

News Paper Articles January 2008 to December 2010

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, January 9, 2008



Joanne Peters attends the Cabramatta High school sports assembly, with former Socceroos coach Rale Rasic (left).

MH-K48749

Matildas veteran inspires and impresses Cabramatta students

JOANNE Peters – vice-captain of the Australian women's soccer team, the Matildas – visited Cabramatta High School last month to inspire a few students.

Peters is a veteran of the world game and was the third Australian soccer player, male or female, to reach 100 games playing for her country.

Peters also has the honour of being the second highest all-time goalscorer for the Matildas.

Last year the Matildas fought their way through the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup, drawing 2-2 with Canada before bowing out to Brazil 3-2 in the quarter finals.

The Matildas' goals against

Brazil were the first the soccer superpower conceded in the competition.

The students – who recently hosted former United Nations weapons inspector Hans Blix – are used to big names visiting their school, but were suitably impressed by Peters' impressive achievements on the world sporting stage.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
January 16, 2008



Giving: Students and teachers from Cabramatta High School presented the money to Mitchell Egan late last year. Below: Mitchell was so thankful for the money he used it to buy his mother Tanya a Christmas present – a glass angel.

Picture: Angelo Velardo

School makes Mitchell's day

By Katherine Fenech

SMALL change from Cabramatta High School students has made a big difference to Mitchell Egan.

Teachers at the school read about Mitchell, 17, who had been hit by a bus while riding his bike on July 1, 2007, leaving him with a number of broken bones and eventually the amputation of his right leg.

The school decided that money collected as tips from students to the school's canteen would be donated to Mitchell at the end of the year.

Teacher and Student Representative Council co-ordinator Brenda Schmidt said students were alerted to the fund-raiser in July and by

the end of the year two large tins were filled with cash.

Canteen co-ordinator Margaret Milligan also donated \$100, bringing the total up to about \$230.

"Mitchell was such a positive person and full of hope," Ms Schmidt said.

"At first he didn't really want to take the money – he was very gracious, then we convinced him that it was a good thing to take it."

Mitchell's mother Tanya Egan said he enjoyed counting the money out and used it to buy a basketball and some Christmas gifts.

"We were quite shocked and surprised because it was from a school who didn't know Mitchell and we didn't



know anyone from over there," she said.

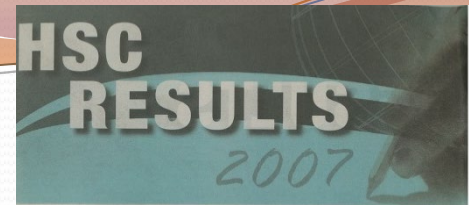
Ms Egan, who now works part-time as a community support worker so that she can look after Mitchell, said it has been a slow recovery for him.

"He's not been long out of the brain injury unit and he's wheelchair bound," she said. "He's having physiotherapy to get his other limbs working."

Cabramatta High School will continue its coin fund-raising but hasn't decided what its next cause will be.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 13, 2008



Cabramatta High School



Cabramatta High School celebrates another outstanding year in regard to HSC results.

There was a large number of university offers taken up by Cabramatta High School students demonstrating a tremendous effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

Our top achievers were:

- Phu Ha Bui
- Thi Thu Trang Bui
- Tamara Djokic
- Thu Anh Thi Dao
- Mick Derevnin
- Igor Gadza
- Erdi Gulden
- Mai Truc Tung Le
- Thi Hong Tuyet Le
- Shasha Liu
- Chhay Meng
- Dieu Quang Nguyen
- Huyen Tran Nguyen
- Thi Thanh Mai Nguyen
- Tram Thien Huong Nguyen
(major work exhibited in Art Express)
- Van Hieu Nguyen
- Sovita Pen
- Quy Phu Pham
- Cassandra Sharp
- Mina Sorn
- Zhu Yu Su
- Billy Tran
- Ngoc Khanh Thuy Tran
- Thien Quynh Anh Tran
- Hong Qing Zhou

All these students had outstanding UAI's.

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

Cabramatta High School congratulates these students on their outstanding results, and wishes the entire 2007 cohort well in their chosen careers.

Aladore Ave, Cabramatta NSW 2166

Ph: 9726 2424

Fax: 9726 4282

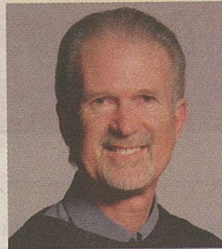
Web: www.cabramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Cabramatta High School

Excellence, Innovation, Opportunity, Success



“Students can strive for excellence in a wide range of subjects that challenge their individual abilities.”

Frank Urbancic, parent

“Students can strive for excellence in a wide range of subjects that challenge their individual abilities.”

Frank Urbancic, parent

“The dedicated teachers have a sound understanding of the community and of the needs of students. They are friendly and explain work well to assist student understanding.

“Students from diverse backgrounds blend together harmoniously and are provided with opportunities to develop to their full potential. The students assist each other and get together as a cohesive group.

“At Cabramatta High, my son has developed confidence and acquired skills by participating in a variety of new learning experiences and by being involved in activities that both challenge and are of interest to him.”

Call Beth Godwin on 9726 2424 to find out more about the quality education at Cabramatta High School.

NEW SOUTH WALES
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION
AND TRAINING



A proud member of the
Cabravale Community of Schools

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

School's golden journey



COME AND CELEBRATE

■ **WHAT:** Cabramatta High School's 50th anniversary

■ **WHEN:** May 23 and 24 (open days); May 23 (celebratory dinner)

■ **WHERE:**

— two open days will showcase the school, with a cultural concert, classroom visits, student entertainment and lunch stalls

— celebratory dinner at the Golden Star Palace

■ **DETAILS:** Annie Alex or Mehar Chand on 9726 2424

JOANNE VELLA

IMAGES such as these (inset right) are being collected as part of Cabramatta High School's 50th anniversary.

Organisers are calling on alumni and the community who possess any memorabilia of their old school days to donate it for use at a mini museum to be assembled in the Aladore Ave school's library.

Photographs will be compiled into commemorative books to be published and sold.

