



# PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.

NEWS  
JAN 2012

## Perth Modern School **A WINNER**



**With the announcement of the WA Certificate of Education courses results and that Perth Modern School is the top ranked public school in the State, the Director General Sharyn O'Neill responded, "I particularly want to highlight the success of Perth Modern School.**

*In its Centenary Year, it was the top performing public school in the academic table..."*

*"Perth Modern School students performed outstandingly well, with 314 WACE scores of 75 or higher and 18 students with an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank of 99 or higher.*

*The school won more Curriculum Council awards than any other school in WA (73 students won 91 awards) and two of it's students Hayley Pring and Camille White have been accepted into the prestigious Oxbridge Universities in the UK."*



L to R: Alex Nairn, Hayley Pring, Angel Yu, Emma Dyce and Ellen Tapsell

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After the Term 3 holidays the Year 12 students returned to school for their last school days. In addition to having their final lessons with teachers they enjoyed a variety of events including **two days of free creative dress**, a **dinner dance**, a **breakfast with staff** in the refectory, a **final assembly** and the **traditional Ringing of the Bells** before leaving school on Friday, 21 October 2011 to begin preparations for the WACE examinations.

A very successful **Italian tour** was enjoyed by 17 students during the term break. The tour gave them the opportunity to immerse themselves in Italian culture and spend time at a local school.

Our **Student Council** organised a **Variety Concert** on the first Wednesday of term. This gave many talented students the opportunity to perform for their friends and families with a panel of enthusiastic staff members judging the performances.

The **WACE examinations** started smoothly on Monday, 31 October 2011 with students approaching the exams with calm demeanours and confidence.

## From the Principal, reflections on 2011

*At the end of this very special Centenary Year and the graduation year for the first selective students, the final term has been full of activity, achievement and celebration. It is a fitting end to this, the first year since 1959, that all students at the school have been selected on the basis of their academic gifts and talents. Perth Modern School was the top public school for 2011 and the Year 12 students achieved the highest median ATAR in Western Australia. It is so affirming to witness our students embracing opportunities to grow their gifts and talents and be the best they can be. This newsletter captures Term 4 award winners announced in January.*

I am very proud of the achievements and efforts of all our students with many receiving awards and accolades during Term 4. I am constantly amazed at the depth of talent on display by our students and the range of activities and events they participate in.

I would like to make special mention of our 2011 Dux **Angel Yu**. Angel achieved a near perfect ATAR score of 99.90 having won a bronze medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad earlier on in the year – all at the age of fifteen! Angel plans to study Science at the University of Melbourne in 2012 on a full scholarship. Well done Angel and good luck - I look forward to hearing about your future success.

In addition many Perth Modern School students won an **International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (ICAS) Award** which acknowledges students who have achieved the highest scores in their year level in each ICAS subject.

Congratulations to **Georgina Higgins** Year 8 for English, **Seamus Carey** Year 9 for Mathematics, **James Arcus** Year 8 for Science, **Audrey Lee** Year 9 for Science and **Ryan Lee** Year 11 for Science.

I am extremely proud of **Lucy Sharpe** and **Joseph Sabbagh** who, having won the State Awards for the **National History Challenge**, went on to win the **National Finals** and were presented with their awards in Canberra.

Year 11 students **Yongzi Lau**, **Brooke Loneragan** and **Kimberley Krish** were selected to participate in the **National Mathematics Summer School** in Canberra in January 2012. There were only six students chosen State-wide.

Another end of year highlight was attending the **Australian Mathematics Competition** awards ceremony at The University of Western Australia when 13 Perth Modern School students received prizes. **Angel Yu** was named a hero of the International Olympiad and **Seamus Carey** also received a medal.

Well done to the two teams who competed in the **National Finals** of the **Future Problem Solving** and acquitted themselves well against many teams from the Eastern States.

Thank you to the **sixteen members of the Schola Cantori** who performed, along with representatives from over 70 other secondary schools, at the opening of **CHOGM**.

**Ee-Faye Chong**, **Rosemary Virgona**, **Claudia Sosin** and **Max Juniper** won a scholarship to visit **Japan** in December and are congratulated on their success.

Perth Modern School was well represented at the **Australian Mathematics Trust** awards ceremony held at The University of Western Australia on Friday, 18 November 2011.







The **Year 12 Art Exhibition** was opened to an enthusiastic crowd of parents and community members on Friday, 18 November 2011. Congratulations to all students for their terrific work.

**Year 12 Music students** enjoyed a delightful evening of celebration in the Agora on Tuesday, 21 November 2011. The Year 11 Friends of Music parents provided an enjoyable supper to contribute to this event which acknowledged students' contribution to Music at Perth Modern School.

An amazing journey was had by over 60 students from **Year 10 and Year 11** and four staff **Allan Bertram, Nigel Bateman, Lisa Ferrie and Sol Hanna** on a three week **World Challenge trip to Nepal**.

The initial rollout of **Tablet Computers for Year 9 and Year 10 students 2012** took place in early Term 4.

I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting with our **Year 8 Advocacy Groups** for breakfast. It has been delightful to talk to the students about their experiences at Perth Modern School.

### Our Community Support Groups

The **Parents and Citizens** and the **School Council** met twice this term. We thank the hard working members for their on going contribution to the life of the school.

Interested School Council members and other members of the community

undertook **School Board** training facilitated by the Department of Education on Monday, 7 November 2011. Nominations to fill three parent positions on the 2012 School Board resulted in 10 interested parents applying. The successful candidates were elected by the parents of the school.

**Friends of Perth Modern School** is a new initiative providing opportunities for parents and the community to support the diverse learning areas and activities. The group is growing at a pleasing rate with several members already contributing in various ways.



## Farewell Year 12 students



**It was a very memorable morning as the Year 12 students of 2011 were farewelled at their presentation ceremony held on Saturday, 19 November 2011 in the Octagon Theatre at The University of Western Australia.**

The students looked resplendent in their graduation gowns and sashes as they filed into the Octagon in front of guests, parents and teachers.

The school was pleased to welcome the Minister for Education, the Hon. Dr Elizabeth Constable MLA, to present the **Dux award to Angel Yu**. Other guests included the former Principal Dr Robyn White, and the recent Governor of Western Australia and former Patron of Perth Modern School, Dr Ken Michael AC who gave the key note address to the graduating class, marking this special occasion.

The valedictory speech was delivered by the Student Council President, Emma Dyce and Vice President, Sakinah Munday as they reflected on their memorable years at Perth Modern School. They presented humour and a touch of seriousness as they provided the students' perspective of their journey at Perth Modern School.

The Year 12 Coordinator, Ms Kaye Harvey received a standing ovation from the graduating students after she had delivered her memories of the class of 2011 over the past five years. Since their arrival at the school in Year 8, Ms Harvey has nurtured and mentored this fine group of students. She provided wise words of wisdom for the students to reflect on and take with them into the future.

All members of the school community wish the graduating students every success and the very best for their futures.



L to R: Angel Yu, Dr Elizabeth Constable MLA, Minister for Education



L to R: Lois Joll, Sakinah Munday, Emma Dyce



## Exceptional Students: Exceptional Results



With the publication of the WACE results, the Curriculum Council awards and the announcement that Perth Modern School is the top ranking public school in the State, the Principal Lois Joll responded "I am delighted with the results achieved by the Perth Modern School students. The 2011 Year 12 students have achieved exceptional results. Perth Modern School has the highest number of award-winning students with **73 students obtaining 91 awards.**"

Of special note are the **18 students** who achieved an **Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 99+** and the **74 students** who achieved an **ATAR of 95+**. Of these students Camille White achieved 99.95, Angel Yu achieved 99.9, James Falsey achieved 99.85, Sandeep Kulkarni achieved 99.75, Wilson Ng achieved 99.75 and Lucy Sharpe achieved 99.7.

In particular, the school community acknowledges the achievements of the **three course exhibition** winners who obtained the highest mark for each course – Hayley Pring for Ancient History, Emma Dyce for Design and Lucy Sharpe for Philosophy and Ethics.

"Perth Modern School students also had the highest median **ATAR in the State** with **94.05** while the **State median ATAR is 78.55**. These outstanding results are the culmination of exceptional schooling at Perth Modern School and should ensure the majority of students access their course of choice. I would like to thank all their teachers for their dedication and commitment to ensuring the highest possible outcomes for their students," said Ms Joll.



Hayley Pring and Emma Dyce

### Camille gains entry to Oxford University



**Camille White has much to celebrate in 2012! Not only did she obtain a perfect score of 99.95 but she has also been accepted into the course of her first choice – Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) at Oxford University which she will start in October 2012.**

**Currently Camille is travelling in France enjoying a well earned holiday.**

### Congratulations to Course Exhibition winners Hayley, Emma and Lucy



Hayley Pring, as the winner of the Ancient History course exhibition, has her sights on Cambridge University where she plans to study both modern and ancient history. When asked about her future aspirations Hayley said she hopes to become an academic with a longer term plan of perhaps entering politics. She would be equally happy studying a double major in History and International Relations at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Emma Dyce is thrilled with her overall results and especially in obtaining the course exhibition in Design (Photography).

Emma is looking forward to studying at The University of Western Australia in 2012 and plans to undertake a Bachelor of Philosophy degree and may include Commerce and Arts units as part of her degree. She is also considering learning a new language (in addition to her Italian) with the view of taking opportunities that come her way.

