exceptional students and colleagues, fostering a culture of academic excellence and intellectual curiosity.





### **Olivia Jacovich – English**

Teaching at Perth Modern in 2023 was a great experience, and I'm excited to be back again this year. I graduated from Monash University in Melbourne with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics and International Relations. Later, I earned my Master's degree in Secondary Teaching at the University of Western Australia.

Having lived in South Korea previously, I have a keen interest in learning about different cultures and languages. My experience teaching ESL students and those from diverse cultural backgrounds has equipped me to create a welcoming environment in my classroom. I'm looking forward to sharing my passions with both staff and students in the year ahead.



### **Rachel King – English**

I joined Perth Modern's English department at the beginning of Term 4, 2023, and so far, I have been delighted to find my classes full of students whose enthusiasm and curiosity match my own!

I completed a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in English and Cultural Studies at the University of Western Australia, followed by a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education at Edith Cowan University for both English and HASS. Prior to arriving at Perth Modern, I spent five years teaching English and Literature at Morley Senior High School.

My areas of interest include gothic literature, ancient history, and philosophy, however, I enjoy challenging myself with other subjects, such as physics and French! As an avid learner myself, my focus in the classroom is on fostering a sense of intrinsic motivation by helping students face new topics with passion and optimism, as I believe this is key for fostering a long-term, sustainable love of learning.



### **Trudi Kempson – Languages**

Originally from Perth, I went to high school and university in England (Oxford), where I pursued my passion for European languages, in particular French and Spanish. After working as a lawyer in London, I returned to Perth where I reset my career direction and returned to my love of languages. Since qualifying as a French teacher from UWA, I have taught in several Perth schools, including St Hilda's for the last twelve years. I love sharing my interest in language and culture with students and thrive on the energy and curiosity in the classroom.

Outside of school, my family (husband, three sons and one pug) keep me busy, and in my spare time, I like to read, exercise and spend time with friends. I am excited to be teaching at Perth Modern School, not only because of the calibre of the students and staff here but also because my family has strong links with the school, both as former staff and former students... it is great to be part of this tradition!



### **Nicholas Schurmann – Music**

I'm a second-year music teacher joining the school on a six-month contract. Previously I worked as a professional oboist, instrumental teacher, and choral director. I direct Australia's champion barbershop chorus, the Baden Street Singers, as well as an ensemble for lower-voiced singers with WA Young Voices.

I have loved working with the skilled and supportive teachers in the music department, as well as the passionate students in our classes and ensembles.

In my spare time I enjoy playing nerdy board games.



### **Jack Singer – Mathematics/GT Online**

Prior to teaching I worked as a programmer and in a variety of technical roles in the broadcast industry. I studied Computer Science for my Bachelor's degree at university and have a Master's in Teaching. At Perth Modern I'll be teaching Mathematics. One of the main things I love about maths is it provides a powerful way to understand the world. Some of the highlights of Perth Modern so far is working with students who are highly enthusiastic about Math and being able to teach country students through the GATE online teaching program.



# National Schools' Constitutional Convention

AMANI KARIUKI AND JACKSON JI, YEAR 12

**At the end of Term 1, we were thrilled to have been selected by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to visit Canberra for the National Schools' Constitutional Convention. The Convention hosted 15 West Australian delegates, convening with a group of 90 Australian students to discuss constitutional change.**

At the convention, we discussed concerns over accountability of Commonwealth government grants, the political motivations behind conditional grants from the federal government to states, and the impact of these issues on social justice and equity. Reforms that were proposed at the convention included revising taxation systems, establishing independent bodies for grant review, and re-allocation of powers between Commonwealth and State governments. We both spoke on behalf of our respective deliberation groups to convey issues raised, and potential reforms, to other members of the convention.

At the conclusion of the convention, a communiqué with a summary of our discussion points and common ground found was created and was presented to the Deputy Leader of the Senate to be included in the Hansard.

We really enjoyed the Parliament House visit as we got the opportunity to take a tour and meet multiple MPs and state Senators. Jackson was chosen to address the Convention at Parliament House, giving a speech thanking his local MP Patrick Gorman, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister, for hosting us.

All participants voted in a mock referendum, conducted by staff from the Australian Electoral Commission, on whether to amend the Constitution to ensure a more equitable distribution of federal revenue to states.

Highlights of the trip included touring the Museum of Australian Democracy, the reception at Government House with the Governor-General, dinner at the National Press Club where we heard from 2024 ACT Young Australian of the Year Caitlin Figueiredo and touring the National Museum of Australia and Parliament House.

This convention was a valuable experience which enabled us to discuss our perspectives with like-minded delegates from other states and allowed us to broaden our understandings of the Constitution.



ABOVE: Amani Kariuki and Jackson Ji met with His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd).  
RIGHT: Jackson casts his vote.  
BELOW: Jackson and Amani outside Federal Parliament.



ABOVE: Jackson Ji with Patrick Gorman MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister.  
ABOVE LEFT: Jackson was met at the airport by the Minister for Immigration Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs Andrew Giles.  
LEFT: Jackson Ji delivers his speech at the Constitutional Convention.

# House Highlights: A vibrant start to 2024!

HANNAH CHEN, YEAR 11



At the House Swimming Carnival with House Coordinator Kate Bajrovic: Year 12 House Captains David Esdale, Joel Bariss, Jaun Yum, Angela Choi, Matthew Arnold, Loren Wilde and Venuja Silva.

**In the whirlwind of Term 1, our school's Houses ignited with energy and camaraderie. From thrilling events to spirited participation, we witnessed an incredible start to the year.**

A warm welcome to Ms. Bajrovic, our House Coordinator for 2024. Her passion and dedication promise an exciting year ahead.

We also welcomed our new Year 7 House Representatives in Term 1. Congratulations to Edward Dias, Hunar Kaur, Joy Karnavat, Beneth Ubaldo, Franek Cytowski, Lana Choy, Vincent Ting, and Cindy Young for representing their Houses with pride.

