

# News Paper Articles December 2004 to December 2007

# REMEMBRANCE DAY

## 11th November 2004



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, December 22, 2004

## School dux tops Khmer studies

PHILIP HENDERSON

PUNLOEU Kouch was not the only one smiling.

Cabramatta High School teachers and staff were positively glowing this week as word spread their star student had topped the state in Khmer Continuers during this year's Higher School Certificate (HSC).

"Everyone at the school – all the teachers – feel like they've helped. But she's just a wonderful, hard working, talented student," principal Beth Godwin said.

Ms Kouch finished 2004 as dux of Cabramatta High, topping the school in all of her six subjects, while scoring a Universities Admission Index of 99.7.

Just three years ago she was living in Cambodia.

When she first arrived in Australia with her family in 2001, Ms Kouch spent half a year at Cabramatta High's Intensive English Centre.

"It was difficult at the begin-

ning, all the teachers spoke so fast," Ms Kouch, 18, said.

Little more than two years later, she was the best performing English student at the school.

‘It was difficult at the beginning, all the teachers spoke so fast’

– Punloeu Kouch

"She's just remarkable," said Ronda Gaffey, the English centre's head teacher. "Punloeu is just a wonderful role model."

Still modest about her achievement, Ms Kouch praised her teachers, friends and family for their support. She said she hoped for a career in medicine or commerce law.

Ms Godwin, like many principals across Fairfield, was expecting several students to score in the 90s this year. As well as No. 1 in

Khmer, Cabramatta also boasts the state's second best student in the course – Sophak Eng.

Samantha Ennis from Westfields Sports High School also topped the state in Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, while Bonnyrigg High's Tham Hong Dang was first in the Vietnamese Continuers course.

More than 270 Fairfield public school students qualified as distinguished achievers at this year's HSC, scoring 90 or more in at least one subject.

Westfields Sports High student Elias Bou Obeid, St Johns Park High's June Chung Yan Chan and Ms Ennis qualified for the prestigious all-rounders list by scoring 90 or over in 10 or more units.

Patrician Brothers' Fairfield also had three all rounders in its midsts – Daniel Brescia, Steve Makkar and Martin Sejas.

Among the state's top 150 schools, the college was best performing school in Fairfield LGA.



**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE:** An excited Punloeu Kouch and principal Beth Godwin are still smiling after the release of this year's HSC results.

Photo: DEAN MARZOLLA

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
December 29,  
2004

## Hammering home the green lesson



**Looking after our environment:** Up to 50 year 10 students from Cabramatta High School planted 100 trees and cleaned the area behind the school earlier this month. The activity, organised by Fairfield Council, taught the students about the environment. Eddie Ferry, council's bush regeneration project co-ordinator (pictured above, with student Trang Hoang), worked with the students and advised them of correct tree-planting methods.

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
December 29,  
2004

## Jonah's Road to fame



**Tamworth bound:** Brothers Jay (left) and Jasper Somerville-Collie are nominated for three Golden Guitar awards.

By **Laura Speranza**

LOCAL band Jonah's Road is heading to Tamworth in January and hoping to pick up a few golden guitars along the way.

The rising country three-piece will compete with country music's biggest stars for Best Album at the 2005 Toyota Golden Guitar Awards.

The band's independent debut album, *Hold On*, was released only four months ago. Jonah's Road has also scored nominations in the Best New Talent and Best Vocal Group category.

The Golden Guitar awards will be announced on January 15.

Brothers Jay and Jasper Somerville-Collie are the songwriting duo behind Jonah's Road. The pair grew up in Cabramatta and went to Cabramatta High School.

Lead singer and guitarist Jay said the Golden Guitar nominations were a "massive achievement" for the unsigned band.

"It's great to get some recognition and to be accepted for what we are doing," said Jay, 30, from Hinchinbrook. "We aren't your typical country band. We tend to do our own brand of harmonic rock pop country music."

Jonah's Road has 22 gigs lined up at the Tamworth Country Music Festival next month. The band, which includes John Kater on bass and Rodney Auld on guitar, was formed in 2001. Jasper, 28 of Cabramatta, doesn't play in the band but helped write and produce the new album.

Jay said that the album *Hold On* took five months to complete. The singles from the album, *Getting By Without You* and *Forever's A Long Time*, have been climbing up the country music charts. Jonah's Road hope to tour the United States during 2005.


# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

**CABRAMATTA**  
**H I G H S C H O O L**

*Aldore Ave, Cabramatta 2166*      *A school where students achieve*  
**Ph: 9726 2424**

*Congratulations*  
to all our HSC students



Punloeu Kouch gained a UAI of 99.7 and was first in the State in Khmer. She is pursuing a career in Combined Law.

Many students achieved UAI's above 90 and are undertaking university courses in Engineering, Commerce, Law, Architecture, Science and Psychology at over 10 metropolitan and regional universities.

**Special Congratulations to these high achievers:**

Bridget Chan	Trang Tra	Peter Hoang
Oanh Chu	Zheng Yu Pu	My Linh To
Kristjan Gadza	Hue Chau Hua	Dejana Zekanovic
Tram Nguyen	Jimmy Duong	

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# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
February 23,  
2005

## School's wave of support for the victims of tsunami

By **Kylie Stevens**

LIKE millions around the world, Cabramatta High School year 12 student Queenie Trinh and her fellow schoolmates were touched by the Boxing Day tsunami that devastated thousands of lives.

The students were so moved by the disaster that they got to work as soon as they returned to school three weeks ago to set up the Cabra High Tsunami Appeal committee, which they run themselves.

Led by the school captains, the committee meets every Friday to brainstorm fundraising ideas.

Some ideas, such as donation buckets at the canteen for small change, which raised more than \$200 in a week, are already being acted on.

Year 12 students have donated 20 per cent from their fund towards the appeal.

Coming fundraisers include a teachers versus students charity volleyball match scheduled for Friday, a benefit concert, a teachers' dare day, a half-mufti day and Harmony Day celebrations to be held next month.

"We felt that we had to do something to help, rather than sit around and do nothing," Queenie said.

"Many students have given up their own time to help us."

The students have created a financial "thermometer" to record the amount of money raised.

The committee is raising funds to help a Sri Lankan sister school, Ginota MV, in Galle, which suffered almost \$2 million damage in the tsunami.

The students are appealing to other students and companies such as Coca-Cola to support the cause.

"Our aim is to raise \$5000. We hope to improve on that target and get other schools to help us," Queenie said.

Cabramatta High School principal Beth Goodwin is delighted to see what her students are doing.

"The students are showing their true selves and what Cabramatta High School [can do]," she said.



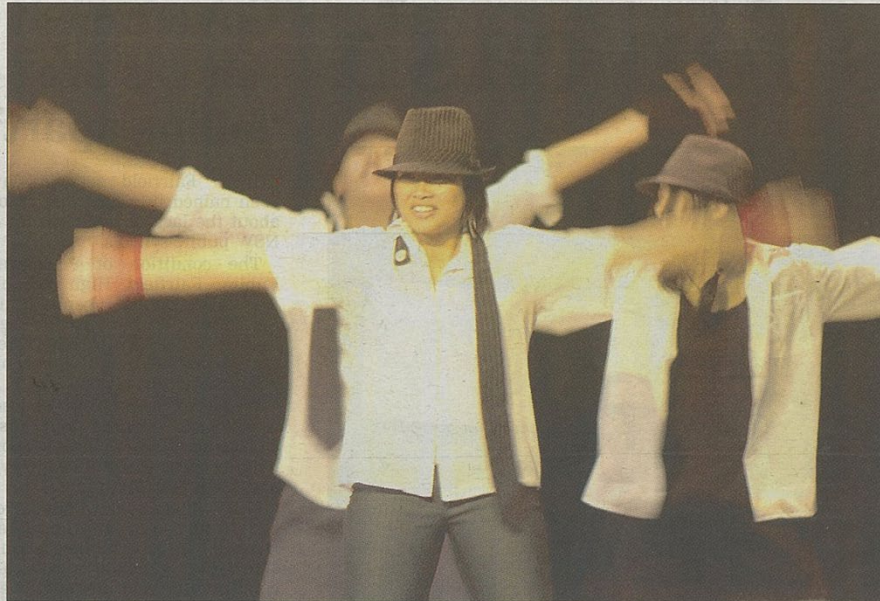
**Digging deep:** Cabramatta High School students prepare for this Friday's volleyball charity match for tsunami victims.

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

**Details/contributions: 9726 2424.**

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, February 23, 2005



**LEADING COMMUNITY:** Students (above and below) in rehearsal for their tsunami fundraising concert.

Photo: NICK ANDREAN

## Students step up for school

CABRAMATTA High School students have taken a leading role in local fundraising efforts for south-east Asian tsunami survivors.

The school's students have been working feverishly since returning to class last month, organising fundraising events and charity days to help in the rebuilding of sister school Gintota MV in Sri Lanka.

The Galle-based school was devastated by the Boxing Day disaster and left with a damage bill of more than \$1.9 million.

Students first aim to collect

\$5000, but have goals of raising much more throughout the year. A fundraising thermometer will track their progress.

Rehearsals have already begun for a charity concert, to be held next month, as well as practice for a teacher versus students volleyball match. Students hope to earn between \$800 and \$900 for each event.

Teachers have thrown their support behind the students charity drive, and not just in voice. Some have offered to take part in teacher dare days.



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

All together now at high school



**We are one but many:** Cabramatta High School captain Wendy Lam and year 11 student Kenny Lam (they're not related) will join their school mates in celebrating Harmony Day next Monday. More than 97 per cent of the students come from non-English-speaking backgrounds. Monday's activities will include a formal assembly with guest speakers, choir and band performances, and a new wishing well to be incorporated into the peace garden. Candles and pizzas will be sold to help raise funds for Cabramatta High's Sri Lankan sister school, which was destroyed by the tsunami on Boxing Day. Other schools across Fairfield will also celebrate Harmony Day.

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

## On the long country road to fame

By Laura Speranza

JONAH'S Road feel like they've walked a country mile after a whirlwind start to 2005.

The local three-piece were nominated for three awards at the 2005 Toyota Golden Guitar Awards, held on January 15 at the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Although they didn't take home a trophy, lead singer and guitarist Jay Collie said the band still felt like winners.

The country rock trio were nominated for best album alongside stars like Slim Dusty, Kasey Chambers, Adam Brand and Troy Cassar-Daley.

The band's independent debut album, *Hold On*, was released only four months ago.

Jonah's Road also scored nominations in the best new talent and best vocal group category.

Collie said the Golden Guitar nominations were a "massive achievement" for the unsigned band.

The accolades keep coming for this rising country band, who won best independent release at the Victorian and National Country Music Awards last month.

The band's debut single, *Getting By Without You*, has earned them a spot in the top 12 of the International Songwriting Competition, with winners announced next month.

Jonah's Road have just returned from The Entrance, where they performed at the Central Coast Country Music Festival on Saturday.

"We struggled for a few years because we didn't sound like a typical country band," Collie, 30, of

Hinchinbrook, said. "Jonah's Road has always been a little outside the square.

"We are still the new kids on the block but it's great to get some recognition and to be accepted for what we are doing."

During the two-week tour, Jonah's Road performed a staggering 22 gigs and countless media interviews.

It is only the third time the band has toured Tamworth's annual country music festival.

"The biggest difference was - three years ago - when we played our original music, people walked away," Collie said.

"This year it was the reverse - people stayed when we played our original work and walked away when we played covers."

Among the highlights was supporting country music stars Lee Kernaghan and Jedd Hughes at the West Tamworth Leagues Club.

The band were nominated for Best Group at the TIARA Awards, held on January 18. Although they didn't win, the band scored a gig at next year's awards ceremony.

"It's been a really positive 12 months for us," Collie said.

Jonah's Road now hope to tour the United States during 2005 as well as start writing and recording a follow-up album.

Collie and his brother, Jasper Somerville-Collie, are the songwriting duo behind Jonah's Road.

The pair grew up in Cabramatta and went to Cabramatta High.

The band, which includes John Kater on bass and Rodney Auld on guitar, was formed in 2001.

Jaspar, 28 of Cabramatta, doesn't play in the band but helped write and produce *Hold On*.

## Nominations keep Jonah's a step ahead



**Looking forward:** After a successful tour of Tamworth, Fairfield country rock band Jonah's Road are planning a US tour and a follow-up album for 2005.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 23, 2005



## Coming together

**One, but many:** Cabramatta High School celebrated the diverse ethnic backgrounds of its students as part of National Harmony Day on Monday. The school held a special assembly and launched a wishing well, which Ramnik Lal and Kris Gatfield (pictured above) set up in the school's peace garden. Students also raised money for their Sri Lankan sister school, devastated by the tsunami. Other schools held celebrations, and more than 140 Fairfield residents were awarded citizenship certificates at a ceremony last Wednesday.

**Pictures:** Helen Nezdropa



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 30, 2005

## Teaching passion endures

Ronda Gaffey touches the lives of her students and their families with her tireless compassion, commitment and belief in their ability to succeed. **ANDRE KHOURY** reports.

IMAGINE coming to Australia and not knowing or having little exposure to the English language.

For most of us, it would be a daunting experience.

However, thanks to Cabramatta High School's Intensive English Centre and its head teacher Ronda Gaffey, that experience for hundreds of students is less freighted and one they'll remember for the rest of their lives.

Ms Gaffey, 60, has been tirelessly working in her role for more than 16 years, teaching migrants who have just arrived in Australia and preparing them for mainstream schooling.

"With English language teaching, you just become passionate about it," she said.

"You probably do make a difference. The passion's always there.

"You're forever looking for new things – and there's great challenges, from the social to intellectual challenges."

Ms Gaffey described her work as "ridiculously compulsive".

"Cabramatta is such a vibrant place," she said.

"There's a certain fabric in the family of Cabramatta High School.

"I think we've had great leadership. I've always had principals who have been great facilitators and allowed me to develop professionally."

The Intensive English Centre's primary focus is the resettlement of migrant refugee children who arrive with little or no English.

"We have kids, who by the time they leave, are ready to compete," Ms Gaffey said.

The centre has 26 staff and about 120 students.

Ms Gaffey said it was inspiring to see a student pick up the English language.

"It's probably one of the most exciting things to see kids grow in a language," she said.

Ms Gaffey said she was occasionally made aware of the impact which she has had in students and families' lives.

"If I stop off in Cabramatta, I'm just accosted," she said.

"It's like running the gauntlet.

"Kids just don't forget because it's their first experience."



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE:** Ronda Gaffey is passionate about her work as an English language teacher.  
Photo: NICK ANDREAN

Ms Gaffey gives up many hours of her own time to spend with different parent groups and interpreters.

She also mentors young teachers and improves their understanding, skill and ability to help students and their families.

Ms Gaffey said she felt "really

chuffed" to receive a Fairfield Council Australia Day achievement certificate earlier this year.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the City Farm Australia Day awards.

"I think it was quite moving."

Ms Gaffey, who was nominated for a Director-General's Award in

2002 and has received many awards from the school for her wonderful initiatives, said she'd continue her great work for "another three or four years, probably".

"I'll do it as long as I'm healthy and I've got the energy," she said.

"It's hard to let go."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 30, 2005

## Program is music to their ears

THE Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) has invited Cabramatta High School to launch its schools program.

The program offers young musicians the chance to perform with the orchestra.

The ACO is visiting Cabramatta High as part of a two-day visit involving 30 students.

Yesterday, four ACO members ran full-day workshops for students in the school's instrumental ensemble band, members from the Rock Eisteddford team and a vocalist from the choir.

This afternoon, the ACO will perform with the students in the school hall.

Government and business identities who are sponsoring the ACO project will also visit the school.

Students and teachers from Cabramatta High School have attended at least three ACO concerts each year since 1992.

Past and present students have taken advantage of the low costs and high performance standards of these events, giving them the opportunity to experience classical music for the first time.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

## Students tune in for performance of a lifetime



DREAM PERFORMANCE: Richard Tognetti performs with violinist Mintze Wu and student Diya Ngor.

Photo: NICK ANDREAN



AUSTRALIAN Chamber Orchestra artistic director Peter Tognetti remembers the day about a year ago when a Cabramatta High student lived his dream of playing a Steinway piano.

Last week, Mr Tognetti and the orchestra gave another 20 Cabramatta High School students the thrill of the lifetime – not just rehearsing, but performing with some of Australia's most talented musicians.

Premier Bob Carr helped launch the orchestra's new national education program at Cabramatta High last Wednesday.

The program gives students, who would not usually have access to top musicians, a chance to learn from the best.

## Students tune in for show of a lifetime

■ From Page 1

More than a year in the planning, Mr Tognetti said it was no coincidence Cabramatta was chosen to kickstart the program.

"We certainly didn't just pick Cabramatta out of the hat," he said. "There has been a relationship between the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Cabramatta for some years."

Cabramatta music teacher Stephen Gailey initiated that relationship in 1993 when he ushered the first of countless school trips to hear the world-renowned orchestra perform in Sydney.

Last year the orchestra threw its doors open for Cabramatta students to experience an open rehearsal – a privileged usually reserved for corporate sponsors.

"The day ended up being incredible," Mr Tognetti recalls. "And I remember one of the students sat down at the piano, the lid was closed, and he said 'do you mind if I play your piano? It's been my dream in life to play a Steinway piano'. I opened the piano, he played a few notes and that was his dream come true."

Cabramatta students took part in a series of workshops last Tuesday, before performing to a packed school hall on Wednesday.

"It's been a great learning experience for the kids," teacher Mr Gailey said. "They've learned a hell of a lot."

PHILIP HENDERSON

■ To Page 6

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, April 6, 2005



**Musical moment:** The Australian Chamber Orchestra and Cabramatta High School music students join forces for a landmark event.

Picture: Nick Moir/fairfaxphotos.com

## Students hitting a high note

By **Kylie Stevens**

BUDDING musicians from the Cabramatta High School band had their dreams come true last Wednesday.

After a day of intense rehearsals, they performed with the Australian Chamber Orchestra for the launch of the ACO's National Education Program.

The program gives students, who would not otherwise have the opportunity, access to musicians of the ACO.

Cabramatta High was chosen for the launch owing to its relationship with the ACO since 1992 whereby students attend at least three ACO concerts and rehearsals a year.