The assembly picture shot in 1958 captures the school's 477 students, an intake which has swelled to 1200 today.

Human society in its environment teacher Anjana Nath has already gathered items such as year books and learning material which appear more like antiques



Cabramatta High School's first school assembly 50 years ago (inset) and above, today's school assembly.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN xtc98449



in the modern classroom, such as oversized maps.

Invitations have also been sent to former students, many of whom have sent their children to the same school.

Entertainer Jon English, a former prefect who set up his first band at the high school, is also on the invite list.

Two open days will showcase

the school, with a cultural concert, classroom visits, student entertainment and lunch stalls planned for the celebration on May 23 and May 24.

A celebratory dinner will be held at the Golden Star Palace and will also be held at Cabramatta on May 23, when some of the memorabilia will be on sale.

The licensed event is open to

people aged 18 and over and includes an Asian buffet meal, full bar service and an anniversary gift. A full payment of \$35 before May 2 is required to confirm a booking.

For further information phone Annie Alex or Mehar Chand on 9726 2424.

■ See Pages 14 and 15 for more of what's happening in our schools

The Daily Telegraph

Friday, April 4, 2008

CABRAMATTA REUNION

Cabramatta High School is celebrating 50 years of education. Ex-students, staff and parents are invited to attend an anniversary dinner on May 23 at the Golden Star Palace in Cabramatta. Tickets available from the office at \$35 each. Pay Friday May 2. Please make cheques payable to Cabramatta High School. Contact Debbie Corrigan on 02 9726 2424 or online at the school website cabramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au.

If you have a reunion or are seeking information, send the details to In Search, Feedback Editor, PO Box 2808, GPO Sydney, NSW 2001 or email us at yoursay@dailytelegraph.com.au. Include a contact name and phone number. Emails should not include attachments.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Youth bring it on!

MORE than 7000 young people enjoyed activities, prizes, stalls and top-quality entertainment on Sunday at one of southwest Sydney's biggest festivals for 2008.

Patrons at the Bring It On! youth festival at Fairfield Showground knew they were in for a great day when the first 1000 people to pour through the gates were greeted with a \$20 voucher for Stockland mall.

And the giveaways kept coming.

The day offered the chance to win prizes for ability in basket-

ball, skating, powerlifting and bench pressing, talent competitions and car modifications.

Paulini headlined the festival, with other acts including 2007 *Australian Idol* contestant Joseph Gatehau, DJ Nino Brown, Israel, VTribe and appearances by finalists from Network Ten's hit show *So You Think You Can Dance*.

A team of more than 100 volunteers helped put the festival together.

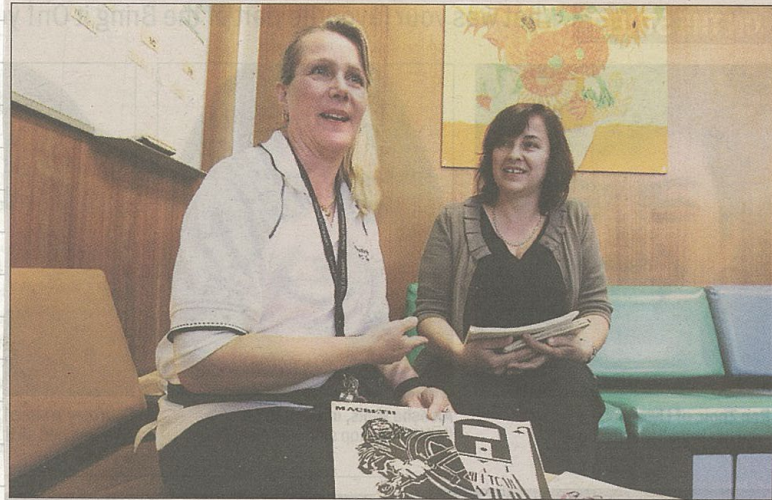


**Cabramatta High's Gospel Choir
with Guitar.**

EDO25728

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, April 16, 2008



Staying put: Both Brenda Schmidt, now a science and physical education teacher, and Ana Sentic, who specialises in history and English, went to Cabramatta High School before they became teachers there themselves.

Picture: Gene Ramirez.

Cabramatta matters

BRENDA Schmidt and Ana Sentic love Cabramatta High School – they've spent most of the past 34 years there.

They started as students in 1974 and were away from it only when they were studying to be teachers.

Brenda Schmidt said that Cabramatta High always seemed to be a school for migrants escaping war.

"There's something about this area," she said.

"People are grateful for their education. They don't

see it as a boring right – they see it as a privilege."

Ms Sentic said her teachers were always "fun and enthusiastic".

"We had really young and enthusiastic teachers who would take us to the theatre at night and things like that," Ms Sentic said.

"School's a lot more demanding now. Back then, we still got our work done but we had more fun."

Neither teacher is thinking of leaving the school and said

that working in the Intensive English Centre, teaching the language to refugees and migrants, made it interesting.

Cabramatta High School is inviting past students, staff and parents to an anniversary dinner on Friday, May 23, and open days on May 23 (11.15am-3.15pm) and May 24 (9.30am-2pm). The organisers would also like memorabilia from the school for its museum.

Details: www.cabramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 14, 2008



Beth Godwin, Year 8 student Jelena Josipovic, Ralph Norris and Year 8 student Milan Cupic get dirty at the school's 'green day'.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN BUS99741

Digging in to clean up their school

STAFF and students at Cabramatta High School rolled up their sleeves to clean-up their school grounds last week.

Lessons were suspended for the school community to work on "green" projects.

They were joined by 40 volunteers from the Commonwealth Bank, including chief executive officer Ralph Norris.

Volunteer staff from the Commonwealth Bank have worked on

a range of mentoring projects with Cabramatta students over the past two years.

Under an Australian Business and Community Network scheme, the bankers have been out to the school to help with writing projects and issue career advice.

Principal Beth Godwin said the mentoring produced a positive change in the students.

"Absolutely, there's no doubt about that," she said.

"One hundred per cent you can see the students change."

And with students helping to garden, paint murals and clear away rubbish, the school grounds received a pretty impressive makeover as well.

"The front of the school looks so much better."