Week 5 saw our first lunchtime competition—the Basketball Half Court challenge. Kudos to our Year 8 and 10 House Representatives for organising this slam-dunk success!

Harmony Through Lenses Week 9 celebrated Harmony Week with a captivating House Photography Competition. The theme? Harmony and diversity. The entries dazzled us, thanks to your creativity and keen eyes. Thank you to Ms Gunzberg for organising the event.

As we look ahead, brace yourselves for more House adventures next term. Remember, every participation counts! Keep the House spirit alive, and we'll see you soon.

**RIGHT:** Parsons House Captains Loren Wilde and Venuja Silva address the whole school assembly on the House Swimming Carnival.  
**BELOW:** Students having fun at the House Basketball competition.



**LEFT:** There was some spectacular play!  
**BELOW:** Jaanhvi Iyer



# Year 8 Rivercruise: Dancing under the sunset

ESME HE AND TEHZEEB KUHAR, YEAR 8

On 6 March, Year 8 students embarked on a captivating river cruise along the Swan River, basking in the glow of a picturesque sunset. The dock buzzed with excitement as fresh breezes swept through, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening.

Eager to groove, Year 8 students showcased our coolest dance moves to our favourite pop hits, surrounded by friends. The photo booth captured precious memories with funky props and swag poses. As the night unfolded, crispy pizza and mouth-watering cinnamon donuts fuelled the fun. Reluctant goodbyes echoed as everyone wished to dance the night away. Vincent Solanki summed it up perfectly: 'Best social ever!'



# Drama goes outside the comfort zone



## Harmonising Artistry: A weekend of drama, connection and laughter at Point Walter

CALLUM DEKKERS, YEAR 12

The Year 12 Drama Students embarked on a camp at Point Walter Recreation and Conference Centre from Friday, 8 March to Sunday, 10 March. During this enriching experience, we participated in a variety of workshops led by industry experts. These workshops allowed us to hone our skills in various aspects of the subject, including vocal performance, directing, and physical theatre.

Our cohort wasn't alone; Drama students from other schools across Perth, such as Willetton, Mount Lawley and Applecross Senior High Schools, joined us. This diverse mix of participants encouraged us to step out of our comfort zones, collaborate with unfamiliar faces, and build connections with like-minded individuals we might not have otherwise met.

The camp also treated us to two outstanding performances. First, *Arco Junior*, a poignant one-man show by Adam, delved into his personal struggles living with autism. Second, *The Big Hoo-Haa*, an improvisational comedy, pitted two teams against each other using skits, singing, and rhyming—all in the pursuit of laughter.

Personally, I relished every moment, whether it was rising at dawn with friends to watch the sunrise or blindly navigating a drama workshop room alongside someone I had just met. As our camp drew to a close on Sunday, our class left as a tightly-knit group, carrying fond memories that will stay with us for years to come.



## Behind the Curtain: Unmasking the reality of Stunt Doubles

LEO MAHER, YEAR 12

The Year 12 Drama students enjoyed a visit to the State Theatre Centre to see *Stunt Double* by The Farm. The play is about a fictional filming of a 1970s action-flick that started comedic but led to something darker and sinister as the stunt doubles of the performance start to open up about the harsh reality of their situation. All was revealed while being underscored with slapstick comedy, extraordinary movements, and immersive sound and lighting.

*Stunt Double* placed the focus on a group of actors who are usually put through the most stress, exploited by directors and other actors, and relentlessly pushed around as if they were objects. It was confronting and eclectic at times, but each scene even if abstract had an underlying meaning that represented the struggles of real-life issues such as abuse.

We all enjoyed the performance, even though it took us a bit to digest. However, it gave us memorable experiences and new ideas to take into our own performances and plays, and left us with a greater understanding of the importance to productions of the background cast and crew.



# Improvisation Night: A memorable evening with Year 9 Drama



**At 7 o'clock on Wednesday, March 20 the Year 9 drama class stood behind a curtain, their breaths bated, eagerly awaiting the start of improv night.**

During Term 1, the Year 9 Drama class honed their improvisation skills, engaging in games like Blind Lines, New Choice, and Furniture under the guidance of guest teacher Mr. Thomas Papatthasiou. After weeks of practice, they were now prepared for their most significant improvisation challenge yet: a competition. Hosted by the infamous Mr. Papa, the evening featured various groups participating in improv games, vying for points based on character development, narrative, and, above all, entertainment value.

The line up included intriguingly named teams such as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, Mean Girls, We're Just Ken, Your Inner Monologue, The Mafia, The Businessmen, and The Real Slim Shadies. Each group fought—or rather, improvised—for the audience's amusement, resulting in unforgettable moments.

Picture this: a lighthouse up for sale, attempts to make Bunbury seem fascinating, a perilous holiday to hell, a crazed dentist reuniting with his estranged son, an unusually sized house, and a seemingly ordinary trip to the movies (with a twist involving carrots that defied ownership).

In the grand finale, the winners emerged: The Mafia, represented by Diobett Bangayan, Raadin Ebadi, Ramel Sethu Raman, and Skyler Bui, claimed the prestigious Improv Cup. Their improv prowess rivalled even Mr. Papa's impeccable tie.

An unforgettable night indeed, and if there's one thing to remember, it's the triumphant Mafia and their uproarious performance.

**LUCIA EVERITT, YEAR 9**





## A distinguished soldier and upstanding citizen

### SIR PHILLIP HARVEY BENNETT

December 27, 1928–August 1, 2023

PMS student 1944–1945

**Former chief of the Australian Defence Force and governor of Tasmania, General Sir Phillip Bennett AC KBE DSO has died peacefully aged 94, at Kyneton in Victoria.**

Born in Perth, Phillip completed his secondary education at Perth Modern School. His father was serving as an officer in WWII at that time and, unsurprisingly, Phillip joined the School Cadet Corps.

He was selected to attend the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in the ACT, graduating as a lieutenant in December 1948. Then posted to the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR), he served with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan until mid-1950.

With the unexpected beginning of the Korean War, the 3 RAR began operations in Korea in the second half of 1950, with Phillip as the second in command of the mortar platoon. During this period, he took command of the mortar platoon and was promoted to captain, earning a mention in despatches for his exemplary leadership.