Program initiatives to involve other schools include interactive concerts at primary schools in Blacktown later this year, \$12 student tickets to ACO concerts, behind-the-scenes access for students with special needs, and a development program for young musicians to get coaching from the ACO.

**CONTINUED PAGE 2**

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, April 6, 2005



**Tuned in:** Premier Bob Carr praised the relationship between the ACO and Cabramatta High.

**Picture:** Helen Nezdropa

## Cabramatta students hit the high notes

**FROM PAGE 1**

Premier Bob Carr attended the launch and told the students that he envied them.

"I am happy to be at a school that I've known about for a long time and have followed what this school has done," he said.

"I am angry because music education wasn't taken seriously when I was at

school." Music teacher Stephen Gailey recommended other schools to participate.

"Any school with a similar group of students that turns its back on the program is making a big mistake on behalf of its students," he said. "Our students felt invigorated and inspired.

"The ACO members are doing this out of the goodness of their hearts."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

## Cabramatta's conscience



Beth Godwin, with Punloeu Khouch who has just received her HSC results.



Religious leaders bless the school's peace garden three years ago.

The Premier's a fan. The Secretary of State for East Timor is one of its alumni – and just three per cent of its enrolments come from an English-speaking background. **PHILIP HENDERSON** goes behind the classroom doors of Cabramatta High School to see what makes one of Australia's most multi-cultural, and conscientious, public schools tick.



**COMMUNITY-MINDED:** Just wanting to help, students prepare for their Boxing Day tsunami fund-raising concert earlier this year.

**PRINCIPAL** Beth Godwin admits to being ambitious when it comes to Cabramatta High School.

She doesn't just believe students can learn a lot from the school. She believes the whole world can learn a lot by following Cabramatta High's example.

"It's a model for how society should behave," Ms Godwin said. "We don't just reflect (a multi-cultural society) in population,

each of the cultural groups at the school not only respect each other, but understands each other and learns from each other. It's reflecting what should happen in society."

About 97 per cent of Cabramatta's current 1066 enrolments are from non-English speaking backgrounds. South-East Asian students encompass 78

per cent of the school, with 35 per cent Vietnamese.

Teachers and staff regularly speak at state and national education conferences about the school's success at educating students whose second language is English.

Mrs Godwin says they are often viewed as experts in the field.

While education remains the school's primary focus, it is the

students involvement in world issues which often stands Cabramatta apart from other public institutions.

Cabramatta is a school with a social conscience.

As soon as classes resumed this year, students immediately began work on raising funds for the Boxing Day tsunami disaster relief.

They decided that all money

raised throughout the year would go towards the rebuilding of Sri Lankan school Gintota MV, and have been busy organising and hosting sporting events, concerts and teacher challenges for the cause.

After setting a primary mark of \$5000 for the year, students have raised close to \$3000 in just one school term.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, April 13, 2005 (Continued)

## speaks in many languages



**ON SHOW:** Students take part in a catwalk display of modern Asian fashion in last September's Moon Festival.



**UNITING TO HELP:** Staff warm up for a fundraising soccer match played against students last September.

### ■ From Page 8

Last year Ms Godwin said students raised \$2000 for a student – who they would never meet – from another school just because they heard he needed help.

Three years ago, 12 religious leaders from the community were invited to simultaneously bless the opening of the school's peace garden.

It was a moment, Ms Godwin said, the world should have seen.

"There was harmony. There was purposefulness. There were people focusing on one agenda – not many – and that was to provide unity."

The school's catchcry for 2005 is "make a difference in the world" and Ms Godwin said students were doing that on a number of fronts.

She attributes much of the students' social awareness to the

"I know how important public education is in making our diverse multicultural society work,"

– Beth Godwin

dedication and commitment of the school's teachers and staff.

School captain Dara Ngor sums up that teacher-student relationship best with just one word – respect. "The students respect the teachers and the teachers respect our point of view," he said.

After years of looking beyond its own gates, Cabramatta High School has long drawn the atten-

tion of other public and private schools.

So well-known is the school in NSW education and government circles, Premier Bob Carr talked as if he was a regular guest at a recent trip to Cabramatta.

"I know we've got 2222 schools in NSW, so there aren't too many of those schools which I can say that I know. But I do know this one," the Premier said while launching the Australian Chamber Orchestra's new education program last month.

"I know about the very good work it does and I know how important public education is in making our diverse multi-cultural society work."

Ms Godwin agreed with Mr Carr's final comment. "In this school, Australia's future is being rehearsed," Mr Carr said.



**NOTHING BUT PRAISE:** Dara Ngor escorts Premier Bob Carr during his recent visit to the school to see the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, June 22, 2005



Students don their dancing shoes to raise money for victims of the Boxing Day tsunami.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

## Teachers dare to sing for victims

**MARK O'BRIEN**

AUSTRALIA'S reaction to the Asian tsunami in the days after Christmas drew plenty of praise, but the efforts of the students at Cabramatta High School have been something extra special.

When classes resumed at the start of the year, a group of concerned students got together to form a fundraising committee with the aim of helping a sister school in Sri Lanka.

Committee spokeswoman and Year 12 student Queenie

Trinh said the school had raised more than \$5000 so far.

"We've had sports days, games and fundraising concerts," she said.

"We've tried to think of things that the students would be interested in and the response has been really good."

The most recent event, the fundraising concert, brought the total funds raised to the \$5000 mark.

"That was our original goal," Ms Trinh said.

"There is one more event

left, which will be a teacher's dare concert where the teachers will all get up and sing."

Ms Trinh said the students who formed the committee had previous fundraising experience.

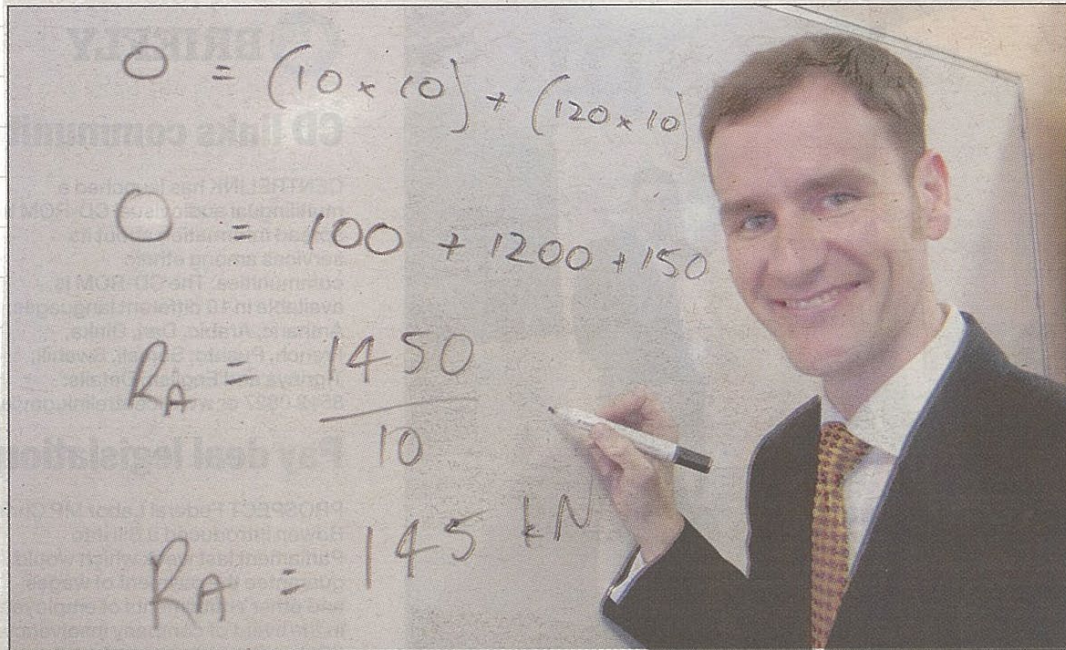
"We had done some Year 12 fundraising activities and things like that," she said.

"But all the students here have really supported all the activities.

"I think now everyone is just looking forward to hearing the teachers sing."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
June 29, 2005



Paul Copeland will explore new frontiers as part of a scholarship program at the US Space and Rocket Center.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

## Space trip set to inspire

BRETT COX

CABRAMATTA High School teacher Paul Copeland will be seeing stars this week, with the full support of the Education Department and his students.

The industrial arts head teacher is currently at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, participating in a scholarship program for science and engineering teachers.

Mr Copeland joins 150 teachers from 17 countries who are completing intensive training in space science and education.

He is only one of two representatives from Australia.

In an interview with the *Fairfield Advance* before he left, Mr Copeland said he was excited about his overseas adventure.

"I've always been a fan of all types of engineering - what goes on in space is certainly at the cutting edge," he said.

"All through your life you come across things that you would love to do. This is definitely one of them for me."

He said the program would provide the opportunity to experience high speed flight simulation

and land and water survival training.

Mr Copeland said the training he would receive would help him use real life examples in his teaching at home.

"The students thought it was really funny that I was going as they know I'm a bit of a *Star Wars* fan," he said.

"They asked me if I'd learn how to fight with a light sabre.

"Seriously, though, if this is something that inspires them then it has got to be a good thing."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 20, 2005



**Out of this world:** Teacher Paul Copeland enjoying his once in a lifetime opportunity at the US Space Academy.

## Cabramatta High teacher comes back down to earth

CABRAMATTA High School teacher Paul Copeland has just come back from the US Space Academy – and he can't wait to share his knowledge with his students.

The teacher became a student again after being selected as one of two Australian teachers to attend the Honeywell Educators Space Academy Program in America.

He and more than 150 teachers from

17 countries attended the conference, which was designed to lift the profile of engineering.

It offered the chance to learn and experience many things including a go on a multiaxis trainer (a device that spins your body on three different axes at the same time).

"It was magnificent and an interesting experience," Copeland said.

"We were involved in design pro-

jects. The hands-on learning made it fun. I can take the information back to the classroom."

He endured a "very packed schedule", leaving dorms at 7am and being brought back at 6.30pm for more activities such as going to the museum, watching space-related Imax films and attending lectures.

"I was quite tired, but it was very fulfilling," he said.



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
July 27, 2005

## Glimpse of the final frontier



**Paul Copeland experienced a whole new world when he stepped into the Space Station Simulator in Alabama.**

CABRAMATTA High School teacher Paul Copeland has landed back in Australia after a stint at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Mr Copeland, the schools' industrial arts head teacher, joined 150 teachers from 17 countries during the school holidays to complete intensive training in space science and education.

He was one of two representatives from Australia.

"It was one of the best experi-

ences of my life," Mr Copeland said.

"There is plenty of space-related engineering material that I will be able to use with my Years 11 and 12 classes.

"I also have some things I will be able to pass on to maths and science teachers."

Mr Copeland said he participated in activities which included experiencing technology including a space shuttle simulator, water-based survival training and a low gravity simulator.



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
August 17,  
2005

## All together now to improve learning

TWO Cabramatta High School students played an active role in the Partners4learning Conference last week.

NSW Education Minister Carmel Tebbutt said the key message of the conference was for teachers, parents and students working together to improve the learning, attendance, and retention outcomes of students in schools involved in the government's Priority Schools Funding Program.

The program focuses on improving students' literacy, numeracy and participation outcomes in areas of social disadvantage.

"The conference provided a forum for all participants to make a significant contribution to the future of students in the 576 schools supported by the [program]," Ms Tebbutt said.

She said a welcome feature of the conference was an alternative student program that had been organised by students.

Cabramatta High students My Tien Banh and Crystal Huynh were two of those who participated.

Ms Tebbutt said the conference focused on supporting regions in reducing the achievement gap for students from poorer communities.

"It addressed current national and international educational research, showcase innovative practice and provide opportunities for planning," she said.



**Achievers:** Cabramatta High School students My Tien Banh and Crystal Huynh participated in the Partners4learning conference at the Wesley Conference Centre in Sydney.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
August 31, 2005

## School talent dazzles

By **Cindy Tuyet Anh Tran**  
Cabramatta High work experience student

NO Cabramatta High School student can remember the last time the school made it to the finals of the NSW Rock Eisteddfod Challenge.

But next week they could sing and dance their way back into the record books at the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

On September 8, the teenagers will perform their *DangerousLee In Love* production in front of a huge crowd and 13 other competing schools.

Billed as a misunderstood relationship and rejection from love, it has "aggressive" choreography, dealing with issues of rejection, bullying and depression.

The director of Cabramatta High School's production, Isabel Pachó, said the school deserved extra credit because its original music was changed – after a term of rehearsal – due to circumstances beyond their control.

"They spent another term-and-a-half making entirely everything up again," Ms Pachó said. "It was the biggest change . . . everything was replaced with new songs and dance moves."

The senior students – especially Michelle Le, Annie Irazabal, Alex Noumrasi and Annie Wang – mostly made up the dance steps.

They say their aim is to show the public what Cabramatta can do, and let wider Sydney know what Cabramatta is really like.

"One of our future goals is to make the community more involved – like making more props," Michelle Le said.

In the lead-up, Cabramatta High School won five excellence awards for choreography, drama, student achievement, drug awareness and initiative.

"Working with the students was fun," Ms Pachó said. "I learnt a lot from them." She also thanked fellow teachers Lachlan Erskine, David Kopycinski, Navneet Follington, James Ven and Anjana Nath for their help.



**Getting prepared:** Students at Cabramatta High School rehearsing for the final in the hall last week.

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

## Into the grand final

CABRAMATTA High School's performance for the grand final of the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge tomorrow night could not be any more topical.

About 77 students of the school will perform *DangerousLee In Love*.

The dance, drama and design spectacular addresses the theme of bullying, and other causes of stress and depression among young people.

It delivers the message that, when faced with depression, suicide or ending someone else's life is no solution.

"It's basically a love scene that goes wrong," production director Isabel Pacho said.

Ms Pacho said the school was excited at having the chance to perform.

"We're just happy to be there and to participate," Ms Pacho said.

"We always do our best.

"They (the students) have an opportunity to mix with other people and other schools.

"Also every year they improve on whatever aspects of the performance and the relationships they develop," she said.

Year 12 student Michelle Le described the rehearsals and production as "fun".

"You get to interact with younger people and meet a lot of friends," she said.

The grand final will be held at the Sydney Entertainment Centre, starting at 7pm.



Cabramatta High School's *DangerousLee In Love* cast rehearse for the grand final of the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge tomorrow night.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

## Rock eisteddfod excellence award



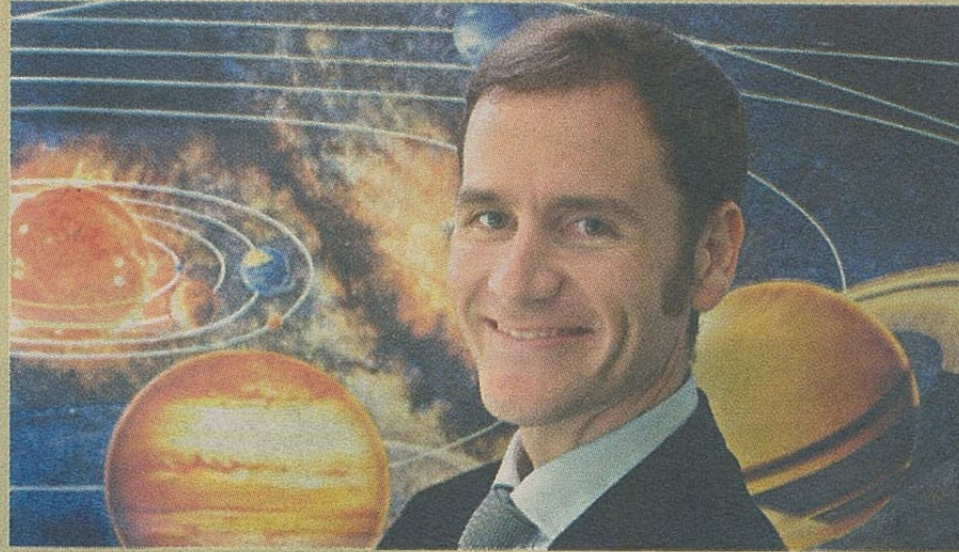
**Brilliant effort by the students:** Cabramatta High School may have lost its bid to win this year's Rock Eisteddfod Challenge but students still can't help but feel like winners. The school picked up the Australian Government Award Of Excellence For School Initiative after dazzling audiences with their grand final performance of *DangerousLee In Love* at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. Winner of this year's event was St Peter's Catholic College Tuggerah, followed by Kelso High School in second place and Cranebrook High School in third. Locals who missed the song and dance spectacular can see all the action broadcast on Channel Nine on October 1 and 8.

Picture: Winkipop Media

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
September 21, 2005

## READER OF THE WEEK



**Sky high:** Paul Copeland was recently picked to attend a special US Space Academy program.

**The best advice you ever received?**

Ludum tantum est (It's only a game).

**The best thing about being a teacher?**

Being in front of a class and creating a fun and informative learning environment.

**The worst part about it?**

Marking, and playground duty.

**If you were down to your last \$10 what would you spend it on?**

A lot of chocolate and fine quality cup of tea.

**What would be your fantasy job?**

Helicopter pilot in Africa helping with the rhino conservation effort.

**If you could travel back in time to see any event, what would it be?**

Christ's sermon on the mount – or the building of Stonehenge.

**PAUL COPELAND is an engineering teacher at Cabramatta High School.**

**Three people you would love to dine with?**

Sir Roger Moore, Sir Isaac Newton and Karl Marx (of course since Newton and Marx are dead I hope Roger can hold a conversation).

**Your greatest achievement?**

Writing two books for engineering studies.

**The most amazing thing you've ever done?**

Being chosen to go to Alabama to attend Space Academy.

**What has Fairfield taught you?**

That multiculturalism is a wonderful thing that should be encouraged and supported.

**Your favourite word?** Indubitably.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 28, 2005



**Green thumb:** Cabramatta High School students Trang Hoang Nguyen, Amanda Choup, Dianne Nguyen and Chann Pung were part of the winning team.

## Efforts earn acclaim

CABRAMATTA High School has picked up an environment award after taking part in this year's Energy Australia Red Cross Youth Challenge.

Students received a nomination for the award after organising a local clean-up and tree-planting day.