"One boy came up to me and said this was the best day ever."

■ For more on what's happening in our schools see Pages 16 and 17

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

High school turns 50



SEE YOU AT SCHOOL

■ **WHAT:** Cabramatta High School, Aladore Ave, 50th year anniversary celebrations. A cultural concert, classroom visits, student entertainment and lunch stalls

■ **WHEN:** Open days, May 23 (from 11.15am to 3.15pm) and May 24 (9.30am to 2pm)

■ **DETAILS:** 9726 2424

NOSTALGIA is building at Cabramatta High School on the eve of its 50th anniversary.

Former students have donated about 100 year books, classroom equipment and photographs to be showcased in a miniature museum open to the public on May 23 and 24.

One thing that has not changed dramatically during the past five decades has been the school's uniform, with the green pants introduced in 1958.

Staff has prepared a video display of old slides and a power point presentation for former students and parents to enjoy as they stroll through the old schoolyard.

School spokeswoman and teacher Toni Robinson said there would be tours which would include a history of each department. "A lot of people are travelling from interstate (to attend)."



Year 12 students Matt Ah Cheung, Mark Ah Cheung and Richelle Maula, with some of the school's memorabilia (above). Left: Student Mom Prak (left) wearing a jacket from the school's 1970s uniform and student Solange Omara, wearing the current style.

Pictures: NICK ANDREAN
AMW91525, UMD32853

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 21, 2008



Green thumbs: Michelle Baker-Barden of Colonial First State, Cabramatta High School office manager Lyn Campagnolo, Myrmy Vuong, 14, and school administration officers Jenny Ward, Judith Hume and Tyson Lam, 14, did some gardening for the school's first Green Day. The school has had nine new demountable classrooms delivered this year and Ms Godwin said they were to house its growing population.

Picture: Gene Ramirez

Green Day fun for school

CABRAMATTA High School's first Green Day on May 5 heralded the arrival of new demountable buildings.

Students, teachers, and volunteers from Commonwealth Bank, including CEO Ralph Norris, and Mission Australia, all pitched in to tidy gardens, plant trees and paint murals.

It is hoped that the day will become an annual event.

"It was really nice to share the day with others," principal Beth Godwin said. "It builds teams and allows communities into the school and gives them

a better idea of what we do."

Fairfield Council donated 200 trees, Commonwealth Bank donated an outdoor clock for the peace garden, and students brightened up the place by painting murals around the school, including one for their sports motivation area.

"Students did a sports motivation mural – one for each of the sports house groups," Ms Godwin said. "The day was about looking after the environment together and it was fantastic that we could do it."

CABRAMATTA High School is inviting past students and teachers to celebrate its 50th anniversary with an open day on Saturday, 9.30am-2pm.

Visitors can take a tour of the school; a cultural concert will be held at 10am; as well as food stalls and outdoor entertainment, noon-2pm.

The school has also set up a mini-museum of memorabilia. Details: www.cabramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Years younger than teammates

By Michael Chammas

THE Cabramatta High School duo of Ali Allouche and Alexandra Sulusi are somewhat untouchable.

The pair represented the Sydney South West team in the Combined High School competition, an event that brought together some of the state's best touch footballers.

Ali, 12, proved that age was just a number, earning selection in the boys' under 15s competition.

The little pocket rocket from Cabramatta was outstanding for his side and will surely play a senior role in years to come.

Alexandra, 14, also exceeded her age limits by representing the girls' under 16s team. She's also a member of the school's softball and volleyball teams.

Her coach, Toni Robinson, admires her ability. "I'm so proud of her - she's just a natural sporting all-rounder," Robinson said.



Can't touch this: Ali Allouche and Alexandra Sulusi were selected in the Sydney South-West touch football teams. Ali's passion for touch football ignited after a stint in rugby league.

Picture: Gene Ramirez

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
May 28, 2008



Letting go: Canley Vale High School students Evan Le and Jason Nguyen fire their marshmallow catapult. About 240 students from 11 local schools were involved in the event.

Picture: Gene Ramirez

Changes to engineering

By Jocelyn Ly
Cabramatta High School

THEY say engineers can be boring people. If you think this is true, think again.

Cabramatta High School had the honour recently of hosting the third 'Discovering Engineering Day', an initiative by the Institute of Industrial Arts Technology Education and Engineers Australia.

President of Engineers Australia (Sydney Division), Dr Richard Barnes said engineering is considered a



male dominated field, but since this program, it is hoped it will slowly change.

"I would like to see at least 50 per cent of girls attending next year, but it's great to see that 20 per cent of people here today are girls," Dr Barnes said. "I am glad to see

all the aeronautical engineering still in action."

Five students from UTS and University of NSW spoke to the students about their experiences as engineers.

The day also included paper plane making and marshmallow catapult.

Year 10 student My Phung Chung said: "I learnt something new today and it's really cool," he said. "I like that if you are an engineer, later you can work as anything because it provides you with a knowledge base to do what you want to do."

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Half a century of educating children

JOANNE VELLA

OLD friends and colleagues embraced and reminisced as current Cabramatta High School students celebrated their school's 50th anniversary with Bollywood rock 'n' roll and the unveiling of a new computer room.

Founding students rubbed shoulders with the current crop during three days of celebrations which kicked off on Friday with a cultural concert featuring folk, Cambodian, African and Indian dancing.

Founding students purchased a display cabinet, laden with donated memorabilia, to take pride of place in the school's foyer.

Festivities continued over the weekend with open days and tours of a history museum which was set up to commemorate five decades of public education.

Professor of physics at Queensland University Norman Heckenberg, the inaugural dux of Cabramatta High, was one of the several founding students who returned to the Aladore Ave campus for the milestone.

The 1962 graduate, whose family was honoured with the suburb Heckenberg named after them, delivered a speech at a morning assembly.

"I suggested to the students that they would be at the centenary in 50 years' time and asked them to make the most of the opportunities that the school gives them," Prof Heckenberg said.

More than 250 former students



Students perform various dances as part of the school's celebration activities.

