



News Paper Articles
May 1998 – November
2004

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 29, 1998



Pride takes stage

YOUNGSTERS are doing their bit to show the world that there is more to Cabramatta than drugs.

Students will cast their suburb in a positive light when good beats evil at the 1998 Rock Eisteddfod Challenge on Monday night.

More than 70 Cabramatta High students and four teachers are involved in this year's Rock Eisteddfod, with students to showcase their talents during their Sweet Dreams

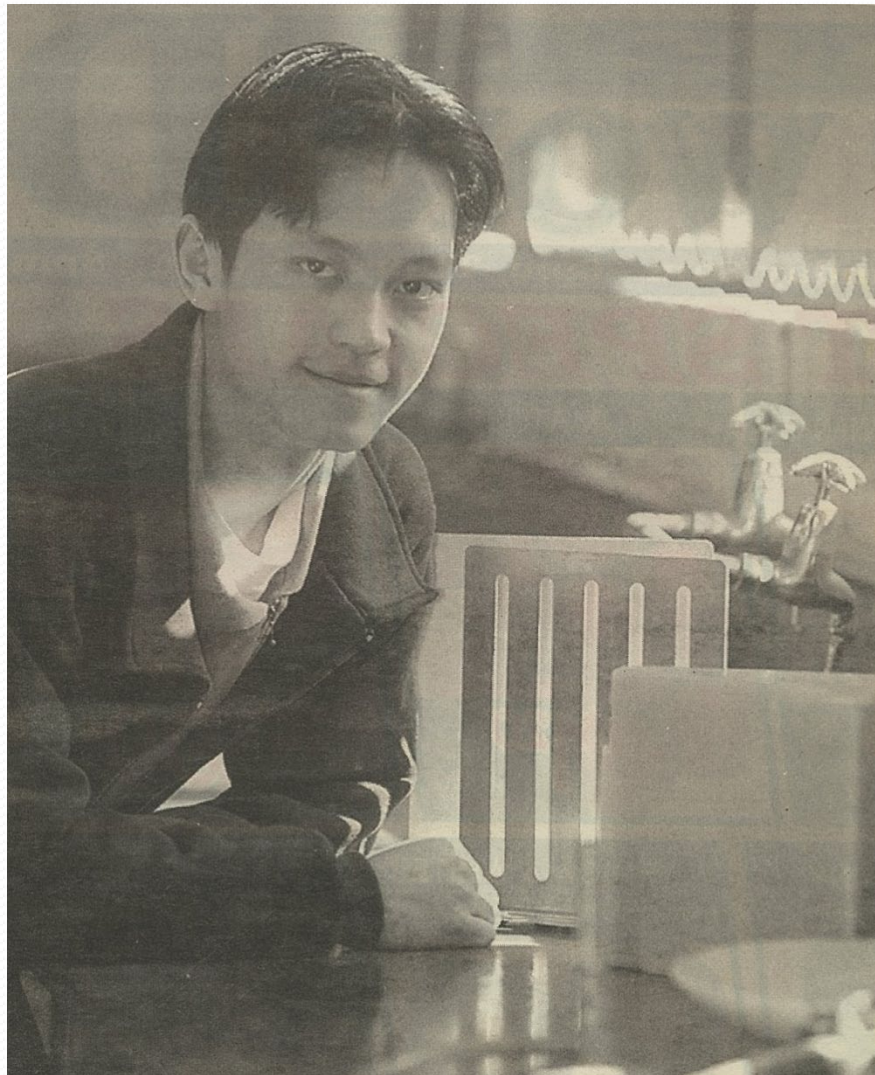
and Nightmares performance. Cabramatta eisteddfod co-ordinator, Lisa Treloar-Lister said the students developed the theme to protest against Cabramatta's drugs reputation.

"Cabramatta has a notorious name for drug taking," she said.

"[One of the students] said that although we have that reputation, not everyone is a drug taker."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 26, 1998



Bright future for Kim

By JULIE COCHRAN

WHEN Cabramatta High School student Kim Sur Tang won a place at a national science conference recently, he beat more than 2000 students from across the country.

The Year 11 student will be one of 276 students at the NSW Rotary Club's National Science Conference in Canberra in January.

Kim (pictured) is looking to study physics at university after completing his High School Certificate next year.

Head science teacher, Kevin Molyneux, said Kim's invitation to the conference would encourage him to continue to develop his interest in science.

Another Cabramatta High student to do well of late is Maurice Tran, of Year 11, who was recently awarded a high distinction in the National AMP Economics competition.

Maurice was among the top one per cent of candidates and will receive his certificate at a presentation ceremony at the University of New South Wales.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

educationweek'98

High achievers

THIS year has been a successful and rewarding year for the students of Cabramatta High.

They have been involved in a diverse range of educational activities in and out of the classroom.

The Police Links Day was the time for students to get to know the local police, of learning and just having fun with the aim to encourage a confident relationship with the police.

Students again accredited themselves well in the State Program for Australian Business Week and one student, Kim Eang, will be on NSW team at the Australian Program to be held in Adelaide in December.

Kim Sur Taing, a Year 11 student, won a scholarship through the NSW Rotary Club to attend the National Science Conference in Canberra which will also be attended by a number of international scientists.

In sport, girls won the overall in the Zone Cross Country, the third year in a row they have won the title.

The Year 9 debating team will compete in the Commonwealth Bank Junior Debating Competition.

The Year 10 team enjoyed success in the Hume Barbour Debating Competition and did extremely well as it was the first time they have debated in an inter-school situation and they were competing against Year 11 students.

Luca Lupa and Jannie Lim competed in the Herald Public Speaking Competition at Westfields Sports High School and showed they had a high level of general knowledge and were able to express their opinions clearly and persuasively.

A talented group of 65 students from the school participated in this year's Rock Eisteddfod at Castle Hill.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Education Week

To Live Happily One Must Love Greatly

I believe that to live happily
one must love greatly.
A child cannot live without the
love of a mother.
Man cannot survive without
the help of a brother.
As a rose will not grow if its
needs are neglected
Our lives will not blossom if
our hearts aren't perfected.
A lonely soul without a friend
Is like an intriguing novel
without an end.
To write a story we must put
ink to paper,

To bake bread we must add
water to flour,
So to fulfil life we must use all
the ingredients
Such as hope, love and
affection
And surround ourselves with
its warmth and protection.
We must nurture our relations
And cherish that significant
connection
Whether it is the bond between
a father and son,
Or that of a wife and her
husband.

We must embrace the presence
of those we hold dear,
For when there's someone
beside us there's nothing to fear.
Wars break out when tolerance
is scarce
Those who choose to fight
cause only grief and despair.
Though hate may exist beyond
our control
True love and friendship remain
in the depth of our hearts
Today and forever tomorrow.

**Saroueth Ven
Cabramatta High School**

The Night The Candle Went Out

The flickering, spluttering
white candle
finally goes out
with a
hiss.

The trembling children
gather
together with unbearable
fear in
the dark horror of
night.

A moment later,
noises
like footsteps
come closer and closer,
and even
closer.

The children are so
scared.
The wind blows and
blows
and
the children don't dare to
move
anywhere.

Then the door opens
and the footsteps are
inside
the
house.

The children are shaking.
Suddenly the light is on.
It was only their parents.

Mouy Ngo

Cabramatta High

NB: all Cabramatta High
School entries in this
feature appeared in the
1998 edition of Chapter &
Verse, the school's second
anthology of student
writing.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Education Week

It Comes At Night

It comes at night
when I'm deep in a dream
No one can hear my
silent scream

It holds me tight
I can feel my fear
A harsh cold light
A silent tear

I try to fight it
but it can't be tamed
It keeps coming
again and again

**Lang Leav
Cabramatta High**

**RIGHT:
the
Vampire,
artwork
by
Nelson
Li, Cabra-
matta
High
School**



Extract from 'The Vampire'

Mickey waited until his family was asleep, and then took his father's jacket, a kitchen knife and a torch with him. He went straight to the cemetery. As he got closer to the cemetery the night grew colder and even the thick jacket couldn't stop Mickey from shivering.

Finally, Mickey went up to the grave that he wanted to carve his name on. The grave was freezing cold, like ice, and there were millions and millions of skeletons scattered around that grave.

Mickey's legs kept shivering, but eventually his name was done, and it stopped. Mickey tried to stand up straight but his legs

wouldn't budge. He tried to move any part of his body but still nothing happened.

He was doomed!

A vampire had risen out of the grave. Mickey could see it. It was the grave that he had carved his name on. Mickey tried harder to flee from the vampire. He knew deep in his heart that no-one would come to save him in the middle of the night.

The vampire grabbed his right arm. It was trying to pull him towards the grave.

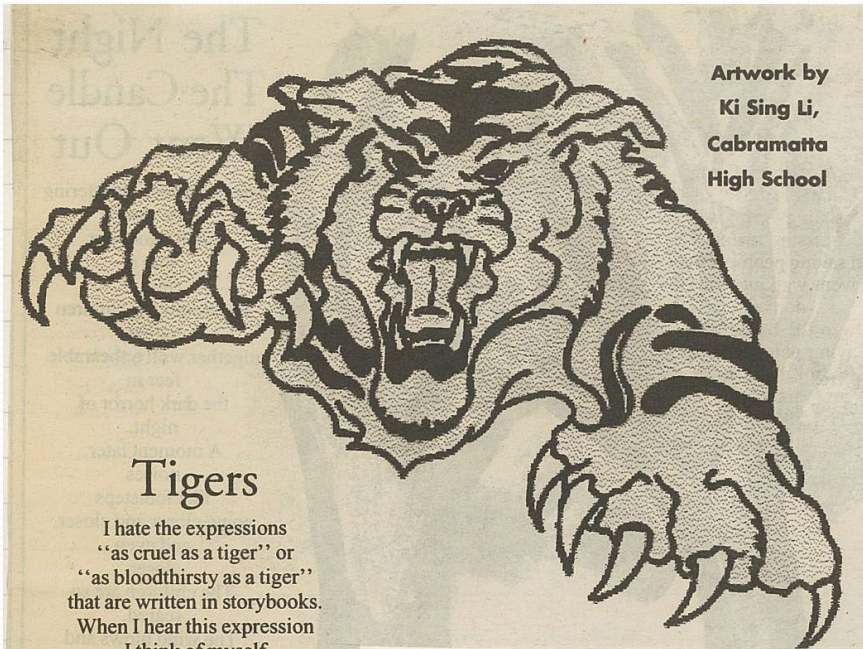
"Help!" cried Mickey, but nothing came out of his throat.

**Xay Im Lam
Cabramatta High School**

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday,
September 15,
1998

Education Week



Artwork by
Ki Sing Li,
Cabramatta
High School

Tigers

I hate the expressions
“as cruel as a tiger” or
“as bloodthirsty as a tiger”
that are written in storybooks.
When I hear this expression
I think of myself
when I was a little boy
holding a muzzle-loading gun.
Into the jungle I had gone,
wandering around,
sleeping through the nights,
with a small fire for warmth.
I was woken by the noise of tigers.
Some were in the distance,
others near at hand,
interrupting my dream.
As the tiger turned
around on me
there was a friendly
expression on his face.
“Hello kid. What are you doing here?”
and, receiving no answer,
he walked slowly away,
without once looking back.

Xay Im La
Cabramatta High School

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Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, September 22, 1998

School takes a green tack

CABRAMATTA High School is going green.

Students in a Year 10 English class have suggested ways to make the school more environmentally friendly and the school's Students Representative Council is now raising money to put those plans into action.

The SRC recently held a disco which raised \$700 for the environment campaign. Initiatives include planting more trees to increase shade around the

school and help combat the greenhouse effect.

The students also plan an anti-rubbish and recycling campaign as well as daily competitions and quizzes on environmental issues.

Cabramatta High has also joined the Streamwatch program. As members of the program, students will become involved in the constant monitoring and improvement of Cabramatta Creek which runs behind the school.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, January 12, 1999

School leavers make the grade

MANY students around Fairfield gained outstanding results in the 1998 Higher School Certificate.

More than 150 Fairfield district students scored more than 90 per cent in at least one subject. They were:

Bonnyrigg High: Bang Vu (4U maths), Tran Le (4U maths), Karen Naumenko (3U English, ancient history, 3U legal studies and 2U modern history), Tien Nguyen (4U maths), Samih Hijel (4U maths, 3U Arabic), Leenet Kaldani (2U Persian) and Ana Jaglic (contemporary English).

Bossley Park High: Rizeq Barghout (4U maths), Heroly Chour (4U maths), Amanda DeCarli (Aboriginal studies), Hung Lui (4U maths, 2U chemistry, 2U physics), Silvie Ngo (4U maths), Hoai Pham (4U

maths), Yun Phung (4U maths, 2U chemistry), Amreeta Sami (3U maths), Peter Tran (4U maths), Yuen Tsui (4U maths) and Sebnem Demirez (3U Turkish).

Cabramatta High: Giao Huynh (3U maths), Lyna Banh (4U maths), Jimmy Kuooh (4U maths), Helen Li (4U maths), Linda Ngo (4U maths, 2U business studies), Phuong Nguyen (4U maths), Nhu Nguyen (3U maths), Thanh Nguyen (3U maths), Chinh Seu (4U maths), Minh Ta (4U maths), Wing Yeung (4U maths).

Canley Vale High: Bun Eng (4U maths), Linda Ngo (3U maths), Eva Orahm (3U legal studies), Mark Phan (4U maths), Albert Thai (3U legal studies), Duc Thai (4U maths), Jimmy Tram (4U maths), Anne Tran

(2U economics), David Tran (3U maths), Diana Tran (2U economics), Karen Tran (general studies), Si Tran (4U maths), Vinh Vuong (3U maths), Qi Zhang (4U maths), Minh Duong (2U maths), Benny Ky (4U maths).

Fairfield High: Zaher Chamsine (4U maths), Kuo Chen (3U maths), Get Khao (3U maths), Anh La (general English, 3U maths, 4U science), Anh Lai (3U maths), Huu Nguyen (4U maths, 4U science), Tan Pham (4U maths), Seng Phy (4U maths, 4U science), Thao Vu (3U maths), Branka Matuzovi (2U Croatian).

Fairvale High: Robert Arness (maths in society), Dien Nguyen (4U maths), Nhi Bui (contemporary English, 3U maths), Thao Chau (3U

maths), Tram Doan (3U maths, 2U Vietnamese), Gloria Henrique (3U Spanish), Duy Nguyen (4U maths), Tony Nguyen (4U maths), Anthony Phan (4U maths), Thuy Quach (4U maths, 2U Vietnamese), Marjorie Chiu (science for life), Minh Trieu (2U maths), Deniz Eren (4U maths).

Prairiewood High: Eve Adam (2U life management studies), Alexander Debono (3U maths), Sonia Gonzalez (3U life management studies), Koby Grabham (3U maths), Michelle Hu (2U computing studies, 2U food technology), Mathew Khairo (2U ancient history), William Kwok (2U ancient history), Anne Nicholas (2U maths), David Pham (3U English), Daniel Rehihana (contemporary English).

St Johns Park High: Johnson Chan (4U maths), Munva Chao (modern history people and events), Sokkien Chhai (2U ancient history), Leark Chung (4U maths), Hishang Lee (4U maths), Nurdan Mehmet (3U maths), Frank Ng (4U maths), David Nguyen (4U maths), Jane Phimmasa (3U maths), David Phu (4U maths), Mey Tea (3U maths), Hai Thai (4U maths), David To (4U maths), Lyly Tran (4U maths), Marylene Vergara (3U maths).

Westfields High: Ly Ban (4U maths), Doris Chong (3U maths), Waverly Duong (4U maths), Lam Le (3U maths, 2U biology), Khoi Nguyen (3U maths), Mary Vitalone (2U legal studies, 2U modern history), Simon Duong (2U maths).

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, February 16, 1999

Memories flowing back

by **ALLAN CLEAVER**

ALEX Walker, newly appointed managing director of Sydney Water, paid a nostalgic visit last week to his alma mater of 35 years ago — Cabramatta High School.

Mr Walker was captain and dux of the school in 1964 when he lived with his Scottish migrant parents in a modest fibro home in Derria St, Canley Vale.

He was appointed to the top job in Sydney Water late last year after being chief executive of the electricity supply company Integral Energy.

Mr Walker's return visit to Cabramatta High coincided with a reception held by principal Grahame Kidd for students who performed with distinction in last year's HSC.

Mr Kidd accompanied Mr Walker on a tour of the school which included an inspection of old class photographs on the corridor walls and computers and other new technology in the school

library. "I have many fond memories of my days at Cabramatta High and my boyhood in Canley Vale," Mr Walker said. "I actually met my wife Sandra, who was Sandra Taylor, at a school fete after I left school."

Mr Walker's younger brother James was also captain of the school.

Mr Walker was aged two when the family arrived from Scotland as assisted migrants and lived in a garage for a while at Canley Vale until Alex's father built them a Hudson ready-cut home.

Mr Walker was interested to hear that 96 per cent of Cabramatta High's enrolment is of non-English-speaking background.

Mr Kidd told him 124 students completed the HSC last year, many receiving high average marks and 41 entering university.

"Cabramatta High is a happy and successful school with none of the problems of Cabramatta which are highlighted in the media being present here," Mr Kidd said.

Mr Walker noted that even in his school days the school had a high ethnic content among its pupils, many of them from the nearby migrant hostel.

Mr Walker, who now lives at Abbotsford, is also deputy chairman of the Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board. His wife is assistant principal of Abbotsford Public School.



Old and new ... Cabramatta High's 1964 school captain Alex Walker (right) meets the 1999 captain Huoy Lim

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

A Languages High School

Cabramatta High School congratulates our 1998 H.S.C. class, especially the 47 students commencing university. The class produced excellent results that we have come to expect from our students.

These students include: Linda NGO (97.65), Helen LI (96.65), Giao HUYNH, Hai Yen HUYNH, Jimmy KOUCH, Lang LEAV, Huoy LIM, Kim Hanh LUU, Nhu NGUYEN, Nhung NGUYEN, Phone Son NGUYEN, Phuong Duy NGUYEN, Jenny PAN, Chinh SEU, Priya SULLIVAN, Lim Heng TEA, Maurice TRAN, Sivear UNG, Ly Fang YIN.



Top scoring students being congratulated by Mr. Kidd

**Academic Achievement
Strong Discipline Policy
Caring Environment**

**Principal Grahame Kidd
Ph: 9726 2424**

Students are our main concern

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 31, 1999

Police hit High's note

POLICE strengthened links with youth last week when local officers attended Cabramatta High School for the fifth annual series of Police Links Days.

The school holds it in March for Year 7 and in September for Year 10.

Cabramatta youth liaison officer, Constable Belinda McPherson, said the days built relations between police and the youth of the area.

"Most of the students are on a first-name basis with the police," Const McPherson said.

She said despite Cabramatta's reputation as a crime centre most offences were by youths from outside of the area.

The Year 7 students were shown the types of youth crime, the role of policing and the importance of reporting offences.

"This gives us a chance to talk to the police and find out what they do," said Year 7 student, Sui Fong.

The students also got to meet the dog squad and police horses, investigate a patrol car and watch a basketball match between the school team and the police.

School organiser Catherine Phung said the links days help raise the awareness of juvenile among the students.

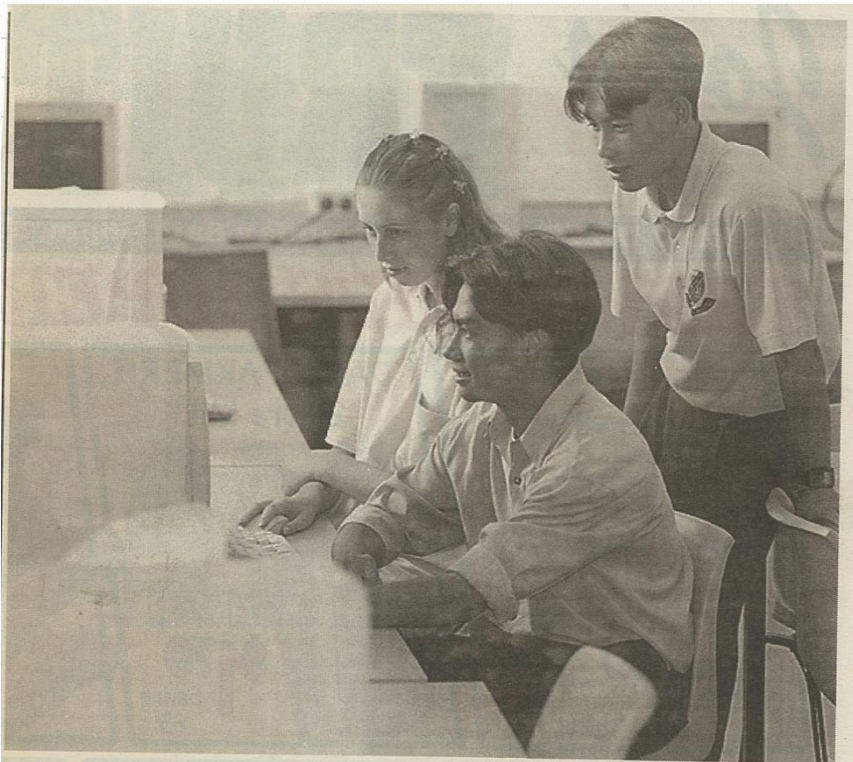
The Year 10 day will cover drugs and alcohol.



■ STUDENTS at Cabramatta High School played basketball against a police team as part of Friday's Police Links Day. Photo: DAVID MARIUZ

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 17, 1999



■ LENA Kvackovska, Trong Hien Huynh and Ba Duy Doan (standing) check out their winning Web site.
Photo: NATALIE BOOG

Cabra trounces 86 high schools

By LYNETTE EYB

CABRAMATTA High School is gunning along the information superhighway.

Four Year 12 students have won a Web site design competition, beating students from 86 school from across the State.

Premier Bob Carr last Thursday presented Trong Hien Huynh,

Lena Kvackovska, Ba Duy Doan and Antonia Costa with first prize in the photographic gallery division of the Department of Education competition.

The Web site forms part of a soon-to-be expanded Cabramatta High site which will show the best from Australia's most culturally diverse school.

The photographic gallery has images of the school and its students at work and play.

Its design has won Cabramatta High prizes to the value of \$4000, including a new laser printer and computer software.

■ THE site can be viewed through the 'community' link at www.def.nsw.edu.au.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday,
May 18,
1999

Tuesday May 18th 1999.
An eye on the future

CABRAMATTA High School offers excellence in education and provides an environment for students to thrive.

With about 1000 students enrolled, parents are advised to enrol their children early.

Enrolments are now being taken for 2000.

The school encourages extra curricular activities such as chess, debating, mock trial, music, sport and drama. Recent additions to the school environment include a computer room and modern science laboratories.

Principal Grahame Kidd said students were prepared for university and TAFE as the school offers a university-style lecture theatre.