They were named this year's winners at a special ceremony at Taronga Zoo on

September 13. Greg Matthews, the winner of *Big Brother* 2005, was there to hand over the trophy.

The Energy Australia Red Cross Youth Challenge encourages young people to take an active role in their local community by organising short-term projects.

More than 100 schools and youth groups took part.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

## A proud 'westie'

ANDRE KHOURY

AUSTRALIAN rock star Jon English still doesn't know why his parents decided to live at Cabramatta following the family's move from England in 1961 when he was 12.

"You can't find a suburb further away from the airport where my father worked," Mr English told the *Fairfield Advance*.

Mr English's upbringing and boyhood experiences at Cabramatta, as well as his successful life as a stage actor, musician and singer/songwriter, are explored when he appears on the ABC's *Talking Heads* program next week.

During the program Mr English, who spent nine years in the area, is shown outside the family home in Coventry Rd and strolling through his old school - Cabramatta High School.



**His old home in Coventry Rd, Cabramatta.**

"It was a lot smaller and quieter than it is now," Mr English said.

"It wasn't really a surprise because it was a quiet, little country town."

Mr English, 56, said Cabramatta had provided him with many memories, including meeting Carmen, his wife of 36 years.

"It was my first kiss and my first game of basketball," he said. "The first time I appeared on stage was in Cabramatta."

Mr English is also remem-

bered for stripping on top of his school's science block during a muck up day in 1967.

He said when he returned to the area to film the 30-minute program he noticed his home had "hardly changed a bit".

"But the metropolis of Cabramatta, the centre bit, is absolutely fantastic now," he said. "The difference is just stunning. "You get wonderful food, very, very cheap." Mr English said Cabramatta had taught him how to be a "normal person". "And then I got into the world of music which is decidedly not normal."

Mr English, who lives at Balmain, said he often visited the area as his mum and sister lived nearby. "I'm a westie, that's the best way to put it," he said.

*Talking Heads* will broadcast on ABC TV on Monday at 6.30pm.



**Jon English reminisces with Talking Heads host Peter Thompson. Jon can be seen in an old class photo on the TV.**

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 5, 2005

## 'Greenie' students win praise

**CABRAMATTA High School's "greenie" tendencies are shining through loud and clear.**

**The school won an environment award at the Energy Australia Red Cross Youth Challenge Awards, held at Taronga Zoo last month.**

**The award recognised students' effort in assisting Fairfield Council during a tree-planting and clean-up project earlier this year.**

**Fairfield Mayor Nick Lalich congratulated the students on such a great effort.**



**Students Trang Hoang Nguyen, Amanda Choup, Dianne Nguyen and Chann Pung at the award ceremony.**

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 12, 2005



**Designing woman:** Lang Leav of Cabramatta gazing through a catalogue coverhole for her new label, Akina.

## Akina range bears up well

By Laura Speranza

A FEW illustrations got the ball rolling.

Now, one year later, Lang Leav's home-grown fashion label, Akina, is stocked in Sydney and Melbourne boutiques and is catching the eye of industry heavyweights.

The Cabramatta woman's debut collection, called Bear Massacres, includes four shirts with a gothic theme. They all feature the character of Akina – a female villain who attacks teddy bears to steal their button eyes.

"People just fell in love with the concept straight away," Ms Leav, 25, said. "It's just unique."

Her work recently featured in an exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum and she is a finalist in a youth-initiative competition run by the Australia Council, selected from 12,000 entrants. The winner, to be announced on November 11, will take home \$10,000 and a year's mentorship with fashion designer Peter Morrissey.

The former Cabramatta High School student is planning a collection for 2006 and is confident more boutiques will pick up her designs. The new range will also include jeans.

"I've always been passionate about illustration," she said.

"Now I'm combining all my interests – fashion design, packaging, graphic design and photography – into Akina."

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

Details: [www.akina.com.au](http://www.akina.com.au)

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 19, 2005



talented soccer player Jenny Te, and other nominees, are awaiting the results of the Fairfield Advance Junior Sports Star awards for 2005.

## Versatile athlete is on the ball

ENTRIES have closed for the *Fairfield Advance* Junior Sports Star award.

And talented 14-year-old Jenny Te is the *Advance's* final nominee for this year.

The keen soccer player is also a successful track and field athlete.

"I started playing soccer in year three," Te said. "It's always been something I enjoyed."

Te is an integral member of the Cabramatta High School soccer team, but has also made a name for herself in other sports.

As a primary school student she was a linchpin of the senior soccer and cricket teams at Mt Pritchard East Public School, and was the recipient of a number of best and fairest awards.

At the high school level, Te's talent for athletics came to the fore.

In 2004 she was the 13-years

age champion, winning the title with a number of strong results across the track and field disciplines.

This year Te repeated the feat, winning the title of 14 years age champion.

The *Fairfield Advance* Junior Sports Star will be chosen by a judging panel in the next few weeks.

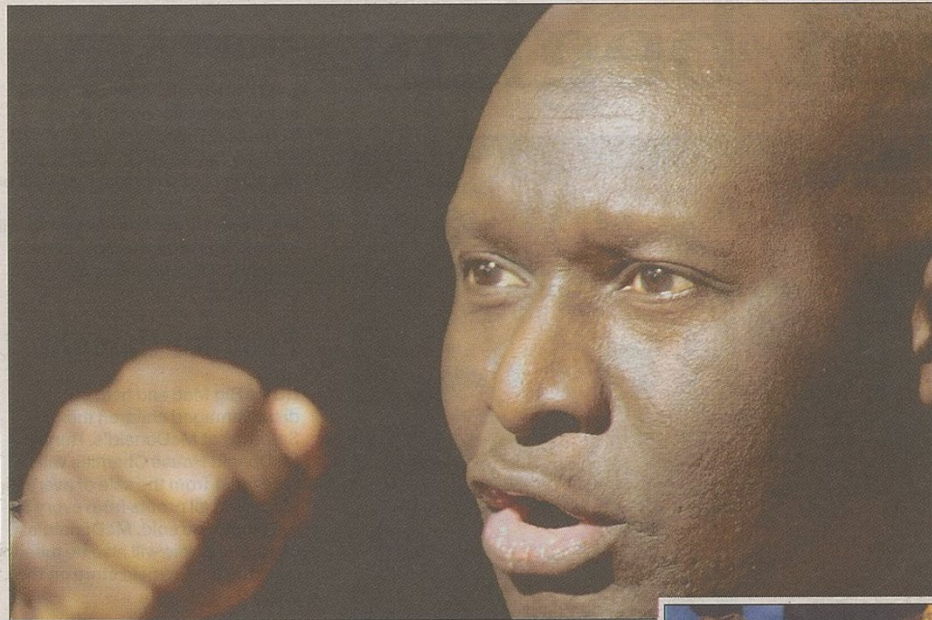
He or she will receive \$500 and will be in the running to become the Cumberland Newspapers Junior Sports Star for 2005.



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

## Students celebrate pursuit of peace



UN envoy Olara Otunna (above) highlights the importance of nurturing peace for students (right) at the ceremony.

Pictures: NICK ANDREAN

SYDNEY Peace Prize recipient Olara Otunna has turned out with Cabramatta High School students in support of harmony and unity.

The United Nations undersecretary-general for the protection of children in armed conflict was a special guest at the school's *Coming Together for Peace* ceremony on Friday.

Mr Otunna addressed students from more than 20 Sydney schools on the importance of nurturing

peace and protecting the rights of the world's children.

He was awarded the Sydney Peace Prize for his dedication to the pursuit of peace and the protection of children around the world.

The students held a minute's silence to acknowledge Remembrance Day during the ceremony.

Cabramatta High School teacher Ann Bright said the day



focused on uniting many cultures under the banner of peace.

"The special ceremony aimed to reflect the school's aspirations to be a harmonious gathering place for people from all around the world in a true multicultural environment," she said.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

## Unity in peace delights visitor

A United Nations official came to Cabramatta last week promoting a message of peace.

By Anita Maglicic

WHEN Olara Otunnu saw Cabramatta High School students last week, he described it as a vision he hoped for the entire world.

A place where people of different cultures, religions, genders and beliefs respected one another and where children could have a safe childhood.

Mr Otunnu's experiences had not been so happy in other places in the world. In war-torn areas such as Sierra Leone, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Burma he said there are child soldiers, abduction, rape and other atrocities.

This is what the 2005 Sydney Peace Prize recipient is working to eliminate.

Mr Otunnu has a long title: the United Nations' Under-Secretary-General Special Representative of Secretary-General Kofi Annan for children and armed conflict.

He also has big aspirations. He has been making waves by publicly naming groups who brutalise children, and running a monitoring network to report violations.

He is also spreading the basic message that teaching children now about peace, acceptance and respect will help end the "process of self destruction".

Last week Cabramatta High School was



**We are the world:** Cabramatta High School choir members sang for the UN visitor in a sea of ethnic costumes.

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

winning his praise. "They are the United Nations school," he said, marvelling at the 38 different languages that are spoken (besides English) by its students.

The school choir gave the visitor a warm welcome with the song, *We Are The World* at the school assembly.

Mr Otunnu took up their theme. "We are the world," he said. "Look around this hall. I'm happy that you come from different parts of the world. I hope you learn from each other to enrich Australia by your different backgrounds."

Speaking to the students who had fled war-torn countries, he said: "I'm so happy that you are picking up the pieces again. You have the opportunity to begin a new life."

Mr Otunnu said that out of all of his Sydney engagements, this school visit was the one he had most looked forward to.

He spoke of his special work and when question time came, children lined the assembly aisle, waiting to speak.

"I hope you become whatever you dream to become," he told the children.

"Whatever you wish to be you can be. It starts with education."

After the assembly, all poured out into the courtyard for a peace ceremony where the principal, Beth Godwin, facilitated a minute's silence, the release of white doves and invited Mr Otunnu to plant a rosemary bush, and place a plaque in the school's "peace garden".

At morning tea, the guest of honour mingled with students. Ms Godwin said the most important thing her students learnt from the visit was hope.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
December 14,  
2005

## Plan puts future in young hands

A STATE Government program aimed at strengthening family relationships and improving education has been expanded into Fairfield.

Cabramatta State Labor MP Reba Meagher launched the expansion of the Better Future Strategy at Cabramatta PCYC.

The funding program assists community-based initiatives aimed at supporting the healthy development of young people and their family relationships, keeping young people at school and improving their educational attainment, supporting young people at risk and strengthening connections between communities and families.

Ms Meagher said Better Futures helped strengthen young people, their relationship with their families and their connection with the community.

"The programs we are looking for will work with nine to 18-year-olds in local areas like Cabramatta, helping them to stay at school, build positive relationships and develop goals for their future," she said.

"Through the NSW Government's Better Futures Strategy, we are working to prevent young people's problems before they start."

Ms Meagher said the teenage years could be a challenging time for young people.

"Better Futures is about building the resilience young people need to meet those challenges and reach their full potential," she said. "By stepping in early to ensure young people have the support they need at school, at home and in the community."



Reba Meagher and Cabramatta High school students Ognjen Matic (with ball) and Mai Nguyen (right) at Cabramatta PCYC.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
December 21,  
2005

## Passion for fashion pays off

### Art pulls student to design world

By **Laura Speranza**

WHEN growing up in Cabramatta, Lang Leav never imagined she would one day be designing her own clothing range.

Like many of her then contemporaries at Cabramatta High, she thought that more traditional pursuits such as law, accounting or business were the only way to earn a living.

"There is a really strong work ethic in Cabramatta," Ms Leav, 25, said.

"I never thought I could be an artist.

"You grow up believing you have to make sensible choices so you are guaranteed a stable job at the end of your degree."

But while studying at the University of NSW's College of Fine Arts she decided to follow her instincts and began designing her own clothing collection.

"University opened up a whole new world for me," she said. "I realised there is so much potential in the creative industry.

"You just have to work a little harder to get where you want.

"Fashion has always been a big passion of mine. I really enjoy the creative process from start to finish."

Clothes bearing her label Akina are now stocked by boutiques in Sydney and Melbourne.

Last month Ms Leav beat more than 12,000 entrants to win the \$10,000 first prize in the Spirit of Youth Awards design competition run by the Australia Council, and a year's mentorship with award-winning fashion designer Peter Morrissey.

While job security and financial stability can be difficult in the design industry, Ms Leav said she is lucky to have the support of family and friends.

"It is so hard to do your own thing," she said.

"I'm really thankful to be surrounded by a lot of positive people."

Ms Leav was born in Thailand after her parents fled war-torn Cambodia in 1980.

The family migrated to Australia soon after.

A documentary about Ms Leav's win in the Spirit of Youth Awards will be aired on ABC TV in February, 2006.



**Designing her destiny:** Fashionista Lang Leav is taking the path less travelled.

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

The year 2005 brought a host of achievers, dreamers and news makers to the surface. And because they say a picture tells a thousand words, this special feature is a photographic reminder of the year just gone.

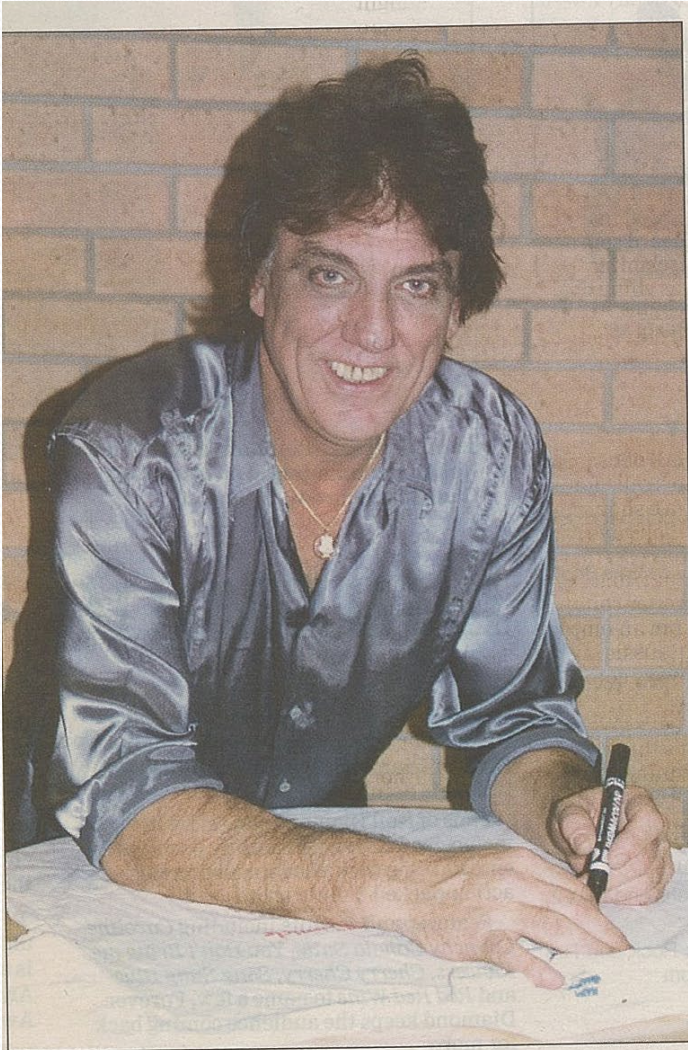


**The sky's not the limit:** The *Champion* has covered so many good-news stories about local quiet achievers it was hard to pick just one to focus on. But we loved the photo that accompanied the story about Cabramatta High School teacher Paul Copeland. He couldn't believe his lucky stars when he was chosen to attend a US Space Academy program this year. The big *Star Wars* fan and author of two engineering science studies text books, with Macquarie Fields High School teacher Grant Byrne, was selected to go to Alabama's US Space and Rocket Centre for the Honeywell Educators Space Academy Program. With 150 other teachers from 17 countries, Copeland became a student again as he listened to lectures and watched documentaries on engineering. He was offered hands-on learning and experiences including a ride on a multiaxis trainer (a device that spins the body on three different axes at the same time).

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, January 11, 2006



Jon English has spent three decades entertaining audiences in lounge rooms, theatres and music venues.

## Well-known rocker set to shake club

ROCKER Jon English, widely regarded as one of Australia's most versatile entertainers, performs at St Johns Park Bowling Club on Friday.

Known for his popular sitcom *All Together Now* and many musical theatre triumphs, he will perform his Jon English In Concert show.

The 56-year-old, who has combined a successful career in music with television and stage, started his career in the 70s when he was singing and playing guitar in small bands.

He took a chance and went to an audition for Harry M Miller's first production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, a move which paid off when he was given the prestigious role of Judas.

English is also known for his

**WHO:** Jon English

**WHERE:** St Johns Park Bowling Club

**WHEN:** Friday, January 13 from 8.30pm

**DETAILS:** Tickets are \$8 on 9610 3666

stage role in the popular *The Pirates of Penzance*.

His talents helped him to achieve best selling albums, top rating television performances, acclaimed stage roles and several industry awards.

English returns to Sydney's south-west, where he grew up.

He attended Cabramatta High School and met his wife of 36 years, Carmen, then.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
February 1,  
2006

## Enthusiastic student an inspiration to all

By Christine Kellett

CABRAMATTA High School student Julian Chung is a polished stage performer, but it was her raw display of emotion at Fairfield City Farm last Thursday that reduced her audience to tears.

In her acceptance speech, Fairfield's 2006 Young Citizen of the Year broke down as she paid heartfelt tribute to her grandmother, Thi Nga Nguyen, for giving her the courage and support to pursue her acting dream.

"She has always encouraged me and allowed me to do the things I've wanted to do," Ms Chung said afterwards.

"She has never held me back and I am very grateful to her for that."

The talented drama student impressed Fairfield Council judges with her tireless community work and dramatic achievements to take out this year's coveted Young Citizen title.

She has featured regularly in Powerhouse Youth Theatre productions both on stage and behind the scenes, with credits including *Cabramatta Story*, *Fairfield Shorts 3 & 4* and *Pyteen*.

She has worked on the *Bring It On!* youth festival, Cabramatta Moon Festival and the Fairfield Loud! project and is a volunteer with St Vincent de Paul – and if that wasn't enough, she also collects money for charity and is a member of Cabramatta High School's Student Representative Council.

It might sound like hard work to many, but a confident and articulate Ms Chung says she feels grateful for the chance to give back to her community.