As the winner of the Philosophy and Ethics course exhibition, Lucy Sharpe is looking forward to continuing her studies in Philosophy at The University of Western Australia. Like many of her classmates Lucy has been successful in gaining entry to a number of universities.



# Curriculum Council course exhibition and award winners 2011



## COURSE EXHIBITION WINNERS

A course exhibition is awarded to the top eligible student obtaining the highest combined mark in a WACE course.

Subject	Name
Ancient History	Hayley Pring
Design	Emma Dyce
Philosophy and Ethics	Lucy Sharpe

## CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE

A certificate of excellence is awarded to each eligible student who obtains at least 18 grades of 'A' in course units or equivalents and achieved the WACE.

Name	
Kyla-Rae Ashworth	Sakinah Munday
Grace Benn	Josephine Nagappa
Preeti Bhat	Alexander Nairn
Ashleigh Blechynden	Wilson Ng
Monica Brierley-Hay	Darcy Nidd
Thomas Carlyon-Stewart	Kirsten Olden
Graham Chua	Elaine Ong
Laura Clappinson	Georgia Payne
Thomas Conradie	Elizabeth Phillips
Alexander Cook	Hayley Pring
Millicent Crane	Caitlin Putt
Rachel Currie	Madeleine Rice
Angela Dalstra	Emma Rogerson
Emma Dyce	Lauren Schillaci
James Falsay	Naomi Schlaepfer
Amy Fortnum	Jack Scott
Molly Geller	Lillian Seow
Aileen Gong	Lucy Sharpe
Stuart Gould	Lloyd Snook
Teresa Gunawan	Claudia Sosin
Rachel Harries	Robbie-Lee Stephen
Vivienne Horley	Adam Tan
Sharon Jalawadi	Ellen Tapsell
Chuyi Jiang	Kathryn Thomas
Max Juniper	Kathy Trinh
Fraser Kirton	Kiara Waller
Sandeep Kulkarni	Camille White
Lucy Lane	Narika Wicks
Yongzi Lau	Dillon Wong
Benedict Lawrence	Robin Wong
Jillien Loh	Hannah Woolley
Row-Yi Loo	Angel Yu
Daniel Lucey	Caroline Zabczyk
An Yi Mai	Marousia Zhang
Haylee McCormick	Ren Zheng
Gabrielle McGrath	

## CERTIFICATES OF DISTINCTION

Certificates of distinction are awarded to eligible students who are in the top 0.5 per cent of candidates based on the WACE course score or the top two candidates (whichever is greater) in a WACE course.

Subject	Name
Ancient History	Hayley Pring
Applied Information Technology	Stuart Gould
Design	Emma Dyce, Haylee McCormick
English	Emma Dyce, Stephanie Claire McRoberts, Robbie-Lee Stephen
Mathematics	Stuart Gould, Angel Yu
Mathematics Specialist	Angel Yu
Modern History	Lillian Li-Yen Seow, Lucy Sharpe, Narika Erin Wicks
Philosophy and Ethics	Lucy Sharpe, Camille White
Physics	James Falsay, Angel Yu
Psychology	Ellen Tapsell
Economics	Jaron Lee (Special Certificate of Distinction)



Thirteen students won certificates of distinction including Hayley Pring, Emma Dyce, Ellen Tapsell and Robbie-Lee Stephen.



# Perth Modern School Presentation Awards



## DUX OF PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Angel Yu

## PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Alexander Cook, Stuart Gould, Sandeep Kulkarni, Wilson Ng & Lucy Sharpe

## SPHINX SOCIETY AWARDS

### FOUR SEMESTERS

Thomas Carlyon-Stewart, Graham Chua, Angela Dalstra, Emma Dyce, Amy Fortnum, Aileen Gong, Kristen Olden, Elizabeth Phillips, Kathy Trinh, Angel Yu & Marousia Zhang

### FIVE SEMESTERS

Alexander Cook, Stuart Gould, Sandeep Kulkarni, Alexander Nairn, Darcy Nidd, Emma Rogerson, Mei-Wei T E H, Caroline Zabczyk & RenTian (Nancy) Zheng

### SIX SEMESTERS

Preeti Bhat, Jillien Loh, Row-Yi Loo, Wilson Ng, Elaine Ong, Lauren Schillaci, Lillian Seow, Lucy Sharpe, Lloyd Snook, Camille White & Robin Wong

## ARTS & TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

SUBJECT	AWARDEE
DRAMA Stage 3	Molly Geller
APPLIED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Stage 3	Stuart Gould
CHRISTIAN FLETCHER AWARD FOR DESIGN - PHOTOGRAPHY Stage 3	Emma Dyce
FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Stage 3	Jesse Jayaseela Yr 11
JACKSONS AWARD FOR VISUAL ARTS Stage 3	Tiffany Burridge
PSYCHOLOGY Stage 3	Sarah Coulter-Nile
MEDIA PRODUCTION AND ANALYSIS Stage 3	Benedict Lawrence

## BALLET AWARDS

SUBJECT	AWARDEE
DANCE Stage 3	Naomi Schlaepfer
CLASSICAL BALLET STUDIES	Jessica Evans

## ENGLISH AWARDS

SUBJECT	AWARDEE
ELLA MACKAY AWARD FOR ENGLISH Stage 3	Robbie-Lee Stephen
LITERATURE Stage 3	Daniel Dolin

## LANGUAGES AWARDS

SUBJECT	AWARDEE
CHINESE Stage 3	Chuan-Yu (Kristy) Chu
FRENCH (S.I.D.E.) Stage 3	Claire Rapson Year 11
ITALIAN Stage 3	Fraser Kirton
JAPANESE Stage 3	Jillien Loh

## MATHEMATICS AWARDS

SUBJECT	AWARDEE
MATHEMATICS Stage 2	Madeline Boe
MATHEMATICS 3A/B	Lauren Schillaci
MATHEMATICS 3C/D	Angel Yu
MATHEMATICS SPECIALIST 3C/D	Angel Yu

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION AWARDS

SUBJECT	AWARDEE
PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDIES Stage 3	Elizabeth Phillips
SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR	Jayden Seet & Lachlan Shakeshaft

## COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD

James Falsay & Hayley Pring

## MUSIC AWARDS

SUBJECT	AWARDEE
MUSIC Stage 3	Kyla-Rae Ashworth
IRENE JOLLEY MEMORIAL CHORAL AWARD	Amy Fortnum & Darcy Nidd
DETTMAN MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP	Fletcher Cox & Kyla-Rae Ashworth
TOM KENT SCHOLARSHIP	Kathryn Thomas & Monica Brierley-Hay
WILLIAM AND CLARICE STABB MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP	Ashleigh Blechynden
OUTSTANDING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STUDENT	Emma Rogerson
JOHN PETER COLES AWARD FOR TOP VOCAL STUDENT	Claudia Sosin

## SCIENCE AWARDS

SUBJECT	AWARDEE
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE Stage 3	Angela Dalstra
HUMAN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE Stage 3	Preeti Bhat
PHYSICS Stage 3	Angel Yu
CHEMISTRY Stage 3	James Falsay
THE DR ALBERT WALKINGTON PRIZE FOR CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS	James Falsay



# Perth Modern School Presentation Awards



## “ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA” - CERTIFICATES FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Graham Chua, Rachel Currie, Angela Dalstra, James Falsay, Aileen Gong, Sandeep Kulkarni, Gabrielle McGrath, Alexander Nairn, Wilson Ng, Elaine Ong, Kyle Rosa, Robin Wong & Angel Yu

## SOCIAL SCIENCE AWARDS

SUBJECT	AWARDEE
PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS Stage 3	Lucy Sharpe
MIKE MCGINLEY AWARD FOR MODERN HISTORY Stage 3	Hayley Pring
ANCIENT HISTORY Stage 3	Hayley Pring
ECONOMICS Stage 3	Jaron Lee Year 11
POLITICS AND LAW Stage 3	Monica Brierley-Hay

## HONOURS AWARDS

HOUSE AWARDS	AWARDEE
GOLD SPHINX - 2010	Stuart Gould
GOLD SPHINX - Semester 2, 2011	Angel Yu
PLATINUM Medal	Stuart Gould
AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE LONG TAN LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK AWARD	Camille White
THE CLARE CASEY SERVICE AWARD	Emma Dyce
THE CALTEX ALL ROUNDER AWARD	Alexander Cook



**Some award winners**

Back row: Jack Scott.

Second back row (L-R): Thomas Conradie, Alexander Nairn, Darcy Nidd, Hayley Pring, Robbie-Lee Stephen, Ellen Tapsell, Millicent Crane, Gabrielle McGrath.

Second-front row (L-R): Monica Brierley-Hay, Narika Wicks, Emma Dyce, Daniel Lucey, Associate Principal Val Furphy, Elizabeth Phillips.

Front row (L-R): An Yi Mai, Angel Yu, Fraser Kirton.



# Students visit the national capital

BY AANCHAL CHOPRA, RACHEL GROVE, LAUREN STREET AND ANAIS ASOTOFF WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ALL ON THE TOUR



The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. On 1 November 2011, 39 very excited year 9 Students and four enthusiastic teachers set off on an educational tour of the national capital, Canberra.