Academic excellence . . . Cabramatta High students study in the library

Students can study in a relaxed and spacious learning environment in the school library or take

time out to play on the new tennis court. Courses such as music, food technology, science,

maths and languages are offered by the school as well as other board endorsed courses such as childcare, electronics, vehicle maintenance and hospitality.

Students can also complete TAFE courses while at the school, giving them an edge over other students.

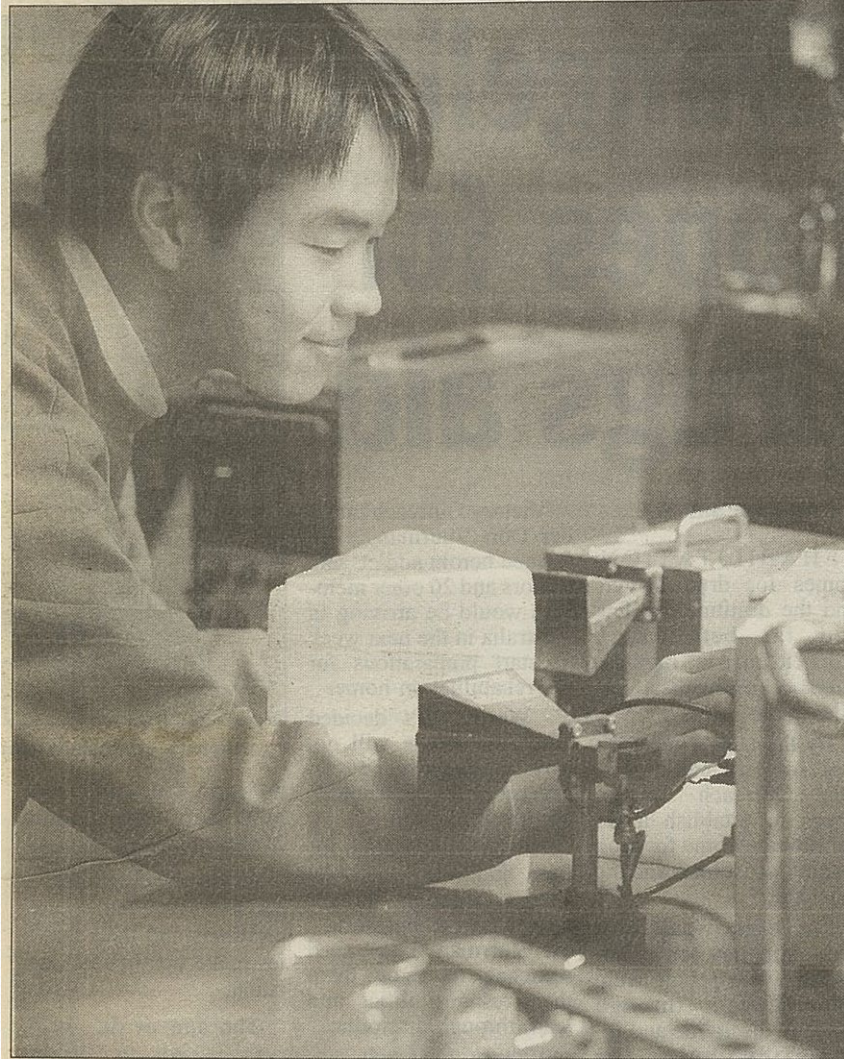
All teachers are highly qualified and expect the best from their students.

The school also promotes parental involvement and community support.

Details: 9726 2424.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, June 15, 1999



Talented and motivated . . . joining the scientific elite is Richard Kouch

CABRAMATTA High School dux Richard Kouch is headed for a brilliant career in science.

The modest 17-year-old has been selected to attend the elite Harry Messel International Science School conference at Sydney University next month.

Richard will join 100 of the best Year 12 science students from all over Australia plus 40 from overseas who have been invited to the prestigious conference.

"It should be great. Some of the world's most eminent scientists will be lecturing and there'll be workshop sessions as well," Richard said.

Richard rare science star

His proud chemistry and physics teacher Kevin Molyneux said Richard ranked among the most talented and motivated pupils he had taught.

"He was dux of Year 10 and Year 11 and he does extremely well across the board, comes top in five or six of his subjects but he's a natural scientist," he said.

"He was heading for Sydney Boys High but he

didn't like it and came back so we were all very happy about that."

Mr Molyneux said the Harry Messel conference was so highly regarded that US students selected to attend were honoured by President Bill Clinton at the White House.

"I want to go into research and industry so I can discover new things and contribute to discoveries," Richard said.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, July 6, 1999



Famine fundraiser . . . Cathii Chen raised more than \$150

PHOTO: Matthew Vasilescu

**Hungry
to help**

STUDENTS from Cabramatta High School showed their mettle and fasted for charity last week.

The students gave up fast food and chocolate bars for a whole weekend to raise more than \$2000 for the 40-Hour Famine.

Last year the school received an award for raising the most money for the World Vision event in the south west Sydney region.

One student, Cathii Chen, raised \$150 after persuading dozens of friends and relatives to sponsor her.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Education Week

Luca wants republic

HERE stands another politician. Cabramatta High School student Luca Lupa is keen to take part in the National NSW School's Constitutional Convention.

After successfully competing in the NSW School's Constitutional Convention, Luca is now planning ahead.

"It was really fun. It was educational and interesting. It was enjoyable," she said.

"The experience was invaluable. Discussing and debating were the main highlights."

She is now researching the Australian Constitution and the rights of citizens as she studies for her Year 11 exams.

Luca believes that a republic is a must for all Australians.

"It is a move for the future because we cannot hang on to the past. The past is in England," she said.

Luca hopes to be a politician.

"Maybe I will become a politician. Maybe law or sociological. Who knows? It is an interesting field," she said.

— ANGELINA DRACA



■ BUDDING politician Luca Lupa, of Cabramatta High School.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 14, 1999



CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

— *A Languages High School* —

Preparation for the Year 2000 has already begun. Next year in the senior school we will be offering over 300 students a curriculum that caters for a wide variety of interests. Again we will cater for the most academic with our traditional courses of English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Legal Studies, Business Studies, Economics, Engineering Science and Computer Studies. Further we will offer courses for those with vocational interests with Hospitality and Catering, Office Administration, Information Technology, Software Design, Building

Construction, Textiles and Photography. Again languages will provide students with the opportunity to attain top results in Vietnamese, Chinese and Japanese, and for the first time in any local high school, Serbian. Our course will be sought after by students from all over the Fairfield and Liverpool Districts, reinforcing the excellent educational opportunities that our school offers.

At the other end our Year 7 student enrolments for 2000 are higher than previous years. Students are being attracted from a wider range of Primary Schools, a result of our

school's excellent reputation. Scholarships for Year 7 2000 and Year 8 2000 (\$300 each year) have already been decided and have been offered to Ly Ngov and Lisa Khour (from Cabramatta West Primary), Dara Ngor (from Cabramatta Primary), and Wendy Liu (from Canley Vale Primary). Students in Year 8 and Year 10 who wish to apply for scholarships for 2000 and 2001 (\$300 each year) should have their applications in by the end of October. Applications can be obtained from the Year Adviser or from the Principal.

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE - SERVING THE COMMUNITY

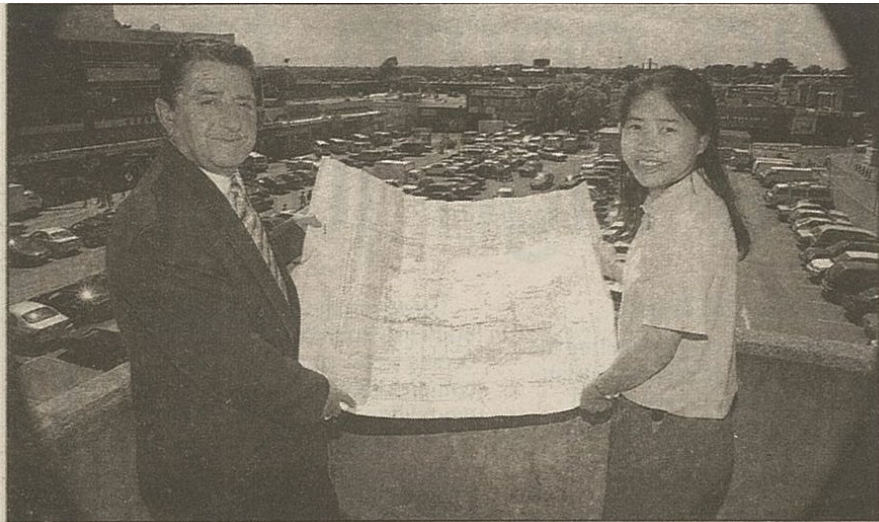
Principal G. Kidd

Aladore Ave, Cabramatta

Ph: 9726 2424

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 17, 1999



■ MAYOR Anwar Khoshaba and Cabramatta High captain Jannie Lim have great plans for the future of Cabramatta.

Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

Cabramatta stands at the crossroads

IT'S CRUNCH time for Cabramatta.

This is the message from Fairfield's mayor, Councillor Anwar Khoshaba, as the draft town centre plan for Cabramatta goes on public exhibition this week.

"This plan is a turning point for Cabramatta," Cr Khoshaba said.

"We have to decide now what we want for the future. This plan is very important for the people and businesses of Cabramatta and to the City of Fairfield.

"We still want as much feedback as possible, so it is now up the community to support the plan and tell us what they want."

A public meeting will be held at the Cabra—Vale Diggers Club on Thursday, December 9 at 7.15pm to seek community opinion on the plan.

The draft Cabramatta Development Control Plan promotes many exciting new guidelines for the future development of the area.

Proposals include night markets and food outlets, the possible use of

trishaws as a tourist drawcard, upgraded urban open space in the heart of the CBD and possible construction over the railway line to reunite east and west Cabramatta.

A series of community workshops has already been held with residents, businesses and community groups.

One suggestion from the students of Cabramatta High School was the need for additional public meeting places to allow friends to meet and socialise. The students suggested an urban open area to be constructed on part of the existing ground level carpark.

The draft plan has divided the CBD into six distinct precincts, each with a different character.

It comes after 10 months of community consultations and the mayor emphasised that it would only go forward after further community input.

The draft plan is before the council on Tuesday, November 23 and is on exhibition for three months, closing on February 10.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 1, 1999

Now it's more honours for Rizzy |

RIZZY Maharaj, who was named NSW Youth of the Year for the Police and Community Youth Club movement, has now achieved another honour.

Last week, he was named boys' school captain for next year at Cabramatta High School.

Rizzy is in Year 11 at Cabramatta, and not in Year 12 at CabraVale High, as reported by us last week.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, January 11, 2000

Best and brightest on HSC merit list

THE number of Fairfield City students appearing on the 1999 Higher School Certificate Merit list is down this year but the district still fared well.

More than 60 students from government schools in the district scored more than 90 percent in at least one subject. They were:

Bonnyrigg High: Djordje Drca (4U maths), Wasim Jabakhang (4U maths), Ngoc Thao Nguyen (4U maths), Katie Fei Tian (contemporary English), Bich Lieu Thi Truong (4U maths).

Bossley Park: Taner Behzat Hussein (contemporary English), JIann-Hwan Kau (4U maths), Kinh Luan Luong (4U maths), David McDonald (2U Industrial Technology), Kylie McIlvene (maths in

practice), Yun Ling Phung (3U maths), Wilson Ta (2U maths), Chi Yuen Kenneth Tsui (2U chemistry, 4U maths).

Cabramatta: Richard James Ly Kouch (3U maths), Andrew Nguy (4U maths), Ly Minh Tam Tran (general studies).

Canley Vale: Glang Bui (4U maths), Ly Hien Gour (3U business studies), Boung Ly (4U maths), Thuy Bich Nguyen (4U maths), Thai Quoc Pham (4U maths), Cindy Gia Phuong Tran (2U computing studies, contemporary English).

Fairfield: Eng Chhay (4U maths), Nirady Chu (2U maths), Mary Atour Joseph (science for life), Dina Mok (4U maths), Jimmy Pham (4U maths), Hoang Dang Khoa Tran (2U Vietnamese), Thuy Hoang Ngoc Tran (2U maths).

Fairvale: William Chen (4U maths), Michael Lim (3U maths), Ilinka Manojlovic (2U business studies), Christopher Nguyen (3U maths), Jieyun Anica Zhang (4U maths).

Prairiewood: Lauren Armbruster (society and culture), Sarah Houghton (modern history people and events), Angel Chia-Chia Hu (3U maths, 2U chemistry), Tony Lu (4U maths), Cherie Micallef (science for life), Tony Dong Nguyen (4U maths), Michael Sammy (4U maths).

St Johns Park: Francisco Chung (4U maths), Linda Huynh (4U maths), Billy Liang Luu (4U maths), Sudamo Nguyen (3U maths), Thang Toan Nguyen (4U maths), Chuong Vu (3U maths), Sayun Yorth (science for life).

Westfields: Vu Phuong Dang (3U maths), Simon Duong (4U maths), Ty Peter Kang (2U maths), Tran Luu Ngoc Nguyen (2U maths), Lauren Rickwood (personal development, health and P.E), Linda Tor (2U English, 3U Ancient History), Michael Trieu (4U maths), Patrick Weisner (maths in practice), Grant Wells (maths in practice).

Good on you, schoolies

FAIRFIELD schools district superintendent Pat Farmer has congratulated the area's high achievers in the HSC.

More than 40,000 students from government schools across sat for the HSC with 61 Fairfield students recording a placing on the order of

merit list. Ms Farmer said the local achievers had good reason to feel satisfied with their efforts.

"Completing the first 13 years of their education and mastering skills and knowledge is a very significant milestone and an achievement of which to be proud of," she said.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, March 7, 2000

Ready for life after school

CABRAMATTA High School is preparing its students for a bright future through a range of innovative and progressive programs of study.

For the past two years students have been able to complete their HSC while also completing traineeships through TAFE and doing paid work.

As part of their HSC, students are able to complete Level 2 Certificates in hospitality, building, construction, office

administration and information technology.

These courses can lead to well-paid jobs and give credit to further study at TAFE.

The well-equipped school has six computer rooms, 12 computers with Internet access in the library and a multimedia learning centre.

The school is now fully networked with computers and video transmission to all areas.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Cabramatta High School A Languages High School

Cabramatta High School congratulates its 1999 HSC class. The class produced excellent results that we have come to expect from our students. These students include:

Richard KOUCH (96.9), Ly Minh Tam TRAN (93.95), Alison BARHOUMEH, Labibeh BARHOUMEH, Proleng CHHEUR, Tu Quoc DUONG, Borislav ERCEG, Ngoc thuy HUYNH, Chariya KHLOTH, Sui Ling LI, Andrew NGUY, Zoran NOVAKOVIC, Lida SUN, Kim Sur TANG, Thanh Hong TON, Van Khanh TRAN, Huang thi VO, Jacky Wing YEUNG, Chariya KHOLOTH, Trong Hien HUYNH, Marie IERUFL, Ly Minh Tam TRAN, Kwang YIE.



Top scoring students being congratulated by Mr Kidd, Principal and Mr Daly, Deputy Principal

**Of special significance
was the UAI
placements in excess
of 55 offers which
constituted over 50%
of the students**

**Academic Achievement
Strong Policy
Discipline Policy
Caring Environment**

2165682d 21/3

Students are our main concern

**Principal Grahame Kidd
Ph: 9726 2424**

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

- Famine funding -

MANY district residents will go without food for 40 hours this weekend as part of World Vision's 40 Hour Famine.

Last year residents, schools and church groups were among the 400,000 participants nation-wide who raised \$5.9 million.

Top achievers were Fairfield High School which raised \$2340, Cabramatta High with \$2069, Canley Vale High with \$1650 and Cabramatta Anglican Youth Group with \$758.

This year's national target is \$6.2 million which will go towards relief emergency projects in Kosovo and East Timor, and long-term development projects in indigenous Australian communities, Rwanda, India and Sudan. Details: 133 240.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, June 20, 2000



Bound for Sweden... Sophy Moc, 16, and Soriya Son, 17, are looking forward to their trip

Trip of lifetime

A GROUP of disadvantaged students from Cabramatta High School is trying to raise at least \$14,000 to fund a trip to its sister school in Sweden. The school's Support Unit, which caters for kids with mild intellectual learning problems, wants to send seven students to the Gullstrand Skolan, which also specialises in students from migrant families. Trip co-ordinator Heidi Brunero said members of the group had been corresponding, via post and email, with their Swedish counterparts for several months. The relationship between the two schools was formed after Swedish teachers visited Cabramatta High in 1998. "The Swedish set up is very similar to ours," Ms Brunero said. "The students are mainly from migrant backgrounds with mild intellectual and physical disabilities, and the friendships they have developed with our students has helped both sides learn about each other's culture." Cabramatta High is appealing to local businesses to help fund the trip, which will cost more than \$2000 a student. The Cabramatta students would stay with their penpals. To make a donation call Alan Schembri or Heidi Brunero on 9726 2424.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Words around world

A LITTLE friendship can go a long way.

That's the conclusion of this group of students at Cabramatta High School who are participating in a project to promote international ties.

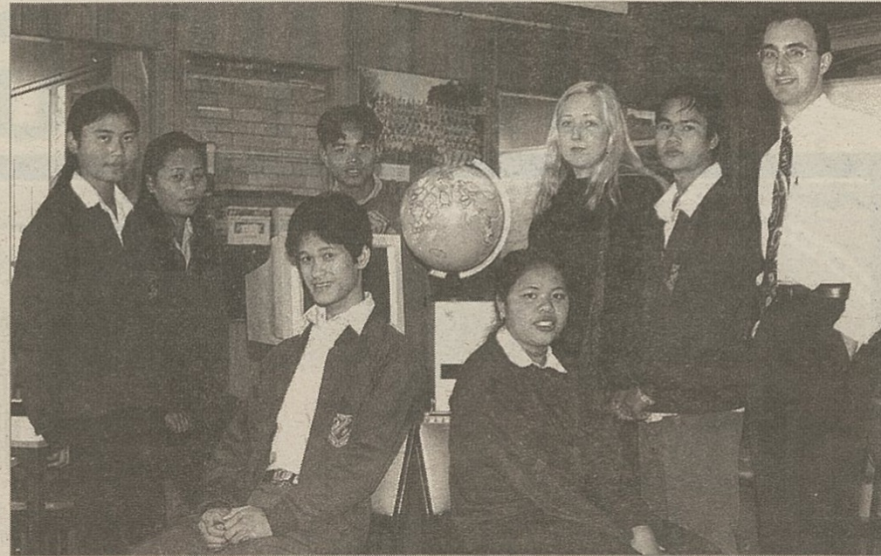
Ninety seven per cent of the 1000 students at the comprehensive high are from non-English speaking backgrounds.

The school has an intensive English centre and a support unit for students with mild intellectual learning needs.

As part of their studies, six of students from the unit have been corresponding with pen pals in Sweden since 1998.

"They have also kept in contact via email but the main aim has been to foster their writing skills," said head teacher support Alan Schembri said.

"Through their letters



they have extended their knowledge of growing up as a teenage in another country.

"Friendships have evolved and an understanding of another culture."

The Cabramatta students have decided to put a face to the name and visit Sweden to see their pen pals.

"We are aiming to visit during the Easter holidays next year, with each student staying with their particular pen pal," Mr Schembri said.

The students are staging fund raising activities within the school including a school disco, a chocolate drive and play station contests.

"We are also planning to stage a trivia contest later in the year which will be open to the local community," Mr Schembri said.

"Hopefully, local businesses will support the plan, either financially or in-kind. We estimate we need \$2000 for each student and teacher."

Mr Schembri said the

project has been good for the students' confidence and general knowledge.

"The project has not only extended their knowledge of the world but also given them an appreciation of friendship.

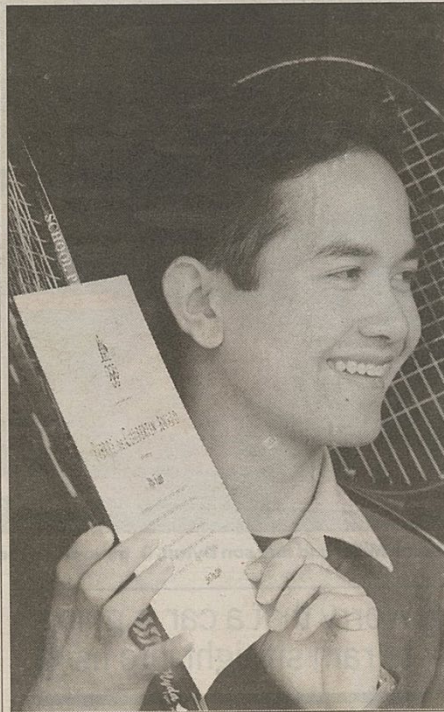
"This trip, occurring in their final year, will be something they will remember for a long time."

Anyone wanting to support the the students can contact Mr Schembri or Heidi Brunero on 9726 2424.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, July 4, 2000

Winner inspired by Games ideals



It's how you play the game . . . 17-year-old Pierre de Courbetin award winner Phy Vann

LIFE for Phy Vann has not been easy, but he has managed to turn some of his experiences into an award-winning essay and his difficult life into one of determination and fair play.

The Cabramatta High student was nominated by his teachers for the 2000 Pierre de Coubertin Award.

The award recognises students who work hard at sport and their studies, and show sportsmanship.

Phy, 17, is vice-captain of the school and has represented it in netball, tennis, softball and basketball.

"He shows great leadership and exemplary sportsmanship," teacher Raelene Allen said.

"No matter what game he plays, he plays hard and aggressively, but at the end of the game will always shake hands and applauds other players, even if they are from another school."

Born in war-torn Cambodia, his family escaped to Thailand, then came to Australia in 1987. They were helped by other refugees and their church. At one stage they lived in a unit of 13 people.

In an essay echoing the Olympic creed the most important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle, Phy wrote:

"The flame is a symbol, that stirs emotions and beliefs in me that I can share the dream, the dream to strive to reach my best, and face the struggles in my journey through life. I live and go to school in Cabramatta.

A school and community with a rich harmonious mix of cultures, just as the Olympic family.

"Many of us are refugees or descendants of refugees . . . We have been given another chance in the race of life and, while our struggle is far from over, the trauma of resettlement has been replaced with the triumph of hope for the future."

by EMILY TINSON

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 5, 2000

Student hurdles adversity to make long jump forward

By ISABELL PETRINIC

BARON Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympics, could not have been prouder of Phy Vann's sentiments had he penned them himself.

Inspired by moving essay, *The Journey of the Dream*, Coubertin's Olympic

Creed, Phy undertook to create a version of his own which captured succinctly the journey which every refugee, not unlike the Olympic athlete, completes to achieve their lifelong dream.

The result was his moving essay, *The Journey of the Dream*,

for which the Cabramatta High School vice-captain was granted the 2000 Pierre de Coubertin Award.

In the same way the ancient Greeks overcame great adversity to excel in their chosen sport, so too have refugees jumped the hurdle called inopportunity,

journeying to Australia, the land of freedom, where everyone is given a "break".