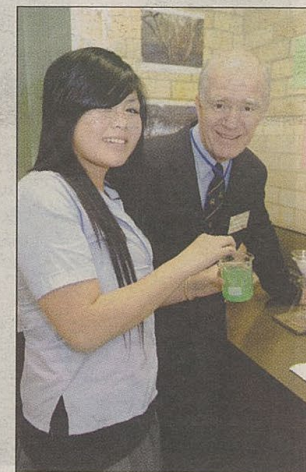
Buy these pictures: phone 1300 301 705. Pictures: NICK ANDREAN 10516098

Câu chuyện này được dịch
ra tiếng Việt từ
www.fairfieldadvance.com.au

TRANSLATION: This story is
translated in Vietnamese at
www.fairfieldadvance.com.au

and teachers packed a Cabramatta restaurant on Friday night for a reunion.

Hundreds more filed through the school on Saturday and Sunday to mark the occasion.



Year 12 student Thuy Nguyen, with former student and dux of the school, Professor Norman Heckenberg.

CTJ75630



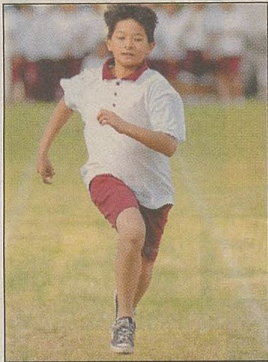
Moment of recognition: former student Silvija Karaberis (nee Jajic), from the class of 1988, is recognised by her former teacher, Pat Wagner (right), who taught at Cabramatta High School from 1980 to 1988.

MBE72879, MVT67772, WVF60289

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Students push their endurance



Clockwise from left: Alex Chau in the 100m sprint; Maria Pauli with the discus; Petronilla Tavui-Leota in the long jump; Nazianzen Ikamui, also in the 100m sprint; and Soane Tava with the shot put.

Buy these pictures: phone 1300 301 705
Pictures: NICK ANDREAN
AAO45388, HOI56793, ZEL47470, OVR67976, NKU82096



THEY may not have dressed in the latest cutting-edge aerodynamic running suits, but the students of Cabramatta High School showed they had the right stuff at their athletics carnival on Friday.

The school's oval was the scene of many physical achievements as the kids pushed their endurance limits and hurled themselves – or a discus or shot put – down the track or into the air.

Up for grabs was a chance to secure a place to represent the

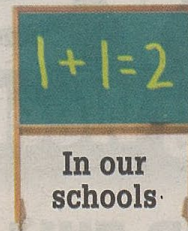
school at the upcoming zone athletics carnival.

Students of all ages lined up for the chosen events during the all-day event.

School teacher Toni Robinson said the day was a great success.

"It was an awesome day," she said. "All our kids did really well and we had some great results."

■ To see more pictures of Cabramatta High School's athletics carnival visit www.fairfieldadvance.com.au



Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, June 4, 2008



**Cabramatta High
School's 50th
anniversary
celebrations**



**See more from
the events at
fairfieldchampion
.com.au**

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, June 11, 2008



Law rider: Lawyer Steve Mark, who was principal for a day at Cabramatta High School talks to legal studies students. He said he likes to ride a motorcycle to work because when he gets to his office, he sits in a building all day and the journey from home to work is a contrast.

Picture: Gene Ramirez

Making his mark

By Diana Nguyen
Cabramatta High

AFTER 14 years, lawyer Steve Mark doesn't describe his career as stressful, but as eventful.

Mr Mark, a Legal Services Commissioner, rode his motorbike to Cabramatta High School on May 28 for its Principal for a Day program.

The program provides business and community leaders the chance to experience being a principal for a day in a government secondary or primary school.



Initiated by the Fairfield
Business Education Partners

Mr Mark presented a lecture to legal studies students and met with the school captains to talk about leadership strategies.

Mr Mark said that being at school is very different to working in an office. He told the students that back at his office in Sydney, he and his 30 colleagues handle complaints.

Mr Mark said that statistically his office handles 3000 written complaints and 9000 phone complaints annually from clients.

And they don't just tackle complaints; they also prosecute unethical lawyers.

"Ethics are not found in rules, ethics are found in behaviour and are driven by values," Mr Mark said.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Learning cogs



DISCOVERING Engineering – an engineering road show – made a third stop on its trip around Sydney at Cabramatta High School recently.

Interested students from Canley Vale High School, Cabramatta High School, Fairfield High School and Freeman Catholic College attended.

Engineers Australia organised the seminar and workshops.

Engineers Australia deputy director Robyn Wright said: "It's important students realise that engineering isn't just about roads and buildings and bridges".

Students were impressed by the personal experiences of people from various fields of engineering, and realised the science could be a real option for them.

Cabramatta High School Year 11 student Anthony Cao said before the event he thought engineering was boring.

His classmate, Evan Le, learned that engineering had many branches and offered vast career opportunities.



Cabramatta High School students (from left) Dalena Nguyen, Jelena Kalanj, Anthony Cao and Jason Nguyen with Engineers Australia volunteer Robert Fitch (centre) demonstrating the autonomics vehicle with his laptop.

"The world has been made by engineers," he said.

Freeman Catholic College Year 10 student Geri Damaschino said she was interested in engineering but before the event didn't think she could do it.

Students also participated in workshops, throwing paper planes and catapulting marshmallows.

The highlight was the demon-

stration of a prototype for a fully automatic car.

A quick lesson in what not to do with liquid nitrogen, including freezing and smashing squash balls, sausage and flowers, followed.

Cabramatta High School Year 11 student David Duong said: "I think it was really helpful to students. It should happen more often and for different careers".

Footlights magic lures Cabramatta

CABRAMATTA High School is set to continue its proud tradition of Rock Eisteddfod success this year with another show-stopping performance. After scoring judges' acclaim in recent years – in 2006 the school took out four awards at the OxyGen Hot 30 Rock Eisteddfod Challenge – the students and teachers are sewing on the sequins and learning the dance moves once again. Kim Catton, who is one of three teachers organising the performance, said this year's show would be a special event.

"We started rehearsing mid-last term," she said.

"The kids came up with the concept with a bit of help from the staff – it's something that really relates to them."

She said the theme of the performance related to multiculturalism and acceptance.