"This wonderful place that I've called home for the past 17 years ... is a door of opportunity that is waiting to be opened," she said. "I've opened that door."

**'This wonderful place that I've called home for the past 17 years ... is a door of opportunity that is waiting to be opened. I've opened that door.'**

Fairfield 2006 Young Citizen of the Year **Julian Chung**



**Hard act to follow:** Talented drama student and volunteer Julian Chung is Fairfield's 2006 Young Citizen of the Year.  
Picture: Helen Nezdropa

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

## Top citizen says giving is its own reward

FAIRFIELD West resident Coral McGovern was over the moon when told she was Fairfield Citizen of the Year for 2006.

"I couldn't believe it at first," the 66-year-old said.

"It's wonderful, absolutely wonderful. You go along, one day at a time, doing the best you can, giving a little bit back, and then somebody rewards you for it."

At Fairfield's Australia Day celebrations at Fairfield City Farm on Thursday, Mrs McGovern, a mother of two, was rewarded for her outstanding contribution to the community.

Her list of achievements is impressive. She is a volunteer at Prairiewood's Braeside Hospital, where she spends two days a week caring for patients in the rehabilitation and palliative care wards.

She has also been a volunteer counsellor for Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous, on call 24 hours-a-day.

Mrs McGovern also regularly visits Silverwater Women's Prison and remand centres for juveniles.

"It's wonderful, it makes you feel even more a part of the human race," Mrs McGovern said of her work. "Even if everybody does one little thing in their life to help it comes back a thousand fold."

"It's a wonderful thing to do, it truly is. It's so rewarding."

Mrs McGovern, who has two grandchildren, said she was looking forward to her responsibilities as Fairfield's top citizen.

"I've heard a lot from Janet (her friend and Fairfield Citizen of the Year for 2005, Janet Hopwood)," she said.

"I think the fact that I spoke at



Coral McGovern and Julian Chung received Fairfield's top awards on Australia Day. Picture: NICK ANDREAN

so many Alcoholics Anonymous meetings over the years, it has just given me that little bit of confidence."

In her acceptance speech on Australia Day, Mrs McGovern paid tribute to her family for their support, especially her husband of 45 years, Eddie.

"He is a wonderful support," she said.

"I wouldn't have been able to do the things I've done without him."

ANDRE KHOURY

## Community award winners

### ■ Achievement certificate:

John Cochrane, Mt Pritchard; Krytsyan Cyron, Canley Heights; Tyrone Hadfield, Abbotsbury; Dianna Kokozian, St Johns Park; Lorraine Maggs, Canley Vale; William Watson, Cabramatta

### ■ Achievement medallion:

Joseph Caparrotta, Bossley Park; Geoffrey Helyar, Smithfield; Tania Tu Phuong Huynh, Smithfield; Lynette Nguyen, Green Valley; Anh Linh Pham, Canley Vale; Samantha Thompson, Guildford

## 'Determined' and involved

THIS year is looking to be a busy one for Cabramatta resident Julian Chung.

In addition to the 17-year-old being school captain at Cabramatta High School and facing the demanding Higher School Certificate later this year, Julian has been named Fairfield Young Citizen of the Year for 2006.

Not that she is complaining, though.

In fact Julian, who is a talented drama student, is looking forward to the year ahead.

In an emotional acceptance speech on Thursday at Fairfield City Farm, Julian urged young people to "be determined".

"I encourage you to get out there, to take an initiative at school and in the community and be amazed at what is out there," she said.

Highly involved in youth theatre, Julian has volunteered for Fairfield's Bring It On youth festival and worked as both cast and crew for many Powerhouse Youth Theatre productions.

Julian has also been involved with the LOUD! project, the Cabramatta Moon Festival and Faith Fusion.

Julian, who volunteers at St Vincent de Paul, collects money for the Red Shield Appeal and is involved in her school's peer tutoring program. She said she was "grateful" for being recognised for being "an active participant and doing things that I like which I have gained so much from".

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

## Nurturing teacher gives shelter

Welcoming homeless and at-risk students into her home during a 10-year period was never a sacrifice for Cabramatta High School teacher Lynette Nguyen. She talks to **KELLY ROBINSON** about the rewards which come from being part of such a close-knit school community

A TYPICAL honeymoon usually involves romantic dinners and long walks on the beach but for Lynette Nguyen there were more important things to nurture.

While the Cabramatta High School teacher was celebrating her wedding day 14 years ago, she was also beginning another chapter in her life – that of a temporary foster parent.

For 10 years, Mrs Nguyen and her husband provided emergency accommodation, food and most importantly stability for homeless and at-risk students from Cabramatta high and surrounding schools.

“For the first week of our marriage we had a young boy and his grandmother stay with us because they needed emergency accommodation,” the 42-year-old said. “We never saw it as a sacrifice. It was just what we did.

“My husband and I have been involved with the Cabramatta community for a long time and once you’re part of the family, you do whatever you can to help others.”

Mrs Nguyen has taught at

“As teachers, we get involved in the kid’s lives and want to make it better for them any way we can”

– Lynette Nguyen

Cabramatta High School for 14 years, teaching English as a Second Language subjects.

She migrated to Australia from New Zealand in 1988, where she met her husband.

He had also recently moved to Australia from a Thai refugee camp.

The Nguyen’s have housed 10 students during the years and Mrs Nguyen said it was an eye-opening experience.

“We’ve had a number of students living with us over the 10 years and they’ve all become part of the extended family,” she said. “It’s a community network that is important for everyone. What we do is not that special and a lot of



Lynette Nguyen has dedicated years to helping at-risk students.

Picture: ARMEN DEUSHIAN

other teachers at the school do the same thing. There are a lot of fantastic teachers at Cabramatta High School and we all try and look after the students.

“As teachers, we get involved in the kid’s lives and want to make it better for them any way we can. It’s just there in the fabric of the school.

“You also learn a lot from them. Kids are extremely resilient and you realise that you have nothing to complain about in life compared

to some of the things they’ve had to experience.”

The Nguyen family are also devout members of Cabramatta’s Jesus Family Centre, where they also assist newly arrived refugees.

“Around 100 African refugees have arrived at our church in the last year and we help to support them as well. The whole church community helps in different ways depending on their expertise.”

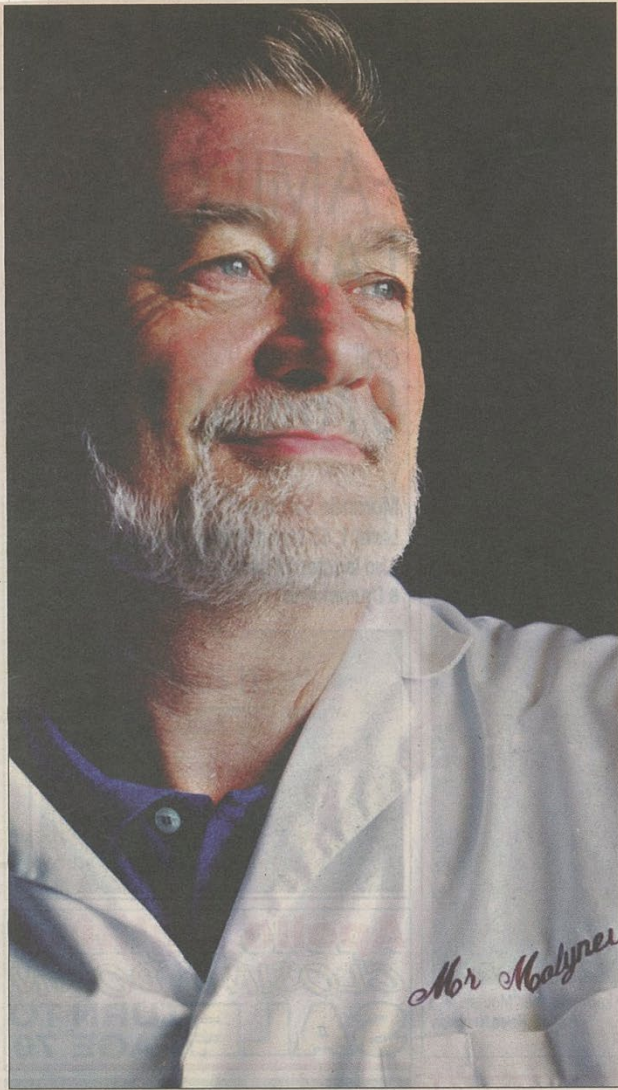
Although still supporting students and refugees, the

Nguyen’s aren’t planning to house any students in the future.

“We haven’t had any students for the past four years and probably won’t take any in for the time being,” Mrs Nguyen said. “We decided that our kids were getting a bit bigger and there wasn’t as much room in the house so we would concentrating on spending some quality time with them. As rewarding as it was helping the kids in need, this is the time for our family.”

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 15, 2006



**Science of teaching:** Kevin Molyneux is looking forward to the next stage of his life but will always miss the classroom.  
Picture: Elliott Housego

## 29 years spent at Cabra High ... and Kevin loved every minute of it

By Lema Samandar

ALMOST 30 years ago British-born Kevin Molyneux came to Australia to teach. As a young man he was apprehensive about what this country would offer him but hoped to make the most of it.

Little did he know he would spend the next 29 years teaching at Cabramatta High School and touching the lives of generations of local students.

Now at 63 he is retiring as head science teacher at the school and reminisces on his amazing journey.

"I had a wonderful time. The kids were lovely, they were friendly and hardworking," he said.

Mr Molyneux said he never aspired to become principal because he didn't want to leave the excitement of the classroom.

"Being a teacher is a lot like being a cabaret artist performing on stage: every lesson you teach you feel a light come on and the audience is there and you are putting on a performance," he said.

Mr Molyneux also wanted to break down the myth of the school to the next generation of teachers.

"I was in charge of the student teachers and when they came to the school they expected that they would be spending most their time disciplining the kids," he said. "To their surprise they learned that the students were well behaved, keen to learn and did what they were told."

Cabramatta High School also gave Mr Molyneux the opportunity to pursue many of his other interests.

He coached the school soccer team and they won the State Championships in 1987-88, he sang in the choir, wrote science textbooks, marked HSC papers, shaved his beard off for charity and started the young scientist awards.

He still sees many of his former students around Cabramatta and admits he has taught the children of some of his students. Some of his students have gone on to be doctors and pharmacists and he hopes his science classes influenced them somehow.

He said it felt strange to be retired and compared it to the time he arrived in Australia, where the unknown was scary but exciting.

Sophie Templeton, a teacher at the school, said Mr Molyneux had become a legend. "He was interwoven in the school's spirit and community and while no one is irreplaceable, his enthusiasm will certainly be missed," she said.

"Kevin had a saying that when the pilot light goes out, it is time to move on, and Kevin is lucky because he has managed to retire with that pilot light well and truly alight," said Ms Templeton.

**Kevin Molyneux's retirement dinner is on May 12. To attend, contact Sophie Templeton on 9726 2424.**

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 15, 2006



Kenny Lam is helping those in need by volunteering for Red Cross Calling.

Picture: JOE MURPHY

## Charity relies on your generosity

CABRAMATTA residents are being urged to open their hearts and wallets as Red Cross volunteers hit the streets this month to raise much-needed funds.

March is Red Cross Calling month and Cabramatta resident Kenny Lam has gathered the troops and is ready to go.

The 17-year-old is the Cabramatta High School co-ordinator and said he decided to get the school involved after volunteering himself last year.

"I was just a volunteer last year collecting donations and I had such a good time," he said. "This year I thought 'hey, why not get the whole school involved?' I went on a recruitment drive at school,

speaking to friends and at assembly, and now more than 30 students are volunteering.

"I look after the whole Cabramatta area and organise who collects from which street."

Kenny said he wanted to raise as much money as possible for the Red Cross. "Volunteering for Red Cross is a really great experience



and I encourage everyone to get involved if they can. It's a really good cause and doesn't just help with international causes. It also provides a range of community services locally. At the end of the day you go home knowing that you helped people in need."

Red Cross Calling raises money for vital services Red Cross provides to help vulnerable people in the community.

These services include feeding hungry children through the Good Start Breakfast Club, teaching teenagers about drugs and alcohol through Save-A-Mate and ensuring the daily safety of frail and aged people through Telecross.

Details: 1300 733 27677.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, April 19,  
2006



**First choice:** Cabramatta High pupils were the first in the state to see performances from the Bell Shakespeare's education program this year.  
**Picture:** Helen Nezdropa

## Drama at school

By Lema Samandar

UNDERSTANDING the plays of William Shakespeare has been a struggle for some school pupils for many centuries.

Yet it will be a little easier for pupils at Cabramatta High School after the Bell Shakespeare company launched its education program Actors at Work 2006 at the school last week.

Year 9 pupils saw the company's program *Love's Magic* where the actors performed scenes from *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* together with a

scripted discussion about the complexities of love in modern life and in the plays.

Organisers said the one-hour performance journeys through a world of comic possibilities, plot complications and theatrical surprises.

English and drama teacher at Cabramatta High School, Azadeh Shafi-Beigli said it is the first time some pupils have seen theatre and it will be an extra for drama pupils to see actors at work. "For students seeing any type of theatrical work is beneficial," she said.

"And part of the drama curriculum is appreciation of drama."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, April 19, 2006



Nancy Nicholls (front, from left), Gulnar Mousawi and Elisabeth Pickering, and behind, Lewis Rurageze and Kim Ly Huy, in the Peace Garden at Cabramatta High School.

Picture: JOE MURPHY

## Easing the early days

“SETTLING in” to a new country is an often overwhelming and daunting experience for many young migrants and refugees, but with the help of a Cabramatta High School program many are now finding it easier to adapt.

Elisabeth Pickering, Nancy Nicholls and Jerry Lonnon founded the Settling In program, which has been such a success that it recently received one of 12 NSW Crime Prevention Awards.

Ms Pickering said the program, still running after 14 years, gave

newly-arrived immigrants and refugees a chance for new life in Australia.

“It provides proactive support for newly-arrived refugees and migrant students on arrival in the country, so they are able to develop new connections with people – and makes them feel more accepted,” she said.

With many refugees suffering traumatic experiences, Ms Pickering says the program also helps them deal with past trauma by talking with counsellors.

“They learn to deal with anger in a constructive way. It really helps people to get their lives together so they can be happy and content citizens,” she said.

With more than 800 students involved, Ms Pickering credits much of the program’s success to its flexibility.

“The success of the program is in its ability to be easily adapted in other places,” she said.

\*Romina Torres is a work experience student from Macleay College

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
April 26, 2006



Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company brought Shakespeare to life for Cabramatta High School students recently.

## Bringing the Bard to Cabramatta

CABRAMATTA High School students gained an insight into the mind of one of the world's greatest playwrights after a recent Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company performance at the school.

The national touring company, which specialises in Shakespeare, performed parts of a number of plays for the school's senior students on Thursday.

"They talk and intermingle the talk with performing Shakespeare's work," drama and English teacher Azadeh Shafi-

Beigli said. "They use very minimal props.

"It's great to see them show the kids that you don't have to have huge stage sets and props to be able to do really quality shows."

Ms Shafi-Beigli said the actors made Shakespeare and his work relevant to today's society.

"Through the talking they bring Shakespeare's theme and Shakespeare's work right back to contemporary times," she said.

Ms Shafi-Beigli said the performance benefited senior students studying Shakespeare be-

cause it "gives them a different perspective, point of view".

At the end of the 1½ hour performance students were allowed to ask questions of the actors, she said.

Ms Shafi-Beigli said the performance of Bell Shakespeare was a privilege for the students.

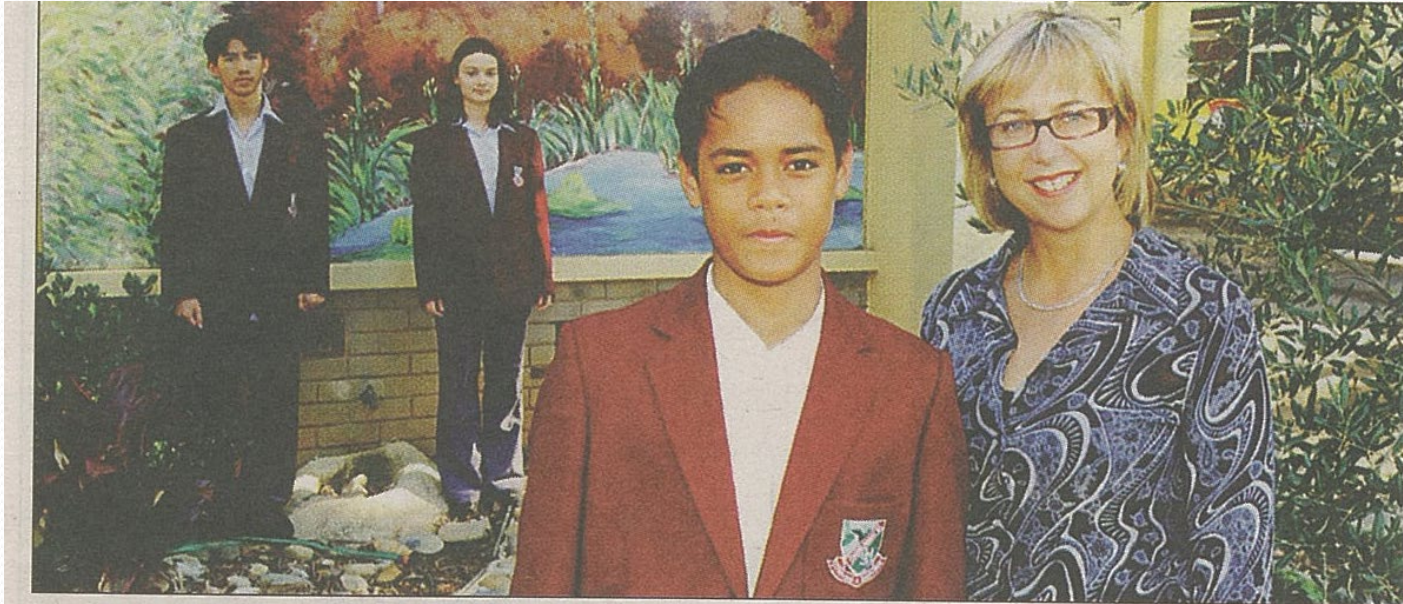
"There aren't very many students who often get the chance to go to theatre," she said.