The struggle is no different for the athlete, as that encountered by the ordinary man on the street, says 17-year-old Phy.

"Most people at our school are refugees or descendants of refugees, so in my essay I focused on that struggle to survive which this community shares.

"There is hope for the community."

As he says in his essay: "The trauma of resettlement has been

replaced with the triumph of hope for the future."

Phy was one of more than 200 secondary students from across NSW to have the 2000 Pierre de Coubertin Award bestowed upon them by the Department of Education and Training and the Australian Olympic Committee this year.

This is the second year running that a Cabramatta High School student has been granted a Pierre de Coubertin Award. Last year's recipient was Tu Quoc Duong.

The journey of the dream

BY PHY VANN, inspired by the Olympic Creed

THE Olympic flame has just been lit in Greece to begin its journey to Australia.

The spirit of the Olympics has been ignited; bringing the world to Australia has truly begun.

The flame is a symbol that stirs emotions and beliefs in me that I can share the dream, the dream to strive to reach my best and face the struggles in my journey through life.

The symbolism of the flame being ignited and the journey to Australia means much to me.

My family journeyed to Australia, and no doubt that of many in this community.

I live and go to school in Cabramatta. A school and community with a rich harmonious mix of cultures, just as the Olympic family.

Many of us are refugees or descendants of refugees enjoying the freedoms and opportunity Australia provides.

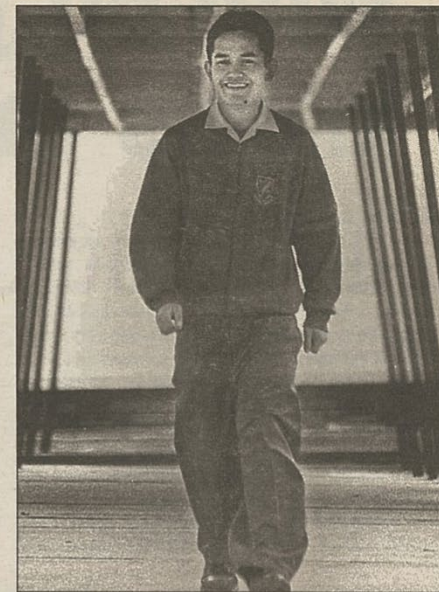
'THE most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well'

— THE OLYMPIC CREED

We have been given another chance in the race of life and, while our struggle is far from over, the trauma of resettlement has been replaced with the triumph of hope for the future.

So, when the flame is carried through our community, many others and I will stand by the roadside and watch it go by.

That symbol, having made its way from the other side of the world, will unite us in the knowledge that we have overcome hardship and can surely triumph in our new homeland. Its flickering flame will remind us that the Olympic dream is for all and that hope is eternal.



YOUNG MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS ... In Phy Vann's Olympic dream "the flickering flame will remind us that the Olympic dream is for all and that hope is eternal".
Photo: WES LONERGAN

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 5, 2000

Money talk

PROVING they can talk with a mouthful of marbles, Cabramatta High School's senior debating team scored a hat-trick when it defeated Eagle Vale High School in the district competition.

The Cabramatta team now progresses to the zone championships of the Commonwealth Cup Senior Debating Competition.

The team, which consists of Year 12 students Pay Lay Du, Jannie Lim, Saroeuth Van, Kim Horng Lim and Luca Lupa, will step up against Bankstown Grammar in the first round of the zones, debating the topic "Money Makes the World Go Round".

Cabramatta will argue the negative.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, November 28, 2000

Kids' big show

CABRAMATTA High will present its first stage performance in three years when A Fractured Fairytale opens tonight.

The production lets students show off their dancing, singing, and acting talents.

The show opens at Cabramatta High at 6.30pm and tickets are \$2.

No tickets will be available at the door.

Details: 9726 2424.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Doing it for themselves



AWARD WINNERS... L to R (front) Syrmarine Sam, Vi Ma and Theavy Lim and (rear) Gy Wen Ho, Vathana San and Kanya Chhin. . Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

By ISABELL PETRINIC

THERE are no prizes for caring and definitely no pass marks for fulfilling a life challenge.

Such is the simple message to participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, which this year included a group of Year 11 students from Cabramatta High School.

Founded in England in 1956 and now operating in more than 60 countries, the awards are seen as a "challenge to the individual" and not simply another competition in life. Most importantly, participants achieve at their own pace and level.

There are three levels - bronze for those aged 14 years and over, silver for those aged 15 years and over, and gold for those over 16.

At each level there are four sections - service, expeditions, skills, physical recreation.

The 10 key principles of an award are that it be non-competitive, available to all, voluntary, flexible, balanced, progressive, achievement focused, a marathon not a sprint, a process not a prize, enjoyable.

Fairfield Advance

Tuesday, December 12, 2000

Boys and girls in blue

• by ALLAN CLEAVER

SPRINTER and rugby league star Joven Clarke and distance runner Shannon Hill have been acclaimed by Sydney South West Schools Sports Association as its top two athletes in 2000.

Both are students at Westfields Sports High. Joven is from Canley Vale and Shannon from Mt Pritchard.

Joven was named the winner of the association's President's Award for male athletes and Shannon as the female winner of that award at the Sporting Blues award presentation dinner last week at Liverpool Catholic Club.

Shannon accepted her award but Joven was in Adelaide for

the national All Schools athletics championships and his mother accepted his award.

Joven has represented Sydney south-west area in athletics for the past four years and has competed successfully at the NSW Combined High Schools championships, the

the national All Schools athletics championships and his mother accepted his award.

the national All Schools athletics championships and his mother accepted his award.

Joven has represented Sydney south-west area in athletics for the past four years and has competed successfully at the NSW Combined High Schools championships, the

NSW All Schools titles and the Pacific School Games.

He has won eight gold medals and five silver medals and created six new records.

In rugby league, Joven has represented his school, Parramatta, NSW Schoolboys and Australian Schoolboys.

Shannon is an outstanding cross country and middle distance runner who performed well as a member of the Australian team at the World Schools Cross Country Championships in Morocco this year.

In athletics she has remarkable endurance and the ability to accelerate at will.

At the recent NSW Combined High Schools championships she won the 2000m steeplechase in record time.

She was second in the 1500m and third in the 800m and 3000m. Shannon also won gold medal in the 1500m at the Pacific School Games in Sydney this year and also won a gold medal in that event at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Scotland.

Among the Westfields students to receive Blues at the dinner were Sebastian Plescan, boy's tennis; Matthew Boys, softball; Ismael Arrarte, soccer; Scott Burriss, field athletics; Kristy Laws, water polo; Joven Clarke, rugby league and athletics; Benjamin Lehnen, water polo; Shannon Hill, track athletics; Kiri Gilbert, basketball; Sameth Por, volleyball; Matthew Sundstrom, baseball; and Nicole Kimber, soccer.

An inspirational guest speaker at the presentation night was Olympic gold medalist water polo player Simone Hankin who, as a Picnic Point High School student, won a Blues award in 1988.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 20, 2000

Supporting our youth



● LEFT TO RIGHT: Jim Daley, Steve Reeves, Kanya Chhin, Grahame Kidd, and Col Skene.

Last Wednesday morning Cabramatta League Club was proud to help 20 exceptional students aged between 11 to 18 years, who will be attending Cabramatta High School, in 2001.

Steve Reeves, Vice President, of Cabramatta League Club presented a cheque for \$6,000 on behalf of the members to Kanya Chhin, Vice Captain, of Cabramatta High School. Grahame King, the School's Principal explained the money will assist the 20 students with the cost of fees, books, and general expenses of attending highschool.

The 20 students are selected by a Board including the Principal, plus two other members from the School's teaching facility. Each student supplies a portfolio of their achievements, which include; references, academic records, details on all round skills, and other background information. The

students are also judged on their leadership potential, so the task of selecting the 20 top students with all forms represented is not easy. The competition is keen, when only a small number of students can receive the \$300.

Students as young as 11 years, such Vinh Tran, from Cabramatta Public School compete to receive the funds for next years schooling.

The Club has decided this inaugural presentation will be an ongoing commitment, as we are dedicated to supporting excellence for our young whether it's on the sports field, cultural or in academic achievements. Until next week,

Bill

Bill Basan,
Chief Executive Officer



Cabramatta Rugby League Club

"The Home of Champions, and Future Champions"

24 Sussex St Cabramatta Phone 9727 8788 Fax 9728 6114

Information for Members and their guests

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

- Back to basics for Education Minister -



Education and Training Minister John Aquilina went back to his roots and taught students at Cabramatta High School last week. The occasion was Public Education Day, a day designed to promote the virtues of public education. Mr Aquilina taught a Year 9 history class about the history of women's suffrage in Australia, then spoke at a school assembly

Photo: ARMEN DEUSHIAN

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

Agriculture Aussie style

TWO Cabramatta High School students, Sok Lim and Siv-Lay Phon are playing their part in learning agriculture the "Australian way". The boys, members of the Khmer community, live at Kemps Creek and their families bring them to Cabramatta every day for their schooling.

Australia's different climate to Asian countries makes it difficult to grow crops the same way, hence the need to learn new methods for market gardening Down Under.

Cabramatta High School principal Grahame Kidd told *The Advance* the students did their agricultural studies at Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture over the Christmas holidays.

The boys now have a Certificate of Agriculture level four as a result of completing the course at Murrumbidgee.

Mr Kidd said it was a fine achievement for the boys to achieve their goal and they can now put something back into their local community with their agricultural knowledge.

Both students live on market garden properties at Kemps Creek and can now assist their parents with crop growing.



Down on the farm . . . agriculture students Sok Lim, 17, and Siv-Lay Phon, 16

A fair go for all

The Public Education Day celebrated the positive role of public education. BREE DeROCHE reports on the inaugural event

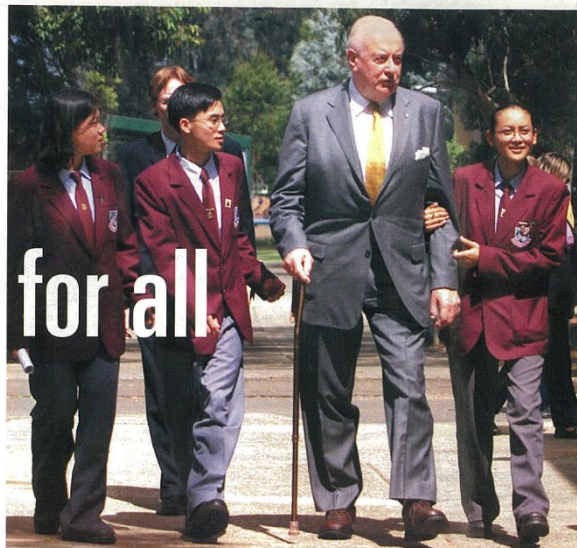
Thousands of teachers, students, politicians and unions across the country celebrated Australia's first National Public Education Day. The March 15 event highlighted the positive role of public education as well as the uncertainties arising as a result of funding policies of the Federal Government.

A prominent face in the day's celebrations was former Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, a great promoter of public education in Australia. Whitlam made an appearance at Cabramatta High School, in Sydney's west, the school his daughter Katherine attended in the mid-1960s, and which was built while he was the local member.

Whitlam's appearance gave him the opportunity to express his views on the education funding policy of the Federal Government. Whitlam attacked the Howard Government's policy for the allocation of funding to private schools, saying that the present policy was biased and vicious.

He also took the opportunity to encourage the future voters to take an active role in issues relating to public education.

When speaking to *The Australian* on the day, he said: "I urge those of you over the age of 17 to enrol to vote and think very carefully at the federal election this year about the real issues, such as public education."



School days: Former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam talks with students at Cabramatta High School.

The event was celebrated and publicised across the country with a range of activities.

Australian Capital Territory

The nation's capital marked the day in unique style at Commonwealth Park with their Celebration Combo – Salute to Public Education. Almost 3500 students from 18 ACT public schools took part in a memorable mass percussion piece performed on wheeled bins, pots and pans, buckets, boxes, spoons and drink bottles. About 55,000 leaflets and postcards promoting public education were distributed to schools and community.

Whitlam attacked the Howard Government's policy for the allocation of funding to private schools, saying that the present policy was biased and vicious.

New South Wales

Screened television advertisements from the NSW Teachers' Federation, which focused on the pride teachers have in the work they do, corresponded with displays and performances at Technology Park, Redfern, from public school students, as well as a concert and

keynote address from education specialist Lyndsay Connors.

Northern Territory

The branch placed a four-page feature spread in community and regional newspapers. Radio ads promoting public education ran for the week during popular breakfast and drivetime programs. The territory celebrated the day by encouraging members of the Teachers' Federation to wear blue clothing or blue ribbons to express their support, and were provided with pro-forma letters to sign and send to Prime Minister John Howard and the Federal Minister for Education, David Kemp.

Queensland

Nearly half a million leaflets were sent to public schools, highlighting the unfair distribution of government funds to public schools. A morning tea was held at Jamboree Heights State School in Brisbane with guest speakers Federal Opposition Leader Kim Beazley, Premier Peter Beattie and QTU president Julie-Ann McCullough.

South Australia

The SA Federation spread the word by running radio advertisements, while members, with the support of parent associations, distributed pamphlets high-

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Meagher's high note for higher school certificate kids

CABRAMATTA High school is reaping the benefits of participating in an innovative coaching program targeted at educationally disadvantaged HSC students.

State MP for Cabramatta, Reba Meagher, acknowledged the benefits of the After Schools

HSC Coaching Program in improving the performance of such students.

“Through this program, schools provide tutoring sessions to individuals or small numbers in the HSC subjects outside regular school hours,” Ms Meagher said.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
August 8, 2001

Calling it a day after 21 years

By AARON PARNELL

CABRAMATTA High School's favourite daughter, Barbara Stewart, called it quits on Friday.

After 21 years of dedicated service as a library assistant, she is retiring to spend more time with her grandchildren and to travel with her husband, Gordon.

Barbara came to the school in 1979 as a casual library assistant but left for two years to help young people around Sydney.

In 1981 she returned to "my school", the beginning of a 21-year journey.

She said walking out of the school doors on Friday was one of the hardest things she had ever done.

"I can't bear to stay away from the school, I love it so much," she said.

"Even when I'm retired I'll come back and do volunteer work because it's such a great school.

"I'm so confident about the future of this school because everyone gets on despite having different cultural backgrounds.

"It's a great school and I can't believe how it gets rubbished all the time. In all my time here I haven't seen one needle in the school grounds



ON THE MOVE . . . Barbara Stewart.

and I haven't seen anything to indicate gangs are terrorising our school.

"I've been here 21 years and I am not the longest staying staff member.

"The loyalty our teachers give to Cabramatta High just shows how great we think it is."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
August 8, 2001



Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
August 29,
2001

Teens reel in award

By AARON PARNELL
and KYLIE STEVENS

THE information technology industry is booming in south west Sydney – and local teenagers are leading the charge.

Two local state schools, Canley Vale High School and Cabramatta High School, have taken out high honours in the annual schools website competition.

Three small groups of year 12 students, including last year's winning team from the school, entered the competition.

One group took out blue ribbon honours as first in the state.

Students Tony Lan, Chris Vuu, Frank Vo, John Huynh, David Quach, Ang Eap and Eang Lail tapped at their keyboards for several months to produce the dot com magic that won the competition.

For their efforts, the school won \$10,000 in prizes, including a two-day consultancy with Microsoft, display board from Electroboard, Dell desktop computer and software.

Although Canley Vale won, their near neighbours weren't far behind.

Cabramatta High School took out education ministerial commendations.

Xem Vuong, Toan To, Vuong



CABRAMATTA HIGH WEBMASTERS . . . Xem Vuong, Toan To, Vuong Lan Lam, Christopher Chan, Een Kun Yag and Rhonda Tang.

Lan Lam, Christopher Chan, Een Kun Yag and Rhonda Tang said they were elated about the award.

Geoffrey Garland, principal of Canley Vale High, said the school was proud of the students back-to-back title win.

"Many schools in the south western Sydney region cop a lot of flak so to win the award out of 240 entrants is an exceptional achievement," Mr Garland said.

"The kids did all the work themselves over the past few months: they have showed everybody how well the west's education program is going."

Suhashini Shankar, a Cabramatta High School teacher, agreed the west was far more prosperous than critics perceived.

"I put a notice in our school newsletter and these students came forward on their own accord," she said.

"They chose a theme to promote our school – and they had a lot to say.

"We are really proud of them."

To view the websites go to www.schools.nsw.edu.au/webawards2001/winners.htm

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
September 12,
2001

Education Week

WELCOME

TO

MOUNTIES Club

STUDENT'S NAME	AGE	NAME OF SCHOOL
HUYNH CHAU	14	CABRATTA HIGH SCHOOL

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 19, 2001

Reach out for help

“HOLD your heads high” was the message of Her Excellency the Governor of NSW to students at Cabramatta High School on Monday.

Professor Marie Bashir, an expert in adolescent psychiatry and migrant issues, visited the school as part of Depression Awareness Week events.

“I know you tolerate a great deal of adverse publicity and I think that will challenge you to hold your heads high and achieve,” she said.

“I am very proud to be a part of you all.”

About 20 per cent of young people are expected to suffer depression.

Professor Bashir has worked with Cabramatta High students since the early 80s through Rivendell Indo-Chinese Refugee Support camp and is patron-in-chief of the Inspire Foundation, which promotes depression awareness through the Reach Out! website.

Adolescent depression is a common, nationwide issue and Professor Bashir highlighted the particular experiences of new migrants.

“We can all be vulnerable to depression,” she said.

“Common problems include alienation, feeling left out or not fitting in even though you do.

“Feeling you can’t fit in with

your parents’ culture or your new culture.”

She recommended the Reach Out! website where young people can express their feelings in confidence.

“You can talk to it without anyone knowing,” Professor Bashir said.

“I am so committed to Reach Out! and School Link because I know early recognition and intervention is good.”

Principal Grahame Kidd said it was important to give students strategies to help them identify depression and access help.



Sivano Yem, Riatha Voeluk and Ronnia Ecters talk with Governor Marie Bashir at Cabramatta High

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
October 3, 2001

Reader of the week



TRAVELLING, MUSIC AND CHOCOLATES . . . Carol Paras.

The best thing about your job?

Working with and teaching such unique students.

The worst thing about it?

Saying goodbye to year 12 students.

What would you love to do if you had the chance?

Travel, travel and travel.

Who inspires you and who turns you off?

I'm inspired by other people's stories and experiences in life. I'm turned off by selfishness.

Your favourite TV show?

The Bold and the Beautiful. I'm a sucker for TV soapies.

What extra talent do you wish you had?

Singing and playing the drums.

What are you happy about in

■ **CAROL PARAS is a visual arts teacher at Cabramatta High School.**

Fairfield? The strong community spirit and cultural richness.

What are you angry about?

The negative stigma and publicity this area receives.

Your greatest extravagance?

Photography and my artworks.

Your favourite local spot?

Chipping Norton lakes.

Who would you like to be for 24 hours?

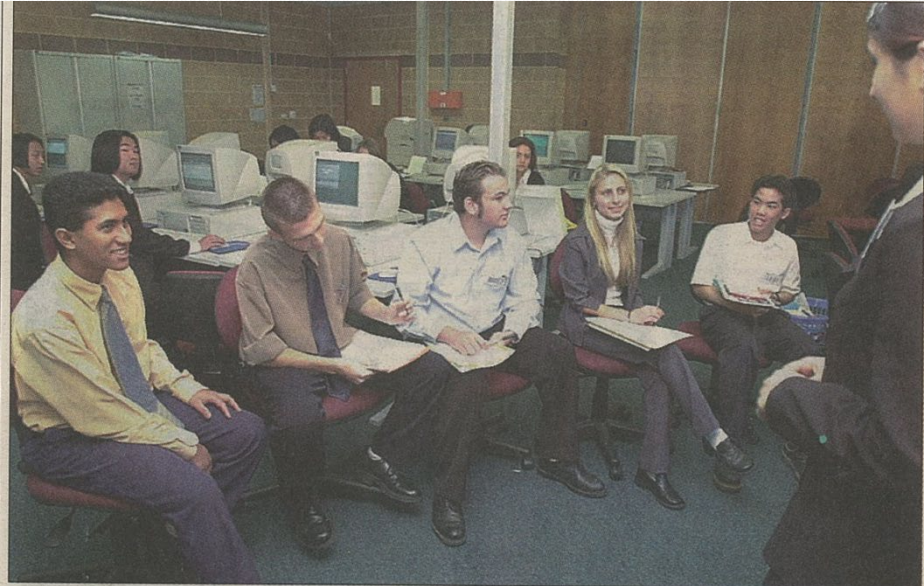
A bird.

Your favourite way to unwind?

Good music, good company and a fine blend of chocolate.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 3, 2001



UNIQUE COURSE . . . Students improving their IT know-how.

Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

Virtual IT workplace

STUDENTS from Cabramatta, Bonnyrigg and St Johns Park high schools have participated in a special course to improve their computer and job-search skills.

Held at Wetherill Park TAFE over the past week, the course took 34 year-11 students and put them in a simulated IT workplace.

During the course, they encountered the type of work experience they would be involved in working for a major IT company.

Divided into teams of five, the students were assigned to design a website.

This included designing logos, flyers on the benefits of their website, brochures, creating databases and making a procedures manual.

The course was a pilot for western Sydney schools, and may be repeated next year.

"The 35-hour course has been designed as a substitute for work experience in the IT industry," said communications facilitator Melinda-Lee Moore, of the Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE.

"All the students integrated really well and dealt with the pressures of real deadlines," Ms Moore said.

"They also had to write a job application letter for their ideal job.

"The course has given them greater awareness of the job market and let know what the opportunities are out there.

"I think they are more mindful about all the requirements of applying for a job and more confident in how to apply the skills they have learnt in the past week.

"Hopefully some of the local IT businesses will utilise their new-found IT experience and take them on for work experience next year."

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
December 19,
2001

Top of her class

AN educator who has spent nearly 30 years working with recently arrived refugee and immigrant students has won a major award.

Elisabeth Pickering last week received a coveted 2001 Director-General's Award for Excellent Service to Public Education and Training.

Elisabeth currently splits her time between Cabramatta High School, Cabramatta Primary School and the Fairfield District Office.

"All teachers and all counselors work very hard and so when you do a little extra it is nice to be recognised," she said last week.

Elisabeth said she was pleased the department was "recognising the importance of that extra assistance to people from refugee backgrounds".

Elisabeth works at the school's intensive English centre three days a week, where she counsels, assists, learning assesses and helps the families of recently arrived refugees and immigrants. She counsels at the primary school one day a week and is working on a refugee settlement project.

The project will support refugee students in the school system by developing training for school personnel to raise awareness of the impact of trauma on learning and behaviour and the impact of the refugee experience.

She said these students had been through a lot. She said their education had often been disrupted, they had witnessed atrocities and had experienced material losses and the deaths of



Elisabeth Pickering with students Thai Nguyen Vu, and Khy Hong Ly

family and friends. And they were experiencing losing their culture, language and sense of belonging and felt rejected.