In March 1951, 3 RAR fought with great distinction against an overwhelming enemy force, in the battle of Kapyong. Some 32 of its diggers were killed and 53 were wounded. The units involved, including 3 RAR, were awarded the US Presidential Citation.

Phillip served in Korea until mid-1953, with brief intervals back in Japan and Australia. After Korea Phillip served in Australia and Papua New Guinea. Around this time, an ethos of Special Forces (SF) training had developed to safeguard the specialist WWII commando skills. Phillip completed parachute training and was then sent to the UK in 1957 to train with the Royal Marines.

Following his SF training Phillip's next posting was as officer commanding (OC) 2 Commando Company in Melbourne with the rank of major.

Phillip maintained his relationship with the Victorian commandos. He was the life patron of their association and attended many formal functions, especially the annual observance of the Rip tragedy.

After his three-year term as the 2 Commando Company OC, Phillip immediately began advanced training at the Australian Staff

> Sir Phillip with World War II resistance heroine Nancy Wake at the post-WWII commando 40th anniversary celebrations in 1995.

CREDIT: GRAEME WILSON

∨ Sir Phillip unveils the Commando Rip Memorial at its inaugural dedication at Queenscliff in 2000.



College—the path to senior military positions.

Inherently an infantry officer, Phillip then commanded 1st Battalion RAR. During his time in the Vietnam War its most significant actions were in the battle of Coral-Balmoral in mid-1968. For his service in Vietnam as CO of 1 RAR, Phillip was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Over time, displaying the qualities that saw him through Korea, Vietnam and beyond, Phillip was appointed chief of the general staff in 1982. He became the first chief of the Australian Defence Force (CDF) in 1984 when the new overarching position was created. He oversaw significant changes during his tenure. With his quiet and dignified manner but steely determination, coupled with his

deep military knowledge, Phillip dealt with the organisational politics that arose.

While in office he was bestowed a knighthood. No CDF since has been granted this honour. As Sir Phillip, he retired from the defence force in 1987 and soon after was appointed governor of Tasmania. During his eight years as governor, with periods of political turmoil, he dealt with matters in his firm but considered manner.

Returning to Canberra in his final retirement, Sir Phillip served as chair of the War Memorial Anzac Foundation, with Legacy, and enjoyed golf with his wife Margaret.

Phillip was the devoted husband of Margaret and beloved father of Michael (deceased), Jane and Stephen and father-in-law to Sue, Chris and Anneleen. He greatly adored his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A military service to honour Phillip's life of distinguished service was held in the Anzac Memorial Chapel at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Governor-General David Hurley, former Governor-General Peter Cosgrove, Australian RSL President and Australian Commando Association President Greg Melick, former serving comrades and many friends attended.

As Major-General Melick said of Phillip:

***'He was a man of great humanity and compassion, with an incredible work ethic and a great desire to serve his country.'***

#### BARRY HIGGINS

Barry Higgins served under Phillip Bennett and was a long-time friend.

# Violinist and Music Teacher

## GEOFFREY MICHAELS

Perth Modern School 1957–1960

**Geoffrey Michaels, celebrated violin prodigy and long-time music teacher, has died at 79.**

He toured Australia as a teenaged sensation in the 1950s and later played with the Curtis Quartet, Liebesfreud Quartet, and countless other orchestras over seven decades.

A critic called one of his 1967 performances ‘a near-perfect lyrical tapestry.’

Mr. Michaels played violin for more than seven decades and taught chamber music to countless students in the United States and Canada.

Geoffrey Michaels, 79, of Collingswood, celebrated violin prodigy and long-time violin, viola, and chamber music teacher, died Saturday, Feb. 17, of complications from Parkinson’s disease at the Samaritan Center in Voorhees, New Jersey.

Mr. Michaels first tucked a violin under his chin when he was 5 in his hometown of Perth, Australia. At 14, he was the youngest winner ever of the Australian Broadcasting Commission’s concerto competition, and he toured the country afterward as a dazzling new soloist and with prestigious quartets and orchestras.

At 16, he was invited to the Curtis Institute of Music, and he studied violin with Curtis director Efreim Zimbalist, and violin and viola with Philadelphia legend Oscar Shumsky. He was quickly recruited into the renowned Curtis Quartet and later cofounded his own Liebesfreud Quartet, which released Selected Shorts in 2009 and played more than 100 concerts over 15 years.

He also played with other notable ensembles around Philadelphia and in Australia, Canada, New Jersey, New York, and elsewhere. Liebesfreud cofounder Philip Kates said in a tribute that Mr. Michaels was an exacting colleague who displayed ‘integrity with regard to his approach to the music’s preparation.’ He said Mr. Michaels’ ‘prowess on his instrument, depth of knowledge of the music, and demeanor during rehearsals established rigorous standards.’

He won Philadelphia’s Emma Feldman Memorial Competition in 1970 and was a finalist at international events in Paris, Moscow, Brussels, Montreal, and elsewhere.

A colleague said: ‘His inspired playing and thoughtful approach to music-making led to an enduring transformation in my perspective.’

Mr. Michaels’ wife, Beverly, said: ‘He was an artist in service of the music.’

As a soloist, Mr. Michaels played venerable pieces across North America, Europe, and Australia. He appeared at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York, and Kennedy Center in Washington. His performance in the U.S. premiere of Alfred Schnittke’s famous concerto grosso was broadcast live in the United States and what was the Soviet Union in the late 1970s.

*‘I think of Mr. Michaels every single time I play my violin, and I will always hear his voice in my head.’*

One of Mr. Michaels’ former students *Inquirer* music critic Daniel Webster reviewed Mr. Michaels’ 1971 debut at the Academy of Music and said he showed ‘the security and polish of an able young artist.’ Michael Upchurch of the *Seattle Times* reviewed a 1991 performance at the Seattle Spring Festival of Contemporary Music and called Mr. Michaels ‘superb’ and ‘deserving special praise.’