To help families afford this wonderful opportunity, the Government funded part of the trip and contributed \$260 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) program towards travel expenses. The funding was a great help and we would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

Our first day in Canberra included an exciting visit to Questacon where we experienced a whole new perspective on the science world.

We then visited the National Film and Sound Archive where we viewed a short clip consisting of a sample of all the footage stored in the archive.

We had free time to roam around a gallery showing the evolution of sound and film through the ages. Our last stop of the day was Parliament House where we were given an opportunity to meet the Federal Member for Fremantle, Melissa Parke who gave us a first hand view of the experiences of being a Member of Parliament. Next we visited the Parliament Education Office.

The following day at the Australian War Memorial we participated in a ceremony to honour those who had lost their lives for their country. This service was a truly memorable experience, one that was added to by the magnificent architecture of the building and its history. From there we went to the High Court of Australia where we took a behind-the-scenes look where the laws that govern Australia are interpreted.

Next we went to the Australian Institute of Sport where some of Australia's most elite athletes live and train.

On the last day of the tour we took a step back into the pages of history when we were at Old Parliament House and were told about the sacking of Gough Whitlam and procedures in the past. Next was a visit to the National Portrait Gallery where we viewed some interesting pieces of art. This was also a memorable experience and one that inspired many of us. The Royal Mint was the last official venue we visited. At the Royal Mint we explored the process that went into the production of the coins we have in our wallets today.

Activities were planned for each evening and on the first evening we visited the Mount Stromlo Observatory. At the observatory we were enthralled by a 3D movie and were given glimpses of Jupiter and the moon. The next evening we had a breathtaking view of Canberra



Canberra tour group at Parliament House



Students around the tomb of the unknown soldier in Canberra





# National accolades for Perth Modern School historians



**Congratulations to two outstanding History students, Lucy Sharpe and Joseph Sabbagh, who were national winners in the National History Challenge.**

The National History Challenge requires students to conduct research on an aspect of Australian history, develop a thesis linked to the theme of 'Defining Moments' and present their work in either an essay or multimedia format. It is open to all students from Years 5 to 12 across Australia.

Lucy wrote on the Assimilation Policy as a defining moment in the 20th century, incorporating the experiences of her own family into the national narrative. Her essay won the Immigrant Experience category for both Western Australia and Australia. A national panel also judged her the Australian Young Historian 2011.

Joseph researched the Overland Telegraph Line and its impact on Australia. His highly entertaining and informative multimedia work won the Australian Heritage category at both the State and national levels.

Lucy and Joseph attended the national award ceremony at Parliament House, Canberra, on Monday, 22 November 2011. They were presented with their medallions and participated in a program that included visits to the Australian War Memorial and the National Museum of Australia.

## “ JOSEPH SABBAGH'S ACCOUNT OF THE EXPERIENCE

*As a student who had always enjoyed the study of history, entering the National History Challenge 2011 was a given. In order to qualify for the competition, we were to produce an entry based on Australian history, and one that related to the overarching theme of "Defining Moments". You could produce the entry in an essay, multimedia*

*presentation, museum display or PowerPoint format. I used my multimedia skills to present a video documentary hosted by computer generated character Dr Aavid Attenborough. I was surprised when my entry won at State and national levels, and I was rewarded with an all expenses paid trip to Canberra.* ”



Joseph Sabbagh, Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Ashwin Ramanathan and Lucy Sharpe Australian Young Historian at Parliament House, Canberra.

## Have Sum Fun Online



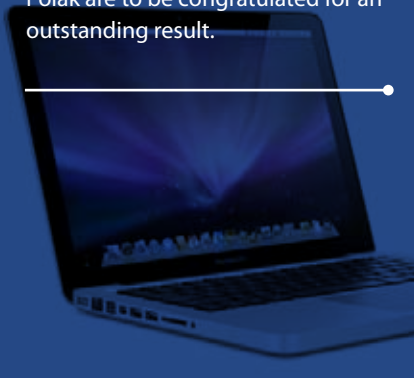
Towards the end of Term 3, students were invited to register for the Have Sum Fun Online group problem solving competition. The response was overwhelming with many more students applying than spaces available; a testament to their love of Maths perhaps!

Two teams were entered in each year group and Perth Modern School students achieved very pleasing results. The Year 8 students competed against 98 other teams and were placed equal fifth. The Year 9 students competed against 45 other teams and were placed first and second.

The first placed Year 9 team members were Seamus Carey, Helen Jiang, Andrew Huang and Scott Patterson. Congratulations!

The second placed Year 9 team members were Erwin Zhiwei Tee, Henri Do Van, Daniel Thai and Yasomatinandana Fisher.

The Year 10 students competed against 27 other teams and were placed in the top 10. A group of Year 8 students sat the Year 10 competition and were also placed in the top 10, just behind Perth Modern School's Year 10 team! Year 8 students Braden Thorne, James Arcus, Theodore Vickery and Andrew Polak are to be congratulated for an outstanding result.



## FOCUS Environment photographic competition winner



*Serenity*

Year 12 student Benedict Lawrence won first place in Chevron Australia's annual environmental photography competition, FOCUS Environment. Benedict's prize-winning photo titled *Serenity*, won the Nature's Mood subject category in the Years 11 and 12 students section.

It featured the Quindalup Boat Ramp at sunrise, revealing the many colours and moods of nature.



*Benedict Lawrence with Rick Biddle from Chevron Australia*

## The Variety Concert

BY LAWSON SMITH



**The inaugural Variety Concert was held on the evening of 19 October 2011, hosted by the Student Council and it featured a plethora of acts. After signing up, auditioning and practising (not necessarily in that order), performers dressed up and entertained the crowd on the night with shuffling, chip tunes, parodies, rapping and piano pieces.**

The Masters of Ceremonies, Ellen Tapsell and Hannah Woolley, kept the jokes flying, creating a humorous ambience as they kept the night on track.

Mr Norrie, Mr Jurilj and Mr Sonder-Sorensen were guest judges and provided some intriguing opinions, advice, and the occasional physics joke before they awarded scores to each performer.

CGC Legacy was awarded first prize with their dance medley, Franca Dobbin on guitar and vocals finished in second place.

Madeleine McEwen finished in third place singing her composition 'Breathe' with the guitar. French language students sold cupcakes, quiches and crepes during intermission, with proceeds going towards their tour.

The Student Council would like to acknowledge and thank Mr Hanna for his efforts in making the event possible and for contributing countless hours in organising the night.



## Check Mate! Chess Tournaments



**The State Chess Tournament, organised by Chesskids, was held at Perth Modern School on Thursday, 27 October 2011 and featured 96 students competing in the Primary or Open Secondary Competitions. The event took place over a whole school day with all students playing seven gruelling rounds of chess.**

Perth Modern School won the Open Secondary competition, beating Wesley College and Lakeland Senior High School who finished in second and third place respectively.

The school chess team travelled to Kyneton in Victoria to represent the school and Western Australia in the Chesskids Australasian Championships in early December 2011.

The team members were Neville Shah (captain), Aston Taminsjah, Michael Papasergio, Erwin Zhiwei Tee and Joseph Thompson. They were keen to gauge their standing at this event that involved top chess schools from both Australia and New Zealand.

Auckland Grammar School from New Zealand won the tournament, with Perth

Modern School finishing fourth, the second ranked Australian school. Neville Shah was the highest placed individual and finished in eighth place. The future of the Perth Modern School chess team is looking very bright as most of the team members will return to Perth Modern School in 2012.



Michael Papasergio Year 8

## Philosothon competition



**The annual Philosothon took place this year on the evening of Wednesday, 26 October 2011 at Hale School. The competition involved four inquiries that ran for thirty minutes each. The first two inquiries were strictly in year groups, while the third and fourth inquiries occurred in mixed year groups.**

An academic from the various philosophy departments at universities in Western Australia judged each inquiry.

Either postgraduate philosophy students or secondary teachers of philosophy, including Perth Modern School teacher Dr Raymond Driehuis, facilitated each inquiry.

This year there were 24 schools engaged in communities of inquiry on the following topics:

- Whether or not we have free will?
- Whether or not the universe has a purpose?
- Whether or not gender needs morally different treatment?
- How to lead a good life.

The Perth Modern School team consisted of Josephine Sadler (Year 8), Cara Holland (Year 9), Oliva Rawlings (Year 10), Liam Tapsell (Year 10), Isaac Finaldi (Year 11) and Simon Sherrington (Year 11). Each member of the team worked hard to prepare and participated to the best of their ability in their inquiries on the night. All in all, the night was very enjoyable and intellectually stimulating and we look forward to competing again in 2012.



L to R: Dr Ray Driehuis, Isaac Finaldi, Simon Sherrington, Liam Tapsell, Oliva Rawlings, Cara Holland, Josephine Sadler





## Outstanding Mathematicians



**In August 2011, all Perth Modern School students in Years 8 to 11 and some in Year 12 entered the Australian Mathematics Competition, one of the largest mathematics competitions of its kind in the world. Hundreds of thousands of school students around Australia and in more than 40 countries enter the competition.**

The students achieved outstanding results across all year groups. An awards ceremony was held on 18 November 2011 for the prize winners.

In Year 8, Hyeon Kyoo, Haobei Ma, Hongyi Gao and Adrian Kinny all earned prizes for being in the top 0.3% of performers. The Year 8 students produced 16 High Distinction winners and 73 Distinctions.