Elisabeth has also worked on a parent initiative to assist newly arrived refugee families called Families in Cultural Transition. It gives parents an opportunity to make social contacts and learn about education in Australia and

support services in the school and community.

"The young people and adults I've worked with have been extremely resilient," she said. "Despite difficulties of the past they have made a new life. They have worked hard and done well academically."

Elisabeth said she got an

"enormous amount" of satisfaction from her work.

"The appreciation people have for the small amount you might be able to do is really heartwarming," she said.

She said what kept her in the job was the students, including former ones who brought her a Christmas present every year or just kept in touch.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Student impresses

CABRAMATTA High School student Dara Ngor has been awarded a medal for outstanding results in the 2001 Australian School Computer Studies competition.

Dara, in Year 8, was presented with the medal last week during a school presentation day.

The University of NSW education testing centre awards the medals.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, Friday 27, 2002

Teens taste the classics

THESE students from Cabramatta High School are tuning into notes of a different kind, thanks to a new funding idea launched last year by the Commonwealth Bank.

The program, in collaboration with the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO), is designed to enrich the cultural and musical lives of young people by allowing them and teachers cut-price performance tickets, concert talks and the purchase of performance CDs, music and notes.

Cabramatta High's head music teacher Stephen Gailey, who has already spent a decade taking students to ACO performances, said: "It gives students a taste of what is available and explores avenues not usually accessible to them of seeing high quality performances.

"It also provides good

New scheme hits schools

social opportunities outside of school where students can act like adults."

Four year 8 students who last week attended a classical performance featuring work by Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven found the experience unforgettable.

"The music was very different to what we would normally listen to but it was very enjoyable and a great experience," said student Michael Mei.

Mr Gailey said the program is increasing its popularity and more students will attend a second performance featuring dance/rhythmic music on March 9.

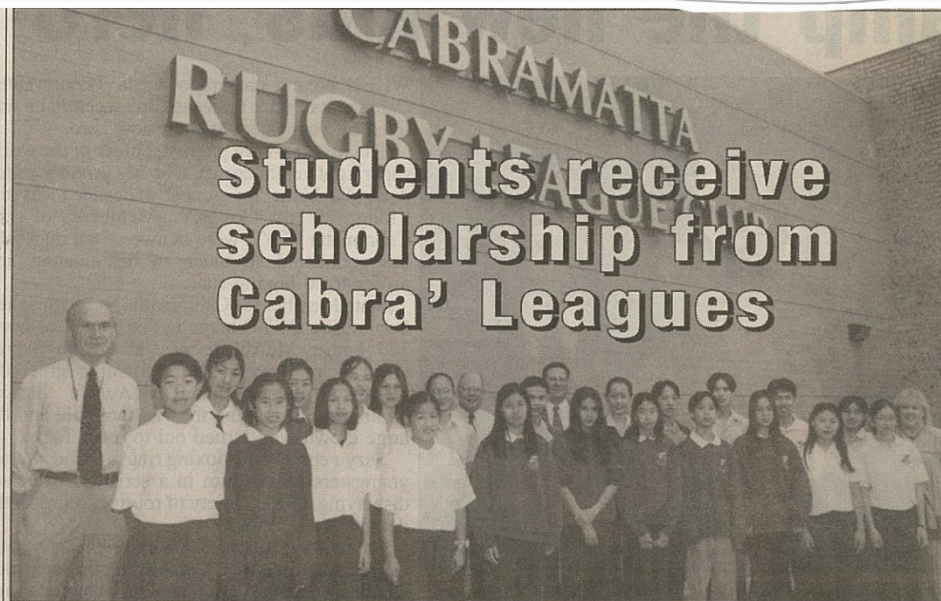
A spokeswoman from the program encouraged more schools to participate.



FACING THE MUSIC . . . Cabramatta High students are among those getting an extra dose of musical culture under the program.
Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
March 6,
2002



Students receive scholarship from Cabra' Leagues

• Bill Basan (centre left) with teachers and 22 of the 24 students from Cabramatta High School who received their scholarship from Cabramatta Rugby League Club.

Last week the Club was pleased to be able to assist the local community and donating \$6,000 to Cabramatta High School. Grahame Kidd the Principal explained the scholarship is for students that excel in a number of areas, particular academic, leadership qualities and their willingness to work hard with the school and community.

The 2002 Scholarship recipients are Jessica Tang, Mai Nguyen, Mai Le, Thien To, Erdi Gulden (absent), Tijana Petrovic (absent), Vinh Tram, Minh Tam Nguyen, Duc Thien Nguyen, Wendy Lam,

Queenie Trinh, Dara Ngor, Ly Ngov, Veronica Khou, Bridget Chan, Siv Leng Chieng, My Linh To, David Ly, Juliana Cheng, Dalin Vann, Christopher Chan, Kim Pheng Lim, Jennifer Li, My Linh Truong.



Good news for one of our lucky members last week who won the

Honda CR-V Sports, not bad for a \$2.00 membership.

This Saturday March 9th, Cabra Juniors will represent us at District level, when Parramatta take Newcastle on in Harold Matthews and SG Ball at Cabramatta Sports Ground at 12noon and 1.15pm respectively. Come along and support our boys and enjoy a meal at MrKos, a refreshing ale, and don't forget the VB promotion where you can win a tinnie runabout.

Until next week

Bill Basan, CEO



Cabramatta Rugby League Club

"The Home of Champions, and Future Champions"

24 Sussex St Cabramatta Phone 9727 8788 Fax 9728 6114

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Information for Members and their guests

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Cabramatta police wagging finger at school truants

By AARON PARNELL

OPERATION Roll Call has shown promising results in its first week of operation.

Specially set up to catch children wagging classes, the police sweep only caught five truants last week.

Cabramatta police and officers from the department of education went out twice and talked to many children but only five were not at school for legitimate reasons.

Fairfield district DET superintendent from Fairfield, Hedley Mooney, said the good results were expected because statistics have regularly complemented the local area's student attendance rates.

"In 2000, statistics from DET showed that the area had a student-attendance rate of 92.7 per cent," he said.



FORMING SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS . . . Cabramatta Youth Liaison officer Jo-Anne Ridley and Cabramatta High School principal Graham Kidd meeting with student leaders Ronnie El Ters, Jennifer Li and Kim Pheng Lim. **Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA**

"This was just above the state average of 2000," he said.

"Our average in this area is so healthy for a number of reasons, the main one being our liaison officers regularly check roll calls.

"If a child has not been regularly attending schools then an officer will go and visit the parents. The key is to make sure the parents know the kids aren't going to school."

Turn to page 2

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 6,
2002



Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Students link up with police



Cabramatta Police Liaison Officer Renee Longford talks to a group of Cabramatta High students about crime prevention

WHILE politicians debated the best way to combat crime in schools last week, Cabramatta police and the students of Cabramatta High School took a more hands-on approach.

The 170 Year 7 students participated in the annual Police-Links day last Thursday, an effort to increase communication between the school and local police.

Cabramatta Police Youth Liaison Officer Constable Renee Longford said issues such as juvenile crime, drug and alcohol use and crime prevention were discussed.

“It’s a great way to break down the barriers between students and police,” she said.

Teacher and co-ordinator Linh Nguyen said the day was enjoyed by both students and teachers.

Activities included watching videos, guest speakers from Enough is Enough and the PCYC, and workshops on peer pressure, policing, and stealing and shoplifting.

This is the seventh year the Police-Links program has been held at Cabramatta High.

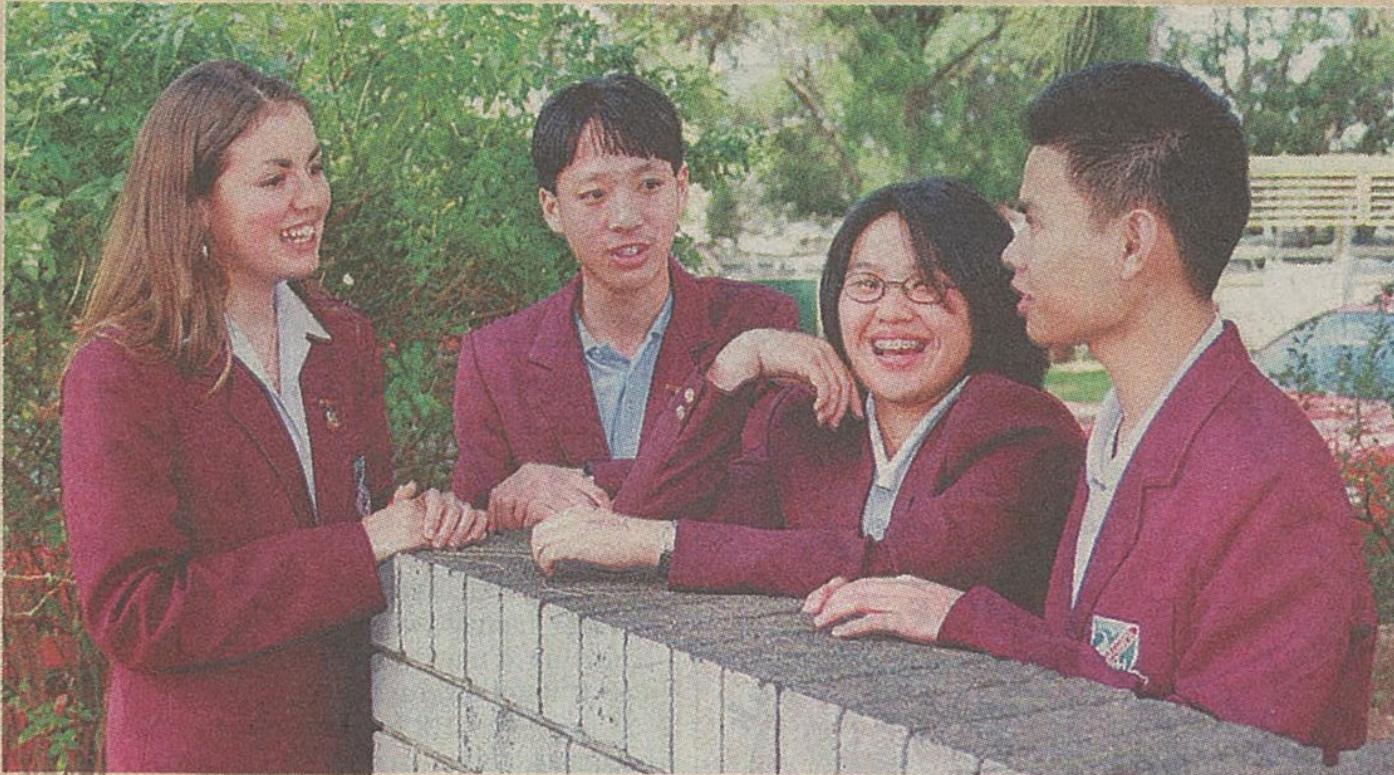
A similar day for Year 10 students will be held in November.

co-free - 1pm - 3pm

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Our student leaders



CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL . . . Meet four of the young achievers we're getting used to seeing produced locally. At left is captain Ronia El Ters, 16, who is thinking of going into marketing, but also listed a host of other possible professions ranging from tourism and hospitality to photography. "I'm into everything," she said. Next to her are vice-captains Christopher Chan, who wants to work with NASA, and Jennifer Li, who sees medical science as her career of choice. At right is captain Kim Pheng Lim, who is keen to do a business and economics course at university.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Your Say



YOUNG LEADERS . . . School captains from Fairfield.

Mapping out the future

“THE future is in your hands” was the message given by the governor of NSW, Prof Marie Bashir, to school captains from Fairfield district at a leadership program.

We learnt about constitutional and parliamentary proceedings and the role of the governor. Members of parliament told us about their work.

Prof Bashir, an inspirational woman, impressed us very much.

She spoke fondly of Fairfield and said we were victims of bad media coverage, which fails to

recognise all the great aspects of our area.

She said it didn't matter where we were from and what religion, gender or beliefs we had, because we were all capable of achieving goals.

We met other school captains in our area, shared ideas and made plans to work together in the community.

RONIA EL TERS, NICOLE KENNEDY
on behalf of Cabramatta, St Johns Park, Bonnyrigg, Bossley Park, Chester Hill, Fairfield, Fairvale and Sefton high schools

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

M2M hits the students with Everything

INTERNATIONAL pop duo M2M performed at Cabramatta High school last Tuesday after the students won a competition on 2day FM's hot 30.com.

Radio station personalities Jackie O and Kyle introduced M2M, who were on a promotional tour from their native Norway, and received a loud cheer from students.

M2M, otherwise known as Marit Larsen and Marion Raven, sang three songs – their new single, *Everything*, an old song, *What You Do Without Me?* and their worldwide hit, *Don't Say You Love Me*.

Students won the competition by registering on the hot30.com website – with a whopping 30 per cent of the total tally registered by all schools participating.

HELLO CABRAMATTA HIGH . . . M2M performs at the school last week.



Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
May 22, 2002



M2M sign autographs at Cabramatta High School Photo: NICK ANDREAN

M2M replace lessons

MORE than 1000 students at Cabramatta High danced and screamed their way through the first Australian performance by Norwegian teen pop group M2M last Tuesday.

Lessons made way for fun in one of the school's biggest events.

Cabramatta High won a 2Day FM

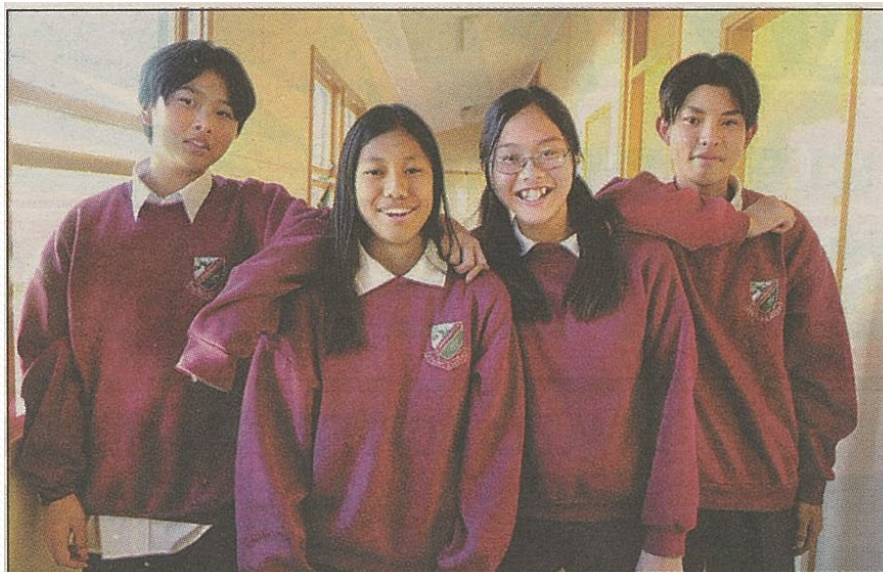
competition to be the only Sydney school where the talented duo performed.

Principal Graeme Kidd said the school had the biggest number of students log on to the radio station's Hot30 website following a concerted campaign.

"We had all students from Year 7 to 12 at the concert, plus Year 6 from Cabramatta and Cabramatta West public schools."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, June 5,
2002



COMMENDED . . . Students Thong Din, Queenie Trinh, Veronica Khou and Nguyen Tram.
Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

Checking history

By **ANGELINA DRACA**

CABRAMATTA High School has received a commendation award for its entry in the recent National Trust schools history competition.

Year 9 students Veronica Khou, Queenie Trinh, Nguyen Tram and Thong Din chose their own school as a historical site.

They had to write an article on the site, answering questions such as, how is the site used, how does the community interact with the site and is the site important?

They also had to describe why the site was chosen; the process of investigation; and what the article/investigation found.

The students illustrated their article with photos and digital images.

Veronica said she discovered a lot of interesting things while researching. "We interviewed teachers for the information. Mr Gailey said the school used to be a farm," she said.

The entry placed the students in the top 10 per cent of 211 entries, many from selective or private schools.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 3,
2002



EXCHANGING . . . The students during the trip to the Blue Mountains.

Thanks, teachers

WHAT better way to show our appreciation and to say thank you to a special teacher.

On June 5-7, a number of students from Cabramatta High School had the opportunity to host students from Parkes, a small country town in the middle of NSW.

This was a great experience for us because we were able to meet new people from different cultures and to experience a different way of life, so unlike our own way of living.

We also had the opportunity to break the language barriers between the two.

This shared experience also allowed us to observe places many of us may had never seen,

such as Mosman Point and sections of the Blue Mountains.

We participated in activities that involved rock climbing, shopping, ice skating and going to the movies and a walk across the harbour bridge.

The program could not have been successful without the support of the two schools, Cabramatta High and Parkes High. But in particular the fantastic teachers Mr Kenny and Mr and Ms Job, who have made this program a success.

On behalf of the students involved in the exchange, thank you and we hope it will continue in the future.

RONNIA EL-TERS
Cabramatta High school captain

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
July 31, 2002



READY TO ROCK . . . Students Jennifer Tran (front) and, from left, Dalin Vann, Phuong Au, Sandra Sostaric and Tue-Thang Nguyen.
Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

If the shoe fits, get on the stage

BUTTERFLIES will be fluttering in stomachs tonight as these Cabramatta High School students face a daunting challenge.

The students will be in front of a full house at the Hills Centre, performing in the Sydney heats of the 2002 Rock Eisteddford Challenge.

The troupe will perform to an eight-minute contemporary soundtrack of selected scenes from the fairytale *Cinderella*.

The school forms one of the smallest entries, with just 28 dancers and a behind-the-scenes crew

of 13. The students, from years 8-12, have done a lot of the work themselves, from choreography to backdrops.

"Things have not gone to plan at times but the kids have had a lot of fun," said the teacher in charge, Wendy Treloar. "They've got as much out of it as they can already."

"We want everyone else to see the talent here at Cabramatta High School and that these students are no representation of the horrible stigma often attached to the area."

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, July 31, 2002

Cinderellas find their dancing shoes



Cabramatta High School students prepare for the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge
Photo: NICK ANDREAN

THE classic Cinderella story will be given a new twist tonight when 28 students from Cabramatta High take part in the Sydney heats of the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge.

After five months of rehearsals, tonight's the big night for the dancers, the 10 backstage workers, four hair and makeup artists and four teachers who have devoted countless hours to ensuring a polished performance.

The students use a combination of R&B, rap, dance and classical music throughout their performance, mixed by Year 11 techno-wizards on their home computers.

Yesterday two of the performers, Savy Thach and Aleksandra Djokic from Year 8, said they were both nervous and excited.

"We've been very busy with rehearsals twice a week

but it's been a lot of fun," Aleksandra said.

Teacher Lisa Treloar, who was responsible for putting the performance together, said she was impressed with the students' efforts.

"We have some fabulous talents in the school, particularly two Year 8 students Kitty Wong and Tonie Lam, who co-ordinated the choreography," she said.

"This is only the second time the school has taken part and it's a great opportunity for them to meet other students and have a fun experience."

Cabramatta High is performing in the small group category against four other schools, with one of the acts guaranteed to make it through to the final at the Entertainment Centre later this year. The heats will be held at the Hills Centre in Castle Hill.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 14, 2002



GOOD CAUSE . . . Local volunteers in action for national tree day.

For the love of trees

IT was of such great pleasure helping the community as well as the environment with Planet Ark National Tree Day held on July 28.

It was held throughout Australia. More than 1.2 million trees were planted at 1800 sites.

A group of Canley Vale and Cabramatta High School students were among the many volunteers at Johnston Park, Canley Vale.

On behalf of all students, I have the pleasure in saying what a great day it was. It was a lot of fun and a great way to chill out knowing that our school exams are close by.

This project benefited us both

environmentally and socially.

It was a great way to make new friends and interact with others.

It also allowed us to see the harm that the environment has suffered due to the high pollution levels and how one tree can make a whole lot of difference. Future work will be held on the site throughout the year.

I urge anyone interested in making a difference to contact Karen Sommerville on 9725 0847 at Fairfield Council or visit the website www.planetark.com.au.

RONIA EL TERS
Volunteer of Planet Ark

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 21, 2002

Careers

PREMIER Bob Carr has urged local student leaders to consider a career in politics. Sui Fong Li from Cabramatta High School, Thao Cao from Bonnyrigg High and Sijithra Sabesan of Sef-ton High were among the 130 government school student leaders who attended the recent NSW 15th annual Student Representative Council Conference.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, August 28, 2002

Students meet to chew fat

STUDENTS at Cabramatta and Bonnyrigg High School had the chance to chew the fat last Wednesday, during a joint meeting of their Student Representative Councils (SRC).

It was the second meeting between the two schools this year and will become a regular event each term.

Bonnyrigg High SRC coordinator Melissa Guiliano came up with the idea and has worked closely with Cabramatta's SRC coordinator Brenda Schmidt in forging a stronger link.

Issues discussed at last week's meeting included discipline and welfare policies and ways to improve the schools, Ms Schmidt said.



Joint meeting . . . Cabramatta and Bonnyrigg high schools

“The students discussed the things they like about their schools and how they could encourage better interaction between Cabramatta and Bonnyrigg,” she said.

“It was basically a get-together

for the students which allowed them to highlight the positive achievements of each school.”

The schools are now in discussing with Fairfield Council about contributing to the Cabramatta Moon Festival on September 15.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 28, 2002

School students teach lesson in image building

By KYLIE STEVENS

FED up with the negative flak so often directed at their schools, Cabramatta and Bonnyrigg High students last week joined forces to "set the record straight".

Student representative council members met to talk and develop strategies to project a more positive face for the area - and therefore themselves.

"This link is a good idea with both schools working together towards a common goal to combat negative press and build a good image that we and the area can be proud of," said Bonnyrigg High captain Domenica La Delfa. "It has many benefits, including the opportunity to meet other local students we may not meet otherwise."

Although it is still early days, strategies proposed include joint projects such as tree-planting days or art-based promotions.

SRC coordinators Brenda Schmidt, from Cabramatta High, and Melissa Giuliano, from Bonnyrigg, heaped praise on the students. "The aim is to improve the image of the schools by changing the bad rap we have had in the past," Ms Schmidt said.



UNITED AS ONE . . . Cabramatta and Bonnyrigg High School students at their meeting last week, looking over a model of the Cabramatta Common Project.
Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
September 4,
2002



Juliana Cheng with the plans for a Peace Garden

Garden makes dream a reality

WITH the talk of war with Iraq in the air, the idea of world peace seems more distant than ever.

But that hasn't stopped the students at Cabramatta High from dreaming . . . and doing their bit.

By the end of next month the school will have its own special place of relaxation, reflection and meditation.

Its Peace Garden is halfway through construction, and when completed will provide students with an oasis of calm in the midst of the hectic school day.

Students from every class have been involved in the garden, according to teacher Brenda Schmidt.

"Design and art students have worked

on components of the garden and the members of the Student Representative Council have raised funds," she said.

When completed, the garden will feature a three panel mural, painted by art students and teachers.