Mr. Michaels earned a diploma at Curtis and, in addition to touring and playing locally at events and private parties, taught violin, viola, and chamber music for years at Princeton, Temple, and Florida State Universities; Swarthmore and Haverford Colleges; the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada; and elsewhere. Former students said in tributes that he had a ‘self-effacing dedication to the music’ and was funny, inspirational, and generous with his time.

He also participated in community outreach music programs and told the *New York Times* in 1986: ‘I feel that I am no use as a teacher unless I am consistently engaged in the business of actually playing. Almost everything I have to say is based on my own experience with the instrument.’

His wife said: ‘Music was like a religion to him. Teaching was like passing on a craft.’



^ Geoffrey was technically impeccable on his instruments colleagues and critics said.

SOURCE: INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL OF LANCASTER

√ Geoffrey Michaels (right) and his fellow players in the Liebesfreud Quartet played together for nearly two decades.



Geoffrey Michaels was born June 19, 1944. He attended Perth Modern School in Australia, led its orchestra in musical productions, and served as secretary of the school’s music society in 1960.

He married childhood friend Patricia Walmsley, and they divorced later. He met Beverly McCoy at a music camp, and they married in 1978, and had daughters Julia, Annika and Carolyn. They lived in Cherry Hill at first, moved to Vancouver for six years when he taught there, and then to Radnor and Collingswood in 2004.

Mr. Michaels played tennis and chess and was thrilled when the Phillies won the World Series in 2008. He and others performed on the field before a Phillies game in 2017, and the Phanatic grabbed his violin and pretended to play it.

He followed politics and current events, and likely read every spy novel by John le Carré. Friends said he could be a perfectionist but rarely a self-promoter. He was a hands-on parent by all accounts.

His daughter Annika said Mr. Michaels had a gift for ‘seeing the deep elegance and complexity in things we otherwise might take for granted.’ Honouring him, she said, was to recognise ‘the passion in the way the people we care about live their lives and how that enriches our own lives.’

**GARY MILES**  
**THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER**

# The Tempest: A theatrical journey of colonisation, struggle and hope



**In our final year together, the Year 12 ATAR Drama students and I embarked on a challenge: to stage a production that would resonate with our history and illuminate a hopeful path for our future. Our chosen performance space was the ethereal expanse beneath the grand fig tree at the rear of Casey Theatre.**

As we unveiled our vision, it unfolded with a magical allure—fairy lights adorned the tree, and lanterns lined the path, creating an enchanting atmosphere. Audiences settled onto park benches and picnic rugs, becoming integral participants in our immersive theatrical experience.

Performing outdoors compelled us to stretch beyond the familiar confines of a traditional theatre. In doing so, we discovered remarkable talents within our students—hidden abilities waiting to be unveiled. Among these were the gift of song and proficiency in playing multiple instruments (including the harp), the art of musical composition, and the time-honoured skill of costume design—each garment meticulously crafted by our dedicated class costume team. From inception to execution, this production was a testament to the students' creativity and dedication.

Our play seamlessly blended Eastern and Western theatrical practices. Drawing inspiration from Japanese Butoh and Suzuki techniques, as well as elements of Clowning and Commedia Dell'Arte, we wove live music and Shakespearean language into the fabric of our performance. Through this rich tapestry, we delved into profound themes: colonization, the struggle for freedom, and the Australian context that binds us. The students embraced this challenging theatre style, pushing themselves physically to their limits—sometimes resulting in scratches, bruises, and the occasional leaf or twig entangled in their hair.

Their unwavering commitment transformed our endeavour into a resounding success. Beyond the applause and curtain calls, a lasting bond now connects us—a shared journey etched into our memories. As their Year 12 Drama teacher, I am immensely proud of their achievements, and I believe this production will resonate in their hearts for years to come.

**JESSICA PACECCA, DIRECTOR**







# Visual Arts: A journey through emotional artistry

## Amelie Qiao: Finalist in the 2024 Youth Lester Portrait Prize

KATIE CHIN, VISUAL ART TEACHER

Amelie Qiao, a Year 11 Visual Arts student, has achieved recognition for her portrait entitled *Showdown*. The piece, depicting her grandfather, has been accepted as a finalist in the 2024 Youth Lester Portrait Prize.

The Lester Prize Youth Awards celebrate the creative talents of young, aspiring and emerging artists. Open to all high school students across Australia from Years 7 to 12, the Youth Award provides entrants with an opportunity to showcase their works and present their unique artistic perspectives. It also fosters confidence in their art practice and allows them to share their stories with the wider community.



Amelie shared her thoughts on her portrait: 'I depicted my paternal grandpa engaged in a game of ping pong with a friend. My aim was to capture a still moment that had been shaped by his years of practice. Witnessing my grandpa utilize his well-honed skills and relive the experiences of his youth was truly exhilarating. His enjoyment for the sport and the seriousness with which he approached the competition were evident in his expression, pose, and especially his eyes. I hope the audience feels the same sense of awe when observing an elderly man who continues to pursue his passions.'

The exhibition featuring the selected finalists for the Youth Lester Portrait Prize will be on display to the public from Friday, April 12 to Sunday, July 14 at the Old Perth Gaol, WA Museum Boola Bardip.

## Fine art, fine tunes: celebrating artistic expression in Art Club

We are thrilled to share the excitement and joy that our students have experienced in the Art Club this term! Under the guidance of our talented art teachers, Ms. Eve and Miss Raynes, students have explored specific mediums, techniques and styles of art.

One of the highlights of this term was our amazing printing project, where students used their favourite music, songs or artists as inspiration for their etched CD designs.

It was delightful to witness the creativity and imagination that our students brought to this project. From Taylor Swift and Arctic Monkeys to nature-inspired sounds, each artwork was unique and intricate, showcasing the individuality and talent of our young artists.

The process of printing was not only enjoyable but also educational. Students learned about the drypoint printing method, including the use of the print press. They also developed their fine motor skills and attention to detail as they carefully worked on their designs, creating the fine features in their CDs.