The Year 9 students were awarded 11 High Distinctions and an additional 56 Year 9 students were awarded Distinctions. Seamus Carey was flown to Hobart to attend a National Awards Ceremony for an outstanding performance in the State and overall in the competition. Audrey Lee, Jamin Wu and Zhixian Wu also won prizes.

In Year 10, Aidan Yuen-Oye, Zhi Bin, Daryl Chung-Wah-Cheong and Alexander Thatcher all earned prizes. The Year 10 group achieved 19 High Distinctions and 58 Distinctions. Aidan Yuen-Oye also won the Prudence Award that is awarded to the student who has the highest number of correct answers in a row.

The Year 11 students performed well generating 12 High Distinctions and 38 Distinctions.

Only 20 Year 12 students sat the test. Angel Yu was a prize winner, and the group produced one High Distinction and eight Distinction winners.

The results were outstanding and all students who participated in the competition should feel proud of their achievements.



L to R: Hyeon Kyoo Yoo, Principal Lois Joll and Hongyi Gao

## Hon. Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG speaks out for public education

BY JOHNSON YE AND EDEN ROKICH, YEAR 10 LAW CLASS



**On Wednesday, 26 October 2011 the Hon. Justice Kirby AC CMG visited our school and gave us an insightful and informative lecture about the importance of public education, the importance of excellence in public education and the importance of equality and equal opportunity.**

After an entertaining introduction of his life, Justice Kirby advocated for quality public education, with an emphasis on the creation of more quality public selective schools such as Perth Modern School. He said that excellence in public education is the key to the country's future.

Justice Kirby also talked about the importance of equality in all areas of life. He gave some insightful views on the current status of equality within the legal profession.

Justice Kirby left us all with thought provoking ideas and concepts which we will take on board into the future. He is an exceptional Australian and an inspiration to the students of Perth Modern School.



L to R: Hon. Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG, Jesse Jayaseela, Ailsa Brown, Emma



# National Computer Science Challenge

BY WALTER WILSON - ICT TEACHER, ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY LEARNING AREA



**Congratulations to all students who participated in the National Computer Science Challenge (2011). The Challenge had 2,070 students from 237 schools across Australia participate. Over 3,000 submissions were made per day, and a total of 113,232 pieces of code were submitted. Perth Modern School was very well represented by the Year 10 Computer Science and the Year 11 Applied Information Technology classes.**

The Challenge is conducted by the School of Information Technologies at the University of Sydney and NICTA as part of the National Computer Science School. NICTA (National ICT Australia Ltd) is Australia's Information and Communications Technology Research Centre of Excellence. Its primary goal is to build and deliver excellence in ICT research and commercial outcomes for Australia.

The students entered a programming competition where they used Python programming language to solve a range of problems for six weeks.

The following students were awarded High Distinction certificates.

**YEAR 10**  
**High Distinction**

Ashleigh Ballantyne, James Houlahan  
Henry Clarkson, Joseph Thompson,  
Lauren Gee

**YEAR 11**  
**High Distinction**

Alex Loe, Karun Paul



National Computer Science Challenge students:  
L to R: Front row Joseph Thompson, Madeline King, Ashleigh Ballantyne, Henry Clarkson  
L to R: Back row James Houlahan, Cameron Duncan, Lauren Gee





# An amazing Italian adventure

BY THE ITALIAN TOUR YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11 STUDENTS



**On Tuesday, 27 September 2011, 17 excited students took off for Italy! After 17.5 long hours on a plane, we arrived in the country renowned for art, food and culture. Our first stop was the eternal city of Rome. Here we visited tourist attractions such as the famous historical Colosseum, Roman Forum, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon and the Vatican City. These sights amazed us with their immense beauty and size. While in Rome we also went on a day trip to the ancient city of Pompeii.**

The second stop on our trip was Florence. Here we saw some amazing architecture and artwork at the Uffizi Gallery. The view from the Ponte Vecchio Bridge was breathtaking while experiencing the shopping and market culture of the city. After Florence we visited Pisa and admired the stunning Leaning Tower, Baptistry and Church.

Our final destination of the tour was Vittorio Veneto. Here we spent about a week with our host families and experienced school life in Italy and Italian family home life.

We also explored the beautiful Italian countryside in the surrounding area. After Vittorio Veneto the next highlights were the cities of Venice and Verona. Our experiences in both cities were unforgettable.

There were many opportunities to see beautiful architecture and historical sights such as St Mark's Cathedral and the Arena. Another highlight was a visit to the beautiful Dolomites where we were given the chance to experience the snow!

Overall, the Italian tour experience was truly amazing. We have made lifelong friends, improved our Italian language skills, and have many wonderful memories for many years to come.

### A few students' reflections: what we loved...

#### Leah Vlatko

"The stay with the families was a fantastic experience. To enjoy typical Italian life was simply marvellous, and it was lovely to bond over knitting, ukuleles and food."

#### Olivia Rawlings

"My highlight of the tour was bounding through the freshly fallen snow of the Dolomites."

#### Kelsey Garratt

"My favourite part of the trip was when I went on a carousel in Florence with Lucy, Sara and Jane. This allowed me to take in the beautiful markets around me while enjoying a lovely ride."

#### Darcy Jarosek

"A most cherished part of the tour was sauntering through the markets of Firenze and beholding a veritable cornucopia of assorted treasures, trinkets, baubles and belts."



Italian tour students in front of the Colosseum



Italian tour students by the Leaning Tower of Pisa

### TOP MARKS FOR ITALIAN STUDENTS

Congratulations to Kieren Bell and Ellen Williams in Year 11 for finishing first and second respectively in the State wide Dante Alighieri external examination that was held in August 2011. On Wednesday, 26 October 2011 the President of the Dante Alighieri Society presented students with their prizes at the Western Australian Italian Club.



L to R: Ellen Williams, Grace Costa, Kieren Bell





## Thought of the week



The purpose of the 'Thought of the week' is to provide students across the school with a fun and challenging opportunity to engage in critical thought. The activity has been running since week one of Term 3, 2011 in the Daily Notices. Advocacy groups are asked to discuss each week's quotation, and students are invited to respond critically in writing, arguing for or against its truth in no more than 200 words.

Each submission earned three House Points for its author(s) and the best response each week earned five House Points and a certificate for its author(s). The Year 12 Philosophy students judged all the responses.

The following selection of responses demonstrates the intellectual talents of students at the school.

“ Before enlightenment: chop wood, carry water. After enlightenment: chop wood, carry water. ”

I think that this means that before you learn something, or when you are small, there are some things that must be done.

After you learn new things, or you complete your education, you still have to do those things. I believe that the statement is true, as there are things that I do now that I have always done.

Even if we change the way we are doing it, we are still doing those things, but we have just found a more efficient way to do that. The only thing that has changed is that we have become 'enlightened.'

**Mauresca Veiga Year 9**

“ Beware lest you lose the substance by grasping at the shadows. ”

**AESOP**

Aesop is perhaps best known for his fables, many of which we have undoubtedly heard as children. There is no doubt as to the merit of such tales that seem to be representative of humans themselves.

To "lose the substance by grasping at the shadow" is a pitfall that many of us have experienced. This quotation comes from the fable "The Ass and his Shadow" which, albeit at a very literal level, is an excellent demonstration of how we, in our anger, forget the actual reason for the argument.

Civilised debate in modern society is a highly regarded activity; we do not condemn opinion, but encourage it. Therefore, it is true that we absolutely must keep our purpose clear, and our reasons relevant.

Of course, this quote is not limited to arguments only; it is true that we often forsake the root of our desires, and aim instead for the desire itself. Consider a tree upon which money grows; unfortunately, one, in their ecstasy, picks all the money from the tree and neglects it. The tree dies.

This quote holds many meanings for humans. Our shortcomings are numerous enough that a great many can be described as "losing the substance."

**Jamin Wu Year 9**

“ I tell you everything that is really nothing and nothing of what is everything; do not be fooled by what I am saying. Please listen carefully and try to hear what I am not saying. ”

**CHARLES C. FINN**

In English we are told to question everything and think about what is not said, because sometimes we find out more that way than just concentrating on what is said.

Think about conversations; when you are talking to someone, more is apparently revealed through the eyes. The things they could be saying may be completely useless; small talk; talking just for the sake of talking-to be in control, the centre of the attention.

So everything that you say is really nothing, and the things that you don't say can be everything.

Then we are told that symbolism is everywhere. But how are we to know what they represent, if anything?

We see a picture of the sun and we think of hope, happiness, a brand new day. Nothing about the sun directly suggests this, it's just a big ball of gas and fire, but people have it ingrained in their brains that the sun means more.

This shows that humans think too much. Let's listen to what he isn't saying and look between the lines 'Between everything and nothing.'

**Helen Jiang Year 9 and Emily Jiang Year 8**



# It was all a dream...a Midsummer Night's dream

BY JOSEPH SABBAGH



**There was a huge release of tension for the Year 11 Drama class on the night of Thursday, 27 October 2011 with the closing night of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, written by William Shakespeare. The closing night brought to an end 13 weeks of intense preparation to produce a rendition of the 16th century classic. The tasks during these weeks ranged from learning lines to producing programs, and altogether, the work culminated in a very enjoyable experience, which we are sure would have done Shakespeare proud.**

The class undertook various roles of production and acting themselves, with necessary tweaks from their director, Mr Nigel Bateman.