With the school population one of the most multicultural in Sydney, the garden will provide a meeting place for members of different ethnic communities, student Juliana Cheng said.

"It will be a physical representation of the peaceful nature of Cabramatta High," she said.

A special opening ceremony will be held on September 25, when the garden will be blessed by religious leaders.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 2, 2002 (Part 1)

Just imagine a new peace garden in Cabramatta

By KYLIE STEVENS

A NEW "peace garden" at Cabramatta High School was opened last week with the releasing of doves, a rendition of John Lennon's *Imagine* and a blessing by local religious leaders.

The little corner of nature and tranquillity in the playground was constructed by the students and was the brainchild of school counsellor Elisabeth Pickering.

"There is a large number of students who come from countries that have been traumatised by war and conflict," she told the *Champion*. "For them, it's a place of healing and reflection.

"It's where students can go to talk about problems because time for reflection and remembrance is important."

About 97 per cent of Cabramatta High's students come from non-English speaking backgrounds, many originally from war-ravaged areas such as Indo-China and the Balkans.

The new garden features a cemented pathway inscribed with the word peace written in all languages represented at the school.

There is also a bridge, pebble river, mural, seating and plants such as rosemary (for remembrance), aloe vera (for healing) and an olive tree (for peace). Mrs Pickering proposed the idea late last year but work began only last term.



SYMBOLS OF PEACE... Doves being released at the ceremony to unveil Cabramatta High School's special peace garden.
Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

Turn to page 6

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 2, 2002 (Part 2)

Bringing peace through Cabramatta garden

From page 1

Students developed the garden under the guidance of Nancy Davis and Colin White from Sydney Horticultural and Ecological Training Centre. The student representative council held fundraisers to purchase seating.

The garden was opened by Professor Stuart Rees, director of the Sydney Peace Foun-

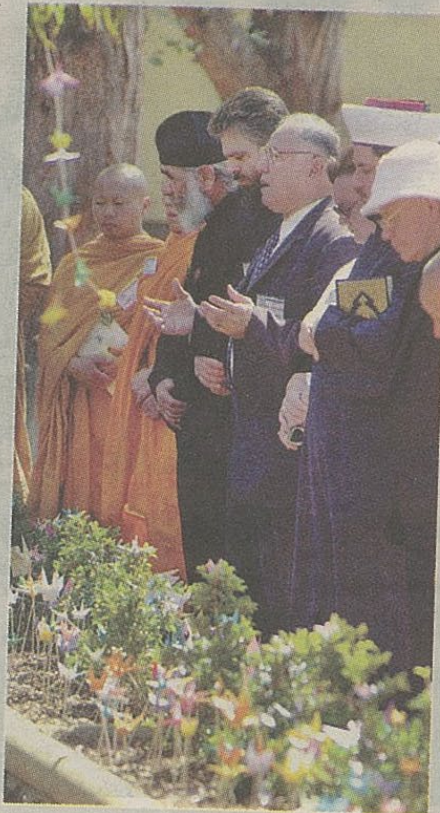
dation, University of Sydney.

"With the blessing of this garden, I hope it will become the most fertile piece of ground in NSW," he said.

A peace poetry competition was held, with winners Lina Taing, Christopher Chan and Joy Qui Yi Lu reading out their poems at the ceremony.



TRANQUIL . . . Visitors to the school ceremony checking out the new garden area.



MANY FAITHS . . . Local religious leaders offer a blessing.



IN VERSE . . . Student Lina Taing reading her peace poem.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
October 2, 2002



ADVERTISEMENT

Message from

Reba Meagher

State Member for Cabramatta

Congratulations to Cabramatta High School for their positive initiative in creating a Peace Garden.

The concept of the Peace Garden is to highlight the peaceful, harmonious and tolerant community which exists at Cabramatta High, counteracting the negative media attention which has occurred in the past. The opening coincided with the tragic events of September 11 to symbolise peace and goodwill.

The Peace Garden was officially opened by Professor Stuart Rees, Director of the Sydney Peace Foundation, University of Sydney and simultaneously blessed by local Buddhist, Catholic, Islamic, Muslim and Orthodox religious leaders who reflect the diversity within our community. Students emphasises their message of peace through poems they had written.

The Garden includes a pathway which winds among plants, a bridge, a pebble river, a mural and seating. Cemented into the pathway are ceramic tiles inscribed with the word peace written by students in all the languages of the school.

The State Government's Gateways Project, which helps young people at risk, assisted with the construction of the Peace Garden, as well as kind donations from the community.

My mobile office will be held on Thursday 10 October, 2002, at Bonnyrigg Heights, Canley Heights and Canley Vale, for times and venues, contact my office on 9724 3381. Please take this opportunity to inform me of your concerns or suggestions for our community.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
October 2,
2002



Religious leaders gather to bless Cabramatta High School's Peace Garden

Faiths grow peace

by LISA MILLER

EIGHT religious leaders from the local community performed a ceremonial blessing. White doves were released into the air as students sang *We Are Australian* together.

As Cabramatta High principal Graham Kidd said afterwards, it was "an exquisite moment."

The official opening of the school's Peace Garden was more than a statement of harmony and goodwill in a world where the drums of war are beating ever louder.

It was also a symbol of a multicultural, successful school, which has fought hard to overcome the stigmas associated with it.

The garden has transformed a neglected part of the school grounds into a place of refuge, remembrance and reflection.

A pebble for every teacher and student, inscribed with the word for "peace" in more than 30 languages,

has been laid. Olive trees, a traditional symbol of peace, have been planted.

The garden's bridge symbolised the "joining of people and the crossing to new lands," Mr Kidd said.

It was officially opened last Wednesday by the Director of the Sydney Peace Foundation, Stuart Rees.

Mr Kidd said the garden was the culmination of a long-term ambition held by the school's intensive English teacher, Elizabeth Pickering, and involved the whole school.

"It was a combined school effort, and we're really proud. We're still on a high," he said.

With 97 per cent of its students from a non-English speaking background, many of them arriving in Australia as displaced and traumatised refugees, Cabramatta High has become a leading example of multiculturalism.

"This garden, in the middle of our school, shows that peace is close to our hearts and that we all search for inner peace," Mr Kidd said.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 23, 2002

Quiet pause to honour bomb dead

by **PHYLLIS MACGRAW**

WHEN Cabramatta High School's students celebrated the opening of their Peace Garden recently, little did they know how soon they would need to call on it for inspiration.

JUST two weeks after local religious leaders blessed the garden, students and staff turned to its symbolism for comfort after the Bali bombings.

But they were not alone.

Fairfield's schools flew the Australian flag at half-mast last week as students and teachers throughout the district paid their respects to those killed and injured.

Special assemblies were held and many schools observed a minute's silence.

However school principals said students appeared to be coping well with the threat of terrorism so close to home.

Westfield Sports High School principal Phil Tucker said the bombings were discussed during the school assembly on Wednesday and a minute's silence was observed.

"We flew the flag at half mast all week," he said.

The flag also flew at half-mast at Patrician Brothers College Fairfield, with special

prayers held every lunchtime during the week.

Principal Michael Krawec said with Years 10, 11 and 12 away or sitting exams last week, a more formal commemoration would be held this week.

"October is the month of the rosary," he said.

"We have offered special intentions every lunch time during the prayer service.

"We will probably hold something more formal [this] week when the whole school has returned."

Cabramatta High School's new peace garden played its part as students and staff reflected on the events in Bali.

Blessed by local religious leaders on Wednesday, September 25, the garden symbolises the success of multiculturalism at the school, 97 per cent of whose students are from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Principal Graham Kidd said he had tied the purpose of the peace garden while talking about the tragedy during morning assembly.

Flags also flew at half-mast during the week and a minute's silence was held during last Monday's assembly.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
October 23,
2002

Our student achievers



CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL . . . Meet three of the area's most talented young wordsmiths. Students (from left) Qui Yi Lu, Lina Taing and Christopher Chan are the winners of a poetry competition held in conjunction with the recent opening of the new "peace garden" at the school. Principal Graeme Kidd is full of praise for the teenagers, particularly given that Qui only immigrated from China six months ago and attends classes in the Intensive English Centre.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 13, 2002 (Part 1)



OFFICIALLY AN AMBO . . . Stephanie graduating at the Rozelle NSW Ambulance headquarters in 1990.

She's a local girl who's not in it for the money

By JEFF MCGILL

STEPHANIE Radnidge and her comrades save lives every day.

How many other people do that?

Ambulance officers deal daily with stabbings, child drownings, car accidents and other heart-breaking emergencies.

Yet they're paid only a fraction of the money that goes to the politicians who order cutbacks to health and ambulance services.

So why do "ambos" do it?

"I'm not in this job for the money," laughed Stephanie, a skilled paramedic who has been the station officer at Fairfield since 1999.

If ambos are made of "the right stuff", she's not sure what the right stuff is. But she does know they don't need to be born with a burning desire to save lives.

She wasn't; and she had no idea that her career lay in healing

State of Origin

She started her career as a soldier trained to kill people. Now she's an "ambo" trained to heal people. We look at the origins of Stephanie Radnidge, officer in charge of Fairfield ambulance station.



Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 13, 2002 (Part 2)

people until she was an adult.

Born in 1964 – the daughter of a bread vendor and a secretary – Stephanie grew up locally and was a vice-captain of Cabramatta High School.

“It was very much a working-class suburb, very traditional, and I tended to grow up with like-minded children,” she said.

And I remember well being able to walk the streets at night.”

On completing her HSC in 1982, Stephanie still had no definite career goals and tended to drift from job to job.

“I was doing things like working as a checkout girl, or a clerk, before I decided to join the army,” she said.

“As part of our army service we had to do a first aid course, and it was only then that I started to become interested in medicine.”

Once a civilian again, she underwent training and worked at Auburn Hospital while studying nursing, graduating in 1988.

But little did Stephanie know this career change would lead to yet another career change.

“I was working at the Childrens Hospital at Camperdown and became really interested in emergency care,” she said.

“I got to know the ambos pretty well, got talking to them, and I soon thought that I’d like to be out there as well.”

By 1990, she had graduated as an ambulance officer, a qualification that was compounded six years later when she became a paramedic (with more highly-advanced life-saving skills).

So how many lives has she actually saved over the years?



TODAY... Stephanie Radnidge.

It’s a question that Stephanie – well-known for her dislike of big-noters or statisticians – was keen to avoid.

But she did say most officers have saved “lots” of lives, and some individual cases stick in their minds forever.

“For me, one was when I was the station officer at Auburn and managed to revive and save a three-year-old boy who had drowned in a backyard pool.

“He was the only, and much-loved, son of a family and it was very rewarding to see him walking out of hospital,” she said.

But there has also been a blur of nasty jobs, such as horrific road injuries and malicious woundings.

“It’s an emotional roller-coaster,” she said. “In one shift you can ride the emotional gamut.

“Your first job might be taking Mrs Bloggs to a nursing home, and then going to deal with a deceased

A HARD JOB... Stephanie helping an accident victim, soon after qualifying as a paramedic.

family member. But the next call might be a child drowned in a backyard pool, or then to a domestic dispute with people behaving violently.”

Married in 1996 to a fellow ambo, Allen Knowles (who works in the Sydney operations centre), they recently had their first child, Harrison, now eight months old.

Stephanie will soon return from maternity leave to resume her duties part-time.

So how will she cope with all the tragedy, particularly child deaths, now that she is a mum?

“I’ve been a professional for so long now that what I do shouldn’t change,” she said. “Maybe I’ll be a bit softer and have a new affinity; I’ll feel for people as a mother.”

Ask Stephanie about her ambo colleagues and you’ll get rave reviews, particularly given the very busy nature of the Fairfield station.

But that same respect for her profession makes it hard for her to watch TV hospital dramas. “I’m not a fan of shows such as *All Saints* and cringe at some of the exaggeration of our job,” she said.

Pressed to describe the mindset of a typical “ambo”, she suggested there were two types of officers; those who accept the pay and hectic conditions because it is their calling, and those who have the best intentions, but get bitter and leave.

“If someone stays five years we reckon they’re there for life,” she said.

So does that mean Stephanie is in the job for the long haul?

“I’m a lifer,” she smiled.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

On a hallowed ground

by PHYLLIS MACGRAW

CABRAMATTA High School's cricketers rivals had better watch out this season – these boys have some first class training behind them.

The school's cricket team trained with the NSW Blues last week and came away inspired.

The boys spent an afternoon with members of the newly named NSW SpeedBlitz Blues, including Brett Lee, Michael Slater, Michael Bevan and the newly retired Mark Waugh, at the Sydney Cricket Ground last Thursday.

Cabramatta State Labor MP Reba Meagher arranged for the boys to have a special training session with the Blues to promote an RTA initiative warning young men about the dangers of speeding.

In a first for Australian cricket, the RTA announced a three-year sponsorship of the NSW Blues in July.

The team was renamed the SpeedBlitz Blues in an effort to raise awareness of the biggest killer on NSW roads.

But the only speeding on the minds of the Cabramatta students was that of the balls coming at them from the likes of Brett Lee.

Cabramatta High physical education head teacher Raelene Allen said the boys' idols made them very welcome.

"The players were great," she said.

"The kids hardly said a word but the look on their faces said it all."

Mrs Allen said when the students arrived at the SCG they watched the Blues finish their training session in the nets.

Then the awestruck youngsters were introduced to their heroes, who presented them with replica training shirts to wear during the session



Cabramatta High School's cricketers chat with Blues coach Steve Rixon as Brett Lee inspects the pitch at the SCG last week

before taking them into the Members' Stand.

After that, the Blues broke the boys up into small groups and took them through a series of training drills, concentrating on fielding skills.

The players did the drills with the boys, giving them a rare opportunity to see first class cricketers in action at very close quarters.

Mrs Allen said the players then

took the students into the middle of the oval where they could get a feel for the immense size of the stadium.

"Brett Lee explained to them how difficult it can be to concentrate with 40,000 people watching you out there," she said.

A barbecue provided by the SCG gave the boys a chance to chow down with their idols as they watched the first Ashes test.

The session finished with the Blues signing the boys' training shirts.

Mrs Allen said there was great excitement on the way back home.

"They were all abuzz," she said.

"They got a real sense of what it means to work hard.

"We were talking about how it doesn't have to be sport, you can get that same feeling by working hard at whatever you do."

She said the school was honoured to be chosen by Ms Meagher for such an opportunity.

"And the players were wonderful," she said.

"They were terrific with the kids. They were really blown away.

"One boy said even when the soles of his shoes fell apart he was going to keep them because they had walked on the SCG."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 20, 2002

Come and join the force

CABRAMATTA High School is to establish special "recruitment scholarships" to encourage young people to join the police force after the HSC.

At the recent police ministers advisory council meeting in Cabramatta, a representative from the school outlined a proposal for scholarships to encourage local teenagers to consider taking up law enforcement as a career.

Cabramatta state MP Reba Meagher has publicly endorsed the idea.

"I have pursued this recruitment scholarship proposal by Cabramatta High School with the minister for police," Ms Meagher said.

School's police recruitment drive

"To overcome family resistance the scholarship should be prestigious and substantial.

"With the approval of the family and the Police Association, these scholarships could be linked to former police officers from this area, for example, the David Carty Scholarship Fund.

(In 1997, Const David Carty was stabbed to death outside a Fairfield hotel.)

"The scholarships would be for university and living expenses and would require an agreement to serve on the force for a period of time. The scholarships may even attract

private funding, as there may be private enterprises who would like to support such a worthy initiative."

Ms Meagher said the scholarship proposal looked at eliminating barriers to local youth joining the force, while focusing on increasing the number of officers of non-English speaking background. "It is most encouraging that local students are looking at ways to encourage local youth to join the police force. It demonstrates the respect they have for the hard work and dedication our frontline officers devote to our community," she said.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 27, 2002

Concert to aid battlers

CABRAMATTA High School will play its part in helping drought-affected people today by conducting a cultural concert.

Co-operation Day aims to celebrate diverse cultures co-operating as one. The school will put on a colourful performance of dance and entertainment during the day.

Opening its concert at 9.15am, the school will follow it with a dance program from 11.10am.

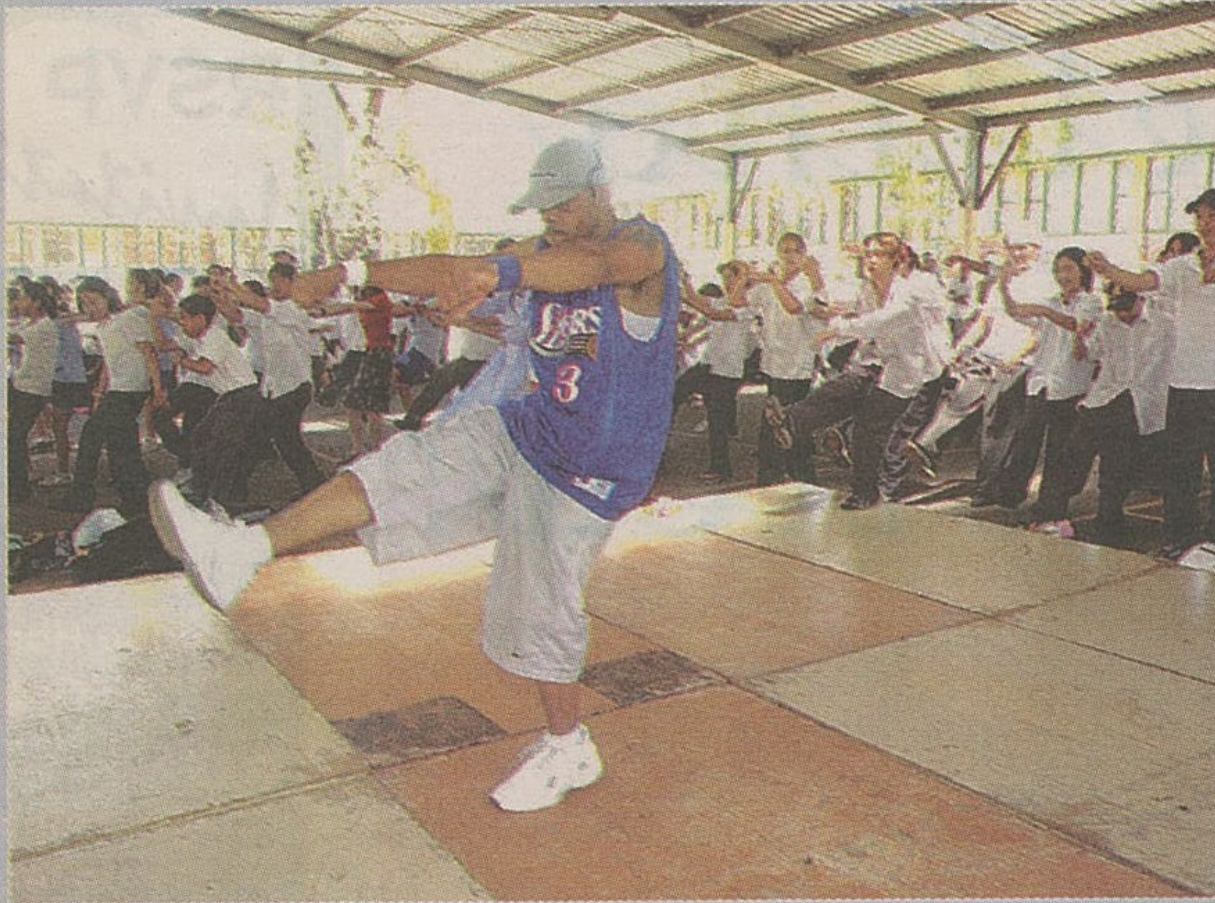
An abundance of talent could be discovered during the school's talent quest from 1.30pm.

All profits made on the day will be donated to the Rain Train program.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 4, 2002

Cabramatta kids take the rap in their stride



BIG DAY . . .

Dancer Dario Phillips was kept busy showing students how to dance to hip hop music at Cabramatta High School's 17th Cooperation Day last week. The event has students come together to celebrate their multicultural backgrounds. The day included a concert with performances of work from Vietnam, India, Cambodia and Serbia, a talent quest and students raised \$200 for the Rain Train Appeal drought appeal.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
December 4, 2002

Cabramatta award win

By ANGELINA DRACA

CABRAMATTA High School was one of four NSW schools to win an Australian crime and violence prevention award.

The award recognises initiatives preventing crime and violence in the community.

As a part of the award Cabramatta High has been granted \$5000 for its police schools links program, which provides annual focus days for years 7 to 10 students to undertake a series of crime prevention workshops.

Police crime prevention spokesperson Supt Mick Plotecki said 11 groups were awarded certificates of merit, with six groups receiving a total of \$15,000 to allow their winning initiatives to continue.

"It's great to see students recognising that they can play an

important role in making their community a safer place," he said.

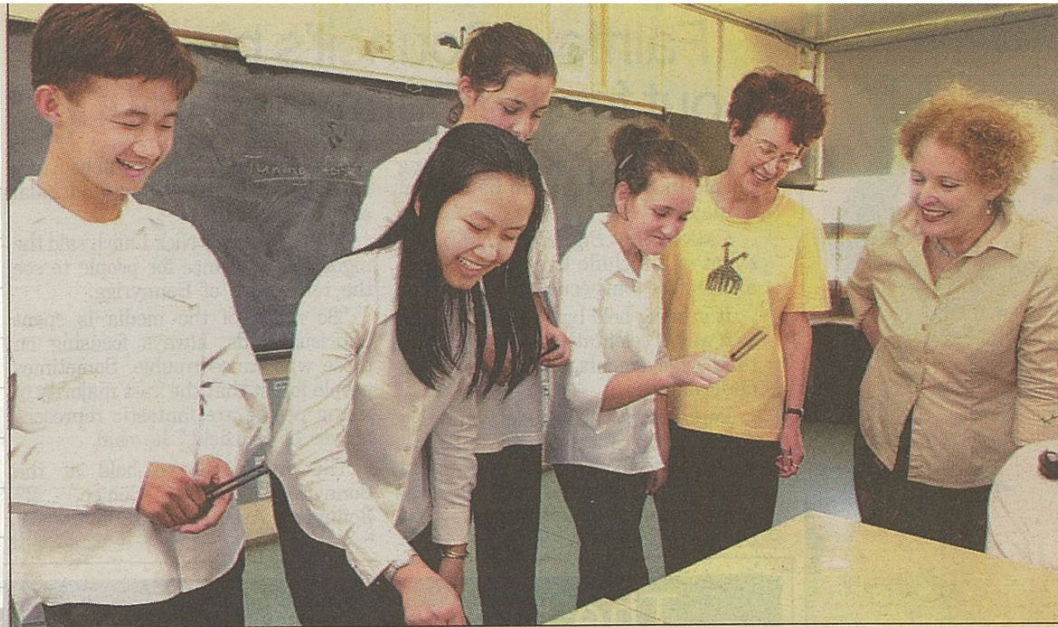
"It also shows selflessness and a certain maturity to look beyond their own lives to help others."