We are incredibly proud of our students' accomplishments and grateful for the dedication and passion they have brought to the Art Club. Their enthusiasm has encouraged others around them to express themselves and explore the world of art.

We look forward to another exciting term of creativity and fun in the Art Club and invite all students to join us in discovering the joy and beauty of art.



ABOVE FROM LEFT: Angeli Periyannen and Chenuthi Bandara; and Neel Shah and Yixiang Ye. LEFT: Pedram Eizadi and Aldi Arora.

BELOW: A close-up of one of the Art Club etched CD designs.



# Oceanic artistry: Year 9 students transform recycled materials into underwater sculptures

SARAH EVE, VISUAL ART TEACHER

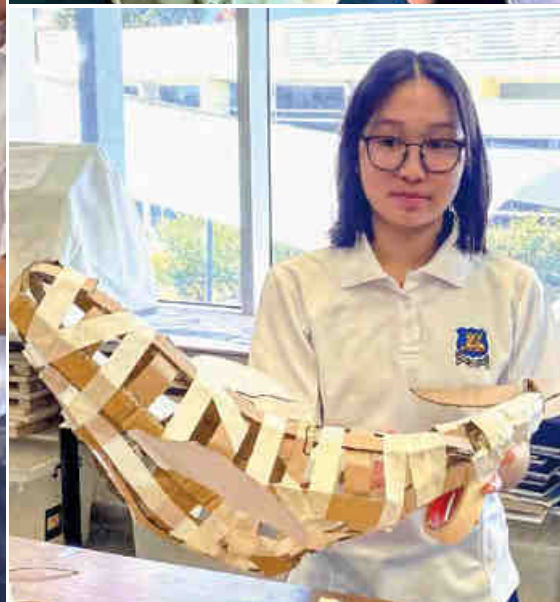
Year 9 students recently embarked on an exciting excursion to the Aquarium of Western Australia (AQWA) as part of their ongoing sculpture project. Immersed in the vibrant underwater world, these budding artists found themselves inspired to create large-scale sculptures influenced by the diverse array of sea creatures they encountered, all crafted from alternative and recycled materials.

During their visit to AQWA, students engaged in various artistic pursuits, including sketching with pencils, pens, and watercolour paints. They meticulously documented the intricate details of sealife and coral tanks. As they observed a variety of marine species, from majestic sharks like reef sharks and nurse sharks to graceful stingrays gliding through specially designed tanks, the students found themselves captivated by the beauty and diversity of the ocean's inhabitants.

The enigmatic octopuses proved to be particularly fascinating, with students marvelling at their ability to hide within their tanks by utilising their remarkable camouflage skills. Similarly, the unique appearance and gentle movements of seahorses left a lasting impression on the young artists, sparking their creativity and imagination. Furthermore, the mesmerising movements and ethereal beauty of jellyfish served as an additional source of inspiration, further fuelling the students' passion for their sculpture project.

Armed with newfound inspiration and a deeper appreciation for the wonders of the sea, these students are now channelling their creativity into crafting sculptures that not only showcase their artistic talent but also reflect their commitment to sustainability by utilising recycled materials. Through their artwork, they hope to convey the magic and beauty of the ocean while also raising awareness about the importance of marine conservation among their peers and the wider community.

RIGHT FROM TOP: Year 9 Visual Art students at AQWA; students observing the sea life for their drawings at AQWA; and Isabelle Lim with her sea sculpture in progress.  
BELOW: Hard at work in Visual Art creating the sea sculptures.





ABOVE FROM LEFT: Rachelle Dusting is a regular masterclass tutor; and students hard at work producing their portraits of Emma Watson.

BELOW: A rendition of actor Emma Watson produced in the masterclass.



## Brushstrokes of confidence: Rachelle Dusting's Masterclass in oils

KATIE CHIN, VISUAL ART TEACHER

Renowned Western Australian portrait artist, Rachelle Dusting, generously imparted her extensive expertise in oil painting and portraiture during a captivating two-hour workshop with our Year 11 ATAR and Year 10 Visual Arts students.

With keen interest, students delved into their portrait projects, diligently absorbing the intricacies of working with transparent and opaque oils. They explored techniques such as laying darker colours in glazes and employing textured brushstrokes for highlights, as well as incorporating complementary colours into shadows and highlights.

This immersive experience not only nurtured their artistic abilities but also instilled a newfound confidence in their craft, empowering them to further develop their skills.

BELOW: Students sketching their observations. RIGHT: Year 8 Visual Art students enjoyed their trip to Perth Zoo.



By Ain Kim



By Jia Maske



By Lexie Umali



By Laura Thomas



## A memorable artistic exploration at Perth Zoo

Three Year 8 Visual Art classes at Perth Zoo embarked on a captivating journey—an immersive day of observational drawing, where students closely examined animal features. This hands-on experience promises to enhance their upcoming Term 2 project: designing 'Protector Creatures' inspired by endangered Australian or Asian animals, fuelled by their new-found insights.

Upon returning to the art room, guided by artist Hayley Welsh's stylistic cues, students transformed their zoo sketches. Charcoal and pastel renditions emerged, featuring enlarged, emotive eyes and intricate layers of mark-making. These artworks pulsate with rich texture and visual depth, encapsulating the essence of their subjects.

By Agatha Crawford





## Artistic fingers on the pulse

WA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**Creative, thought provoking, and expressive pieces by young WA artists are on display at the State's most recognised gallery.**

*The West Australian Pulse*, an annual exhibition at the Art Gallery of Western Australia, celebrates the talents of Year 12 visual arts graduates.

Now in its 32nd year, the showcase offers insight to the 'pulse' of young people who will influence, empower, and shape the world we live in.

Sixty works by students who graduated in 2023 were on display in this year's exhibition, providing a window into young people's private, social, and artistic concerns. Four Perth Modern School students—Millani Booth, Annika Carleton, Sachi Elliott and Aaron Yong—have artworks featuring in the exhibition.

Themes explored in the artworks included mental health and social pressures, gender and culture, environmentalism, and technology.