"I just set them off in the right direction, and the play took on a life of its own. All credit to this talented group of students," Mr Bateman said of the modernised classic.

"There were some memorable performances and it was a whole team effort. They breathed life into Shakespeare."

Drama student Thomas Bolton said it was his first major performance.

"The sheer amount of effort we put in was truly reflected in the finished product," Thomas said.

**And what a finished product it was—prim, proper and polished to perfection.**

Lights and sound scapes were used in innovative and inventive ways to complement the students' chosen theme of Athens 2011 where lovers and aspiring actors stumble into a warehouse to be enchanted by cyberpunk fairies.

"It was a fascinating way to tackle a 500 year old work. I can't believe how relevant the play is!" student Melody Schnauer said.

The use of costume was also innovative and amusing. Notable highlights included the fairy queen, Titania, sporting an *immortal seductress* dress, complemented by a leopard fur coat and a Mohawk hairpiece made out of recycled keyboards. Not to be outdone, fairy king Oberon, in the second act sported a stunning pair of fairy wings constructed from a mess of piping and cables. The absolute show stopper was the mischievous Puck, played by Samuel Marshall, who wove his fairy magic all night, causing mayhem and mystery.

A poignant and favourite moment for the crowd was definitely the final scene between Pyramus and Thisbe, played by two *hard-handed* working class men from Athens.

"It was so much fun," said Joseph Sabbagh, who played the part of Pyramus. "The reaction we received from the audience was just phenomenal, and the comedy was so well received, even by children."



L to R: Jamie Cook (Demetrius), Jamilla Giles (Helena), Sam Marshall (Puck)



"The Mechanicals"



Leigh Fitzpatrick

PHOTOS BY  
ABBY HASLEHURST



## Ant Meczes

THE NEW HEAD OF THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

**Ant Meczes began his teaching career in the United Kingdom in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1994. In the UK, he held a variety of leadership roles including Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) coordinator, Head of Biology, Head of Year 12-13 and joint Head of Science.**

In 2007, Mr Meczes and his family moved to Perth where he took a post at The University of Western Australia and also worked on the Kwinana Industries Education Partnership.

“ I look forward to the many opportunities to expand and extend students both in and beyond the classroom. I am fortunate to be leading a team of fantastic educators and I see the department going from strength to strength.

MR MECZES



In the latter role, Mr Meczes established the Science Enrichment Program for Gifted and Talented students and Academically Talented students from seven schools in the Kwinana area. This program has continued and won an award for excellence.

In 2009, Mr Meczes joined Perth Modern School as the Acting Head of Biological Science. Since then he has developed strong links with The University of Western Australia through the Student-Scientist Partnership and the school

has implemented “Thinking Science Australia” in Years 8 and 9.

The Science students regularly participate in the BioGENEius, Science Olympiads, the Australian Brain Bee and the Beijing Youth Science Creation Competition.



Ant Meczes

## Jenny Spearman

THE NEW HEAD OF THE LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

**Jenny Spearman was educated in the United Kingdom and continued her studies in Australia, completing a Masters degree with Distinction. She has lived and worked in France and speaks French, Italian and some Spanish.**

As a result of teaching Languages in the United Kingdom, France, South Africa and Australia, Ms Spearman has a strong appreciation of global understanding and cross cultural insights with languages often being the bridge builder.

Ms Spearman has held a number of positions including as Acting Consultant for Languages, and as a Curriculum Leader for the Department of Education. She is passionate about public education and was a teacher for nine years at Shenton College.

Ms Spearman’s vision for students in Languages at Perth Modern School is to develop self-motivated, independent learners and to encourage and support them to reach their full potential in language development.

*“I am delighted to be joining the Perth Modern School community as Head of Languages in 2012. I look forward to increasing the profile of the learning area to have thriving Asian and European Languages giving all students every opportunity to excel,”* Ms Spearman said.



Jenny Spearman



## Perth Modern School teachers are winners WA Education Awards 2011



### **Congratulations to English literature teacher Esther Hill who has won the prestigious Western Australian Premier's Secondary Teacher of the Year.**

Ms Hill started teaching 12 years ago after she studied Literature and Philosophy at university, subjects she said she was "deeply in love with". This is what spurred her to pursue a career in teaching. "I wanted to pass on that love of language and thinking, of the empowerment that comes with understanding how language and philosophy shape and mirror our cultures and provide access to other cultures, times and places," she said.

As a graduate of Perth Modern School, the class of 1990, Ms Hill said her own Literature teacher, Quin Evangelista, was an inspiration and introduced her to EE Cummings, Shakespeare, the joy of words and a love of learning.

Ms Hill is a committed and enthusiastic teacher and school leader who has been a Level 3 Classroom teacher for seven years, finding great joy in teaching English and Literature. She is also the Year 10 Coordinator overseeing the pastoral care and academic achievement of a group of 200 students.

For the past three years Ms Hill has had the role of Teaching and Learning Coordinator at Perth Modern School. In this role she manages the professional learning of individual teachers and engages outside presenters to deliver timely and effective professional learning to the whole staff.

During the past two years she has seen this role develop beyond Perth Modern School to the broader community of Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) teachers. Ms Hill has organised presenters

and experts from overseas and interstate to deliver professional learning to this group of teachers.

"My work in leading *Thinking Group* demonstrates my deep conviction that schooling should not just be about success in the WACE exams, but that students should be engaged in developing skills for life," Ms Hill said.

Ms Hill encourages her students to become empowered individuals by giving them choices in course materials and essay topics. She has become an integral part of the school community through pastoral care, as an advisor to school leavers and through creating a class that incorporates musical skills.



### **Congratulations to Social Science teacher, Jane Nicholson, who was one of the ten winners awarded Western Australian Beginning Teacher of the Year 2011.**

Ms Nicholson was appointed as a graduate teacher at Perth Modern School in 2010 and is working in the Society and Environment Learning Area. She is academically highly qualified for her teaching role, having graduated from The University of Western Australia (UWA) in 2009 with degrees in Arts and Education with majors in History and English. In 2008 she was awarded a UWA scholarship to study History at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Ms Nicholson began her teaching career last year, having done her final year practicum at Perth Modern School and applied for a vacant position as a Social Science teacher in 2010.

During 2010, Ms Nicholson became a vital part of the Social Science team with

a remarkable string of achievements. In response to a major review of the Year 10 curriculum, Ms Nicholson developed a new Modern History program that builds on the Australian Curriculum and consistently incorporates higher-order skills which she mapped from the Senior School WACE Modern History course. It was through her efforts that the Social Science team was able to offer an outstanding history unit for the Year 10 students. Ms Nicholson single-handedly took on the responsibility of reviewing the existing unit with a view to devising a course that challenged, extended and engaged the Year 10 students. There are now two classes enrolled in this unit and the students consider it to be one of the best available.

All the while Ms Nicholson has maintained an unparalleled level of excellence and professionalism in her classroom teaching.

The following account is typical of feedback provided by her students:

*"Ms Nicholson has continually displayed a wealth of knowledge in her area of teaching and expertise, which when combined with her enthusiastic and very personal approach to teaching makes me proud to have her as my teacher. Her teaching allows for us to learn about various concepts and ideas, whilst also achieving an unmatched positive experience out of every lesson. She readily prepares us for assessments and tasks, yet also takes that extra step to quench the never-ending passion for history that we have.*

*Ms Nicholson has always put in that extra effort: marking those extra practice essays, helping us before and after school and giving up those lunchtimes to talk to students – and it is this underlying drive and energy that ensures we continually gain the best experience and knowledge possible."*

**Jonathon Israel and Anish Badgeri,  
Year 11 students 2011**



Courtesy of the Community Newspaper Group

Winning teachers: L to R: Jane Nicholson and Esther Hill





# Congratulations to new Level 3 classroom teachers



**Six Perth Modern School teachers have been awarded Level 3 Classroom Teacher status in 2011:**

- Nigel Bateman
- Grace Costa
- Dr Raymond Driehuis
- Mark Temov
- Lorna Wardle
- Walter Wilson

**The teachers underwent a rigorous Department of Education process to be recognised as exemplary teachers and have been rewarded for their exceptional teaching practices.**

**NIGEL BATEMAN**



**I embarked on the Level 3 Teacher journey this year because I love challenges and I wanted to measure myself against the teaching standards in Western Australia.**

For my Level 3 application, I drew upon my 15 years of teaching experience in New Zealand of leading school-wide change: embedding literacy teaching across the school and the use of online National Testing Tools to implement the National Curriculum.

Another exciting initiative I led was a cross curricular project called 'Boys versus Wild' which involved eight weeks of intensive learning in all subjects around the theme of survival, culminating in a day of challenges undertaken in the bush.

I have continued with this initiative at Perth Modern School with my involvement in the planning for the Project of Independent Study with the Year 9 cohort in 2012. This type of learning is exciting as students are more engaged when there are real outcomes.

**DR RAYMOND DRIEHUIS**



**I teach Philosophy and Ethics at Perth Modern School, and my philosophical interests include ethics, politics, art and culture, language, reasoning and the teaching and assessment of Philosophy in secondary education.**

My past teaching experience includes English, Literature and Beliefs and Values. Besides my teaching experience, I have held the position of Curriculum and Assessment Officer for Philosophy and Ethics with the Curriculum Council.