"The whole idea is that we want to be one world, but we also don't want to lose our culture as well," she said.

"The kids came up with the idea



Cabramatta High school students poised to rehearse for their entry in the 2008 Rock Eisteddfod.

through a lot of trial-and-error and working out over a few weeks what worked and what didn't."

Ms Catton said although the school had not won the Rock Eisteddfod yet, students always gave it their best shot and put on a fantastic show.

The school will perform on Monday, July 28, at the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre from 6.30pm.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Digital revolution



WHO WILL GET WHAT

- Westfields Sports High: 418
- Fairvale High School: 356
- Bossley Park High School: 326
- Patrician Brothers College: 322
- Freeman Catholic College: 316
- Mary MacKillop College: 242
- Canley Vale High: 242
- Prairiewood High School: 239
- Bonnyrigg High School: 183
- Cabramatta High: 180
- St John's Park High School: 104
- Pal College: 38

Cabramatta High School students Srey Mey Chung and Duy Thien Carter Nguyen talk computers with Blaxland Federal Labor MP Jason Clare.



CARLEEN FROST

FAIRFIELD area schools are among the largest recipients of new computers in the country under the Prime Minister's digital education revolution.

The area's students will ben-

efit from nearly 3000 new computers in the first round of the National Secondary School Computer Fund.

Westfield's Sports High was the big winner, claiming 418 new machines.

Schools have been provided with grants of \$1000 per com-

puter with any savings to be used for internet connections and accessories.

The federal electorate of Blaxland was identified as having the greatest need.

Federal Labor MP Jason Clare said the area now had

one of the largest numbers of new computers.

"This is great news for our local high schools," he said.

"This will create a world-class education system with schools that are better equipped to face the future."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
June 25, 2008



Happy times: Former students Janelle Clauson, Jenny Mitrovich, David Langdown and Jane Dellow look through memorabilia at the school's museum.

Picture: Gene Ramirez

Professor revisits school

By Phillip Ly,
Cabramatta High School

QUEENSLAND University physics lecturer Norman Heckenberg was just one of many former students who returned to Cabramatta High School to celebrate its 50th anniversary recently.

Professor Heckenberg was a foundation student and the first dux of the school.

During his time at Cabramatta High School, Professor Heckenberg received a special scholarship from the Nuclear Research Foundation when he was 15 years old, which allowed him to attend a physics course at Sydney University.

After completing school, he



Initiated by the Fairfield
Business Education Partnership

went onto Sydney University where he earned his PhD in 1972.

He lived only a few streets away from the school and recalls his high school days, doing extra science experiments, being a prefect and developing satirical cartoons.

Professor Heckenberg said his main influences were his

father, a science teacher at school, university professors and a fellow scientist.

"Cabramatta High School gave me all that I needed to go on to the next step of education and eventually become a scientist," he said.

Professor Heckenberg gave senior students a physics lecture during his visit.

Science department head Julie Evans said Professor Heckenberg showed what students could achieve.

"This lecture gave the students a first hand chance to meet somebody in the scientific field," Ms Evans said.

Professor Heckenberg said he enjoyed the day at his former high school.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
June 25, 2008

Students rejoice in belonging to a place

By Jocelyn Ly
of Cabramatta High School

SEVENTEEN south-west Sydney schools and refugee support groups attended the regional Refugee Week celebration hosted by Cabramatta High School on June 19.

The school's Intensive Education Centre (IEC) counsellor and refugee resettlement program co-ordinator Elizabeth Pickering said the event was held at the school because of its peace garden and its multicultural student body.

"This event is very important to Cabramatta High School because recently their IEC celebrated its 30th year of education," she said.

The Education Department's regional director Tom Urry said about 62 per cent of south-west Sydney students come from a different culture.

"Refugees are a really big part of Australia," he said.

"They make up the tapestry of our region and we value them a lot."

School groups performed traditional Chinese, Afghani and African dancing.

Croatian refugee Gorenka



Tradition: Berala Primary School's Afghani dance performance.

Slavujevic said: "I started to feel accepted when people wanted to be my friend and when I learnt English as a second language.

"That gave me confidence to join a leadership program which has helped me start my own charity."

Two panels on the day gave students a chance to talk about their lives and what

can be done to help refugees settle.

Services for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Survivors (STARTTS) attended to hand out information booklets.

Elijah Williams, from Belmore North Public School, said being Australian is about belonging.

"The main thing that made me call Australia home is having friends that respect me for who I am, and getting my citizenship," he said. "Getting that made me feel like I belonged somewhere."



Initiated by the Fairfield
Business Education Partnership

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 16,
2008

Nifty neurons



Picture: Gene Ramirez

CABRAMATTA High's Duyen Duong, 16 (above), was among the top brains in the state when she competed with 9000 students in the Australian Brain Bee Challenge last month.

She made it to the second round of the neuroscience competition run by the Queensland Brain Institute and the University of Queensland.

Her school's head science teacher, Julie Evans, said the effort put Duyen in the top six per cent of the state's

science students.

Her achievement was all the more impressive as Duyen arrived from Vietnam in 2003, and attended the school's intensive English centre before joining mainstream classes.

On school days she studies for up to six hours and on the weekends up to 10 hours.

Comparing Australian and Vietnamese schools, Duyen said: "Here you have got a lot more opportunity and teachers are kind. In Vietnam teachers are very strict."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
July 30, 2008



From little things: Cabramatta High School year 7 students Stevan Novakovic, 12, and Jack Khuan, 12, threw their support behind Schools Tree Day last Friday, which is part of National Tree Day, an initiative of Planet Ark. **Picture: Gene Ramirez**

Tree day support grows

**By Phillip Ly,
Cabramatta High School**

CABRAMATTA High School year 7 students showed their support for the environment last Friday as part of National Tree Day.

The students planted trees donated by Fairfield Council in gardens designed to complement the school's existing Peace Garden.

After just returning from school holidays, the students immediately dedicated themselves to making the school's environment a more

pleasant place. Teacher Tai Nguyen said participating in National Tree Day is an activity the school gets actively behind every year.

"This year's theme, More Trees, Better Life, will hopefully encourage people to live greener lives and will make people aware of the significance of trees in our lives," Mr Nguyen said.