Supt Plotecki, who is on the selection board, said the awards were introduced in 1991 to encourage the development of efficient and cost effective projects and programs to combat violence and crime in Australia.

Nominations for next year's awards are due in February and it is essential that all entrants show how effective that group's crime and violence prevention project has been. Information on criteria can be obtained from: Australian Crime and Violence and Prevention Awards 2003, C/- GPO Box 2944, Canberra Act 2601.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 11 2002



LEARNING . . . Ronda Gaffey and Elizabeth Pickering with students Ung Hour Pheng (Cambodia), Lan Chi (Vietnam), Jasmina Berber (Serbia) and Tanja Djokic (Serbia).
Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

Classroom just like a smaller United Nations

By ANGELINA DRACA

Intensive English course for students

IT'S more than just a class of students.

"The history of the world is here," said Ronda Gaffey, head teacher of Cabramatta High School's Intensive English Centre (IEC).

She was pointing out the incredibly diverse background of the participating students, whose families had often fled war or suffering.

The IEC was set up as a sort of crash course for migrants who have just arrived in Australia. Although part of Cabramatta High, it is funded by the commonwealth.

Given the non-English speaking background origin of so many Fairfield residents, there are also IECs at Fairfield High and Chester Hill High.

The IEC's main purpose is to prepare the new migrants for mainstream schooling.

The Cabramatta centre was established in 1978 with two classes. Now there are eight with 90 students, 14 teachers, seven teacher aides and a counsellor.

Ms Gaffey, who has been involved since 1989, told *The Champion* there were many challenges in teaching these children.

"Meeting their immediate needs is important. The biggest challenge is checking yourself - you never presume you know that child," she said. "The challenge for us is giving them some belief they can be someone."

The IEC is composed of all nationalities and ages - taking people who are at secondary age and mature age students.

Elizabeth Pickering, the school counsellor who has been at the centre for 12 years, said she has never had any discipline problems.

"In the 12 years I have been here I have never given a student a suspension," she said.

"It is my favourite place. There is something special about the kids. They are very respectful and grateful for the help you give them."

"It is a real friendly and respectful place."

The students usually remain in the IEC for three to four terms before moving into the mainstream.

However, in cases where students have had a disrupted edu-

cation or experienced other difficulties, the length can be extended.

IEC students have their own student representative council, use Cabramatta High facilities and are included in all schools carnivals.

One of the early IEC success stories is Than Nguyen, featured in one of the *Champion's* 'state of origin' columns in August.

Mr Nguyen, now a well-known solicitor in Cabramatta, attended the centre in 1985 after arriving from Vietnam.

"It has perhaps the best fond memories of my beginning in Australia," he said. "I was studying with people from all over the world - China, Laos, Russia, Yugoslavia, Thailand and Vietnam. We all battled in English, it was so funny."

Ung Hour Pheng, 14, arrived from Cambodia seven months ago and told the *The Champion* he had his heart set on studying at university.

"I like it here (IEC) because it is very beautiful and has a lot of nice teachers," he said.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

My, how she excelled

By ANGELINA DRACA

IF YOU are seeking some of the state's top HSC performers, look no further than right here in Fairfield.

Local pupils did so well that education minister John Watkins hailed the marks as "a tremendous result for Fairfield schools".

One achiever was Cabramatta High School's My Linh Truong, 17, who received a UAI of 99.3.

She was named as one of the state's elite all-rounders—a government accolade for students

who scored 90 or more in 10 or more units of study.

Almost 30 students from local state schools were among the best all-rounders or top achievers in the state.

The subjects My Linh studied included legal studies, business studies, English advanced, information processing technology and mathematics extension one and two.

She heaped praise on her school.

Turn to page 5

My law/commerce ambition

From page 1

My Linh also said that her friends at Cabramatta High were very helpful.

"The teachers were also friendly and gave me much assistance. Every time I asked a question, they answered. The school environment was

always comfortable."

My Linh is now waiting to see if she will be selected for her study choice—a combined law/commerce degree at the University of NSW.

"Commerce is an increasingly important field and it has a lot to do with maths which I love," My said.



TOP NOTCH . . . My Linh Truong of Cabramatta High was one of the state's top HSC achievers.
Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 12, 2003



Cabramatta High's Groundforce team are doing their bit for the environment
Photo: NICK ANDREA

Students are 'Grounded'

by GINA PIANTA

THERE is a lot to be said about the benefits of gardening – just ask students at Cabramatta High School.

Formed in 2001, the Cabramatta Groundforce is a voluntary group of four teachers and 18 students from Years 7-11 who maintain the school's gardens. Special Education teacher and Groundforce co-ordinator Linh Duong said students worked during lunchtime and after school on various gardening projects.

"It gives students an opportunity to display citizenship skills in the community, to create a sense of belonging and build practical skills," she said.

Year 10 student Lina Taing has been involved in the Groundforce group for a year.

"I like gardening and it's very satisfying to know that you have helped the school in some way," she said.

"Gardening is very relaxing and it's good to know that you've planted a flower and given it life."

Year 7 gardener Ognjen Matic said his mother now wants him to apply his gardening skills at home.

"I've learnt how to plant flowers and where the best place to plant them is," he said.

The group's greatest achievement has been helping to create and maintain the school's Peace Garden which was featured last year on ABC TV's Gardening Australia program.

"A lot of kids come from war-torn countries so the garden contains symbolic plants like rosemary and olive trees," said Ms Duong.

The next big project for the Groundforce group is a herb garden outside the home economics block.

Although it has some gardening equipment, the school would welcome donations of watering cans, pots, bulbs, seeds, soil and fertiliser.

Anyone wishing to donate supplies can contact Linh Duong at Cabramatta High School on 9726 2424.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 12, 2003



WELL DONE . . . Cabramatta High School recently held a congratulatory morning tea for students who scored outstanding results in their HSC. These included Jennifer Li who got 99.9 and My Linh Truong, with 99.3.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

High schools 'buddying up'

CABRAMATTA High School's students are leading the way in trying to create a more tolerant society.

A group of students from the school is taking part in a project called Friends Through Film, which aims to build understanding, tolerance and friendship between two diverse high school communities.

The students have joined a group from Davidson High School on Sydney's northern beaches to explore the similarities and differences in their experiences by creating a documentary. During the project there have been two

"buddy days" during which the youngsters have visited each others' schools and filmed the experience.

Last week Davidson High visited Cabramatta for a day which included a video of the school's Peace Garden which was featured on *Gardening Australia*, a visual arts class and a cricket match.

The groups will meet again in May for a scriptwriting session followed by two days of editing before the final product premieres at the Valhalla Cinema at Glebe.



Cabramatta and Davidson High School students enjoy a "buddy day"

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, April 2,
2003 (Part 1)

A wealth of local

Ambassadors in entertainment, politics and sport

By NICOLE CHESHER,
MARIE JAWAD, VANESA
NIEVAS, PAMELA NIEVAS,
HAILEY SETTINERI and
JULIE TRAN

WHEN Australia has drawn talent from the Fairfield area it has dipped into a very deep pool.

In the fields of government, entertainment and – in particular – sport our city has had a number of unofficial ambassadors.

On a political level, names range from the father of federation, Sir Henry Parkes (who named Canley Vale) to veteran MP Janice Crosio who has made history by serving in local, state and federal politics.

But probably the most famous local name is Edward Gough Whitlam, a statue of whom has been proposed for a Walk of Fame in Fairfield.

It was at 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta, that Whitlam held his victory party when he became prime minister in his famous landslide victory in 1972.

It was a Whitlam tradition to hold election-night parties in the backyard of the Cabramatta home where the family had lived since 1957. Daughter Katherine attended Cabramatta Primary and High schools.



CABRAMATTA HIGH OLD BOY . . . Jon English (left) has been a big hit in the stage production of *Pirates of Penzance*.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, April 2, 2003 (Part 2)

Mr Whitlam was the first Labor leader to be voted into office since 1949 and stayed on as prime minister until his famous dismissal by the governor general in 1975.

In entertainment, Fairfield has produced a host of award-winning bands and singers.

And probably the biggest star on television and stage is Jon English.

He was born in London and moved to Australia at age 12, growing up in the Lansvale area.

As a teenager he formed local Cabramatta bands, *Zenith* and *Sebastian Hardie*. The latter gained such a strong following beyond the local community that it became the backing band for rock legend Johnny O'Keefe in 1968.

This was only a year after English had completed his HSC at Cabramatta High School.

In 1971 he auditioned for the role of Judas in *Jesus Christ*

After a series of workshops with the *Champion*, seven Fairvale High School students – all interested in the media – prepared this special two-page feature on famous people who have hailed from this area. Congratulations on a great effort.

Superstar, kicking off a career that turned him into his own superstar of the 1970s.

He had a string of number one hit songs, such as *Turn the Page* and *Words Are Not Enough*. His theme for the landmark 1978 TV mini-series, *Against The Wind*, was the famous *Six Ribbons* which reached the international top 10.

English won two gold Logies and an AFI award and was even voted best concert performer as far away as Norway. Despite co-writing 10 albums, English is probably best known to younger generations today for his lead role in the 1990's television comedy

hit, *All Together Now*.

Others have cheered his tour with Marcia Hines and his musical theatre performances in *Pirates of Penzance*, *Rasputin*, *Big River* and *The Mikado*.

But perhaps it's in the sporting field that Fairfield shines most, mainly in soccer.

And the biggest of all the big names would be Harry Kewel – the highest paid sporting star ever to leave our playing fields.

Kewel attended Smithfield Public School and was elected as school captain in 1989 before moving on to Westfields Sports High School.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
April 2, 2003



Lights, camera and film action

By ANGELINA DRACA

CABRAMATTA High School began work on a special film project with Davidson High School last week.

'Friends Through Film' involves 10 students from each school who are spending time together to explore the similarities and differences in their experiences.

The end product will be a 20-minute documentary made

by students from years 8 to 10 with the support and guidance of industry professionals.

On another level two senior students from each school are filming the entire process.

Their footage will be edited to 10 minutes and added to the final documentary to make a separate 30 minute documentary covering the whole project.

The premier night of the film will be on May 29 at the Valhalla Cinemas in Glebe.




VALHALLA BOUND . . .
Students from Cabramatta and Davidson High Schools recently met to begin their joint project.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, April 16, 2003

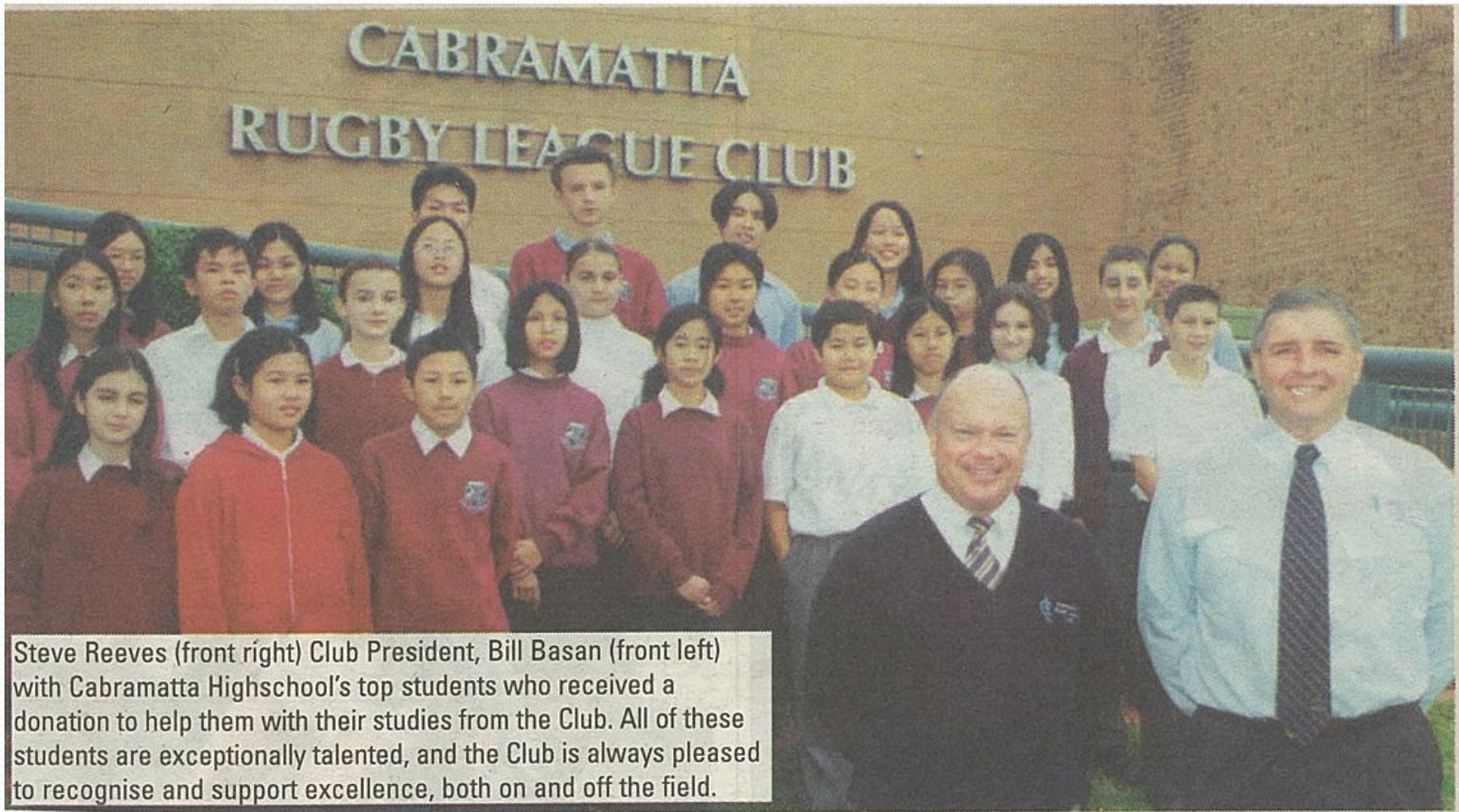
Our student leaders



CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL . . . Meet the leadership team doing its peers proud, from local school events to an anti-racism forum held at Sydney University. The four 17-year-olds are, from left, captain Dalin Vann, vice-captain Juliana Cheng, captain David Ly and vice-captain Huy-Leng Chhay. Dalin lists journalism as a potential career and has already won great praise for her essays and public speaking. Juliana is also considering the media, among other interests as diverse as physiotherapy to environmental issues. David is considering a future in accounting but is also checking out IT. Huy-Leng hopes to study business at university.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 7, 2003



Steve Reeves (front right) Club President, Bill Basan (front left) with Cabramatta Highschool's top students who received a donation to help them with their studies from the Club. All of these students are exceptionally talented, and the Club is always pleased to recognise and support excellence, both on and off the field.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Making Friends and premiere for premier

By JULIANA NIKOLOVSKI

VERY few students get the chance to show their schoolwork directly to the premier, Bob Carr.

But soon to enjoy that rare opportunity is a group of 20 students, half of them from Cabramatta High.

They will be showing off a 10-minute documentary film they made in partnership with Davidson High School on the north shore.

Titled *Friends Through Film*, it is the result of the students coming together "to explore their similarities and differences through a strong desire for friendship, recording their experience on film".

The students are mostly from year 8, although students in years 9-11 also took part in the filming process. Helping them were coordinators Carol Paras from Cabramatta High and Erica Cavanagh from Davidson High.

Students Linda Duong, 13, and Kitty Wong, 14, told the *Champion* they had a strong interest in drama and acting and were keen on the

Bob Carr will be there for cooperative students' film

experience that this extracurricular project provided.

"I hope to experience the feel behind the filming process," Linda said. Kitty is co-host of the documentary.

Paul Nguyen, 19, an aspiring photographer, took an interest in camera techniques and said it gave him a sense of what was involved in the filming business.

Overall, the students from opposite ends of Sydney said their

suburban differences did not cause any clashes or hatred towards one another.

They in fact noted lots of commonalities, despite the difference in interests.

The premiere, with Mr Carr as special guest, will be on Thursday, May 29, at 6pm-7:30pm at the Valhalla Cinema in Glebe.

It's free but places are limited. Details: Cabramatta High, 9726 2424.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 21, 2003



Principal Mr Grahame Kidd
Aladore Ave
Cabramatta NSW 2166
Ph: 9726 2424
Fax: 9726 4282
www.cabramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Cabramatta High School

Cabramatta High School proudly serves a diverse, multi-cultural community. The school provides students with a quality education that develops their talents and interests and helps them become responsible members of society. The school's broad curriculum and welfare programs cater for the needs of all students including the more academically talented, vocationally directed and those from non-English speaking backgrounds. Cabramatta High School has an experienced, committed staff who work with students in an harmonious, caring learning environment.

These educational opportunities are strongly supported with modern facilities including a tiered lecture theatre, seven computer rooms, a well equipped library and specialist rooms all of which are airconditioned. The school is proud of its buses, tennis courts, extensive playing fields and large covered outdoor areas. Students are supported through after school study centres and tutorials, scholarships and selective classes for talented students. An Intensive English Centre provides literacy skills for newly arrived students.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
May 28, 2003



SPECIAL VISIT . . . Students taking tips from film-maker Santo Cilauro.

Film-makers of the future

By **LAURA SPERANZA**

SANTO Cilauro, one of the brains behind the hit movies *The Castle* and *The Dish*, met with young local film-makers last week.

The 10 students are part of a special group that wrote and produced *Friends Through Film*, a joint project by Cabramatta High School and Davidson High School in Frenchs Forest.

The 10-minute documentary explores the many similarities between students from the local school and the north shore school.

Cilauro, from TV show *The Panel*,

and Aaron Benton, from *Big Brother 2*, met with the students and acted as mentors for a day.

"Santo also helped the students through his film and documentary experience, giving them a better understanding of the process," a spokesperson said.

The documentary, *Friends Through Film* will make its premiere tomorrow at the Valhalla Cinemas in Glebe at 6pm.

Premier Bob Carr will open the event.

Admission is free, but places are limited. Details: 9726 2424.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

SCHOOL FILM IS A REEL STEP TO FRIENDSHIP

By LAURA SPERANZA

A DOCUMENTARY film made by Cabramatta High School students made its premiere last Thursday – to a premier.

Bob Carr joined an audience of more than 220 people who gave the film the thumbs up.

The documentary will make its local debut at Cabramatta High on June 16.

Year 9 student Julian Chung, 14, encouraged the local community to see the film.

Friends Through Film explored the similarities and differences of the students as they make the film with Davidson High School on the north shore.

Year 10 student Steven Wong, 15, was director. He called it a valuable experience.

“We learnt a great deal about film-making and also had a great opportunity to make new friends



LM PREMIERE . . . Cabramatta High School students with the premier Bob Carr at the film showing on Thursday night.

through a common interest,” he said. “The film ended up being a really positive and fun experience and I think it shows in the final

product.” The local premiere will be on Monday, June 16 at noon. Details: Cabramatta High School, 9726 2424.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
June 4, 2003

Getting together through movie

By DALIN VANN
Cabramatta High School captain

THE red carpet is not only a platform for famous actors and actresses who dominate mainstream films – it is also for students and teachers from Cabramatta and Davidson high schools.

Move aside Nicole Kidman and Keanu Reeves. The students from these two high schools stepped out for a night of glamour on the premiere evening of *Friends Through Film* at Valhalla Cinema, Glebe.

On the evening of May 29, over 220 people turned up to view the documentary.

The foyer was packed with students, teachers and parents from both schools, DET staff, film industry professionals and journalists, all anxious to get a seat.

But due to the large numbers, some of the students had to sit on the floor.

In the crowd was the premier Bob Carr and Cabramatta MP Reba Meagher.

Friends Through Film is a collaborative documentary about 10 students from Cabramatta High School and Davidson High School, from totally different backgrounds.

They worked together, sharing cultural experiences, spreading the message of tolerance and understanding to the wider community and ultimately creating lasting friendships.

Project coordinator, Michelle Fahy, was the creator of the film.

Her vision originated in her idea of kids in detention centres becoming pen pals with children of a similar age.

As her vision blossomed, she came up with the concept of making a film that would break down barriers.

The vision finally moved to the two high schools. Actor Tony Martin was the special guest MC for the evening. In his opening speech, Mr Martin said the film was a “culmination and celebration of what can be done if we all work together harmoniously”.

Cabramatta High School student Julian Chung and Davidson High School student Chris Fielden were in the project. Not only did they make new

friends but also they learnt how to use a camera as the medium to document their individual journeys.

Film industry professionals taught the kids about camera and sound techniques, how to conduct interviews and film directing. With editing, 15 hours of footage was reduced to 19 minutes of documentary.

Despite evidence of the camera shaking, the documentary demonstrates that “if you give kids a camera, you end up with a really funny film”, said Cabramatta High student Phuong Au.

After being mistakenly introduced by the MC as the principal of Davidson High School, Graham Kidd made the audience burst into laughter as he said: “I think I’m from Cabramatta”.

As a student of Cabramatta High School myself, I must say that Mr Kidd looked exceptionally proud of his school. And why wouldn’t he be?

Mr Carr opened the evening by praising the leadership provided by the principals, teachers and students of both schools.

He said that the project was “very impressive” and that it encapsulated the “best message about the things happening in education”.

The documentary is a manifestation of racial harmony and highlights adhered visions of in-your-face truth where students express their thoughts about the other school.

There is a misconception among the general public that Cabramatta High School is a haven for drugs and crime. This is how the media has portrayed us in the past. Davidson High School learnt through this project that, once you remove the facade adopted by the public, you find a school filled with happy and friendly staff and students.

“I feel like an accessory in this minor production,” said Chris Bonner, principal of Davidson High School. “Public schools are best at building bridges.”

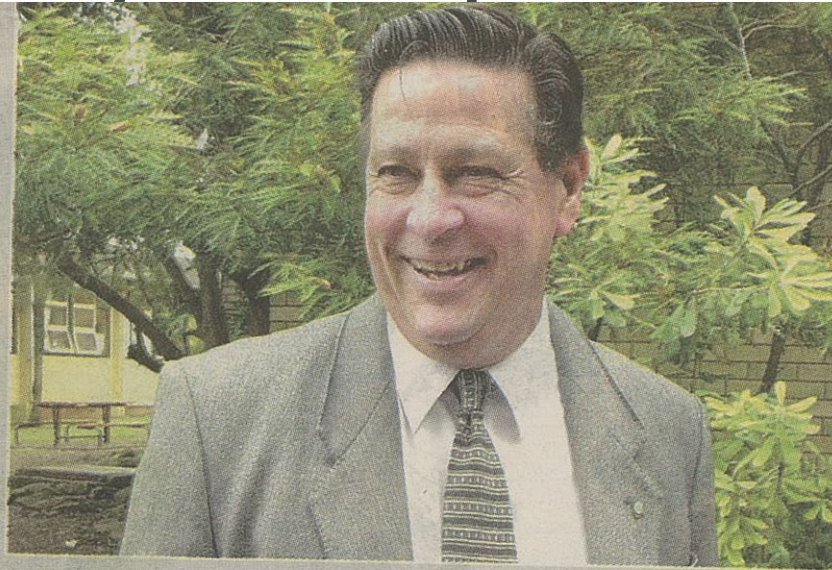
The *Friends Through Film* project should prove a stepping stone to friendship and education in the wider community.