"For them to come to us ... it's just amazing."

ANDRE KHOURY

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 24, 2006



**Together:** Cabramatta High School students Nhat Lam Le and Tijana Petrovic and Amanaki Kaufusi with Cabramatta MP Reba Meagher. Ms Meagher has organised an art competition. Entry forms are available from Reba Meagher's Cabramatta office (9724 3381).

Picture: Elliot Housego

## To compete is the done thing

WHAT does Australia mean to children in Cabramatta?

That's what local MP Reba Meagher wants to know and that's why she's running the "Australian Symbols" artwork competition.

Ms Meagher also hopes the compe-

tition will encourage young local artists and bring attention to their work.

She wants local high school students aged 13-18 to come up with a design that represents Australia.

The winner and five runners-up will have lunch with the Sydney art-

ist Ken Done, who will also take them on a tour of his studio.

"The winner will also receive a prize pack of art supplies worth \$150 and will be featured on my 2006 Christmas cards," Ms Meagher said.

Details: 9724 3381.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

## New faces add to cultural mix

BRETT COX

THERE are changes happening in the cultural make up of Fairfield and there's no better place to observe them than in the faces of students from Cabramatta High School.

Relieving deputy principal Jason Conroy said the school's African population had quadrupled in the past five years and African students now made up about 4 per cent of the student body.

One of the reasons they were attracted to the school is its Intensive English Centre, where students from non English speaking backgrounds spend their first months at the school.

"It's like a school within a school with anything from about 100 to 120 students," he said.

He said the African students were proud of their heritage but integrated well and got along well with other students.

Clement Meru, an African Community Settlement Worker from the Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre, said 404 African migrants had moved directly into Fairfield.

He said most came on humanitarian visas while a few were skilled migrants. They came from countries including Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Sierra Leon and a few from Zimbabwe. "They have suffered persecution and a lot of traumatic experiences," he said.

"Australia is a place where they want to have a new start in life, safety and a future for their children."



Annatta Maleula praises the opportunities available at Cabramatta High School.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

## Annatta is enjoying her life in Australia

ANNATTA Maleula came to Australia from Kenya with 11 family members three years ago - all looking for a new start.

The Year 11 student is living in Canley Heights and wants to be a social worker when she graduates from Cabramatta High School next year.

When Annatta first arrived to

study at the school's Intensive English Centre, she and her Sudanese friend Ayan Makor made up the majority of the school's African population. Today, the school's African population is thriving and Annatta says virtually everyone came to Australia as a refugee. Originally from Congo, her family spent

years in refugee camps looking for escape from the civil wars and the political corruption enveloping many African nations. "The main difference here is the housing, the education and the food," she said. "African students should be proud of who they are. And they should come to Cabramatta (High) - it's the best school."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

## School takes on handball

HANDBALL barely rates a mention until the Olympics arrive but the sport is on the lips of everyone at Cabramatta High School after a group of their pupils were runners-up in a recent state competition.

After entering the school in the 2006 NSW Secondary Schools Handball Challenge for the first time, the senior boys team competed at the Dural Sports and Leisure Centre.

The local team beat St Marys 6-4 and Pennant Hills 11-8 before ousting three-time champions Cecil Hills 16-11 in the semi-final.

In the final they lost to Turramurra High 25-15 but believe the effort will make them better next year.

Team captain Ognjen Matic, 16, a NSW under 21s handball representative, discovered the competition on the internet and, with the school's permission, gathered a group and entered them in the tournament.

Matic said the team consists of 13 players including vice-captains Igor Gadza and Varun Nair, goal keeper Sylvester Samuelu, with teammates Thinh Lu, Steven Tran, Milos Inic, Petar Kalapac, Alen Hajarevic, Michael Vo, Siv sun Phou, Sophotra Loeung and Quang Nguyen.

They train hard every lunchtime at school in the lead-up to the event and trained three times a week during the



**Ball in their court:** The Cabramatta High senior boys' handball team played against 15 schools in the challenge at Dural recently.

Picture: Elliott Housego

holidays at Cabramatta PCYC.

"We're already getting ready for next year," Matic said.

"In the meantime I'm also getting a couple of the boys to try out for the under 18s state team."

Teacher and team supervisor Craig Jorgensen said the boys' determi-

nation was due to Matic's strong leadership and experience with the game.

"I helped him but I can't take much of the credit at all," he said.

"We sent a girls' team to compete, too. They didn't make the semis but played well."

— Anita Maglicic

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 2, 2006

## Off to a first-class start in a new country

IMAGINE learning how to kick a goal with the Sydney Swans or shoot a hoop with the Western Sydney Razorbacks.

African refugees from Fairfield have been given the chance to learn more about popular sport in Australia from the very best in the game.

Twenty teenagers, students from Cabramatta High School, recently moved to Australia from war-torn Sudan, Kenya, Congo and Burundi.

They are the first participants in a State Government program, *Law of the Land*, aimed at helping migrants better adapt to life Down Under.

Senior Constable Sam Cagnetta of the Fairfield-Cabramatta PCYC helped co-ordinate the program and said it has been a "resounding success".

"The kids are getting involved," he said. "They're asking lots of questions and they certainly aren't shy."

Last Friday the teenagers learnt the basics of AFL at a sporting clinic with the Sydney Swans.

Cabramatta MP Reba Meagher, who was there for moral support, said: "Past experience tells us how important it is to get involved with young people as soon as possible after they arrive in Australia."

There are also classes on finding employment, road and driver safety, accessing government services and drugs and alcohol.

- Laura Speranza



**Game plan:** Reba Meagher (left) and Constable Sam Cagnetta (right) with the teenagers who will get expert sports training and other help.

**Picture:** Helen Nezdropa

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, August 9, 2006

## Quest for quick thinkers

KELLY ROBINSON

THE pressure will be on when five Cabramatta High School students compete in the Great Engineering Challenge next week.

Quang Nguyen, Chhay Meng, Ognjen Matic, Igor Gadza and Billy Tran will go up against more than 200 other students across Sydney, challenging their problem-solving and teamwork skills.

The theme for this year's event, held at the University of NSW next Tuesday during National Engineering Week, is "Engineering Heritage".

The Year 11 students will be given two engineering challenges to complete after being given a deadline, the materials and criteria guidelines.

Cabramatta High School engineering teacher Andrew Fairbank said the students needed to work well as a team to be successful.

"They also need to demonstrate their ability to think laterally to solve problems they will face," he said. "Our students at Cabramatta High School are excellent at doing this and, as I told the class of 20, I could have easily filled two or three teams.

"The group will have 50 minutes to devise and construct a practical solution to each of their two challenges. This is then tested in front of the assembled group.

"The time pressure, need to think laterally and limits on materials mirror the realities of engineering and give the students a feel for the role and working life of an engineer."



The team including Quang Nguyen (from left), Ognjen Matic, Chhay Meng, Igor Gadza and Billy Tran are ready for the challenge.

Picture: NICK ANDREA

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, August 23, 2006

## Cabramatta pitch fine-tuned

CABRAMATTA High took out four awards at the 2006 OxyGen Hot 30 Rock Eisteddfod Challenge earlier this month.

Cabramatta's theme for the competition, *Switch*, won the Education and Community Affairs Department Award for Excellence in Concept.

Rock Eisteddfod co-ordinator Isabel Pacho said the theme for 2006 revolved around children.

"This year was about the different issues concerning children in Australia, and around the world," Ms Pacho said.

"It's a snapshot of all the issues ... it's a way of getting us and the public to

pay attention to what's happening."

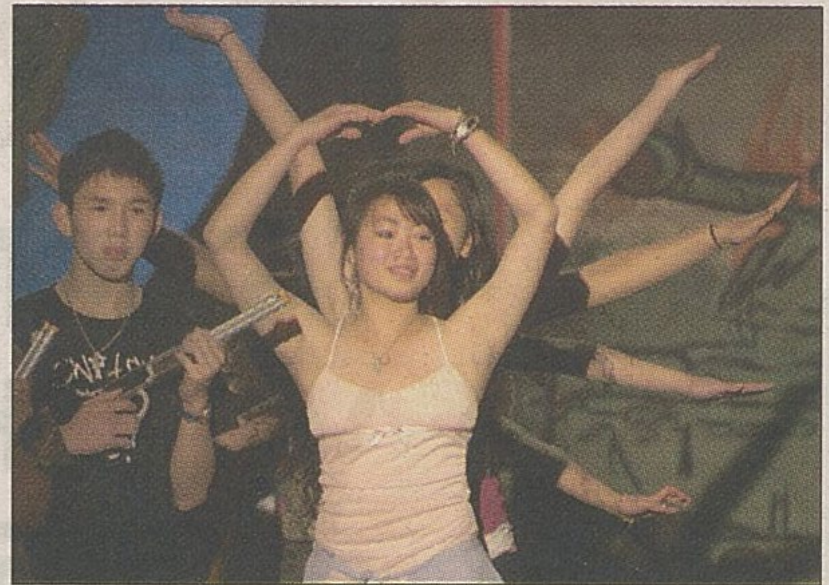
The school also received the Excellence in Sound, Costume Character and Stage Use awards, handed out by Austereo's HOT 30 radio station group, Supre and the NRMA.

With four Rock Eisteddfods under her belt, Ms Pacho said she was proud of all 77 Cabramatta students involved.

She said the challenge was a great experience for all students.

"It gives kids an opportunity to work in teams and work on communication and leadership," she said.

\* Story by work experience student Romina Torres.



**Cabramatta High School students rehearse their Rock Eisteddfod entry.**

# Fairfield City Champion

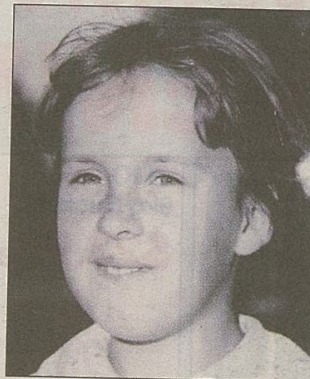
Wednesday, September 13, 2006

## From farm to teaching



**WHO AM I?**

**Country gal:** (left) "I was maybe about three years old here and the photo was taken at my grandmother's house." (right) "This is a primary school photo of me, aged about nine or 10."



I WAS born in Camden Hospital in the 1960s and am a middle child of four.

My two brothers, sister and I were all born two years apart so I had great memories of growing up together on our family farm at Wedderburn.

My dad worked in the coal industry and on the farm and mum was always there at home and volunteered at school.

They both supported me and my siblings to be the people we wanted to be.

We were family orientated and I loved our caravan trips to central Australia and trips to the beach to surf, swim and play tennis.

I had country schooling at Wedderburn Primary School and I was the only girl in my grade until sixth class.

I went to Airds High School at Campbelltown and I have fond

memories of good friends, great working relationships with teachers, and my leadership-oriented activities, and always tried to improve.

I worked from an early age at my local McDonald's and then at a Chinese restaurant.

I knew I wanted to be a teacher and I was lucky to get a scholarship at Mitchell College, now called Charles Sturt University.

When I finished high school, I moved to Bathurst for university and drove a slow white 1962 Volkswagen Beetle my dad bought me.

My first teaching job was at Passfield Park and at the same time I tutored students after school while still working at the Chinese restaurant.

My first full-time job was at 21 at the high school I attended.

Like my first degree, I came top of all classes when I completed my second

degree. I also became an author of 15 published maths, history and English textbooks, biographies, DVDs and interest books and have spoken at many national and international events.

I became the vice-principal of the school I am at now in 2002 and was appointed principal in 2004.

I think I'm in the best job in the universe because every day is different and I have the most dedicated students and teachers.

I have seen every Australian national park and travelled extensively overseas, and swam with sharks and whales while scuba diving.

I'd love to learn to fly a helicopter but I've been in a glider, hot-air balloon and travelled in every size aeroplane.

My passive hobbies are making cards and watching movies.

**Who I am: Page 18.**



**Who I am: Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin.**

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 11, 2006

## Performers shine



Red Cross award winners with Gaelan and Krystal from *Big Brother*.

## Cross deeds earn salutes

CABRAMATTA High School has won two Red Cross awards for taking an active role in their community.

The school won the Henry Dunant Humanitarian Award for several projects, including the staging a massive peace event, where they invited representatives from other schools and a United Nations representative to speak about issues affecting youth around the world.

Project leader, Year 12 student Kenny Lam, won the Peer Award for his leadership and promotion of Red Cross goals.

*Big Brother* winners Gaelan and Krystal presented the awards at the Powerhouse Museum.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

## Friendship matters at this high school



CABRAMATTA High School won two awards in the EnergyAustralia Red Cross Youth Challenge at the Powerhouse Museum last month. It received the Henri Dunant Award for demonstrating outstanding community service, understanding of international friendship and promoted Red Cross and its principles. The school organised fund-raisers and collected more than \$3000 for charities including Jeans for Genes Day. The Peer Award went to Kenny Lam, for his outstanding group leadership while working on the projects.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 25, 2006

## Message delivered

A GROUP of Cabramatta High School students have gone direct to their political representatives to make poverty history.

The nine students travelled with teacher Azadeh Shafi-Beigli to Canberra to join the Voices for Justice gathering.

Year 10 student Annie Van said she first became aware of the extreme problems of poverty while on a Rotary camp.

"We saw pictures of this girl who woke up every morning and rode a bicycle to deliver food," Annie said.

"She earned a dollar a day, and she needed \$5 to be able to feed her family. It just hit me, like, bang. I realised I'd been taking things for granted."

Matthew Liu, a Year 9 student, said the trip inspired him.

The students met with a range of politicians in smaller groups, but on Wednesday all nine of them bundled into the office of Fowler Federal Labor MP Julia Irwin.

They shared their concerns and personal experiences regarding poverty with Mrs Irwin, who found the students' commitment impressive. "It's wonderful to see young people from our area taking part in the stand against poverty campaign," she said.

"Many students from our area have parents who have experienced dire poverty in their home country.

"They feel lucky to live in Australia but they want to do more to help those people throughout the world living in poverty."



Cabramatta High School students took their anti-poverty message directly to the politicians in Canberra.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 1, 2006



**Proud artists:** (From left) Ken Done with Lewis Lucia, Cabramatta MP Reba Meagher and Cabramatta High School students. Winner Florija Mae Ebio (middle) won an artwork package valued at \$150, and her winning design will feature on Ms Meagher's 2006 Christmas card.

CABRAMATTA High School student Florija Mae Ebio is the winner of the Australian Symbols Artwork Competition.

The competition called for students to design a symbol that "best represents Australia to you".

Cabramatta MP Reba Meagher said the judges were highly impressed by the creativity and skill that went into all the entries, but Florija's artwork stood out for the colourful way it tied together Aust-

ralia's multicultural heritage with an indigenous theme.

Florija, four of the runners-up from her school, and Mt Pritchard's Studio Bundaleer student Lewis Lucia, 10, had lunch with artist Ken Done and a tour of his Sydney studio.

"All of the entries were a testament to the richness of the Cabramatta spirit, and to the immense talent of its students," Ms Meagher said.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
November 8, 2006

## Centre is a winner



MINISTER for Community Services Reba Meagher (third from left), with Cabramatta High School's intensive English centre's Anne Bright (from left), Jenny Burnett and principal Beth Godwin.

The centre won a NSW Department of Community Services' Children's Week award.

"The Children's Week Awards are always inspirational and humbling. Each year I am highly impressed at the enormous talents, skills, rights and achievements of children and young people in NSW and those adults who advocate on their behalf," Ms Meagher said.

"These awards are an opportunity for us to say thank you to some of our unsung heroes."

A team of 24 at the centre provides innovative programs to support about 140 newly arrived refugee and migrant students and their families in their resettlement and orientation to a new culture and language.

Students are linked to services providing support in health, safety, policing and legal matters.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 15, 2006



**Message of peace:** Flanked by students in 40 different national costumes, Irene Zubaida Khan rang the school's peace bell after a minute's silence and doves were released.

**Picture:** Elliott Housego

## Students make noise for peace

SUPPORTED by the Sydney Peace Foundation and Amnesty International, Cabramatta High School hosted a Make Noise For Peace day.

Special guest was Amnesty International's secretary-general and this year's Sydney Peace Prize winner Irene Zubaida Khan, who spoke of

her work advocating human rights and how violence against women was a massive injustice.

After an assembly where students asked her questions, a ceremony was held in the school's peace garden.

Principal Beth Godwin said it was a wonderful day that was shared with

21 other schools and students of many different cultures and religions.

"The school had a peace poem competition and year 8 had a peace poster competition," she said. "Ms Khan chose the winners and wanted to take the posters to Palestine as messages of peace."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

## Program's driving safety

CLUB Marconi's quest to make Fairfield's streets safer is on its way to becoming a reality after the first Youth Driver Safety Program graduates celebrated recently.

Program participants, their families, teachers and driving instructors celebrated during a presentation at the club last night.

Club Marconi began the program after a spate of young driver fatalities in the Fairfield area.

It sends Trent Driving School instructors travel to high school's at Fairfield and train students for up to 10 weeks.

Club Marconi chief executive officer Debbie Feening said the club felt it had to do something after five young people were killed in car accidents at Fairfield between October and December last year.

"All five accidents were due to excessive speed, which means they were completely avoidable," she said.

"Just as concerning are the most recent RTA figures for Fairfield showing the number of P-plate holders involved in car crashes is more than 400.

"About 12 months ago it was just 169.

"The club has decided the best way we can save lives is to pay for Trent Driving School to come out and work with local drivers.



Year 12 Cabramatta High students, Linh Huynh and Tatiana Honorato, with L Trent Driving instructor, Bryan Motley, and the Club Marconi sponsored car.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

"On the condition they have a current learner's licence, each school student will receive one free lesson a week from a qualified instructor for up to 10 weeks."

Debbie Feening said driving lessons and safe driving skills were a part of the curriculum of schools in the US.

"The consequences of unsafe

drivers affect the entire the community," she said. "Club Marconi sees itself as a community club and as such we will do whatever we can to save lives."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 22, 2006

## **SOLAR BOAT RACE**

# Students go solar in challenge

PICTURED are Cabramatta High School students with their boat which helped them to second place in the inaugural Australia's International Solar Boat Challenge race day held recently.