The school's goal for the day was to plant more trees to create a more natural environment.

It also provided the students with new experi-

ences including planting the trees using tools that they may have never used before.

Student Tomislav Djukic said he enjoyed the day.

"I had a great time and it was fun making my school look nicer," he said.



Initiated by the Fairfield
Business Education Partnership

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, July 30, 2008



Cabramatta High School students, pictured at dress rehearsal last week, took home two awards from the 2008 Rock Eisteddfod Challenge heats on Monday.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN - pP172239

Fun-filled act takes gongs for excellence

CABRAMATTA High School students rocked the stage on Monday night at the 2008 Rock Eisteddfod Challenge, with a fun-filled performance which won them two awards of excellence.

The performance focused on multiculturalism and had Cabramatta students dancing away with awards of excellence for environmental and social awareness and excellence for school initiative.

Almost 80 students rehearsed, acted, and stitched up costumes throughout the year to prepare for their biggest live show.

Lachlan Erskine, one of the three teachers who co-ordinated the performance, says he is proud of the students and their dedication. "They were nervous but excited at the same time," he said.

While students have their sights on winning Mr Erskine says win or lose they had a lot of fun rehearsing and performing.

Winners of the Sydney heats will be announced on Friday.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Students branch out in their studies

CABRAMATTA High School students swapped their textbooks for shovels when they took part in National Tree Day on Friday.

A group of Year 7 students planted 30 native Australian trees around their school grounds.

Geography teacher Andrew Barnes said the event went well.

“We try and relate it to stuff they are doing in the classroom”

— Andrew Barnes

“It’s something that we do yearly with our Year 7 students,” he said.

“They love to get out of the classroom and get their hands dirty.”

Mr Barnes said he hoped to pass on a legacy of environmental sustainability to the students.

“We try and relate it to stuff they are doing in the classroom,” he said.

“They love it, it’s fantastic.”

Having just marked the school’s gold anniversary, Mr Barnes said he hoped the trees would be around for another 50 years.



Gloria Tulemija and Samantha Pham planting trees in the school’s Peace Garden.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 3, 2008



Jeff Skinner shows his form to students.

-PP185456

Elite player a drawcard

AUSTRALIAN volleyballer Jeff Skinner fuelled Cabramatta High School's love of the sport even further when he visited the school last week.

The Australian junior representative gave tips on his role as ambassador of the Premier's Sporting Challenge. "The kids really related to him well," program co-ordinator and physical education teacher Kim Catton said.

A group of 43 youths who study physical activity and sports science threw questions to the under-19 beach volleyball bronze medalist and participated in coaching clinics.

Skinner, an outside hitter, also gave students an insight into being an elite sportsman and his background. The aviation student at the University of NSW took up volleyball at the age of 13 and attended Westfields Sports High School to develop his talent. The 20-year-old was inspired to join the Premier's Sporting Challenge to increase the younger generation's involvement in the sport.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 17, 2008



Leading ladies: Cabramatta High School students Sophea So, Julie Mao, Chan Nguyen, Anna Nguyen, Joy Huang, and Kelly Tran at a recent leadership program with Ultimo TAFE student volunteer Melisa Freeburn.

Picture: Gene Ramirez

Students help children

CABRAMATTA High School year 10 students are aiming to put smiles on the faces of patients at the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

The group of 37 girls is organising and planning a fund-raiser to buy Christmas presents for the children.

They were inspired by a YWCA NSW leadership program, which teams up girls with community and student volunteer mentors.

YWCA NSW youth programs manager Rebecca Louie said it's inspiring to see young women identifying the needs in their community.

The students are in the process of asking for sponsorship to buy presents and will organise food stalls at their school to raise money for the project.

To donate gifts of money for the project call 9726 2424.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Meeting challenge powered by the sun

CABRAMATTA High School students were up against schools from throughout the state, in Australia's International Solar Boat Challenge at Penrith Lakes recently.

The four participating students cut a small boat from a foam block, fit the components and used solar panels to run the boat on renewable energy from the sun. "We learned so much about solar panels that we can apply and contribute to our world and the environment," student Linh Quach, 14, said.

Students Jimmy Tran, Ngoc Chuong Tran, Thach Huu Chuong and Linh spent lunch times learning the ins and outs of solar power.

The group, who placed third out of six competitors, said it wasn't about winning but the challenge in learning from each other and working as a team.

* By work experience student Ashurina Benyameen, from Macleay College



Cabramatta students Jimmy Tran (from left), Ngoc Chuong Tran, Linh Quach and Thach Huu Chuong enjoyed learning about solar power through the competition.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 27, 2008

Massive marks for artwork

By Katherine Fenech

ALL Vanna Heng needed to create her HSC artwork was paper, a stick and a jar of ink.

The end result was a series of pieces depicting faces from Vanna's point of view.

They will soon be sent off for marking by the Board of Studies, but they were also part of Cabramatta High School's *Bodies of Work* art exhibition.

Vanna Heng, 21, of Fairfield Heights, migrated to Australia from Cambodia with her family four years ago.

"I want to say thank you to my teacher for helping us achieve our goals," she said.

Mom Prak, 22, who migrated from Cambodia in 2003, went down a different path.

She designed a children's book called *Wolf*.

"It's about a rabbit that went along to the library to



Facing forward: Cabramatta High School students Mom Prak, Vanna Heng and Bing Mo display Vanna's work before it was sent off to the Board of Studies for marking.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

borrow a book," she said.

Bing Mo's work is a busy piece called *Where is My Pencil?* that illustrates the inside of an artist's studio.

It has been described as a "mammoth work" and cap-

tures the surroundings of an artist whose work has spilled over into everyday life.

All three of the students received top marks of 50 out of 50 for their artworks from the school.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Pro gets kids active

AUSTRALIAN volleyballer Jeff Skinner served up a lesson to more than 60 students at Cabramatta High School recently.

The international representative engaged the students in several activities and lessons as part of the Premier's Sporting Challenge to promote the benefits of physical activity.

"I am pleased to be here at Cabramatta High School spending time with the kids and helping them realise the importance of staying fit," Skinner said.