In this position I managed and supported the implementation of Philosophy and Ethics in Western Australian schools from 2007 to 2009.

**MARK TEMOV**



**My dedication to education spans 19 years and I have taught at Perth Modern School for 10 years. I have taught in both the Technology & Enterprise and the Arts learning areas, teaching subjects ranging from Furniture Woodwork to Stage 3 Design-Photography.**

This variety has enabled me to develop teaching strategies to cater for a vast range of students who have completely different needs and aspirations.

My students at Perth Modern School have had significant successes ranging from multiple Certificate of Distinction Award winners as well as consistently having my Year 12 classes listed in the Top 10 rankings for the subject. I have incorporated field excursions for every photography class, including photo shoots at professional fashion studios, Fremantle, along Perth's coastline, Kings Park and night shoots throughout Perth's CBD.

I have held annual Photography tours to Rottnest Island and throughout the South West of Western Australia.







I have welcomed industry experts into my classroom and have organised my students to be involved in the photography industry either individually or as a class group. I enjoy showcasing the expertise of my students by submitting their work to many photography competitions where they have achieved considerable success over many years.

I look forward to continuing to nurture the talents of Photography students at Perth Modern School for many years to come.

**WALTER WILSON**



**My philosophy and ideology of teaching is based on the constant development and learning of the individual, the teacher and the student. I strive to create a learning environment where not only the students but also the teacher has the opportunity to experiment and develop their capacity, interests and talents. My motivation as a teacher is to provide an energetic, friendly and caring learning environment where the students can expand their knowledge and individuals are respected and included.**

I have been teaching for more than 12 years in various high schools in Western Australia and I am currently completing my Master of Education at The University of Western Australia.

In my role as a teacher, I have conducted courses in art, photography and computing. I currently teach Applied Information Technology course of study Stage 2 and Stage 3 and Computer Science. I have constantly been developing and studying Information and Communication Technology so that I can keep in touch with new trends and confidently pass on the knowledge, skills and new concepts to students, peers and colleagues.

In 2006, I was nominated for the WA Premier's Teacher of the Year Award. In March 2007 I received a Highly Commended Award for 'Excellence by a Teacher' in the National Awards for Quality Schooling in Canberra. In 2009, I completed a successful five years in the role as a Year Coordinator. As the Staff Association Coordinator at Perth Modern School for the last five years, I have supported and encouraged colleagues experiencing difficult times as I believe the well-being and positive communication among the staff is crucial for a harmonious school environment.

**GRACE COSTA**



## Dinner with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



**Perth Modern School has the honour of being invited once a year to an intimate dinner with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Grant Woodhams MLA.**

The dinner is held to reward those students who demonstrate high levels of active citizenship during the year and the school's representatives this year were Karri Coles and Amelia Schubach. Amelia's father and Karri's mother were also in attendance as well as Politics/History teacher, Greg Conway.

Held in the Speaker's personal chamber, the multi-course meal was a delightful experience, served by the Speaker's outstanding personal steward, Vincent.

Mr Woodhams gave those present an illuminating insight into a whole range of activities undertaken by Members of Parliament as well as some curious reflections on the role of the Speaker. The attendees were able to consider such matters in the light of recent developments and changes to the Speaker of the House in the Commonwealth Parliament.



## Year 10 river cruise a night to remember



**An almost full moon gleaming and glistening over the Mounts Bay Sailing Club was the setting where delightful students transformed themselves to young men and women.**

Some highlights of the night included floor shaking Punjabi dancing by students with an Indian cultural background, cheered on by their peers, a Mathematics Department led Macarena, and Mr Meczes' rendition of 'the sprinkler' and his busting break dancing moves.

Thanks to the students who, when told the night had to finish fifteen minutes early as they were needed to assist with packing up, just shrugged, sighed and got on with the job.



L to R: Ruby Gostelow, Kate Phillips, Lucy Raffel, Sophie Antulov



L to R: Darcy Jarosek, Dylan Carlyon-Stewart, Tony Ratchen, Oliva Rawlings

## Year 9 students showcase healthy lifestyles



**The Health Expo held on Wednesday, 9 November 2011 was a fantastic day. The Health Expo was held in the Agora, Refectory and Lecture Theatre. It was a highly successful day that featured a wide range of stalls managed by Year 9 students.**

The Health Expo focussed on extensive areas of health promotion and related topics including: A Healthy Lifestyle; Mental Health; Drug and Alcohol Education; Nutrition; and Being Sun Smart. The students set up information stalls with posters, pamphlets and booklets.

They focussed on a different health issue or area at each of the stalls with the emphasis on education. At the highly interactive event the students shared their knowledge in creative and innovative activities with other students from the school and over 100 visiting primary school students. A

number of guests from various community health organisations and the Department of Education also attended.



L to R: Julia Nunn, Chelsea McCann



L to R: Benjamin Hutchinson, Kyle Jayaseela, Xin Pan, Kellen Lacman Murphy





# Parents & Citizens' Association

BY DEB COOK, PRESIDENT OF THE P&C ASSOCIATION



**The P&C Association is a forum for parent discussion to promote the educational wellbeing of Perth Modern School students. The P&C also assists in the provision of resources and amenities for the school and in fostering community interest in educational matters. P&C funds are raised through parent donations and commissions from the Second Hand Uniform Shop.**

In 2010 and 2011 the financial contributions from the P&C have been used to provide seating around the school, shade sails over the Agora, and air conditioning in five classrooms. The P&C has also provided resources to

improve the grounds near the Thomas Street building, install specialist lighting for artistic displays and purchase a new fridge for the canteen. The P&C conducted the successful Centenary Picnic and under-wrote the publication of the Centenary book. The P&C also manages the Second Hand Uniform Shop. In 2012 it plans to have a Second Hand Book Exchange. The 2012 School Picnic will be held on 16 March.

The 'Friends of' groups fall under the umbrella of the P&C. These are support groups such as Friends of Music and Friends of the Arts, where parents can support the activities at the school.

Parents wishing to be involved in 'Friends of' groups should email **Laura.Liddell@det.wa.edu.au**.

P&C meetings are held twice per term. The 2012 dates will be published on the school website. Interested parents are invited to attend meetings and to volunteer for committee positions. **The Annual General Meeting will be held on 20 February 2012 at 7.30pm** in the Music Department (room 89).

If you have any queries regarding the P&C please contact the President, Deb Cook at **cooks6@inet.net.au** or **0431 876 654**.



Agora with sails



Book Launch - Past, Present & Future

Back row L to R: Tonya McCusker, Arnold Wong, Lois Joll, Julie Michael

Front row L to R: His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AO QC and Dr Ken Michael AC



The Centenary Picnic





## The Perth Modern School Council

BY WARREN BARBETTI, DEPUTY CHAIR, PERTH MODERN SCHOOL COUNCIL 2011

The Perth Modern School Council is made up of elected members whose role is to assist the school administration in the strategic governance of the school.

**During 2011 the School Council assisted the school in obtaining Independent Public School status. (IPS)** Becoming an IPS has provided flexibility for the school to set its own strategic direction and to make day-to-day decisions. As a result of becoming an IPS the School Council will transition to a School Board.

Throughout 2011, the Council undertook a review of student pick-up/drop-off arrangements.

This will improve student drop-off and pick-up through the Roberts Road entrance in 2012.

A review of the school uniform was undertaken with changes including the introduction of a polo shirt for day wear and a new cut look for the boy's and girl's button-up shirts. Also reviewed were various policies including the cyber safety, uniform and laptop roll out policies.

The Council also assisted with Centenary celebration events including the picnic and concert and publication of the Centenary book *'Past, Present and Future.'*

At the end of 2011, 18 parents expressed interest for three vacancies that became available commencing 2012.

The Council expresses its gratitude to all parents who applied and hopes this level of interest continues into the future. The school and continuing Council Members also express their gratitude to the existing Council members for their significant contributions during their tenure.

## Perth Modernian Society - Looking Forward, Looking Back

BY SALLIE DAVIES, VICE PRESIDENT AND CHAIR OF THE PERTH MODERN SCHOOL HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMITTEE



The Perth Modernian Society (Inc) founded in 1995, offers opportunities for all former students and staff to volunteer to be involved in the Perth Modern School community. The goal of the Society is to provide support to the school in *'Supporting the growth of individual students to achieve their full academic, intellectual, social and physical potential'*. The Society also aims to conserve the rich school heritage.

Major achievements of the Society include the publication of the school history *'Perth Modern School-The History and the Heritage'* in 2005 and the creation of two digital databases- one for historical artefacts and one for biographical information.

The **Sphinx Foundation (Inc)**, secures donations for the tax-deductible **Sphinx Scholarship Fund** and other specific projects. The establishment of Sphinx Scholarship Scheme is over 30% of its way to achieving its fund raising target of \$500,000.

This fund provides valuable scholarships and bursaries to deserving students requiring financial support.



PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY

The Society holds an Annual Reunion each September and attracts members from all parts of the world. In the Centenary Year, more than 200 attendees gathered for this event. The Society was also involved in other centenary events including the Gala Dinner and Arts Spectacular.