Among those who have their work displayed is Perth Modern School graduate and Yawuru woman Millani Booth who painted her older sister Joliette.

Booth told *STM* her piece titled *In the trees, she will live eternally* celebrated Aboriginal history, her sister, and her own passions.

---

*'All I've learnt about Australian and Indigenous history, and the environment, has come from my family so it's something I really want to express in my art,' she said.*

---

**The exhibition runs until 6 October 2024.**

ABOVE: Millani Booth at Pulse.

RIGHT: Annika Carleton with her artwork *you're so vanitas 2023*.

BELOW RIGHT: Sachi Elliott with her featured artwork.

BELOW: Aaron Yong



## Dance at the WA Ballet Centre: a mesmerising experience

ANU SATHE AND LAKSHANA RAVINDRANATHAN, YEAR 9

**In late February, our Year 9 Dance class embarked on an exciting excursion. Amid bustling train carriages, long walks to the station, and the soothing strains of classical music, we set off for the WA Ballet Centre. Our destination: a front-row seat to witness the incredible dancers during their morning warm-up.**

As we watched the dancers rehearse, we were captivated by their passion and unwavering dedication to their craft. Their tireless efforts to perfect every movement were evident, leaving us inspired. The intricate warm-up routines revealed the behind-the-scenes magic that brings the enchanting ballet performances to life. Beyond the spotlight, these artists work diligently, honing their skills and pushing their boundaries.

The experience left an indelible mark on us. We'll forever cherish the memories of our visit to the WA Ballet Centre, surrounded by our classmates. And as we eagerly anticipate seeing *Sleeping Beauty* later this year, we'll carry with us the profound appreciation we gained for the artistry and hard work of these remarkable dancers.

Year 9 Dance students at the WA Ballet Centre.





## Toby and Tobi compete in the Junior Track National Cycling Championships

**Tobi Zhou in Year 9 and Toby Gollagher in Year 10 successfully attended the U15/U17 Junior Track National Championships held in Brisbane.**

Tobi is now a national champion as the winner of the U15 Men's 500m Time Trial. Keep an eye on this cyclist with a big future ahead.

In September 2022, Tobi was handpicked for the Talent Identification (TID) program by the WA Institute of Sports (WAIS), following a recommendation from Head of Health and Physical Education Mark Muir. Since then, Tobi has been diligently training for track cycling, honing his skills and pushing his limits.

At the championships, Tobi clinched victory in the Junior Under 15 Boys 500m Time Trial, showcasing their prowess in short-distance sprinting and rapid acceleration.

Tobi said, 'I really enjoy cycling because of the fast speeds.'

Tobi maintains a rigorous training schedule, putting in 3–4 sessions per week (approximately 6–10 hours). Their coaching team includes Mr. Luke Zaccaria from WAIS, who provides valuable guidance alongside Coach Ross Dyer of the Midland Cycle Club.

On his winning race, he said 'I felt very proud and excited. This achievement encourages me to keep moving forward and strive for excellence.'

In addition to the Time Trial, Tobi also competed in several other events, making the finals of the U15 Boys Match Sprint, U15 Boys Individual Pursuit, U15 Boys Keirin, U15 Boys Scratch Race and U17 Boys Team Sprint.

Tobi also improved his personal best in the Individual Pursuit by three seconds and was a member of the U17 Team Pursuit which rode off for bronze and finished a valiant fourth.



TOP: Tobi Zhou finishes Time Trial Race where he placed first.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CYCLING PHOTOS TASMANIA

ABOVE: WA U17 State Team Pursuit Team start. Toby Gollagher is on the right.

LEFT: Tobi Zhou and Toby Gollagher have bright futures in cycling.



## Meritorious Swim Success: Four out of five ain't bad!

MARK MUIR, HEAD OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Perth Modern School swimming team achieved an outstanding result at the School Sport WA Swimming Carnival Division 1 by winning the Meritorious Shield and placing fifth overall. The shield is presented to the team that receives the most overall points in relation to the size of the school. This means that we have won the Meritorious Shield four out of the last five years in the top division of competition. The achievement this year was made even more notable in that circumstances meant we had a much-reduced squad.

A special congratulations to our students who won individual awards:

- Mia-Maria Gstaettner, Champion Year 7 Girl
- Lily Sell, Champion Year 9 Girl
- Tristan Lin, Champion Year 10 Boy
- Sasha Ginige, equal third in Year 10 Girls

Special mention to Renee Tan, Emily Chen and Ariel Lin, who were all brilliant in swimming up from their age division.





## Girls AFL Carnival provides the biffs and the bumps

SCOTT MARSHALL,  
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The next wave of AFLW superstars gathered at Des Penman Reserve to enjoy a day of biffs, bumps and torpedos for at the Girls AFL Carnival.

As some Fremantle AFLW superstars watched on, the Perth Modern Girls started strongly, dispatching the Bob Hawke side by a seven-goal margin, and already showing massive improvement from last year.

The girls continued to play a fantastic brand of 'footy' all day, and finished mid-table, which was a great achievement considering several of the teams were from Football Specialist schools.



The Perth Modern School Girls AFL players.

Most importantly, the girls had a huge amount of fun and had the best 'lollie salad' of the whole competition, as well as the best soundtrack of any team.

It was a pleasure coaching them and I look forward to the event next year.



## Top tennis talent in Interschool competitions

KELLIE MORGAN, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The State Slazenger Cup and Mursell Shield Tennis Competitions were hosted in Term 1 by Tennis West. High school students from around the state competed in this year's interschool tennis tournaments, held at Alexander Park and Mount Lawley Tennis Club.

Our students demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and skills as they competed against various other schools.

The Senior Years Girls' team featuring Rosanne Arul Raja, Jessica Wilson, Ishika Balram and Jaun Yum were extremely successful. The girls made the Grand Final and sadly lost to Applecross in a count back.