"I hope that by spending time with these kids and participating in sporting activities with them I can

'Skinner's visit encouraged and inspired the students to make exercise and good nutrition a priority.'

- Elizabeth Godwin

encourage them to lead healthier lives."

It is this love of keeping fit that has taken Skinner from a school student to an Australian representative. Having a sportsman of Skinner's calibre was an invaluable experience for the students.

Principal Elizabeth Godwin said: "Skinner's visit encouraged and inspired the students to make exercise and good nutrition a priority."

"It's not every day a successful athlete comes to the school, and judging by the excitement and enthusiasm shown by the kids today, I'd say this visit has been very successful."

In the next four years the Premier's Sporting Challenge will spend \$30-million on capital works to improve skills and facilities at public schools. Another \$20 million will be assigned to provide the students with more sporting equipment.



Serving it up: Australian volleyballer Jeff Skinner teaches Aaron Slender, 14, and Wade Bolin, 14. Skinner won a bronze medal playing in the under 19s team at the Australian Junior Beach Volleyball Championships.

Picture: Gene Ramirez

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
October 15, 2008

Junk fires artistic muse

ASHURINA BENYAMEEN*

CABRAMATTA High School's Year 12 students have finally finished their HSC major works for their visual arts course.

The 19 students hope to be pre-selected for the ArtExpress exhibition, which features some of the best HSC artworks from across NSW.

Student Belinda Heng, 17, took from Australian sculptor Robert Klippel's abstract style and created *Homage to Klippel*, using junk and turning it into a work of art.

"I used the shapes that he used but I practically manipulated his work and made it my own. I took his sculpture and put my own touch to it," she said.

Klippel was well-known for taking junk materials and turning them into major sculptures.

The design, which took one year to complete, was created from found objects. Packing polystyrene foam was the basis of her work. Each shape was then carved out and covered with a modelling compound which hardened the surface.

Paint was applied and to maintain the strength of the



Belinda Heng with her HSC art work.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN -PP197029

large work, she inserted wooden skewers into each component, which held it in place.

"I'm the only one in my grade who did a sculpture. Everyone else did paintings," she said.

* Ashurina Benyameen is a work experience student from Macleay College

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
October 15, 2008



Budding scribes: Nicole Katipunan, Cindee Duong, Cindy Nguyen, David Danguyen, Angela Lam and Thanh Le contributed to a book after participating in workshops with writer James Roy. **Picture:** Wesley Lonergan

Author shows kids write stuff

THESE six young people aren't just students from three Cabramatta schools – they're now authors of a book, *Write it Right*, of 24 short stories.

The program was the brainchild of Cabramatta High teachers Lyn Nguyen and Jane Kintominas, who put together writing workshops for children in years 5 to 8.

Youngsters from the high school, and Cabramatta and Cabramatta West public schools had three sessions with children's author James Roy.

Cabramatta Public teacher Fay Allouche said: "He got them to write creatively and taught them how to start a story and develop characters. From those workshops the children used their new skills to write their own story."

The book, now in Fairfield Council libraries, was launched at a ceremony in the Whitlam Library recently.

"We had a room full of family members, parents and teachers from each of the schools, and the students were presented with copies of their own book and certificates," Ms Allouche said.

– Katherine Fenech

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

Peace offering

BY the time Cabramatta High School's Peace Day celebrations roll around their peace garden will be blooming.

The second stage of the school's garden was funded by a \$2000 donation from Alcoa and students, teachers and Mission Australia's work for the dole volunteers did the planting.

The school's annual Peace Day will happen on November 7 and this year's Sydney Peace Prize winner Patrick Dodson will attend.

Mr Dodson won the prize for his advocacy for the human rights of Indigenous people.

School principal Beth Godwin said representatives from over 20 schools will take part in the festivities.

Peaceful planting: Cabramatta High School students Jennifer Tra, Annie Van, Tung Huynh and Nemanja Markovic and principal Beth Godwin can enjoy their peace garden after a donation from Alcoa's Bill Robinson to buy plants.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan.



Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 29, 2008



Cabramatta High School Year 11 Maths students Andy Zhang and Alan Mok sat their HSC exam a year early.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

School a bastion of talent

SITTING the HSC maths exam is something many students would love to delay – forever.

But for others who have a knack with their geometry sets and aren't intimidated by pythagoras's theorem, it is an opportunity to sit the exam early.

A crop of Cabramatta High School's Year 11 students sat their HSC on Monday.

Under the accelerated maths program, they have the opportunity to take the test again next year if they want to improve their results.

Alan Mok, Bo Xuan Chen, Anh

Thi Nguyen, Jason Nguyen, Le Phouc An Nguyen, Trung Hieu Nguyen, Phillip Nogn, Sochetra Pen, Hoang Nguyen, Bao Phan, Lele Sun, Thanh Vu Xuan Houn and Boqi Zhang were confident when they sat for the HSC trial exams in August.

The school's head of mathematics, Greg Powers, said the accelerated course was "a building block" for students.

"When they sit the exam next year, they've already experienced it and see how the procedure works," he said.

"Having a feeling for the pressure, I think, is a huge advantage.

Student Alan Mok, 16, agreed that the pressure was already off.

"It's an opportunity to see what it's like," he said. "Maths is one of my better subjects so I'm hoping to get in the 90s."

Proving Cabramatta High is a bastion for talented maths students, a crop of Year 9 students – My Tien Nguyen, Jennifer Trong, Jelena Alavanja, Linh Quach, Alex Lam, Po Kim Chhoun and Khiet Tran – are fast-tracking their Year 10 studies by sitting the exam on Monday, November 10.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

Young people's message goes to national capital

CABRAMATTA High School's social justice advocates have visited Canberra and all they are saying is give peace a chance.

Students Vicky Ly, Christine Nguyen, Hong Kiang, Danny Rauv, Peter Chau, Adam Urbancic and Aaron Moala made the trip to parliament during Anti-Poverty Week recently.

"Because most of us are from non-English-speaking backgrounds and most of our parents have seen the other side of things, it's in our hearts to speak out and take action," Vicky said.