The Society has many groups in which Modernians may become involved. These include the **Historical and Museum Committee**, the **Finance and Fundraising team** and the **Functions team**.

Further information and contact is available at

[www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au](http://www.perthmoderniansociety.org.au)



## Alumni - Where they are now?



### Peter Farr

Peter Farr, student 1954-58, is a familiar face at assemblies, ceremonies and events at Perth Modern School.

*"Like quite a few others from the class that finished Mod in 1958 I am still working professionally and I certainly consider that I owe a lot to the excellent teachers we had because that start was what enabled me to get a leg up the ladder.*

*I have continued to have an enjoyable association with Mod, as a Councillor and Vice President of the Perth Modernian Society, Treasurer of the Sphinx Foundation, Treasurer of the Sphinx Scholarship Fund, Treasurer of our year group reunions, and editor in 2011 of a booklet of biographies of our year group. Through these connections, I have had a lot of contact with senior staff teaching and administration at Perth Modern School, with quite a few students and their parents, hundreds of Old Modernians, donors to the Sphinx Scholarship Fund, members of the School Council, and many volunteers who generously donate their time to the school and the Perth Modernian Society. It's great that at the end of 2011, the Sphinx Scholarship Fund has already been able to award 11 scholarships and 11 bursaries to assist deserving students meet their potential.*

*I was privileged to attend the last two Presentation Ceremonies for the Year 12 students, as well as the final Year 10 assemblies for the last three years for the purpose of presenting Sphinx Scholarships. I have had many opportunities to see what is being achieved and feel the 'culture' of the school.*

*In this regard, the photo of me with **Monica Brierley-Hay** taken after the Year 12 Presentation Ceremony held at the Octagon Theatre, The University of Western Australia on 19 November 2011 is special. The significance of this photo is that at the end of Year 10, Monica was the inaugural winner of the Sphinx Foundation Music Scholarship (the Daniel Girling Scholarship), and it was very pleasing that in Year 12 Monica won the Politics and Law Stage 3 Award as well as being a joint winner of the Tom Kent Scholarship to enable her to study music at university in 2012.*

*In my view today's students at Perth Modern School are being given truly marvellous opportunities and I think the school has never been in better overall shape. I would also add that amongst all government schools across the whole of Australia, Perth Modern School can very confidently look to the future knowing that it has a strong and well-organised alumni organisation.*

*The organisation has demonstrated that it is ready to support the school in many useful ways, as well as serving a wide range of other functions for the Society's large membership base.*

*Like those Mod Bods before us, we who started in 1954 and finished in 1958 were very privileged to attend Mod when we were ever so young, innocent, energetic, adaptable and carefree! To get to Mod, I travelled by train from Midland Junction and we would all traipse up from West Leederville station just in time for the 9.10am start. Ditto, after school finished at 3.50pm and it had to be a much later train when we were training for sport or doing after-school woodwork with Frank 'Tricksy' Hayman. I was in the Camera Club which had a darkroom full of chemicals in the old Science Block (long since gone). Science teacher Wally Howse showed us what to do. I've maintained a fairly big interest in photography every since via a long list of cameras.*

*I won a cadetship to study Engineering at The University of Western Australia, followed by a scholarship to undertake a Masters degree in Electrical Engineering at a good university in Canada, where I also met my wife to be- fate at work! I also did an Economics degree part time and studied Psychology. My maxim for today's students is 'Investing in your education is the best investment you can ever make'.*



Peter Farr and Monica Brierley-Hay





**ALUMNI - WHERE ARE THEY NOW? CONTINUED**

*For 45 years I have worked as an electrical engineer, management consultant and company director specialising in Information Technology and telecommunications for very big firms like Telstra, as well as in my own consulting business. I was one of the very first people in both Canada and Australia to program mainframe computers for scientific or engineering work; that started back in 1966 in the era of punched cards and magnetic disk/magnetic tape storage.*

*So I've seen extraordinary developments in computers, telecommunications and other technologies.*

*I have enjoyed every day I've been to work due to numerous interesting opportunities. Some highlights have included managing Telstra's staff and liaising with customers in a large part of country Western Australia; designing and overseeing the rollout of both the Catholic Education communications network in Western Australia and the Samoa SchoolNet in Samoa;*

*the Geraldton Regional Museum Master Plan; and being selected in 2010 to go on an Austrade trade mission to Japan, South Korea and Singapore to study nationwide broadband networks and digital economy applications.*

*I took up competitive sailing over 20 years ago and sail on most Saturday afternoons in the summer and it is a great relaxation on the Swan River or offshore. So, all in all, my life has been lucky, busy and fulfilling."*



**Sallie Davies**

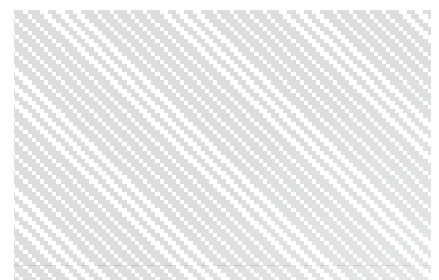
Sallie Davies (nee Hicks), student 1951-55, Prefect 1955, teacher 1961, is currently Chair of the Perth Modern School Historical and Museum Committee, in addition to holding the positions of Vice President and Newsletter Coordinator for the Perth Modernian Society Inc. During this Centenary year Sallie has coordinated the establishment of the History Centre, represented the Society on the P&C publication committee for "Past, Present and Future" and coordinated four e-Newsletters and a colour magazine for Contributing Members of the Society.

Sallie has also spent the past seven years working on the data entry of all known former staff and students into a database that now carries nearly 17,000 names and the challenge now is for former staff and students to fill in the gaps of "life after Mod."

Trained as a teacher, Sallie Davies became the first Director of *Volunteering Western Australia* and a Founding Director on the Board of *Volunteering Australia*. Sallie was raised in a family deeply committed to community service. She won an Entrance Scholarship, attended Perth Modern School for five years and trained as a Home Science teacher. Sallie lived in a variety of country towns with her husband and three children, becoming a part of each community by volunteering for local organisations.

From 1978 Sallie held a variety of positions in the volunteer sector culminating in her appointment as Executive Director of *Volunteering Western Australia*. Sallie retired from this position in 2002 and was awarded the Centenary Medal for her contribution to the community through *Volunteering WA*.

*"My strongest memories of my time as a student at Perth Modern School include arriving at Mod on the first day, straight out of a year at an all-girls boarding school, not recognising any familiar faces in the sea of milling navy uniforms as I stood alone in the courtyard near the girls' entrance waiting for something to happen... The day my father died and the letter of sympathy I received a few days later from the Principal Mistress, Elsie Stevens, with whom I had never spoke. The friendship and camaraderie of fellow students, which continues today."*





**Lynne Thomson**

Lynne Thomson (nee Anning) was a local entry student from 1964 to 1968. She is now Principal of St Mary's Anglican Girls' School, Karrinyup.

*"After high school, I went to The University of Western Australia where I completed a BA (Hons) degree in History. Mrs Joll was in the same course! I then did a Diploma of Education. I had always wanted to be a teacher and was the first member of my immediate family to attend university. At age 22 I married and within a few months my husband and I went to Boston where he completed a Doctorate at Harvard Law School. I worked as an administrative assistant at Harvard University. On returning home two years later, I worked at Churchlands Senior High School as a Social Studies teacher and then went on to work as a History, French and English teacher at Sacred Heart College, Sorrento. During that time I had a year's leave to attend Harvard University Graduate School of Education to complete a Masters degree.*

*That was the most outstanding experience and I would encourage students to make sure that overseas study is part of their plans either after school or for postgraduate study.*

*On returning home I moved to Newman College, Churchlands to become Deputy Principal of Curriculum. Then in 1997 I became Principal of St Mary's Anglican Girls' School, Karrinyup.*

*I had the most wonderful teachers when I attended Perth Modern School including Mr Tuffin for Physics and Chemistry, Mr Drummond for Mathematics, Mr Jones for English and Mr Dunne for History. Being part of their classes was an absolute privilege. In my final year of school I was in 5.1. Everyone in the class did the same subjects, including French, for what was then called the Leaving Examination. Classes were intellectually stimulating and challenging. Everyone seemed to have an opinion on everything! I loved it.*

*Some of the things I recall fondly about Perth Modern School were being a Prefect and ascending to our special room where the group met and decisions were made; walking to St Mary's Church of England on Friday mornings with my best friend to attend church there. Every Friday morning was religious education across the school and students would go into their various denominations or religions and be instructed by a minister or church or religious representative.*

*My friend and I walked into the main hall accidentally one morning before school, and for whatever reason it was forbidden. The Deputy Principal at the time, Mr Gregson, gave us a good ticking off and told us to sit there and not to talk.*

*We obeyed, but he forgot about us and at recess we were still sitting there in silence. We were frighteningly well-behaved.*

*Perhaps the one thing that I remember most about Perth Modern School was that feeling that it was special and the students were special. The school gave us confidence to forge ahead."*



**Margaret Nadebaum**

Margaret Nadebaum, student 1958-59, was the first woman in Australia to head a government education system, the Department of Education in Western Australia from 1990 to 1993. In her many promotional positions within the Department, Margaret was a significant role model for women in education at a time when a career in leadership positions was not common for women.

Margaret won an entrance scholarship to Perth Modern School but attended Narrogin High School until her parents moved to the city in 1958.