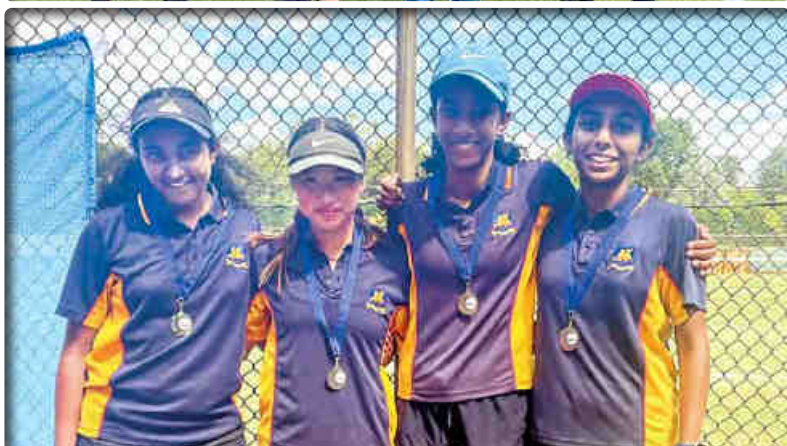
The Senior Years Boys' team of Oliver Nguyen, Rene Catovic, Joshua Vong and Chudy Isidienu and the Middle Years Boys' team made up of Keefen Wilson, Princeton Cheung, Arharaj Chudasama and Kiran Finn also dominated their pool and worked their way to the Grand Finals, with both teams finishing as runners-up.

In other wonderful news, Jaun Yum was selected for the WA State Girls team to challenge for the Pizzey Cup.

All students showed great sportsmanship and etiquette and should be very proud of their efforts.

ABOVE LEFT: Middle Years Boys' runners-up Arharaj Chudasama, Princeton Cheung, Keefen Wilson and Kiran Finn.

LEFT: Senior Girls' runners-up: Jessica Wilson, Jaun Yum, Rosanne Arul Raja and Ishika Balram.







## SSWA State Boys Futsal Competition

AARON BELL, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Kingsway Sporting Centre recently hosted the SSWA State Senior and Intermediate Interschool Futsal Competitions, showcasing the exceptional futsal talent and sportsmanship of students from over 20 schools.

The Seniors (Years 11 and 12) competition was on February 19 and the Intermediate competition (Years 9 and 10) was on March 11.

Well done to all the boys that participated and fought in some fierce competition against some soccer specialist schools. The day was filled with goals and smiles.



Perth Modern School had several teams represented at the SSWA State Boys Futsal.



## Nishan awarded Grand Final MVP and All Stars Guernsey in National Futsal

Nishan Alagoda in Year 12 has recently represented Western Australia in the National Futsal Championships held in Queensland.

The WA team made the semi-finals.

Nishan also played in the National Club Futsal Championship playing for Futsal WA, with his team winning the Championship and Nishan being awarded Grand Final MVP as well as a member of the All Stars.



Nishan Alagoda

# Thrilling adventures on the water

KATE HOLLAND, ROWING CLUB COORDINATOR



## Students excel in Learn-to-Row Program

In an exciting initiative, 21 students from Years 10 to 12 recently participated in a four-session Learn-to-Row course during Weeks 8 and 9 of Term 1. The program, organised by the Perth Modern Rowing Club, aimed to introduce these enthusiastic learners to the art of rowing.

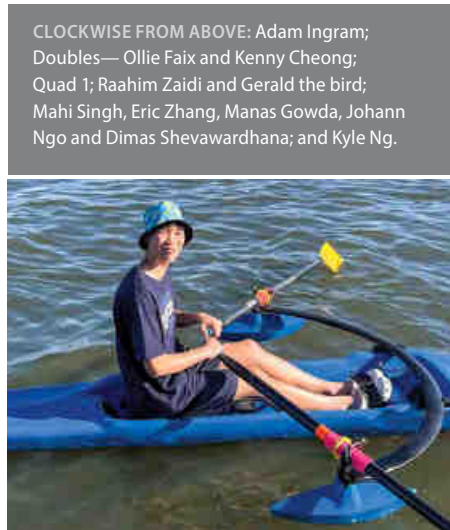
The students began their journey by mastering the fundamentals of rowing on indoor rowing machines. Understanding the mechanics of the stroke was crucial for their on-water experience.

Beyond the ergometers, they gained practical skills in boat handling. From launching to docking, they learned how to navigate the water confidently.

The highlight of the program was the three on-water sessions. Students had the opportunity to row in both a coxed quad (a four-person boat) and a single scull. These sessions allowed them to apply their newfound knowledge and experience the thrill of rowing firsthand.

Some students even learned the art of falling out of the boat and getting back in—an impressive feat that entertained everyone involved!

Despite the challenges, every participant made significant progress in their rowing skills. The combination of sunshine, camaraderie, and the picturesque waters made these sessions memorable.