The Cabramatta teams completed in the Secondary Schools Piloted Boat event and came second overall after winning the ANZ Piloted Sprint Race.

Teacher and team leader Andrew Fairbanks said the event fitted well with the engineering and alternative energy components of the curriculum.

"Solar energy is obviously the way the world needs to go and this event gives the students a good opportunity to learn through doing rather than learning through textbooks."

More than 25 NSW schools and scouting groups formed over 70 teams, and designed and created their boats. The tournament was devised to increase awareness of environmental sustainability in a fun way.



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 29, 2006

## Principals Report 2006



### Cabramatta High School

"Our Students are our main concern." Cabramatta High School has been serving its community since 1959, providing learning to a diverse student population and enjoying strong links with local primary schools. On site at Cabramatta High School is an Intensive English Centre, providing English language instruction within the NSW Curriculum framework. The school has a Support Unit on site, serving students who require extra help in their learning. The school

also offers a Gifted and Talented program, which provides enrichment and stimulation to highly-achieving students. A variety of extra-curricular programs and sporting opportunities are offered in the school. An after-school study centre operates two afternoons each week at the school library. A variety of free HSC tutorials operate at the school, staffed by senior teachers, to offer our students every opportunity to excel in their studies.



Principal Ms Beth Godwin  
Aladore Ave  
Cabramatta NSW 2166  
Ph: 9726 2424  
Fax: 9726 4282  
Web: [www.cabramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.cabramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 27, 2006



**Book cover:** Cabramatta High School students Mai Le and Sok Huy Kao, Cabramatta MP Reba Meagher, students Mick Derevnin, Diya Ngor and principal Beth Godwin. The high school will also receive an electrical upgrade. **Picture:** Sasha Woolley

## Books get better protection

CABRAMATTA High School library is about to get a new roof.

Cabramatta MP Reba Meagher said the roof had had a serious leakage problem for some time.

She said she raised the matter with the Minister for Education, Carmel Tebbutt, and funding was approved.

"The roof will be assessed in the near future to see what needs to be done to get the library in shape."

Ms Meagher said the project comes on top of

\$1.15 million in funding for building and maintenance of local schools in 2006-07.

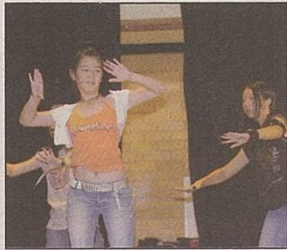
Other local projects include:

- Bonnyrigg Public School security fence;
- Canley Vale High School boundary fencing and concrete repairs;
- St Johns Park Public School pavement repairs;
- Bonnyrigg High School concrete repair projects; and
- The Les Powell School car park repairs.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
January 10,  
2007

## Spirited performances



THEY'RE a talented bunch at Cabramatta High School and they proved it recently at the school's Co-operation Day.

The annual event offered a feast of entertainment, kicking off with a cultural concert in the morning and finishing with a talent quest in the afternoon.

Drama teacher Azadeh Shafi-Beigli said the full range of the students' talents were on display throughout the day.

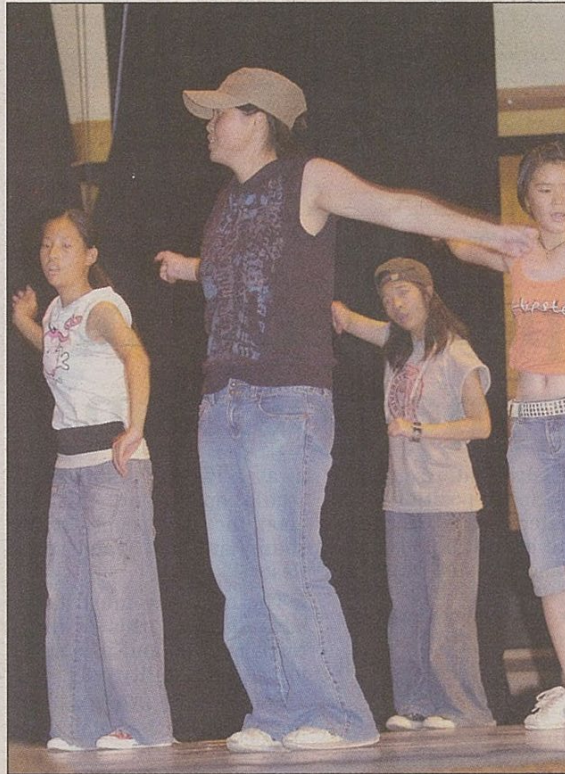
"The cultural concert in the morning gave the kids a chance to show off some aspects of their culture," she said.

"There was music and dancing from a lot of different countries and everyone really enjoyed themselves."

Later in the day the talent quest saw 16 different acts on stage with the students choosing their own acts and music.

"We had students competing in groups and as individuals," Ms Shafi-Beigli said.

"None of the teachers were allowed to help out,



Students entertain during the annual talent quest.

other than by supervising practices.

"It was all up to the students themselves and they did a fantastic job."

Ms Shafi-Beigli said there was a positive spirit throughout the school when it came to the performing arts.

"All our kids are support-

ive of this type of event," she said.

"There's a recognition there that getting up on stage like that can be daunting.

"Whenever we have something like this, the support that all the students offer the performers is very encouraging."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
January 24,  
2007

## Youth forum effective



Students discuss racism at a forum at Cabramatta High School recently.

CABRAMATTA High School hosted an anti-racism youth forum last year in an effort to understand how racism, prejudice and discrimination affects young people in the area.

Hundreds of public high school students from across the region attended the forum.

American performer Armondo Hurley was guest speaker at the event and discussed his experiences in overcoming racism in the United States.

Year 11 student Michelle Tran from Cecil Hills High School was touched by the American's story.

"Armondo's presentation was so inspiring. How he overcame his horrific experiences with racism led us all to believe that we can make a change in the world," she said.

Other students were also motivated by what they learned.

"A majority of students at Cecil Hills have multicultural backgrounds," Year 11 Student Steven

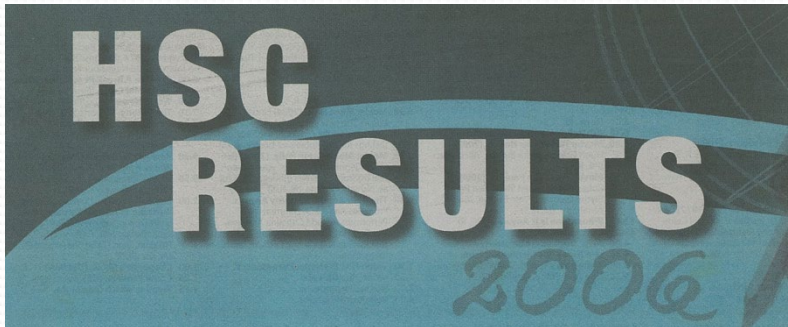


Zhong said. "We hope we can inform other students at our school about how to prevent racism and discrimination."

The forum was also an opportunity for students to work with students from other schools and reflect on the effects of racism at school and on the larger community.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 14, 2007



## Cabramatta High School



Cabramatta High School celebrates one of our most outstanding years in regard to HSC results.

It was reported that after the second round of offers, Cabramatta High School students had 59 offers of places at Universities. This is the largest number of offers taken up by Cabramatta High School students in recent years - a tremendous effort.

### Our top achievers were:

- ♦ Jasmina Berber
- ♦ Anna Cao
- ♦ Linda Chen
- ♦ Tuyen Do
- ♦ Frankson Du
- ♦ Jia Jun Gao
- ♦ Alen Hajdarevic
- ♦ Crystal Huynh
- ♦ Joanna Iskandar
- ♦ Du Ngo
- ♦ Thien Duc Nguyen
- ♦ Phi Nguyen
- ♦ Minh Tam Nguyen
- ♦ Xiao Jiao Sun
- ♦ Julie Tran

### All of these students had UAI's.

Students were accepted into courses at Sydney University, UNSW, UTS, Macquarie and UWS; their courses included Arts, Engineering, IT, Science, Commerce, Business, Law and Nursing.

*Cabramatta High School congratulates these students on their outstanding results, and wishes the entire 2006 cohort well in their chosen careers.*

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# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
February 28,  
2007



The Sydney Tian Zi Chinese Dance Troupe at Cabramatta High School.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

## Dance troupe helps ring in Chinese New Year

CABRAMATTA High School welcomed in the Chinese New Year in style last week.

The school hosted the Sydney Tian Zi Chinese dance troupe for a performance that captivated students and visitors alike.

Boasting a mix of live dance and on-screen entertainment, the performance included seven acts featuring traditional Chinese dance and costumes.

Teacher Azedeh Shafi-Beigli said students at the school had been

keenly anticipating the performance.

"They're world-class performers," she said.

"It is an honour to be able to host them and a real treat for the whole school."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
March 14, 2007



**Working in harmony:** Cabramatta High School won the Cohesive Community School Award, which is the result of a 2003 Government commitment recognising schools which promote understanding and mutual respect. (L-r) Auntie Mae Robinson, principal Beth Godwin and Cabramatta MP Reba Meagher with guests, staff and students.

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

## Unity proves a winner

CABRAMATTA High School is the winner of the 2006 NSW Cohesive Community School Award.

Last week Cabramatta MP Reba Meagher congratulated the staff and students who had worked hard to support and promote the ideas of peace and harmony in their community.

"This is no simple task given the school has such a culturally diverse population, with 98 per cent of students being from non-English-speaking back-

grounds, representing over 40 different language groups."

Ms Meagher said the school's commitment to a cohesive community went beyond symbolic gestures and included:

- Hosting of the 2006 Sydney Peace Prize student forum;

- Fund-raising in 2006 with the Rotary Club to help in a local woman's recovery from illness;

- Fund-raising for the victims of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami; and

- Cultural exchange programs

with schools in regional and rural areas of NSW.

"These are positive, practical and public actions which help bind the community and show that Cabramatta High School is living up to the words on the school crest – Striving and Serving," Ms Meagher said.

"Cabramatta High is an outstanding example of a school's capacity to bring the community together through its many initiatives.

"I congratulate them on this award."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

## Inspirational principal humbled by recognition

CABRAMATTA High School principal Beth Godwin was one of 10 finalists nominated for the 2007 NSW Woman of the Year Award.

The 2007 title went to police commander Catherine Burn.

Cabramatta MP Reba Meagher, who nominated Ms Godwin for her hard work in the Cabramatta community, said it was an outstanding achievement to be chosen from a field of 90 top women.

"Beth's guidance has played a large part in the harmonious atmosphere at a school which

has over 90 per cent of its students coming from non-English-speaking backgrounds," Ms Meagher said.

She said that Ms Godwin showed the students every day that co-operation and goodwill were possible in a multicultural society.

"That makes Beth an inspiration not only to our local community but to the whole of NSW," Ms Meagher said.

Ms Godwin and Ms Meagher attended the Premier's International Women's Day reception at Government House

recently when Ms Godwin was presented with a trophy.

Ms Godwin said that the support of the Cabramatta High School committee meant more to her "than anything".

"I just do what I do because it's right and not for any awards," she said.

"We should work together to foster cross-cultural understanding.

"To be awarded for my belief was amazing. I was very humble, especially to stand in the company of the other finalists."

## Achievements celebrated



**Hear me roar:** More than 250 local women attended a cultural festival celebrating International Women's Day at PCYC Cabramatta last Thursday. The event celebrates the achievements of women and provides opportunity to reflect on the significant contributions of women, and the legacy left by earlier generations. It is also an occasion to inspire commitment to future challenges. Women enjoyed performances by local cultural acts, were treated to hand massages and browsed local services' stalls. The event was organised by the Fairfield Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network, funded by council's Community Cultural Development Grants Program and opened by Mayor Nick Lalich.

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

## School's inspirational efforts awarded



Principal Beth Godwin (from left) and school captains Mai Le and Diya Ngod holding the award.

CABRAMATTA High School has been honoured with the prestigious Cohesive Communities Award from the Education Department.

Cabramatta State Labor MP Reba Meagher, department deputy director-general Trevor Fletcher, learning and development research director Dr Paul Brok and Sydney Peace Foundation director Prof Stuart Rees were all on hand to mark the occasion.

Prof Rees praised "the inspiring work" of the school.

"The principal, the staff, students, parents and other supporters have realised the potential of education in its broadest sense," he said. "They have built a cosmopolitan community within the school and beyond its boundaries.

"They have done so in a way which demonstrates that tolerance and imagination should give us all hope for a common humanity."

Projects at the school which were highlighted as part of the presentation included the peace gardens, which were created in 2002 and blessed by 12 religious leaders and a 2003 film project which explored issues of racial perception.

In 2004 students from the school toured regional NSW with a play called *Cabramatta Story* which aimed to educate people about the real Cabramatta.

For the last two years the school has also hosted the winner of the Sydney Peace Prize in a student forum.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

Everyone has a place where they feel most at peace, be it the local park, a far away beach or your favourite room in the house. Each week in My Favourite Place the *Fairfield Advance* will ask our community to tell us where they go for some time out.

## Plaza is perfect tonic for bad day



**my favourite place**



**Kenny Lam's favourite place is close to home – Freedom Plaza.**

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

THE delightful smells and sights of Cabramatta's Freedom Plaza has lured tourists from across Sydney – but it seems the locals are attracted to the area's hub for the same reasons.

Cabramatta resident Kenny Lam loves spending an afternoon absorbing the aromas and sights of the plaza.

The former Cabramatta High School student and Red Cross volunteer, 19, said sitting in the

plaza for a few hours was the perfect tonic for a bad day.

"Freedom Plaza really lifts my spirits," he said. "I love spending time there just watching people and being a part of the energy."

"I usually walk up John St and look through all the shops. Then I'll walk to Freedom Plaza and spend some time there."

"I love it when all the pigeons are there and the kids are feeding them or chasing them around."

Mr Lam said the smorgasbord of

food available in Cabramatta was another of the area's drawcards.

"I've tried the food from all of the shops and I have some favourites," he said. "You can get nearly anything from Cabramatta. My favourite on the day just depends on what I feel."

"If I want noodles, then I've got a usual noodle bar I go to. It's the same if I feel like something else."

"Saying that, my mum definitely makes the best food in Cabramatta."

Mr Lam grew up in the area and graduated from Cabramatta High School last year. He is now studying for a Bachelor of Science and Education degree at Sydney University but said he still enjoyed going to the Whitlam Library.

"It's a wonderful place to go and they've got so many things to do there," he said. "It's especially good to go there on really hot days, because the airconditioning is great."

**KELLY ROBINSON**

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

## Principal pursues peace underwater

By **Domenica Acitelli**

CABRAMATTA High School principal Beth Godwin has had a passion for scuba diving for the past eight years.

She has dived all over Australia and overseas in such places as Nelson Bay, New Zealand, and Thailand.

She has now done 60 dives and takes four to five trips a year.

Her brother was a scuba diver so it was only natural for Beth to follow in his footsteps.

Beth has done three scuba diving courses and believes she has good diving skills.

She said she loves the peace

of swimming underwater, and the amazing sea creatures.

"I love following a turtle underwater," she said.

"There is a lot of animal behaviour and it's fantastic.

"You can hear a whale before you see one."

Beth wants to dive in Papua New Guinea and East Timor, but won't dive in Antarctica because it's too cold.

She believes breathing is important when diving.

### MY OTHER SIDE

"Navigating under water and looking for landmarks can be quite tricky," she said.

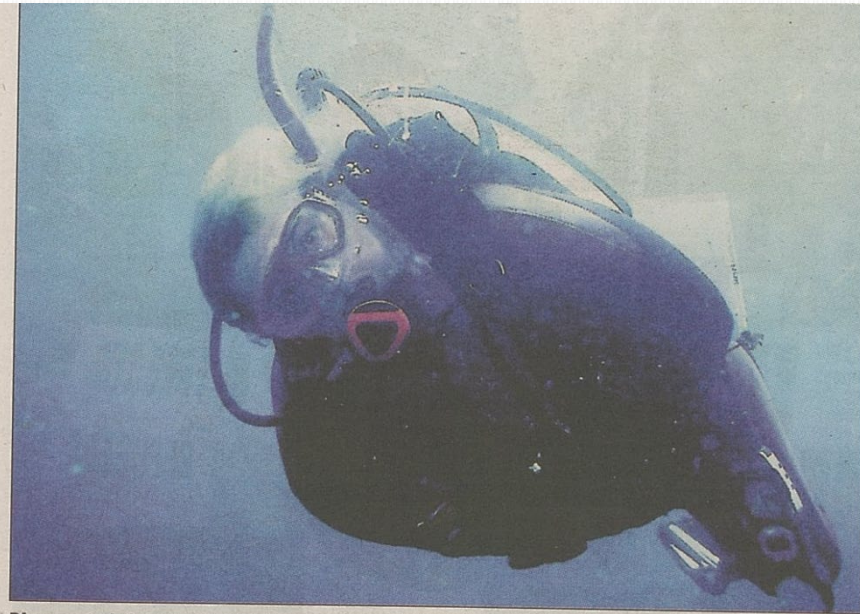
"Make sure your breathing is slow and steady and that you don't get lost underwater.

"Surface swimming is harder than underwater swimming because less energy is expended underwater."

Beth had a rib injury last summer and says you have to be in reasonable health to dive.

Depending on the weather conditions she plans to head to Norfolk Island in the next two weeks.

"If I can't scuba dive, I will snorkel," she said.



**Diver control:** Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin in all her diving gear. "The environmental aspect of the underwater world needs to be preserved," she said. "I did underwater research where I had to write a journal."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

## Cabramatta High School

"Our students are our main concern"

Cabramatta High School celebrates Education week of 2007 with a planned open day for parents and community members on Thursday the 17th of May. Parents are receiving personal invitations to spend the day at the school, visit classrooms, see facilities, meet staff and be entertained and engaged by our talented and diverse student body.

Cabramatta High School has developed a strong tradition of serving its community since 1959. On site at Cabramatta High School is an Intensive English Centre, providing English instruction to students recently arrived in Australia. The school

has a Support Unit on site, serving students who require extra help in their learning. The school also offers a Gifted and Talented program, providing enrichment activities for high-achieving students.