*"After leaving Perth Modern School I went to The University of Western Australia and Claremont Teachers' Training College. Following graduation, I taught in a number of government secondary schools as a classroom teacher, a Head of Department of English, and a Deputy Principal. I then moved into educational administration within the Western Australian Education Department, filling various roles including*

*Regional Superintendent, Regional Director, Director of Operations, and became Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education after the Education Department was restructured into a Ministry, which included the schools, the technical education and the higher education sectors. During this time I had the opportunity to be a member of a number of significant education committees at State and national levels. The last step in my career in education was as Principal of Methodist Ladies' College in Perth.*

*In addition to my career in education, I have served on various government boards and committees, including the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, the Gaming and Wagering Commission and the Board of Perth Zoological Gardens.*



*Since finishing full-time paid work, I have become involved in voluntary work.*

*Some of the deeply-embedded traditions of Perth Modern School made a strong initial impression on me, coming as I did from a small, very new country high school. These included: the very long service of some of the staff; the staff wearing academic gowns; the school song in Latin; the 'shining shoes' inspection each morning on entry to the main building; and the segregation of girls and boys; and the daily 'socialising pilgrimage' to the tuckshop on the corner of Roberts Road and Thomas Street. These initial impressions have become fond memories.*

*The significance of 'Mod' for me was its well-founded culture of teaching and learning at high levels and the opportunity to experience its traditions, some of which had stood the test of time and were unchanged from the time my mother and father were students at the school in the 1920's!"*





# Centenary Event: Arts Spectacular

BY ROSEMARY PRATT AND TANIA ELLIOT



People are often surprised to learn that Perth Modern School has a significant art collection. On Friday, 25 November 2011 the school held the final Centenary celebrations event, the Arts Spectacular when 35 guests were able to appreciate the collection's value and heritage first hand.

The school's Honorary Curator, Rosemary Pratt conducted the tour of the collection's highlights. Rosemary talked about how the focus of the collection is to collect and exhibit the art of the school's talented students and the art teachers who have guided them.

Among the paintings by former staff members are several by Frank E Mills, Marjorie Tarling, Dorothea Morrow, Pip Newby and Lyn Mazzilli.

The guests learned that the collection has been assembled over almost 100 years in three ways including the tradition of final year students donating an artwork of their choice to the school.

A very special part of the event was a visit to the art studios where Tania Elliot, the Head of Department for Arts and Technology, talked about the Art program at the school.

Tania prepared an engaging display of Year 8 to Year 12 art work which included selected work by the 2011 Year 12 students since they began at the school as Year 8 students. The display showed the progression of their skills.

Perth Modern School's Patron of the Arts, Mr Peter Hopper talked about why he selected Gabrielle McGrath's work for the prestigious Peter Hopper award this year.



Rosemary Pratt presenting at the Arts Spectacular



Guests viewing current students' work



# Year 12 Perspectives Exhibition



Congratulations to the following students for producing art pieces that were selected for inclusion in the prestigious Year 12 Perspectives Exhibition held at the Western Australian Art Gallery.

- Emily Murch (Babies in jars)
- Tiffany Burrige (Triptych of man and woman)
- Savannah Fleming (Frame that goes around corner with faces on it)

*Year 12 Perspectives* is a yearly taste of art by the best, brightest and most talented graduating high school artists in the State.

An annual barometer of what WA's youth are thinking and feeling, it is also a rich celebration of the role the arts play in the development of individual identities.



The art works will be displayed in the Western Australian Art Gallery from 11 February 2012.



## School Sport Athletics Carnival



The School Sports Athletics Carnival was held on Thursday, 24 October 2011. It was an outstanding performance from the Perth Modern School athletics squad who were placed second in the Division C Athletics Carnival. This means that the school moves up to Division B in 2012.

Emily Gill was the individual Under 16 Girls Champion and Abby Critchell set a new record in the Under 13 Girls Long Jump event. Congratulations to all squad members on another excellent sporting result for the school this year.

Emily Gill



Jordyn Taylor

## Girls AFL Carnival



On Friday, 11 November 2011 the Years 8, 9 and 10 Girls AFL teams attended the Junior Girls AFL Carnival at City Beach Oval. After training for five weeks, getting specialist coaching from Claremont Tiger's coach Sam Cousins and Perth Modern School's Year 10 boys coach, the girls were ready to take on anything!

The Year 8 team won their first game 45-0 against Wanneroo Senior High School. They continued to dominate for the rest of the day against Kinross College and Churchlands Senior High School with a 25 plus point margin in Perth Modern School's favour. The team met their match playing against Shenton College who won in a close but feisty match, placing Perth Modern School second for the day.

The combined Year 9 and Year 10 team also demonstrated their outstanding skills and passion on the field defeating Shenton College and Churchlands Senior High School which put them in the grand final. The game was a nail biter down to the last minute. However, Perth Modern School lost by one goal and were gracious in defeat. The *Best Player* awards for the team went to Zoe Bosch and Tara Ott and Amelia Toyne was awarded the *Most Improved Player*.

Many of the girls made it into the Claremont All Stars team. Many thanks go to Myles Dennis, Cameron Harris, Jordyn Taylor, Michael Fowler, Michael Anderson and Andrew McKenna for their help in coaching and supporting the girls with the training and for their support on the carnival day.

The *Best Player for the Team* award went to Pia Durk and Morgan Edgar won the *Most Improved Player* award.



Girls AFL team  
Back row L to R: Jana Llieski, Morgan Edgar, Minami Uemoto, Taleisha Capes, Caitlin Carr, Georgia Brand, Alexandra Watt, Lara Kennedy-Pugh  
Front row L to R: Gillian Loh, Pia Durk, Frances Lamont, Molly Brand, Naqia Lawtie



## Super 8 cricket

BY JAN SONDER-SORENSEN



Five boys' teams and one team of girls challenged a number of other schools in the WACA's annual Super 8's tournament held on Tuesday, November 15. The Perth Modern School students performed exceptionally, with two teams remaining undefeated, and all teams winning a number of their games. In the end it was only percentage that denied our teams from taking out this year's title.



## Badminton Club



After many months of coaching, the Badminton Club concluded with a competition on 9 December 2011. The tournament provided the students with an opportunity to apply the skills they have developed in Semester 2 against a number of other schools.

Thanks are extended to Nick Kidd from the WA Badminton Association who contributed many hours to assist with the development of the students.

As well as coaching students, Nick conducted a session for the Physical Education staff. He put the staff through a battering session of multi-shuttle training to showcase the various ways one can teach badminton.

The session culminated with Nick demonstrating his 360 km/h jump smash with Lucas Ng trying to return it. Very entertaining!

At the Badminton Western Australia competition held on Friday, 9 December 2011, 55 students represented the school, with Eugene Lee and Jared Tan winning the boys' division and Michelle Poon and Gayathri Seethepalli coming second in the girls' division.



Nick Kidd from the Badminton Association demonstrating a jump smash



L to R: Michelle Poon, Gayathri Seethepalli, Jared Tan, Eugene Lee





## Welcome to the Year 8 class of 2012



**Government House is a very special place. On the morning of Sunday, 6 November 2011 the Year 8 Pin Ceremony was held in the Government House Ballroom to welcome the incoming Year 8 students for 2012. The Pin Ceremony marks the 'official' welcome for the students who have been successful in gaining academic selection to Perth Modern School.**

The two Masters of Ceremonies, Emma Boogaardt and Anish Badgeri, welcomed students, parents, staff and the official guests to the ceremony.

Two current Year 8 students, Jet-Kye Chong and Molly Brand, talked about how they felt about coming to Perth Modern School and their experiences during 2011. The Principal in her welcome, shared the history of the school and the meaning of the school motto *Savoir c'est Pouvoir*, translated 'Knowledge is Power' in French, considered a modern language when the school was opened in 1911.

Ms Joll presented each student with their Sphinx badge, the Perth Modern School's emblem during the incoming students' roll call.

For most of the students and their parents this special event was probably the first time they would have heard the school song *Moderna Schola* sung by the Perth Modern School Year 10 Chorale.

The students became 'official' Perth Modern School students with the traditional *Three Cheers for Perth Modern School Hip-Hip Hooray!* and the welcome streamers signify that Perth Modern School is also a school where students have fun. Parents and students joined staff for morning tea in the gardens.



## Music students perform for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

BY ROGER HEY, HEAD OF THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



**Perth Modern School students had significant involvement in the CHOGM opening ceremony and other related events. The school had by far the largest number of students contributing to these events.**

Despite the heavy schedule of rehearsals the students in the choir were thrilled to be performing and taking a leading role in the Official Opening Ceremony performing before the Commonwealth leaders and, of course, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

In addition to singing at the opening ceremony a further 16 students performed in the mass percussion ensemble at the Supreme Court Gardens at the opening of the CHOGM Festival.

The school also hosted a visit by fellow music students from the United Kingdom, Canada and Gibraltar. The visiting students were in Perth as part of the Commonwealth Youth Forum. The visit provided an opportunity for the future involvement by Perth Modern School in the forum. The Music students participated in over 40 events during

2011. It has been an amazing year for the students and staff of the Music Department with an event taking place almost each week throughout the year. I would like to sincerely thank all Music staff, students and parents for their outstanding contribution to the school during 2011.



Music Chorale rehearsal