Perhaps there might even be a *Friends Through Film Reloaded*, as one viewer suggested.

Not a bad idea.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
June 18, 2003



NO TIME FOR WHINGERS . . . Grahame Kidd in the grounds of his school.

Three people you would love to invite to your house for dinner?

Nicole Kidman – and the prime minister and opposition leader.

Your greatest achievement?

Becoming the principal of Cabramatta High School – by far.

Who are your heroes in life. Who turns you off?

My heroes are the great achievers, people like Andrew Johns and Greg Norman on the sporting field. I dislike whingers, particularly when so many people have had to deal with great adversity but get on with life.

The best thing about your job?

The kids.

The worst part?

The paperwork.

If you were mayor of Fairfield what would you do?

Build plenty of parking in Cabramatta.

Your idea of perfect happiness?

Contentment in your family and job.

■ **GRAHAME KIDD is in his ninth year as the principal of Cabramatta High School.**

What would you most regret?

Not being able to see my grandchildren grow up.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

My weight.

Which historical figure do you identify with?

Abraham Lincoln, because of the stand he took against slavery and for equality for all.

Where would you take a first-time visitor to the area?

Cabramatta shopping centre.

Who would you love to be for a day?

Kerry Packer. He'd go to some pretty interesting places and meet interesting people.

What talent would you love to have?

To be good at golf.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
July 30, 2003

Greener future assured

SCHOOLS in Fairfield City were busy last Friday greening their environment.

Students from primary and high schools took part in Schools Tree Day 2003, part of National Tree Day festivities.

Schools Tree Day was celebrated by more than 1800 schools across the country, including Cabramatta Public School and Cabramatta High School.

The public school pupils planted almost 60 trees and shrubs and students at Cabramatta High School celebrated the day by planting more than 200 trees in the school grounds.

The 25th anniversary of the school's Intensive English Centre was also celebrated by planting a hills weeping fig.

School counsellor Elisabeth Pickering said the native tree symbolised the strong roots that the centre had helped young refugees and migrants put down.

The centre's students placed a paper gum leaf at the base of the tree, inscribed with their hopes and dreams for the future.

Jerry Coleby-Williams, from ABC TV's *Gardening Australia*, got his hands dirty for the celebration and hoped to inspire the students about the environment.

"Trees help keep this planet habitable," he said. "Anyone who plants trees affirms life and shapes the future."

Ms Pickering said the day provided a hands-on experience in understanding and caring for trees, including planting and maintenance techniques.

Trees were donated by Fairfield Council and Mr Coleby-Williams.



Above:
Cabramatta Public School's Kevin, teacher Stephen Barnes, Cindy, Caroline and Kenneth help the environment.

Right:
Cabramatta High school students with ABC TV's *Gardening Australia* host Jerry Coleby-Williams and the hills weeping fig.



Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
July 30, 2003

Getting down and dirty

By KYLIE STEVENS

STUDENTS from Cabramatta High School really dug the action at Schools Tree Day on Friday.

The school invited Jerry Coleby-Williams from ABC TV's *Gardening Australia* to help in the planting of more than 200 native species.

One was a weeping fig to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the school's Intensive English Centre whose students placed a paper leaf at the base of the tree, inscribed with their hopes and dreams for the future.

"The tree symbolises the sadness of the loss of their country for new students but it also represents the strong new roots they have to grow here in Australia," said school counsellor Elisabeth Pickering.

"It is terrific to have Jerry out here. He's an inspiration to these students."

Mr Coleby-Williams said: "It is a privilege to plant trees and celebrate National Tree Day with these students."

"I've never seen so many different countries together as one in all of my life."

"There are many stereotypes about Cabramatta but I've always been impressed with the students and atmosphere of the school."

"They asked some great questions and offered some interesting viewpoints."

Mr Coleby-Williams visited Cabramatta High last year to film the school's peace garden.

He said it was one of the most popularly requested segments by viewers of his show last year.



GREEN THUMBS . . . TV gardener Jerry Coleby-Williams gets to the root of things with Cabramatta students. **Photo: JONATHAN NG**

"We had a lot of calls from other schools, inquiring what to do, how to go about it, so hopefully they'll follow in this school's lead. It's very nice to come back here."

On Sunday, Cabramatta and St Johns Park highs were among more than 2000 nationwide to take part in National Tree Day which involved more than 200,000 volunteers.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
July 30, 2003



IN THE SPOTLIGHT . . . Cabramatta High's group won a Rock Eisteddfod award. Photo: JONATHAN NG

Migrant musical scores

By KYLIE STEVENS

A STORY of the highs and lows of migrants starting a new life has rocked Cabramatta High School into the limelight.

In the serious competition of the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge heats on Monday night the school's 60-strong group snared the excellence in visual enhancement award for their performance *Freedom, Hope Peace*.

The eight-minute piece, rehearsed for six months, featured rap dancers, Chinese and Vietnamese dancers, and soldiers in a story about refugees fleeing their homeland in a boat.

When they arrive in Australia, they are placed in Woomera Detention Centre but it's happily ever after when the refugees get into the real world and meet at school.

The performance ends with a

big rejoicing with the students coming together singing *I Am Australian*.

"We wanted to do something the kids do very well and decided to showcase their experiences and different cultures in their homelands," said teacher Lisa Treloar.

"It's very interesting. It shows that although life does throw up obstacles, it's how well you respond to those bad experiences [for] a positive life change."

Fairfield City

Champion

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Local boy makes extra good plus

By LAURA SPERANZA

Jon English will return to his roots when he plays at St Johns Park Bowling Club this Friday night. One of Australia's most successful stars, Jon lived in Cabramatta as a youth.

He finished at Cabramatta High School in 1967 and played with local bands Zenith and Sebastian Hardie before achieving his magnificent success a few years later.

Jon English is one of the few Australian performers who have successfully combined a career in music, television and stage.

He began his career singing and playing guitar but after a chance audition for *Jesus Christ Superstar* he was cast as Judas – a role that would set his path to stardom.

Jon has made 15 gold records and four platinum albums.

His album *English History* was the largest-selling double album in

Australia in 1978, the year it was made.

The song *Turn the Page* earned him an ARIA Award for Best Male Vocal and he topped the charts with *Handbags and Gladraggs* and *Words Are Not Enough*.

He broke all the rock star rules when he played Jonathan Garrett in *Against The Wind* in 1978, one of Australia's most successful mini-series.

He wrote the theme song *Six Ribbons*, which became a number one hit in more than six countries and sold more than a million copies.

That year, Jon won both a Logie for Best Actor and a Countdown Award for Best Male Vocalist.

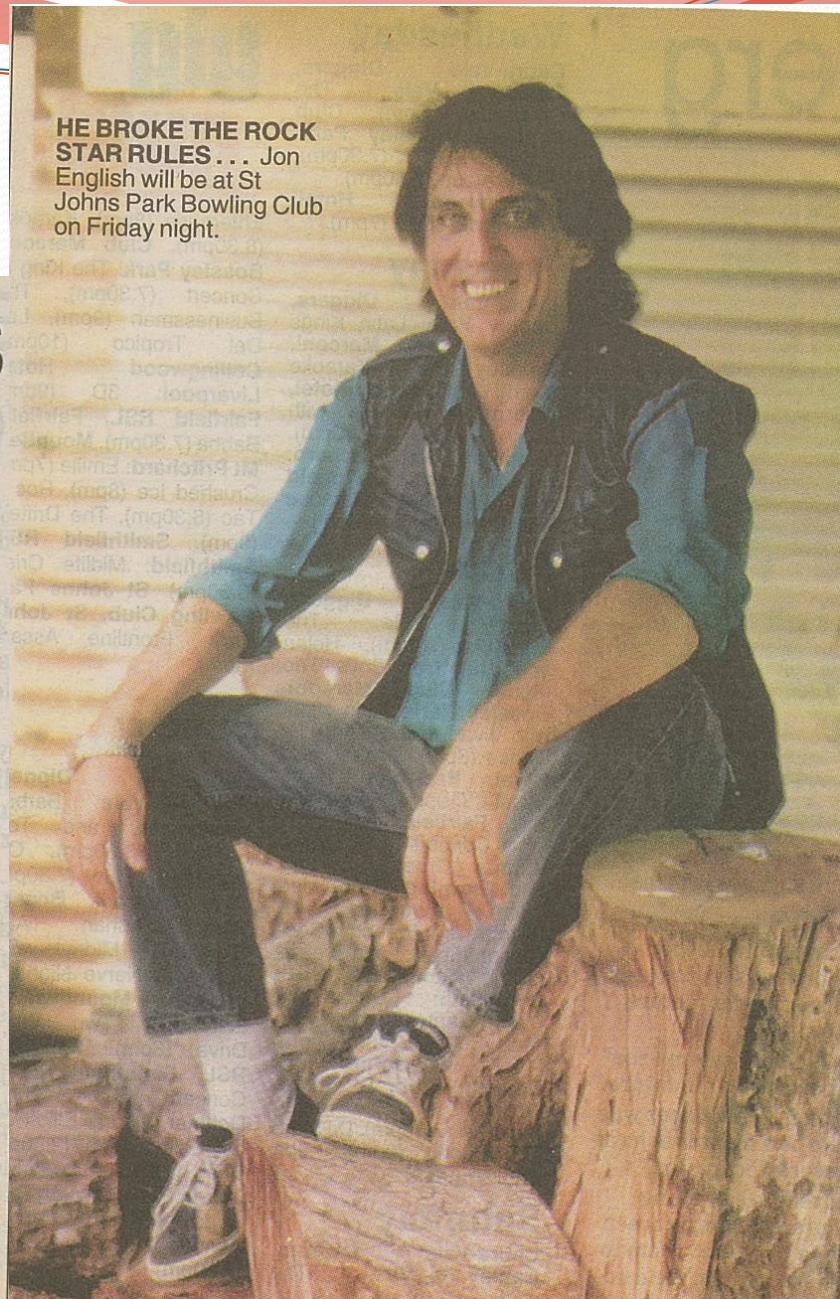
In the '90s, he was Bobby Rivers in Channel Nine's *All Together Now*.

Jon English will be in the auditorium at St Johns Park Bowling Club from 9pm.

Admission is free.

Details: 9610 3666.

HE BROKE THE ROCK STAR RULES . . . Jon English will be at St Johns Park Bowling Club on Friday night.



Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Financial planning helps top student

By MITCH GRAHAM

Cabramatta High year 11 student My Linh To has been selected in the inaugural UBS Finance Academy residential program, held this week at Macquarie University.

The program will give My Linh an opportunity to understand what is involved in a career in merchant, investment and international banking.

"This program will help me develop an understanding in economics and it will help to show me how the business is run," My Linh said.

Information was sent to all state schools across NSW and My Linh was chosen by her school and subsequently chosen for the program.

"Mr Erskine, my year adviser, chose me for the program," she said. "I was very happy about being selected for the program but I wasn't sure whether I was good enough."

UBS is looking to bring out the brightest students from across the state school system to participate in the program.

"This program will show me what I am looking for in my chosen career of either business or economics," My Linh said.

The program, which is held in the Dunmore Lang College at Macquarie University, is based on participants forming groups of four with a UBS mentor and examining financial case studies.

Participants will also attend lectures on a career in investment banking and engage in social activities.

With her mind set on a career in finance or business this opportunity will give My Linh guidance and an invaluable opportunity that not many students get.

"I can't wait to get involved. It will challenge me and I'm looking forward to those challenges," My Linh said.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Winners announced

The winners of the Cabramatta High School competition to raise money for Motor Nuerone Disease were announced last week at the year 12 farewell assembly.

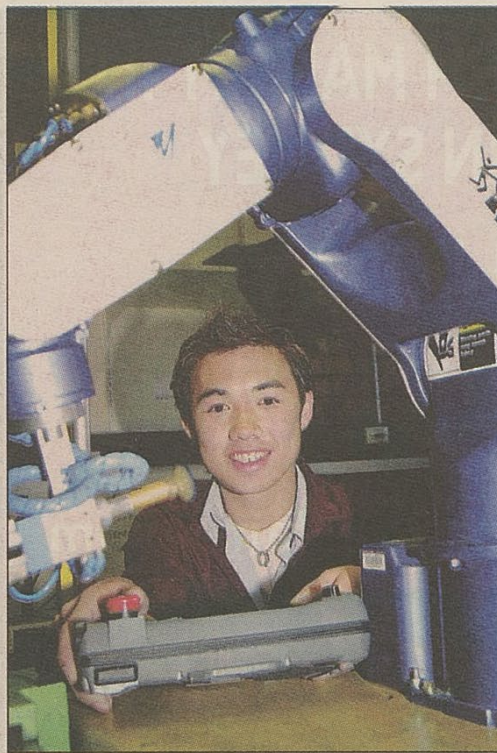
Renata Ceric won first prize, while Michelle Tran and The Vinh Trinh took out second and third.

The competition was drawn by the President of Motor Nuerone Disease Association of NSW, Kevin Langdon.

The school raised \$3400 and thanked Phil Lang, Harvey Norman Liverpool for providing prizes.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
October 15, 2003



ENGINEERING FUTURE . . . Cabramatta High School student John Lor at the U@UTS Day.

A taste of uni life

Learning to drive a robot arm is the kind of fun that can point you to a great career, as Cabramatta High School's John Lor found out.

The year 11 student was one of about 130 upper secondary pupils to get a taste of life as a University of Technology Sydney student at its U@UTS Day.

The students came from nine priority-funded schools in Sydney classified as disadvantaged by the NSW Department of Education and Training.

The participating schools included Bonnyrigg High, Cabramatta High and Chester Hill High.

Students got an insight into courses such as business, communications, education, design, engineering, information technology, law, nursing and science.

U@UTS Day project officer Liz Lo said the day had been designed to encourage students from disadvantaged schools to include tertiary studies among their options.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
October 22,
2003

Considering plight of refugees

Week of ideas and inspiration

By KYLIE STEVENS

The plight of those who fled troubled homelands in the search for a better life will be highlighted in Fairfield this week during Refugee Week.

Last Thursday, Cabramatta High School hosted an *Inspiration and Ideas* afternoon to help local schools and students find their own way to celebrate.

More than 150 teachers and students from 50 different schools joined Fairfield district superintendent Hedley Mooney to mark the achievements of refugees.

The highlight was a screening of the video *Roads To Refuge*, a teaching kit produced by the Centre for Refugee Research of UNSW, featuring the stories of several refugee students from Holroyd High School.

The kit will be distributed to NSW schools this week.

The screening was followed by a panel and Q&A session from some of the stars of the video.

There was a musical piece by the Malula Singers and a tree-planting by ABC *Gardening Australia's* Jerry Coleby-Williams.

"It is a chance to remember the plight of refugees, to celebrate and be aware of the positive contributions they have to our society and be inspired by their stories," Cabramatta High School counsellor Elisabeth Pickering said.

On Monday, a candle was lit which will burn throughout the week.

Fairfield Immigrant and Refugee



**MAKING A
STATEMENT . . .**
Juliana Nkrumah
speaking at the
Inspiration and Ideas
afternoon. Part of the
audience (below).

**Photo: HELEN
NEZDROPA**

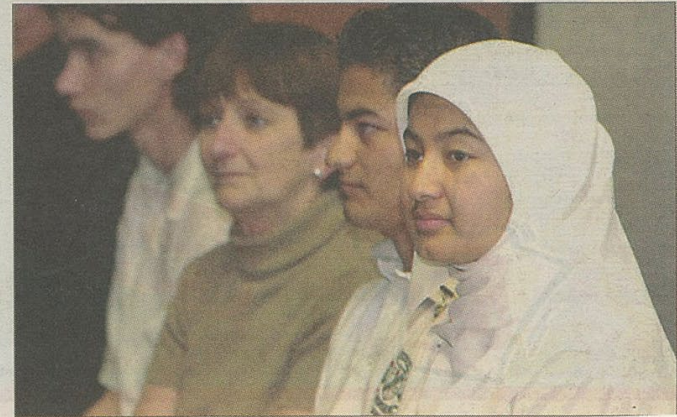
Women's Network will celebrate with a three-day film festival at Fairfield Forum's World Cinemas.

Molly and Mobarak, a story about 90 Afghan asylum seekers in a NSW country town, will be screened on Friday at 8pm and Sunday at 2pm.

A Time For Drunken Horses, a story about the terminally ill youngest son of a poor Iranian Kurdish family, will be screened on Saturday at 6pm.

Cost is \$5 a person, with discounted tickets for groups.

Tickets: World Cinemas, Fairfield Community Resource Centre, Immigrant Women's Health Service and Cabramatta Community Centre.



Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 22, 2003

Staff get top marks

CABRAMATTA High School went to the top of the class last week after being recognised as one of the state's outstanding public schools in the Director-General's School Achievement Awards.

The school received the award for its programs that support the school's students, of which 96 per cent are from language backgrounds other than English.

Education and Training Department Director-General Jan McClelland said the school's support programs had been recognised at many levels of best practice in providing students with the opportunities to achieve their full potential.

"The programs have been used as models for other schools within the district and at a state level and the impact on student learning is significant," she said.

Deputy principal Beth Godwin said the school's support staff were ecstatic about the award and said it was nice to be recognised for



WELL DONE: Cabramatta High School support staff with school principal Grahame Kidd and deputy principal Beth Godwin with their award.

the extra effort put in to helping students.

Ms Godwin said it was the breadth of the pro-active programs on offer that led to the school's success.

"One particular program we offer is a support program for parents to over-

come barriers in Australian society. The parents get told about the Australian school system and they even get information on who they can talk to in the community about certain issues or concerns," Ms Godwin said.

"We have a significant

number of support programs, such as an advanced learning group for gifted and talented students, as well as free after-school tutorials providing HSC help."

Ms Godwin said the school also had a low student absentee rate.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
October 29,
2003

English centre to celebrate 25th birthday

By KYLIE STEVENS

There were tears of joy and sadness as 30 Cabramatta High School students achieved an important milestone in their education at the end of last term.

A year ago, these students were newcomers to Australia, many knowing very little English.

Two weeks ago, these students began a new lesson in life as they began mainstream classes after graduating from the school's Intensive English Centre (IEC).

The last day of third term was a day of mixed emotions as the students farewelled fellow classmates and the teachers who helped them.

To celebrate, the students held a special concert where they recalled their favourite memories of their time spent at the centre, followed by a five-a-side soccer competition.

Students are already off to a good start, with some achieving 80-plus scores in the recent trial HSC, in the highest level of maths.

The students had mixed feelings about graduating.

"It's a little bit sad and scary as we're going to miss the teachers, especially Ms Gaffey and all the students that have become our friends," year 10 student Rong Ma said.

But they look forward to continuing their education, with half of them doing their School Certificate this term.

The day was special for the centre's head teacher Ronda Gaffey.

School principal Graham Kidd said: "These kids and their families are so motivated and determined to do well and succeed."

The IEC teaches up to 140 students at a time. Newly arrived migrants spend up to 12 months at the centre before continuing their education in mainstream classes.

IEC students have gone on to become solicitors and successful business people.

This year marks a milestone for the centre - it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Past and present students will share memories and experiences at a special reunion later this term.



GOING INTO BIG SCHOOL . . . The girls celebrate their graduation into mainstream classes while the boys (pictured below with principal Graham Kidd) get together for soccer.



Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 29, 2003



MESSAGE IN SONG . . . The Malula family performed a song from The Congo as part of the recent *Inspirations and Ideas* forum at Cabramatta High School. It was held to discuss the plight of those forced to flee their homelands.

Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, December 17, 2003

King of the Kidds

KATE BRADSTREET

KIDD my name, kid by nature.

Cabramatta High School principal Grahame Kidd will finish his 40-year teaching career this week on a high note.

Not only can Mr Kidd walk away leaving his imprint on an impressive school, but he has also been recognised by the Department of Education as one of the most outstanding leaders in NSW government schools.

Mr Kidd was one of 10 principals highlighted in a recently released book, which will be used by schools and universities to design future leadership programs for public schools.

His tenure as principal of Cabramatta High began in 1995, just after MP John Newman was murdered. The school was suffering the same branding as the suburb itself.

Amid negative media reports and an image that was difficult to change in the minds of local parents, Mr Kidd said he identified the strengths in the school and the turnaround began.

Although his eight years had been challenging, Mr Kidd said they were the best in his teaching career.

"The staff have really worked hard to raise the image of the school and develop programs which are now used as the benchmark for other schools," he said.

With 97 per cent of students with English as their second language, literacy and a focus on English was not Mr Kidd's forte.



FOND FAREWELL: Grahame Kidd with students Julie, Phuong, Joe and Long.

"I have a mathematics background but I believe the best form of leadership is to realise not to always profess to be an expert and to allow staff to experiment and take on challenges.

"The change had to come through staff, not through me."

Mr Kidd said the most import-

ant characteristic a leader could possess was the ability to relate to people and be approachable.

"The school is now recognised in educational circles and the enrolments have improved dramatically."

He is planning retirement and

looking forward to spending time with his family.

He said he would always look back on his time at the school with fond memories.

"It's an honour and privilege to have worked in such an excellent school. It was the highlight of my career, in my twilight."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 31, 2003

Sporting students secure scholarships

By KYLIE STEVENS

Former Cabramatta High School student, Eddie Parilo, has granted four annual sporting scholarships to his former school.

Mr Parilo is director of Cumberland Grove Country Club and he attended Cabramatta High during the 1970s.

The scholarships are valued at \$250 each and are awarded to four outstanding sporting students each year to assist with related expenses such as equipment and travel.

Mr Parilo presented the scholarships to the four inaugural winners – Mai Nguyen and Huynh Luu Truong of year 8, Tinh Tran of year nine and Slavica Berber of year 10. “When I was asked to assist the school in any way, I was more than glad to help out in any way I could,” Mr Parilo

said. “I wanted to put back into the school that gave me the best start in life and I hope to continue that in years to come. It is also an honour to give the scholarship winners the acknowledgement they deserve.”

The school brings back fond memories for Mr Parilo.

“It’s a privilege to be back here,” he said. “For me, it was a sad day when I left high school. Looking back, I realised that my my years at this school were the best of my life. I enjoyed coming to school. Some of the friends I went to school with came back to teach here,” he said.

In addition to the scholarships, Mr Parilo offered free training for students to access his club’s sporting activities and International Academy of Soccer to be launched early next year.



WINNERS . . . Cabramatta High School inaugural sports scholarship winners Huynh Luu Truong, Mai Nguyen and Tinh Tran with Cumberland Grove Country Club director Edmond Parilo.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
January 14,
2004

Farewell to a principal achiever

By KYLIE STEVENS

The bell has rang the final time for one of Cabramatta High School's most loved and popular identities.