A variety of extra-curricular and sporting programs are offered in the school. An after school study centre operates two afternoons each week in the school library. Free HSC tutorials are offered at the school, staffed by senior teachers, to offer our students every opportunity to excel in their studies. Our results reflect the commitment of our students and staff.



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# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
June 27, 2007



**Eating up learning:** For the first time, Cabramatta High School opened its doors to parents to see students at work in Education Week. More than 90 parents sat in on classes, listened to the choir, browsed through projects in the hall and feasted on a delicious morning tea made by hospitality students including Dindalis Oul and Mai Luong, both in year 11, pictured putting the finishing touches on desserts.  
**Picture: Helen Nezdropa**

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 25, 2007



## Driving home road safety awareness with music, dance

By Michelle Taverniti

CABRAMATTA High School students will be taking it to the streets for this year's Rock Eisteddfod Challenge on August 1.

The school's chosen theme of road safety is an important issue for the community, teacher Isabel Pachó said.

"We thought it was important for the students in creating awareness about driving issues," she said.

About 81 pupils are involved in the performance, which combines acting and dancing and includes hip-hop.

"The students seem excited, especially as it gets closer to the date," Ms Pachó said. "They're looking forward to it."

As the school's theme aims to raise awareness of road safety,

Cabramatta High is in the running to win a \$5000 grant from the NRMA, a sponsor.

If successful, Ms Pachó said the prize money could go to a project for the students, air-conditioning or new technology for the school. But it's not just about the prize. "Sharing our thoughts on this issue for the community is the main element."

Eisteddfod producer Louise Anthony said the themes selected by schools this year reflected how the competition allowed for youth expression. "It's fantastic to see schools engaging students to promote healthy lifestyles and get them thinking about important issues," she said.

More than 6500 students from NSW schools will perform at the OxyGen Rock Eisteddfod Challenge, starting July 31.

**Street rock:** Cabramatta High School pupils Monica Phan and Linda Tran are two of the 81 pupils participating in the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge on August 1. Eisteddfod producer Louise Anthony said the themes get students thinking about important and topical issues.

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 1, 2007



**Wishing well:** Cabramatta High School is hosting events to raise money for freshwater wells in Cambodian schools. Last Thursday, parents organised a Cambodian lunch and raised enough money for one well.

# The Daily Telegraph

Friday, August 3, 2007



Devastating effects . . . Cabramatta High students performing their dramatic play during the Rock Eisteddfod.

Picture: BRAD NEWMAN

## Students play has deadly effects

By GEMMA JONES

**CABRAMATTA** High students have drawn on the horror of street racing to highlight the deadly consequences in their area in a performance at the Rock Eisteddfod.

In a dramatic bid to warn other teenagers of the ever-present dangers, 80 students from the school have showed in a play what happens when a friend dies in a race and another is sent to jail.

They performed at the Eisteddfod heats on Wednesday night with their theme carrying extra resonance with the deaths this week of an elderly couple, the victims of an alleged street race at St Marys.

"At first it was meant to be about cars and road deaths but we decided to do it about drag racing," student Vicky Ly said.

"The message we try to give was we want people to realise there are consequences of reckless driving. Death is one of the consequences in our play."

Teacher Isabel Pachó said past students at the school had been caught up in a police chase and that current students want to send a responsible message to their peers.

The school won a \$5000 grant from the NRMA for raising awareness about the dangers of street racing.

"This was a good opportunity to have the kids do something about road safety," Ms Pachó said yesterday.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, August 8, 2007

## Challenging message of safety a winner for school

JESSE PHILLIPS

AFTER the recent carnage caused by out of control hoonos on Sydney's roads, Cabramatta High School students said enough is enough.

Last Wednesday night, the school participated in the annual Rock Eisteddfod Challenge with a performance highlighting the dangers of illegal teenage street drag racing.

For delivering their message of safety, the school was rewarded with a cheque for \$5000 from the NRMA.

Schools which based their performance around a road safety theme were offered the chance to win the grant.

Cabramatta High School's principal Beth Godwin was delighted by the students' performance.

"The concept was totally the students' idea, the teachers helped out with the technical side, but it was their idea to send a very powerful message" she said.

NRMA director Gary Punch said the NRMA sponsored events such as the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge so impressionable young people could learn about how their decisions on the road could lead to crashes.

"And when the choices young people make about drugs, alcohol, driving and passenger behaviour could mean the difference between life and death, loss of licence or a jail sentence, why wait until the worst happens?" he asked.



Year 10 students including Vicky Ly "mourn the death" of friend Linda Taula, in scene from Cabramatta High School's performance based on the consequences of illegal street racing.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 8, 2007

## Rock Eisteddfod bid for \$5000 prize never a drag

CABRAMATTA High has won \$5000 for taking the dangers of street drag racing to the stage.

The school won the road safety grant from NRMA Motoring and Services and six other awards after their performance at the OxyGen Rock Eisteddfod Challenge last week.

NRMA director Gary Punch congratulated the school for its performance of *Take it to the Streets*, based on illegal teenage street drag racing.

"What better way to effect change in young people's thinking and behaviour than through a performance in the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge which shows such positive results for the children involved," Mr Punch said.

"Cabramatta High School's performance about the devastating effects of street drag racing really illustrated how important such lessons can be. And when the choices young people make about

drugs, alcohol, driving and passenger behaviour could mean the difference between life and death, loss of licence or a jail sentence, why wait until the worst happens?"

As well as the NRMA grant, the school also scored awards for Excellence, Excellence in Drug Awareness and Excellence for Soundtrack, plus the Supre Award for Excellence in Costuming and the DEST Award for Excellence for Concept and Performance Skill.



**Rock on:** NRMA director Gary Punch congratulated Cabramatta High School students on their win in the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge heats. Cabramatta High will now perform in the grand final in September.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 8, 2007

**Theatrical delight:** Year 9 drama and year 10 students at Cabramatta High School were thrilled to see a performance by the Sydney Theatre Company recently.



**For full coverage of these stories  
log onto [www.fairfieldchampion.com.au](http://www.fairfieldchampion.com.au).**

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
August 15, 2007

## Talent is on the table



### VICTORIA ZIARKOWSKI\*

RISING table tennis star Danny Rauv is the *Fairfield Advance's* latest Junior Sports Star nominee.

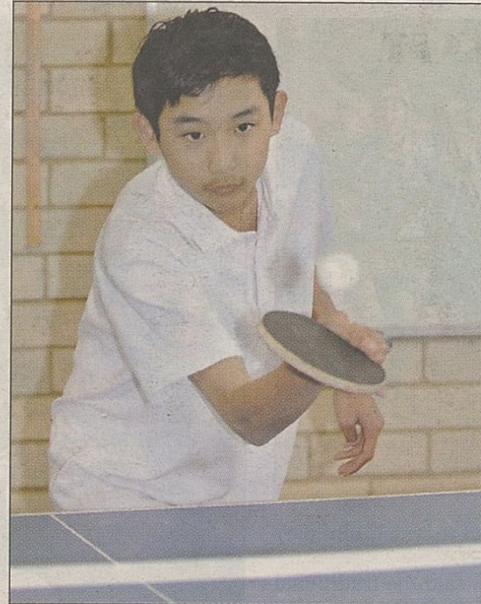
The Cabramatta High School Year 8 student is ranked fourth in the state for under-13 boys. He is in the NSW under-13 boys A-team.

Rauv has been playing table tennis since 2005 – but his school coach Udra Nand only discovered his true talent when he started high school last year.

"I started playing, because my grandpa, when he came to Australia, he started playing table tennis and I used to play around," Rauv said.

Rauv joined the team at the Parents and Citizens Youth Club at Cabramatta, where he trains for three hours on Mondays and Sundays.

Rauv won both the singles and doubles in his grade at the Metropolitan Open Champion-



Danny Rauv has a bright future in table tennis.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN VKE54413

ships at Olympic Park last month.

He also came second in the under-13 doubles and was a semi-finalist in the under-13, D-grade and C-grade singles.

His school team took part in a competition at the same venue only three days later.

Out of more than a dozen teams, Rauv's finished in the quarter-finals.

\* Victoria Ziarkowski is a work experience student from Charles Sturt University

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, August 22, 2007

## Pit crew celebrates as Team Cabra fires

TEAMWORK and a need for speed was the order of the day when Cabramatta High School students hit the track during a billycart showdown.

Team Cabra battled it out with more than 800 students racing self-designed and self-built billycars during the NRMA KDC TechnoPush Challenge at Eastern Creek Raceway recently.

The students took part in a series of challenges including

obstacle, sprint and endurance tests throughout the day.

Finishing in the middle of the pack, Team Cabra learned about road safety, vehicle technology on the day and the weeks leading up to the event.

Organising teacher Andrew Fairbank said the challenge was a great way for the students to learn the ins and outs of billycart building.

"The students had a great time during the actual racing

day and really learned a lot about themselves and building billycars," he said. "During the lead-up to the event, they also had to learn metal working skills, planning and designing. "The kids did all the design work, the mechanics and cutting the metal themselves. All I did was the actual welding.

"We also had a lot of fun on the day and we all learned a lot about teamwork and co-ordination."

KELLY ROBINSON



Team Cabra members (pictured clockwise), Siham Allouche (seated), Steven Tang, Troijarra Ebio and Stephanie Saad battled it out against other billycart enthusiasts. Picture: NICK ANDREAN RPK38306

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, August 22, 2007

## Rising to the challenge

**VICTORIA ZIARKOWSKI\***

STUDENTS put their brains to the test and mixed with their peers from other schools during last week's Canley Vale Minds-Challenge.

The Cabramatta High School initiative attracted 60 students from Lansvale, Canley Vale, Cabramatta, Cabramatta West and Harrington Public Schools.

The Year 5 and 6 students were put into teams made up of students from different schools.

Cabramatta High School

teacher Lachlan Erskine said the minds challenge was a successful event.

"There was a lot of interaction (between students)," he said. "During recess and lunch, some of the groups were still mixing with each other."

Students co-operated on Australian and pop culture quizzes and logic puzzles.

"It was an extension of learning opportunities," Mr Erskine said. "An open ended project, with a bit of self discovery."

A science challenge required students to complete

the electric circuit on a model security door.

They were also presented with a business challenge to develop and market juice.

"One group came up with 'Fruitilicious, if you want something delicious, drink Fruitilicious'," Mr Erskine said.

The Simpsons, which included students Anita Han, Julia Kho, Jason Luong, Kevin Luxa, Cao Anh Quach and Wendy San, won the overall event.

\* Victoria Ziarkowski is a work experience student from Charles Sturt University



Lachlan Erskine, with some of the students who competed in the Minds Challenge, Amanda Ramos (from left), Daniel Le, Angela Nguyen, Dianne Vuong and Eric Lee.

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# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
September 5,  
2007



From left: Student Jennifer Truong, NSW Leo co-ordinator Martin Peebles, student Sandra Ham, Fairfield Lions Club president Tony Fornasier and student Adam Urbancic welcome the formation of the new Leo club.

XAQ06954

## Leos learn leadership skills

A group of little lions have been born in Cabramatta.

They may not have any fur or be particularly fearsome but the newly formed Leo Club at Cabramatta High School are ready to get down to business.

Sponsored by the Lions Clubs International, the program is designed to offer young people 12 to 28 the chance to serve their community in a positive way and gain leadership skills and experience in a fun environment.

"Most of the work the kids do is humanitarian or social work," Cabramatta High School English and drama teacher Azadeh Shafi-Beigli said.

"For example, they were involved in sending out farmer care packages for drought affected farmers. Kids from every year brought in something to send."

The 41 new Leos will join about 138,000 other members in more than 130

countries, who are all volunteers.

The Cabramatta club is the newest club in Australian and Papua New Guinea and NSW Leo chairman Martin Peebles is excited.

"It has been a privilege to work with the Lions Club of Cabramatta and Cabra Vale and Lions president Jenny Tew in their support of this activity that encourages young people to contribute and support their communities," he said.

**JESSE PHILLIPS**

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
September 12,  
2007

## Students on board for a challenge

WHEN God asked Noah to build him an ark, he didn't ask for it to be solar powered.

That was unlucky because if he had, the children of four local schools would simply need to consult the bible for instructions on how to build their crafts.

Instead, the four teams of students from Bonnyrigg, Bossley Park, Cabramatta and Fairfield High Schools will be relying on ingenuity and good planning when they build their solar boats as part of the international solar boat challenge.

Co-sponsored by Fairfield Council and the Fairfield Business Education Partnership, the teams will join 30 NSW schools and scouting groups racing their solar boats at the Sydney International Regatta Centre at Penrith in November.

Fairfield Mayor Nick Lalich said the council was excited to be working with the Fairfield Business Education Partnership and local schools on the solar boat challenge.

"I look forward to seeing one of our local high schools taking to the podium come November at the Regatta Centre," he said.

The challenge is designed to get students involved in environmental sustainability and climate change reduction.

"The challenge highlights the need for a pro-active approach to sustainability. We must all be conscious of the role we play in the world and how we can positively affect change, especially when it comes to environmental practices," Cr Lalich said.



Year 11 students Bunnarith Cheap, his brother Bunnarath Cheap, with industrial arts teacher Ravin Pillay and the boat.

GNI74225

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

## Plea to come clean



CABRAMATTA is about to get the clean-up it deserves, thanks to a group of students from Cabramatta High School.

The students are taking part in the Red Cross Energiser Australia Youth Challenge.

They'll take to the streets of Cabramatta on the Saturday and Sunday of September 29 and 30.

Organiser Chong Sing Trinh said he hoped the whole community would take part.

"The community is free to do as much as they want as long as they participate," he said.

He said the members of the group were stirred into action because they were sick of constantly seeing cigarette butts, take-away coffee cups, and general rubbish all over the streets.

People who register will be placed in a group and given a designated area to clean up.

These areas will include main roads, the town centre, pathways and parks.

To register email: [liddo\\_senpai@hotmail.com](mailto:liddo_senpai@hotmail.com).

**This is an appeal to you:** Cabramatta students Huy Tran, Thao Do, Ranie Nguyen, Julie Trinh, Mary Nguyen and Chong Sing Trinh are urging everyone to help Clean Up Cabramatta. The group has been successful in other projects, including the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal and the Westmead Hospital fund-raiser.

**Picture: Helen Nezdropa.**

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 26, 2007



**Caring is sharing:** The Farmer Care Packages project co-ordinator at Cabramatta High School, Kerry Richards (centre), said students like (l-r) Linh Quach, Dian Luo and Adam Urbancic were very excited to get involved. "All the boxes were overflowing with toiletry items," she said.

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

## Toiletry donations go to farmers

By Anita Maglicic

CABRAMATTA High School students know that big things come in small packages.

They recently dug deep and reached out to and bought and sent personal care packages to Australian farmers who are suffering from the drought.

Each class was asked to bring in

toiletry items such as shampoos, toothbrushes and deodorants.

All the items were collected and divided up and added up to 30 boxes.

The Country Women's Association distributed the packs to farmers past the Hunter Valley.

Teacher Kerry Richards said it was a small gesture, but that it was hoped it would make a big difference.

"The teachers talked with the students about what was happening due to the drought," Ms Richards said. "We heard that farmers were committing suicide because of the drought.

"We wrote on the packages the words 'We Care' and we can say how much we do by sending them the packages to tell them we are thinking of them."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
October 3,  
2007

## Farmer wheels out life tips for students



**Good advice:** Sam Bailey, whose story featured on ABC TV's *Australian Story*, said he proved his positive attitude to himself after flying a light plane and now hopes to be the first quadriplegic to fly a helicopter.

**Picture:** Helen Nezdropa

By Anita Maglicic

CABRAMATTA High School students learned the art of never giving up when they were addressed by motivational speaker Sam Bailey on Friday.

Mr Bailey told how he defied the odds and attained his dream of becoming a farmer after a car accident at 19 had left him a quadriplegic.

Students listened intently as he told of overcoming hardship to get back to farming on his father's land at Croppa Creek in north-west NSW, and to ski and drive again.

He also told the students that after being interviewed by ABC Radio rural reporter Jenny Black they fell in love and married in 1999. Today they run the farm.

Mr Bailey's book, *Head Over Heels - A Story of Tragedy, Triumph and Romance in the Australian Bush* – was published in 2006.

"You don't need wings to fly," he said.

"The accident was a shattering blow to a six-foot 19-year-old guy who now needed to ask for help. It was swim or sink, and I chose to swim. I wasn't giving up."

He told the audience that with a positive attitude and determination they could do anything.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
October 3, 2007



**Sam Bailey inspires students at Cabramatta High School.**

MAY98888

## Sam flies in the face of wowzers

**JESSE PHILLIPS**

SAM Bailey likes it when people tell him he cannot do something.

And being a quadriplegic, people have told him he cannot fly a helicopter.

Cabramatta High School students were certainly surprised when he told them his story and plans on Friday.

"When I was 19-years-old some friends and I were leaving the farm to go to the pub," Mr Bailey said.

"I didn't have a seatbelt on. We had a tyre blow-out, the car rolled, and I knew I was completely paralysed," he said.

Mr Bailey suffered a dislocated right hip and a broken

neck, leaving him a quadriplegic with limited use of his arms, no bladder or bowel control and 35 per cent of his lung capacity.

But rather than admit defeat, Mr Bailey set about doing things even he thought he was incapable of.

He learned to drive a quad motorcycle, a hand-controlled car and a tractor, before doing the seemingly impossible and piloting an ultra-light plane.

Now he has his sights set on an even bigger challenge – to be the first quadriplegic to fly a helicopter.

"Flying gives me a great feeling of freedom," he said.

He plans to fly with his wife Jenny as co-pilot, and they will film their journey.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

## Students branch into tree planting

By **Diana Nguyen,**  
**Cabramatta High School**

CABRAMATTA High School students have green fingers.

Students from year 7 and the Intensive English Centre got together and planted trees on National School Tree Day in July.

Year 7 students planted 40 gum trees around the school, with the help of teachers.

The English Centre planted two gum trees in the back oval and native grass along the garden beds near their classroom.

"Getting together and planting trees is fun," teacher Mehar Chand said.

"I've even planted my own rose garden."

The students split into their rollcall classes and each class planted five trees.

The afternoon was spent digging up soil, planting and watering. Ms Chand said tree day was a good idea for the students.

"More school tree planting days should be done and not just one," she said. "More trees, better environment and more paper to write on."