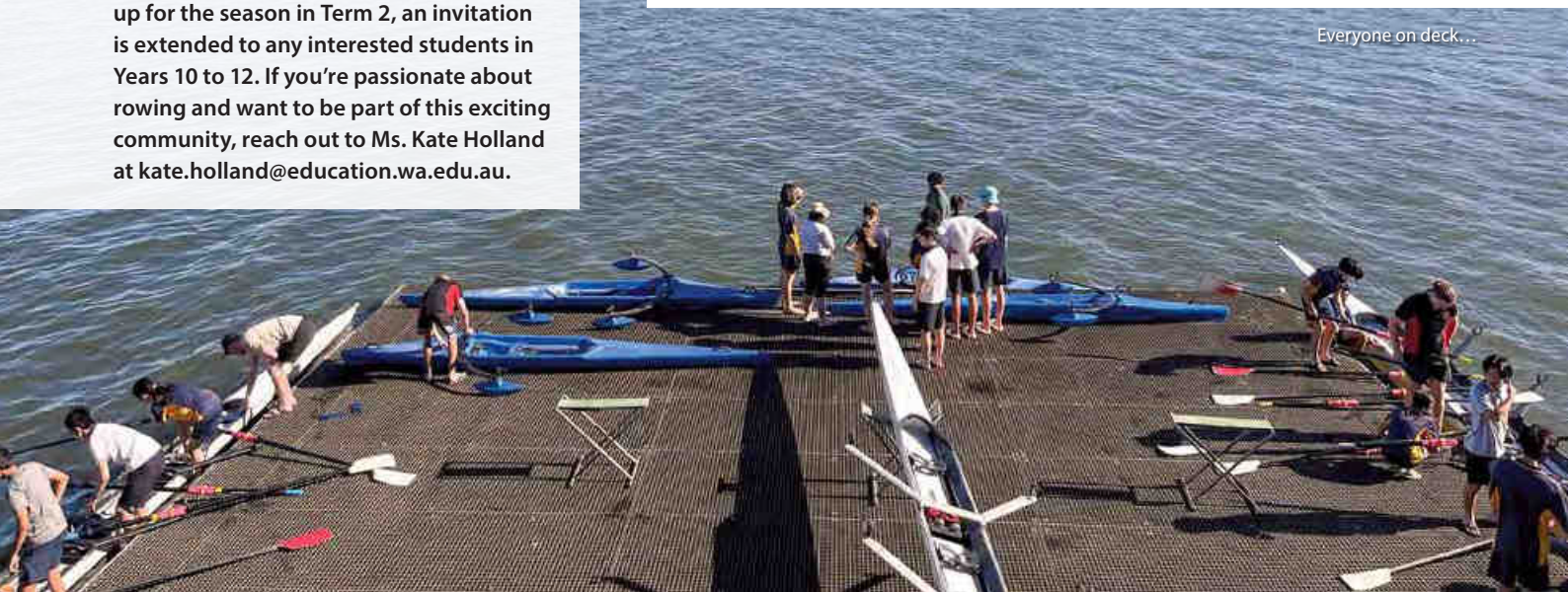


CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Adam Ingram; Doubles— Ollie Faix and Kenny Cheong; Quad 1; Raahim Zaidi and Gerald the bird; Mahi Singh, Eric Zhang, Manas Gowda, Johann Ngo and Dimas Shevawardhana; and Kyle Ng.

### Join the Club!

As the Perth Modern Rowing Club gears up for the season in Term 2, an invitation is extended to any interested students in Years 10 to 12. If you're passionate about rowing and want to be part of this exciting community, reach out to Ms. Kate Holland at [kate.holland@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:kate.holland@education.wa.edu.au).

Everyone on deck...



# Aquatic Recreation Adventure



## Year 9 Aquatic Recreation: A delightful trip to Rottnest

LAURA BALLINTIYN, YEAR 9

**Our day began promptly at 8:20 as we arrived at B-Shed, ready to embark on our Rottnest Island adventure. Sailing across the ocean, we soon found ourselves setting foot on this picturesque island. Our first destination was the Basin, and the journey there was nothing short of exhilarating.**

Despite the chilly water, we eagerly donned our snorkelling gear to explore the vibrant reefs and marine ecosystems along the coast. Colourful fish darted around us, and intricate coral formations captured our attention. As we swam through the crystal-clear sea, we also encountered fascinating rock structures beneath the waves.

After a refreshing swim, we continued our exploration and reached Longreach Bay. Its pristine white sand and turquoise waters provided the perfect backdrop for relaxation and play. We soaked up the sun, built sandcastles, and revelled in the island's natural beauty.

As the day ended, we caught a bus back to the settlement, passing by the famous salt lakes. The quaint shops beckoned, and we indulged in ice creams and bakery treats before boarding the ferry back to Perth.

Our trip to Rottnest Island was truly enchanting—a memory we'll cherish for years to come.



## Year 10 Aquatic Recreation: Learning to sail Funcats in South Perth

**Students learnt to tack, gybe, sail upwind and sail downwind. A lot of fun was had by all and students are looking forward to kayaking and surfing in Term 2.**

RIGHT: Ben Clarke, Rafif Kusumo and Dimas Shevawardhana.



# Cultivating compassion: Valentine's tradition and Dr Michael Bernard's impact



## Valentine's Day tradition at Perth Modern School: Roses bring goodwill and cheer

Every year, on Valentine's Day, the Student Council at Perth Modern School orchestrates a heart-warming tradition: the rose delivery service. This delightful event allows Mod students to express their affection and friendship by purchasing roses for their peers. The process is simple: select a rose, dedicate it to a friend, and watch as it is hand-delivered to them right within the school premises.

Whether it's a rose for a close friend or from a secret admirer, the tradition fosters a sense of community and shared joy.

It's a beautiful reminder that even in the hustle and bustle of academic life, gestures of kindness can make a lasting impact.



LEFT FROM TOP: Spreading goodwill: Miranda Salt, Binthi Gunawardhana, Rose Fairey, Anneke Dekkers, Mackenzie Strahan and Sophie Nham; Student Councillors Ethan Kelly, Mahek Aribenchi, Thevindu Kurunaratne, Cayden Arquiza-Relenas, Dana Anmar and Abby Sun; and Student Councillors Mary McCusker, Stella Anthony and Frank Holdom.

## Staff Professional Development with Dr Michael Bernard

On their return to school after the Christmas holidays, staff were busy with professional discussions held with Dr Michael Bernard, one of the leaders in Australia and around the world in student wellbeing and positive education.

Dr Michael Bernard, PhD, is an international consultant to universities, businesses, not-for-profit organisations, schools and governments. He is the founder of You Can Do It! Education, a program for promoting student social-emotional wellbeing and achievement that is being used in thousands of schools in Australia and overseas.

Staff gained a lot of insight into how to make their classrooms places where student wellbeing and striving for achievement is at the forefront.

RIGHT FROM TOP: Divya Khetarpal, Lucy Gunzberg, Dr Michael Bernard and Guy Stimson; and Sarah Eve, Katie Chin, Julie Vivian and Jacqui Carter in the Dr Michael Bernard workshop.



PERTH MODERN SCHOOL  
Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.

Perth Modern School  
Roberts Road, Subiaco, WA 6008  
Tel: +618 9392 6855  
[www.perthmodernschool.wa.edu.au](http://www.perthmodernschool.wa.edu.au)  
Editor: Thalia Cole