Students and staff have farewelled their principal, Grahame Kidd, who has retired after 40 years of teaching.

He began his career in 1969 and taught in at least eight

very positive. The kids fully deserve the achievements they have. Some of them arrived here with little English so to see them doing well five years down the track is wonderful."

At a school where 97 per cent of students come from non-English speaking backgrounds, Mr Kidd's dedication to enhancing his students'

'There are so many highlights - too many to mention. I will take away memories of the beautiful students and fantastic staff who all have been very positive.'

— GRAHAME KIDD, CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

schools before he arrived at Cabramatta High School in 1995.

There were mixed feelings as he reflected on his career.

"Forty years is a long time and I had to finish sometime," Mr Kidd said last month.

"My final week here has been very emotional and moving, especially since I have been at the school for nine years. There are so many highlights - too many to mention. I will take away memories of the beautiful students and fantastic staff who all have been

abilities and revamping the public image of Cabramatta High was recognised late last year, when he was one of 10 principals featured in a book about outstanding leadership in NSW government high schools.

When he arrived at the school, public confidence in the area was low but Mr Kidd turned that around, identifying the school's strengths and boosting literacy programs.

As a result, students were able to record high academic achievements.



GOODBYE, MR KIDD . . . Cabramatta High School principal Grahame Kidd reflects on his retirement after 40 years of teaching.

Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

The school was also one of 36 schools across NSW to receive a Director-General's School Achievement award.

"I was very humbled but flattered to be recognised for just trying our best," Mr Kidd said.

"It is so wonderful to see the kids get up and be proud of the school, speaking about it in such a positive way.

"I also have a talented staff whom I believe in, who have helped develop the programs. We've worked hard to fight the negative, unfair images the media has had of Cabramatta by trying to point out the good things here."

He had this last word of advice for his students.

"Continue to set goals and achieve your best," he said.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 18, 2004

University offers to 23 from Cabramatta High



By KYLIE STEVENS

Cabramatta High School has celebrated its recent outstanding achievement in last year's HSC by congratulating its successful university applicants.

The school recently hosted a special assembly and morning tea in honour of the 23 students from the class of 2003 offered university places.

Cao Thang Tran top-scored for the school in the HSC, receiving a UAI of 98.05.

She has now started a bachelor of commerce degree at Macquarie University.

TOP OF THE CLASS... These Cabramatta High School students have been offered uni placements.

Top student to study commerce

Cao was closely followed by Tiniyana Huong with a UAI of 97.8 and Juliana Cheng with 96.4.

Careers advisor Chris Solomon said that the school was very proud of the students' efforts.

"It was one of the highest numbers of our students to be offered university courses," Mr Solomon told the *Champion*.

"One of the best things is that some of the students started out in the school's intensive English centre while others have only been in the country a short time. A lot of our students have gone on to higher education with many also heading to TAFE this year."

Mr Solomon said that the

students were offered places in a wide variety of courses and institutions. "We had students that were offered places in fields such as law, commerce, architecture, engineering, business, finance and medical science," he said.

"We had students going into two brand-new courses offered for the first time this year – one is a bachelor of science majoring in traditional Chinese medicine, the other a bachelor in engineering majoring in photo and solar energy.

"While most students were offered places at local universities, some were offered places as far as Charles Sturt University in Bathurst."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 31, 2004



NEW FRIENDS . . . Chikuru Malula, Ajak Dien, Ayan Makor, refugee resettlement project co-ordinator Elisabeth Pickering, Chibalonza Malula and Haina Ahamed Addullah at the African forum.

Africa viewed more clearly

Anglicare Migrant Services hall was recently packed as students, community organisations and refugees united for a first-hand insight into African cultures.

The forum, *African Communities Settling in NSW*, was held in Cabramatta by the Department of Education.

This financial year, 7700 African refugees will arrive in Australia.

Those who attended the forum were treated to African food, dancing and music, including a Congolese performance by Cabramatta High School students.

Refugee resettlement project co-ordinator Elisabeth Pickering said the forum got an overwhelm-

ing response from the community.

"We expected about 250 but we sat 340 people for lunch," she said.

"We pushed a strong message that Africa is not just one big country - it's a continent with lots of countries . . . It was a chance to increase knowledge about political situations and to share African music, dancing and ideas."

One of the highlights was a panel of African young people who described their lives in their troubled homelands.

"It gives people a much better appreciation of their circumstances, be a lot more sensitive and help develop good relationships," Ms Pickering said.

"Australia hasn't had a lot of

people come from Africa before so we need to learn a new way to help them settle in. Schools can also learn about their backgrounds to assist them. We had an overwhelming response from dozens of community support services."

There are African 16 students enrolled at Cabramatta High School's Intensive English Centre.

"The students often feel different so we encourage tolerance for different cultural backgrounds," she said.

"It ties in with Harmony Day where we raise awareness with the kids to ensure they all feel that they belong."

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
April 7, 2004

Plans go swimmingly

KATE BRADSTREET

MOVING away from a more traditional leisure centre – where there is just a gymnasium and a pool – to one that incorporates the mind, body and soul has been the overwhelming community response to Fairfield Council's \$13.5 million Cabramatta Leisure Centre proposal.

A pool will still form the centrepiece of the development on the old Cabramatta pool site after it was revealed during consultation that a high number of schoolchildren in the area could not swim.

With the old pool site being closed for more than two years and not being well patronised before the closure, the fact that children couldn't swim did not come as a surprise to Fairfield Council program manager Tony Barnden.

"But that doesn't necessarily mean the pool will be the main focus of the centre. We have had people ask for a hydrotherapy pool, which local elderly people and people with disabilities will be able to use," Mr Barnden said.

"There has been a move away from a traditional sports facility and people want a holistic view of health.

"There was a strong desire for the facility to include space for non-traditional sports such as ping-pong, badminton and volleyball.

"Tai chi and massage could also be incorporated."

Workshops where schoolchildren and community members have been drawing designs have been held in the past six weeks and those designs will go to architects who will present councillors and the community with different concepts for the centre.

"The project will bring the community together because it will be like having a hub and it will have been designed by the local community."

Cabramatta Youth Centre executive



POOLING IDEAS: Cabramatta and Canley Vale high school students Joe Bellissimo, Peter Tran, Diana Duong and Rema El Haddad work with program manager Tony Barnden.

officer Jan Collie said the way the council had run the community consultations was "very impressive".

"There has been a massive interest in martial arts and it will be great to have some open spaces for our youth."

The time line for the project is to have the development application lodged by September, the complex to go out for tender by December and construction begin early next year.

Mr Barnden said the complex would certainly be unique and, to his knowledge, there was not another sporting facility in Australia like it.



MAKING A SPLASH

■ **STEP FORWARD:** The proposed \$13.5 million Cabramatta Leisure Centre will include space for non-traditional sports such as badminton and volleyball.

■ **TIME LINE:** The centre should be open by early 2006.

■ **CONSULTATION:** The community has had input into the design of the centre and what should be incorporated on the site. Fees will only apply to some parts of the centre.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, June 30, 2004

Achievers: how school helped me

Three former students of Cabramatta High School will speak tomorrow about how the school has helped them.

On Achievers' Day at the Whitlam Library, year 11 students join past and present teachers to hear how the three have managed their lives.

In her doctoral studies at Macquarie University, oceanographer Angela Maharaj uses satellite data to investigate ocean dynamics and climate variability.

Star sportsman and business whiz Tu Quoc Duong is in the Commonwealth Bank's graduate program and also involved in basketball, netball, soccer and community work.

Former *Champion* journalist, Angelina Draca, whose parents came to Australia from the former Yugoslavia, works for Bankstown Council while completing a graduate diploma at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Achievers' Day, part of the popular Living Library program, is organised by Cabramatta High School and the Whitlam Library.

Achievers' Day starts at 10am.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, June 30, 2004

Principals share their skills

PRINCIPALS from Fairfield's public schools joined their peers at the State Secondary Principals Conference at Dubbo recently.

With the theme *Future Schools*, the conference brought together 350 principals.

Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin (pictured left) said she had taken part in workshops on leadership skills, marketing and public education.



Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
July 14, 2004

Schools best in world



LESSON IN TEACHING . . . Cabramatta High principal Beth Godwin (right) is shown the latest technology at the state secondary principals conference in Dubbo.

NSW public schools were the world's best in literacy and numeracy, a principals' conference heard recently.

Professor Frank Crowther, from the University of Southern Queensland, told the three-day professional development seminar in Dubbo that state schools were strong on quality teaching.

Among the 350 schools rep-

resented were Bonnyrigg, Bossley Park, Cabramatta, Cecil Hills, Fairfield, Fairvale, Sefton and St Johns Park.

Convenor Ann-marie Furney said: "It was an overwhelmingly positive professional learning experience."

"The ideas that [principals] have gathered at the conference will flow through as benefits to staff and students, as they are put in practice."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Follow dreams

Cabramatta High School students should ignore the bad media publicity their school had received and follow their dreams no matter what obstacles they faced, former student Angelina Draca said.

Ms Draca was one of three former pupils to speak to year 10 and 11 students during the Whitlam Library Achievers' Day on July 1.

The presentation was part of the Living Library program.

Ms Draca, 24, a former *Champion* journalist who now works at Bankstown Council, said her former high school was "absolutely great" regardless of the negative media attention it often received.

She felt that returning to the school to show she had succeeded professionally would give the students confidence to continue achieving in their studies.

"It gives them a bit of hope just to see they do have the chance to succeed no matter where they came from," Ms Draca said.

— EMILY TOXWARD



CHASE YOUR DREAM . . . Former Cabramatta High School student Angelina Draca who spoke to year 10 and 11 students at the Achievers' Day meeting. **Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA**

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
July 21, 2004



SETTING AN EXAMPLE: Cabramatta High School success stories Angela Maharaj, Tu Quoc Duong and Angelina Draca.

Sharing secrets

THREE former Cabramatta High School students have shared the secrets of their success.

Angela Maharaj, Tu Quoc Duong and Angelina Draca offered advice to about 100 senior students of the school as part of Achievers' Day at the Whitlam Library recently.

Ms Maharaj, an oceanographer, told the group to follow their calling and not feel limited by their past choices.

She said the onus was on them to learn and not to rely on being taught by others.

"Don't feel embarrassed to make decisions you think other people won't approve of," she said.

"There may be pressure on you by

family, friends and culture but try not to fall into that trap."

Mr Duong was hesitant at first, but was pleased to offer himself as an example of someone from the area who had achieved success.

Now part of the graduate program at a major bank, he said just because Cabramatta was considered a disadvantaged area was no excuse for not striving for success.

"Look at what you have, what you want to achieve and how to get around any obstacles," he said.

Ms Draca, a media consultant, continues to be proud to say she went to Cabramatta High School.

"It provided me with a great education in a safe and happy environment," she said.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
July 28, 2004

Students showing all the right moves

WHEN: SmokeFree Rock Eisteddfod Challenge

WHERE: Hillsong Convention Centre, Baulkham Hills

WHEN: Until Friday night

DETAILS: 9899 3433

SIXTY-FIVE students at Cabramatta High School have spent the past six months sewing sequins, rehearsing dance moves and building sets.

Their hard work will finally be on show tonight when they compete in the 25th SmokeFree Rock Eisteddfod Challenge at the Hillsong Convention Centre.

Seven schools will perform an eight minute dance, drama and design spectacular in tonight's third heat.

Each entry has a limit of 100 performers.

Cabramatta High School head teacher Isabel Pacho said the school's entry *Teen Wannabes* was about peer pressure. The idea was devised by the students and choreographed by sister Mai Thao, Kao Lee and Linda Lor.

"They live in an area with a lot of issues about drugs and even though there is pressure to enter into certain activities they are the future and are going to rise up above it," she said.

"The style they chose is a bit of hip hop and break dancing - they chose things topical to teenagers rather than classical or other types of dance."

Even though the school has reached the



STARS IN THE MAKING: students prepare for their Rock Eisteddfod performance.

semi-finals previously, Ms Pacho said it was more about having good, clean fun.

"They're more into participating rather than winning," she said.

Executive producer Peter Sjoquist said the challenge was focused firmly on teaching students they could have fun without smoking, drinking or taking drugs.

"Behind all the glitz and glamour the

students learn vital life skills like teamwork, leadership, goal-setting and time management skills," he said.

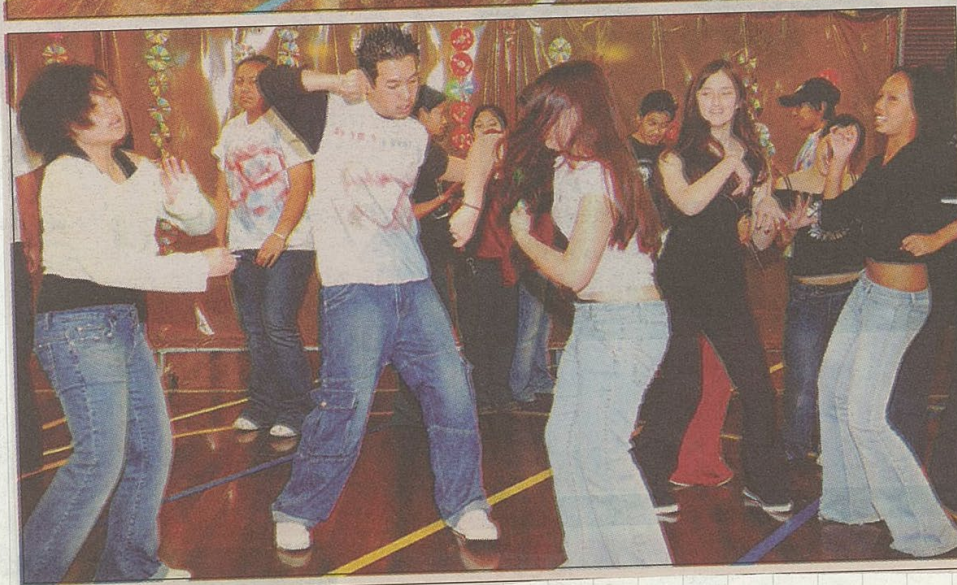
"The event increases their resiliency to say no to drugs and they learn how important living a healthy life is."

The fourth and fifth heats of the challenge take place at the Hillsong Convention Centre tomorrow and Friday night.

The Grand Final will be at the Sydney Entertainment Centre in September.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 28, 2004



School to jam in the challenge

By LAURA SPERANZA

Lights, music, costumes! Students from Cabramatta High School are preparing for the performance of a lifetime in this year's Sydney Rock Eisteddfod Challenge.

The 67 students will compete tonight at the Hillsong Convention Centre, in Baulkham Hills, for a place in the finals in September.

Teacher Lachlan Erskine said it has been a long but very enjoyable ride for the students, who started preparing for this year's Rock Eisteddfod back in November last year.

Cabramatta High's jam-packed performance combines rap, R&B music and elaborate costumes with an anti-smoking and anti-drug message.

Mr Erskine said this year's performance focuses on a positive message for youth of the future.

He said Cabramatta High was hoping for a place in the finals.

Tickets are available for tonight's performance.

Details: www.rockchallenge.com.au or 9899 3433.

ROCK EISTEDDFOD ... Cabramatta High students rehearse for tonight's performance.

Photo: HELEN NEZDROPA

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 18, 2004

Our student leaders



CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL . . . Meet captains Sui Fong Li and William Trinh (right) as well as vice-captains Bridget Chan and Peter Hoang. Sui, 18, from Green Valley, is keen to establish a career in marketing or public relations, while William, 17, from Cabramatta, wants a career in design in visual communications. Bridget, 17, from Cabramatta has her heart set on studying law and arts, while Peter, 18, from Bonnyrigg is aiming toward engineering or a career in aerospace design. All four said their parents and teachers are their greatest supporters.

– SHAUN WILD

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mates kick off to help



ON THE BALL: Cabramatta High school staff members John Nguyen and Brenda Schmidt, prepare for a staff vs students fundraising soccer match.

CABRAMATTA High School will hold a charity soccer match on Friday for a good cause.

The students versus teachers match, to be played at 1pm at the school, will raise money for former Miller Technology High School student Novak Vujanic, 18, who became a paraplegic after a swimming accident on Christmas Day last year.

Teacher Brenda Schmidt said the soccer match for Novak, who arrived from Serbia last October, was the idea of the students.

“It shows that the community is looking after the community,” Ms Schmidt said.

“Kids look after kids.

“The driving force behind the game are the students.”

About 100 students of Serbian background attend Cabramatta High School.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Postcard of life is prized

LOCAL students have painted their way into the prize books thanks to an art competition by Fairfield Council.

Postcards from Fairfield City was run during Local Government Week (August 2 to 8) with \$500 in prizes up for grabs.

Students had to design a postcard which showed their favourite place in Fairfield or captured the essence of local life.

Entries depicted a huge range of images including the City Farm, local pools, temples,

parks, town centres, houses, Prospect Creek, animals, shopping centres and libraries.

The winners of the Junior and Senior Primary categories were Kaldia Abba from Villawood North Public School and Smithfield Public School's Max Feng.

Both received a \$60 art pack.

Cabramatta High School's Hemvalee Hemkraivuth won the secondary school category and took home a Kodak EasyShare digital camera valued at \$300.



PICTURE THIS: Fairfield Mayor Nick Lalich with competition winners and highly commended winners (left to right) Hemvalee Hemkraivuth, Max Feng, Nina Tran, Kaldia Abba and Michelle Ky.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

School aids appeal

By JENNIFER LANG

Teachers and students at Cabramatta High School have rallied together to raise \$2000 for a local Serbian teenager.

The school joined forces with Miller Technology High School in the hope of raising about \$10,000 for Miller Technology High student Novak Vujanic, 18, who became a quadriplegic on Christmas Day last year after a diving accident.

He and his family came to Australia last year in the hope of a better life.

But in addition to Novak's acci-

dent, his computer equipment that helps him to communicate was stolen and his father died.

Funds are needed to replace his equipment and more money is needed to modify Novak's house and buy aids that will allow him to function as independently as possible.

Despite not knowing Novak, when year 12 students, Boyana Zjadic, Yelena Jokic, Dejana Zebanovic and Bojan Jabovic heard of his situation, they rallied together to lead a fund-raising campaign.

"We wanted to reach out to help," Ms Zjadic said.



FUND-RAISING . . . Fairfield City Mayor Nick Lalich tosses a coin to decide who kicks off in the teachers versus students soccer match at Cabramatta High School. **Photo: CARLOS FURTADO**

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 10, 2004

Student gambling presentation wins top award

HE may not be old enough to walk into a casino but Cabramatta High School Year 11 student Steven Wong has already done his fair share in alerting people to the dangers of problem gambling.

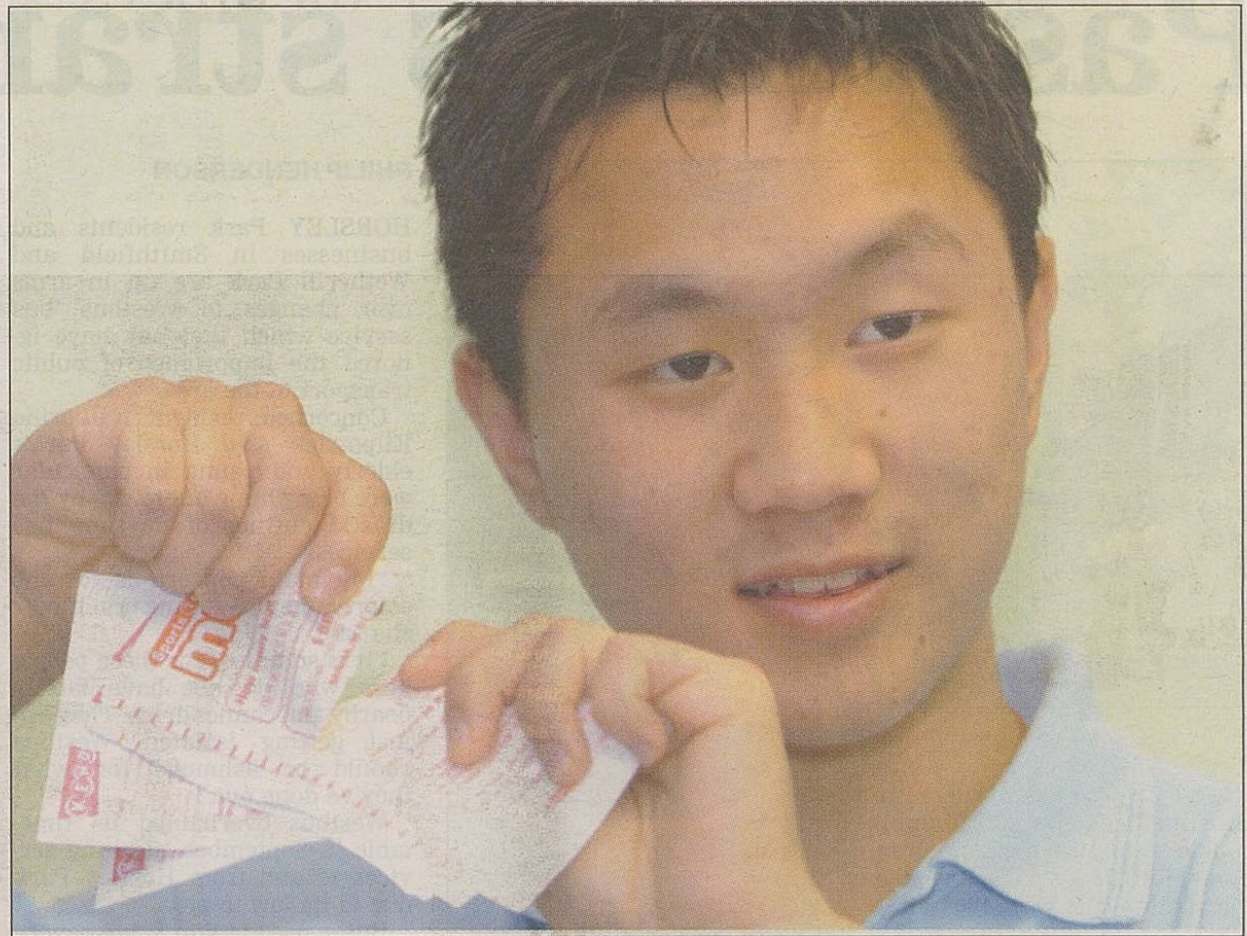
The school vice-captain was given a youth social awareness award for his presentation aimed at raising awareness of problem gambling. His presentation was screened at the State Government's theatre at Parliament House last month and is expected to go on show around NSW as part of a campaign targeting problem gambling.

Mr Wong said he spent a week researching problem gambling as part of the competition, which was open to anyone in NSW aged 25 years or under.

He looked into the psychological effects and behaviour of people affected by problem gambling, while including information on where people could receive help.

About 50 people entered the competition. Mr Wong's presentation was the only one shown publicly.

"I never knew the project would be this big," he said.



RAISING AWARENESS: Steven Wong has been recognised for his presentation which addresses the issue of problem gambling.
Photo: NICK ANDREAN