After a busy afternoon of gardening and planting trees, everyone was happy because they had fun and at the same time, helped save the environment.

"Now all we need to do is wait for the tree to grow so we can have shade," Ms Chand said.



Initiated by the Fairfield  
Business Education Partnership



**Green fingers:** Cabramatta High School year 7 student Milan Cupic marks National School Tree Day. Teacher Tai Nguyen said the day was important and not just a fun day. "It is about regrowing our environment, earth and Mother Nature," he said.

# Fairfield Advance

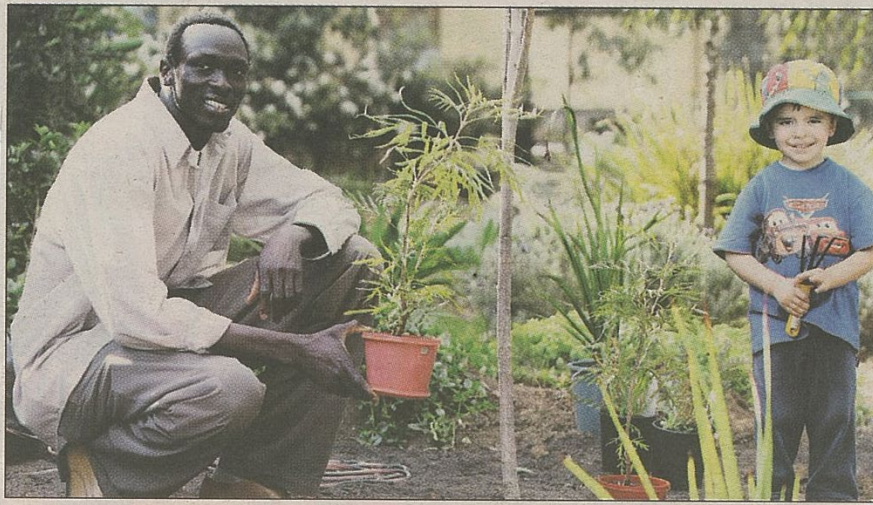
Wednesday, October 24, 2007

## **Cabramatta High School principal**

**Beth Godwin:** My favourite place is under the ocean. I've been diving with minke whales quite a bit, which is fantastic. I've dived in the Great Barrier Reef and Thailand, and lots of other places. Being under the ocean is great. It's so quiet and relaxing, and there are many different things to see. Most of the animals aren't afraid of you when you're underwater. Even diving with turtles is amazing.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
October 13, 2007



**Helping hand:** Commonwealth Bank of Australia volunteer Dimitri Katsinas prepares to assist former Cabramatta High School student Ring Malek, who moved to Australia two years ago. He was naturalised last year and received two grevillias which he planted at the school's peace garden to symbolise planting his roots in Australia.

Picture: Helen Nezdropa

## Garden of reflection

By Anita Maglicic

THE Cabramatta High School community is working together in harmony, extending its peace garden.

A peaceful, quiet place where students can reflect, the first stage of the garden was built in 2000.

It has plaques with the word "peace" written in different languages and a seating area among lush greenery.

Industrial teacher Vince Pulham said the school is adding more features, doub-

ling its size with the help of the whole school community and will be opening on November 9.

"As the school has a high number of refugees, the peace garden is a place to remember that peace is what everyone is here for," he said.

"This has been so successful and everyone is very proud of it. It's driven by the students and the primary aim is to involve them."

He said the new features have symbolic significance.

Rosemary was planted as a

symbol of remembrance, aloe vera represented healing and olive trees for reconciliation. A pebble track represents a life journey and a small bridge represents making connections with others.

With water being a symbolic item of cleansing and strengthening, a small waterfall is being built.

A peace bell, a small amphitheatre and a traditional Aboriginal talking circle where students can discuss what's on their minds will also be included.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
October 31, 2007



**ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards scholarship winners (from left) Chloe Vuong, Annie Van and Sok Huy Kao**

Picture: NICK ANDREAN Q1H69132

## Leading the way

THREE students from Cabramatta High School have been recognised by the Australian Defence Force for their leadership and teamwork skills.

Year 10 student Chloe Vuong, year 11 student Annie Van and year 12 student Sok Huy Kao all received a scholarship under the ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards.

Each student was nominated by school principal Beth Godwin and their selection was based on a set of criteria including problem solving, resourcefulness, values, teamwork and leadership.

"The students are very excited," teacher Azadeh Shafi-Beigli said.

"It really rewards all the hard work they have put in to the school."

The awards started last year but changed name this year to the Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards in honour of veterans of the Vietnam War's Long Tan battle, who demonstrated tenacity, compassion, teamwork and determination.

The awards were designed to recognise students who demonstrate strong values such as doing one's best, respect for others and mateship, which the ADF regards as essential Australian values.

The students got a cash prize as well as a certificate, with Chloe Vuong getting \$100, Annie Van \$200 and Sok Huy Kao \$500.

The awards were open to all schools in Australia that had students enrolled in years 10, 11 and 12.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

## Red-letter day

CABRAMATTA High School students' humanitarian efforts were rewarded at the Red Cross Youth Challenge recently.

The students picked up two awards – the Henri Dunant Award and the Peer Award – during a presentation at the Powerhouse Museum last month.

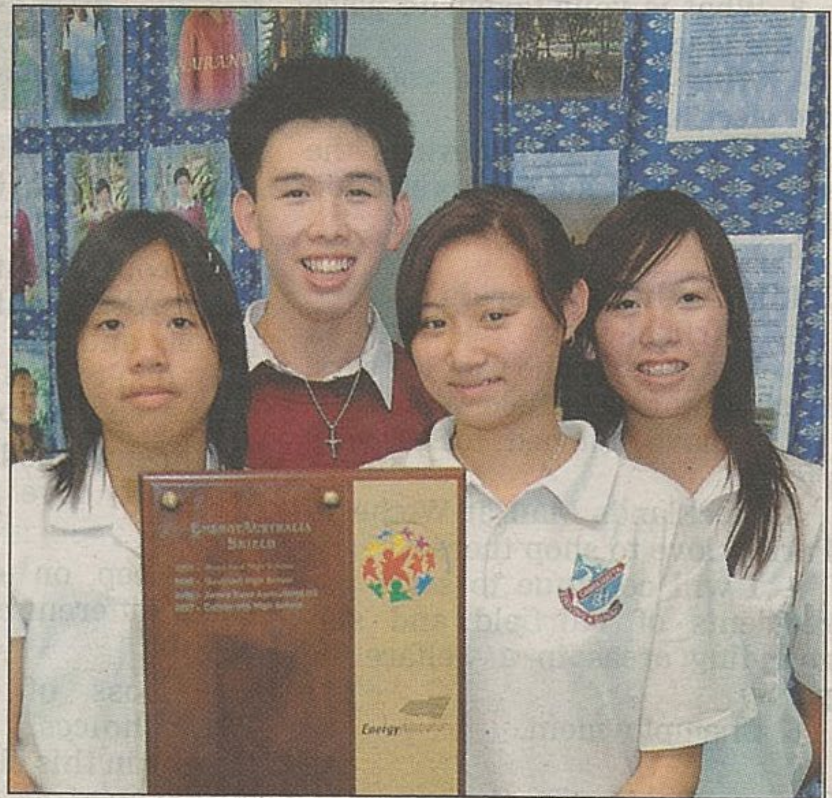
Kenny Lam, who the Red Cross described as the driving force behind several of the school's fundraising projects, was bestowed with the Peer Award.

The Red Cross said Kenny excelled in projects and was instrumental in most of the school's activities.

The Henri Dunant Award was handed to the school for demonstrating outstanding community service, understanding international friendship and promoting the Red Cross and its principles.

The school sold wristbands for the Motor Neurone Disease Research Foundation, raising \$1000.

In March, more than 70 students took part in Red Cross Calling and collected \$2170 for the organisation.

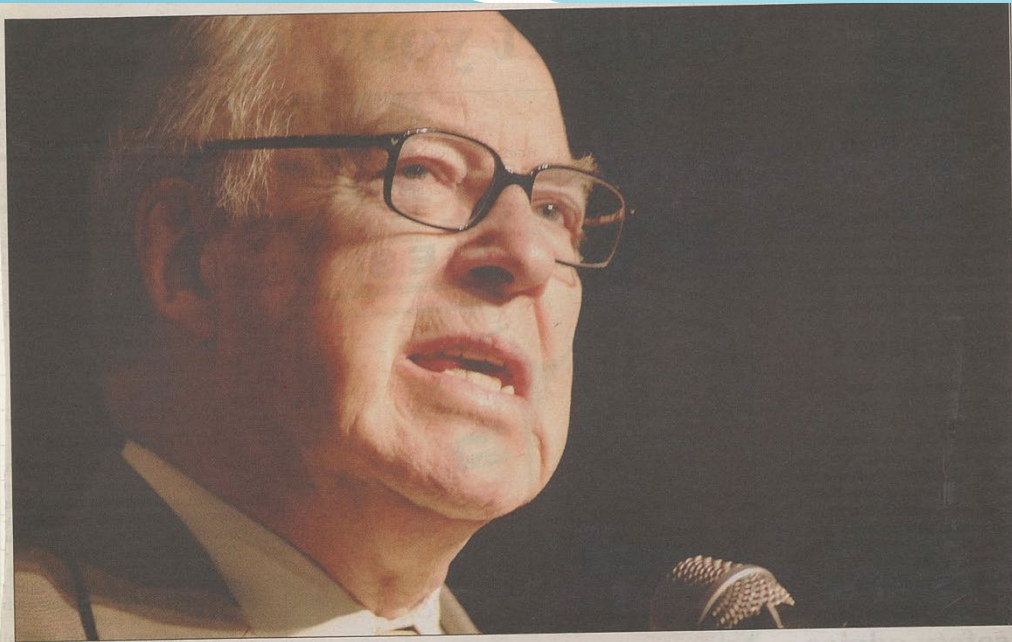


**Cabramatta High students (from left) Julie Trinh, Le Phuoc An Nguyen, Teresa Phung and Thao Do with their Red Cross award.**

Picture: NICK ANDREAN GSN95704

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
November 14, 2007



Dr Hans Blix talks to students about his work during Cabramatta High School's Peace Day activities.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN JCU97214

## UN weapons inspector talks of war and peace

JESSE PHILLIPS

HE famously chastised Saddam Hussein for playing "cat and mouse" with weapons inspectors, but Dr Hans Blix was less stern when addressing Cabramatta High School last Friday.

The former head United Nations weapons inspector was the recipient of this year's Sydney Peace Prize - awarded by the Sydney Peace Foundation - and was the guest of honour at the school's annual Peace Day.

Dr Blix won the award for his contributions as a Swedish diplomat, international human rights lawyer, weapons inspector and disarmament campaigner.

Before engaging in a forum with the students, Dr Blix spoke about his work as a weapons inspector and disarmament advocate, and his vision of peace.

"I decided at the end of World War II that I wanted to be involved in activities that reduced war. That is how I have spent my life."

- Hans Blix

"When I was young, World War II was happening and many of our neighbouring countries were occupied by Nazi Germany," Dr Blix said. "Sweden was not occupied, but we were completely isolated."

It was this early experience that led Dr Blix to his work as a diplomat, lawyer - and eventually weapons inspector - with deep beliefs about what peace means and how it can be achieved.

"I decided at the end of World War II that I wanted to be involved in activities that reduced war. That is how I have spent my life."

States should be able to live together without war," he said.

"Peace is not about giving away competition, it is about having rules about how to deal with competition."

"Accommodating each other is very important too. You may have to give up some of you individual power to accommodate others."

But Dr Blix went to pains to emphasise that achieving peace did not mean giving in to any demand to avoid war. "There are some things that are not up for negotiation, and in those cases it is important to say no," he said.

"I have been involved in negotiations that have taken seven years and not had a result. But there is a saying, 'It is better for negotiators to get ulcers than for young people to die in war'."

When responding to a student's question about what happens to a weapon when it is disarmed, Dr Blix made reference to his work as a weapons inspector in Iraq before the US invasion in 2003.

"Some countries did not pay attention when we said we found no weapons of mass destruction, and they started the war anyway. Now it is clear that we were right," he said.

Education Director-General Michael Coutts-Trotter, Sydney Peace Foundation director Stuart Rees and Cabramatta State Labor MP Reba Meagher also attended Peace Day.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 14, 2007



**Men of peace:** Former UN weapons inspector Hans Blix and the Venerable Phuoc Dat (right) at Cabramatta High's Peace Garden reopening ceremony last week. Above, students release doves in the hope for peace in the world.

Pictures: Helen Nezdropa



## Peace is the word

By Anita Maglicic

HANS Blix, the former UN weapons inspector who found no evidence that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction before the invasion by the US, was one of many dignitaries who attended the reopening of Cabramatta High's Peace Garden on Friday.

The garden, a place for students for peaceful reflection, was built in 2000 and has been expanded after months of work with symbolic items including a bridge and water feature.

At an assembly in the school hall, Dr Blix gave an inspiring speech and students asked him questions about world peace.

Dignitaries, including director-general of education Michael Coutts-Trotter and Cabramatta MP Reba Meagher, joined students in the school's Circle for Peace event.

Year 10 student Kimpisey Seng, who spoke of the world she dreamed of, won a peace speech competition that was followed by an outdoor ceremony.

After a blessing by religious representatives, the peace bell was sounded and students wearing sashes with the word Peace in several languages twirled white ribbons as others released white doves of peace.

The school choir sang *Lean On Me* at the end of the assembly.

Principal Beth Godwin told the assembly she was the happiest and luckiest principal in Australia.

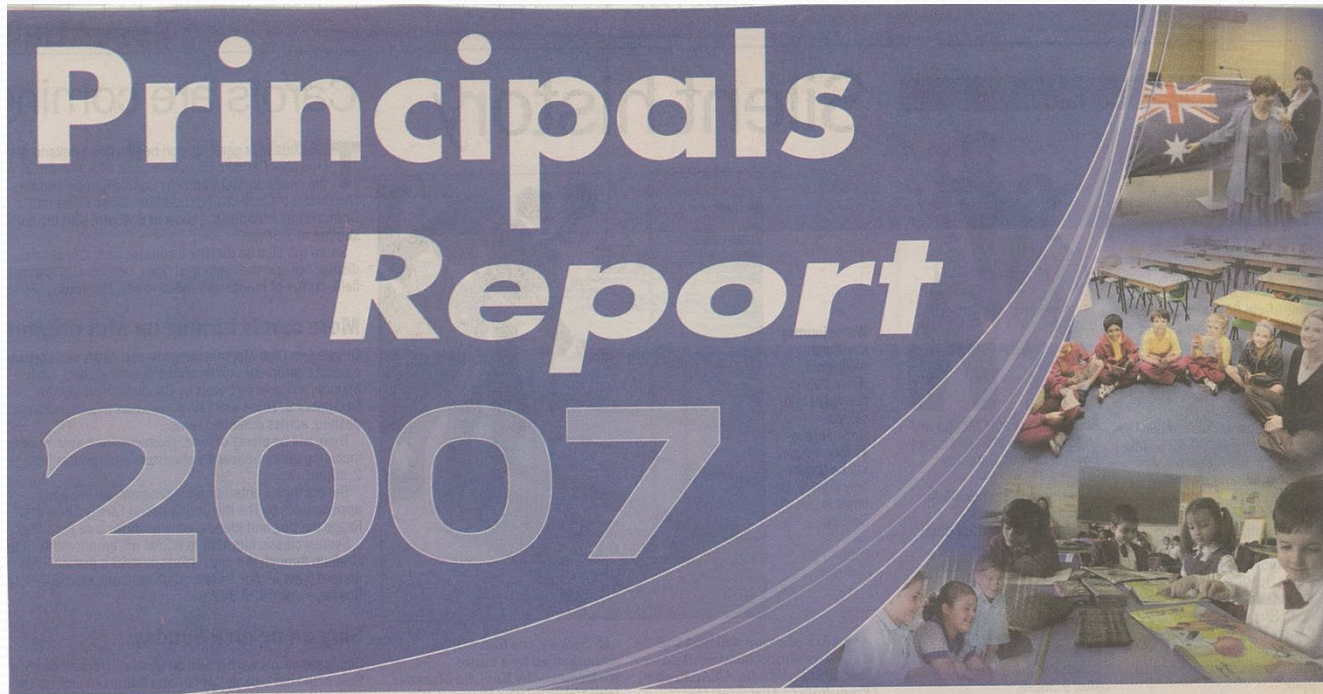
"I'm truly grateful that we have been blessed with not only people but rain today," she said.

"I know the garden will now grow.

"I appreciate everyone here sharing this moment with us."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 28, 2007



## Cabramatta High School

"Our Students are our main concern." Cabramatta High School has been serving its community since 1959, providing learning to a diverse student population and enjoying strong links with local primary schools. On site at Cabramatta High School is an Intensive English Centre, providing English language instruction within the NSW Curriculum framework. The school has a Support Unit on site, serving students who require extra help in their learning. The school

also offers a Gifted and Talented program, which provides enrichment and stimulation to highly-achieving students. A variety of extra-curricular programs and sporting opportunities are offered in the school. An after-school study centre operates two afternoons each week at the school library. A variety of free HSC tutorials operate at the school, staffed by senior teachers, to offer our students every opportunity to excel in their studies.



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# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

## Future of our clever country in good hands



AUSTRALIA is sure to be the clever country judging by the talented crop of gifted students who were bestowed with the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Awards last month.

Year 11 students Anna Thanh Xuan Nguyen (Bonnyrigg High), Anh Quynh Thien (Cabramatta High), Hayley Do (Fairfield High) and Steven Hanani (Fairvale High) received awards for their scientific accomplishments.

The awards were introduced in 2004 to encourage young people to follow a worthwhile scientific career path, as well as to recognise the subject's most talented students.

Award recipients will have the opportunity to spend time at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute where they will undertake research activities, interact with other like-minded fledgling scientists and explore career options in the field.

The institute's head of the molecular genetics division, Associate Professor Thomas Preiss, spoke to students about how his curiosity in high school led him to lead a team of scientists who examine how DNA works.

The team hopes its studies will assist in future medical breakthroughs.



Science is the way of the future for these high school students.