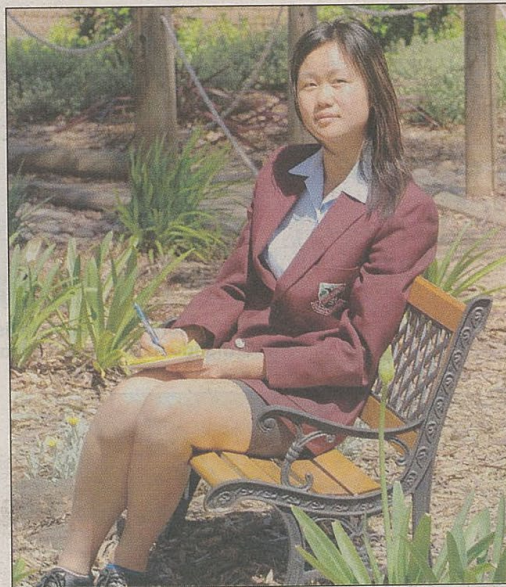
While in the nation's capital, the 16-year-old and her peers, who are also involved in the Micah Challenge and the Voices for Justice campaign, met Blaxland Federal Labor MP Jason Clare.

"Speaking to someone with more power and more influence helps," Vicky said. "We go and talk to them about how they can increase our international aid and how many lives that will save."

Last year, Cabramatta High School helped to raise more than \$14,000 to build 31 wells for fresh drinking water in Cambodia.

Mr Clare praised the students for having a social conscience.

He spoke about the electorate's high number of



Vicky Ly is spreading the word in Canberra about peace.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

people who had escaped conflicts in Vietnam, Cambodia, Lebanon and Sudan.

The trip to Canberra comes ahead of the school's annual Peace Day next month when 2008 Sydney Peace Prize winner Patrick Dobson, the Lingiari Foundation chairman, will be the guest speaker.



MỘT BẢN DỊCH TỐT: Câu chuyện này được dịch ra tiếng Việt trên: www.fairfieldadvance.com.au

TRANSLATION: This story is translated in Vietnamese at www.fairfieldadvance.com.au

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

City searches for cream of crop

CARLEEN FROST

IT doesn't pay too well, but Fairfield Council's most prized position has a lot of perks.

Being Citizen of the Year has certainly made Lachlan Erskine smile – and he has a postage stamp to prove it.

The Cabramatta High School careers advisor claimed this year's top gong at the council's annual Australia Day Awards.

As part of the package, Australia Post printed a stamp with his face on it and he has appeared at a number of local festivals as a "special guest".

The 33-year-old has joined forces with Young Citizen of the Year Julie Anne Bankowski and Mayor Nick Lalich to encourage others to nominate for the 2009 awards.

Ms Bankowski, said although she was grateful to her mother for nominating her, it came as quite a surprise when she found out she had won.

"She nominated me when I was overseas. I was shocked."

Nominations are open in three categories – Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Sports Achiever of the Year.

Mayor Nick Lalich said the nomination process provided an opportunity for residents to have their say on who should be honoured for their service to the community.

"If you know a community-minded person who contributes to our city by volunteering, helping keep the environment clean, or inspiring others



Nick Lalich works with Lachlan Erskine and Julie Anne Bankowski.

-PP210658

through their community work, nominate them for an Australia Day award so they can be recognised for the fantastic work they do," he said.

"There will also be a Sports Achiever Award awarded to a committed sportsperson. If you know a coach, administrator, mentor, volunteer or official whose actions inspire and encourage others while enriching the community through sport, healthy living, physical activity or the performing arts, you

should consider nominating them so they can be commended for their contribution to Fairfield City."

Nominations close at 4.30pm on Friday.

Details: 9725 0166.

■ All nominees must live, work or volunteer in Fairfield. Nominees for the Young Citizen of the Year must be aged 14-25 and nominees for the Sports Achiever of the Year must be over 14 years as of January 26, 2009.



MỘT BẢN DỊCH TỐT: Câu chuyện này được dịch ra tiếng Việt trên: www.fairfieldadvance.com.au

TRANSLATION: This story is translated in Vietnamese at www.fairfieldadvance.com.au

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Peace talk raises hope

By Jocelyn Ly
Cabramatta High School

CABRAMATTA High School 2008 Sydney Peace Prize recipient Patrick Dodson was the special guest at the school's annual Peace Day last Friday.

Mr Dodson spoke to the students of his commitment to peace with justice and a question forum gave students the chance to speak more directly with Mr Dodson.

"When I walked in the school, I was embraced with love and hope from the different cultures standing before me and that image will stay with me forever," Mr Dodson said. "It assures me that our future is in good hands in Cabramatta."

Suzanna Najdavski of the Intensive English Centre was awarded the school's first Student Peace Prize, sponsored by Blaxland MP Jason Clare.

The day ended with the symbolic ringing of the peace bell and the releasing of peace doves.

Full story on page 8. See the slideshow at www.fairfieldchampion.com.au.



Local Aborigines conduct a smoking ceremony in the Cabramatta High School's Peace Garden followed by 2008 Sydney Peace Prize recipient, Patrick Dodson and other members of the official party.
Picture: Wesley Lonergan

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
November 12, 2008

Students give peace a chance

FROM PAGE ONE

By Jocelyn Ly
Cabramatta High School

CABRAMATTA High School held its annual Peace Day last Friday.

An official party, including the winner of the 2008 Sydney Peace Prize, Patrick Dodson, and representatives from 33 schools, entered through an honour guard of students dressed in traditional costume.

This was followed with a performance by children from Coota Gulla Pre-school.

Mr Dodson inspired the students, speaking about his commitment to peace with justice. "When I walked in the school, I was embraced with love and hope from the different cultures standing before me and that image will stay with me forever," Mr Dodson said.

"It assures me that our future is in good hands in Cabramatta."

Principal Beth Godwin described the importance of the day's celebrations.

"Our school has a passion for promoting peace and a desire to work towards creating a more peaceful world," Ms Godwin said.

"With over 40 language groups present in the school,

our students are a wonderful representation of what the world could be like when people listen, understand, co-operate and build positive relationships."

A new addition to celebration was the presentation of a Student Peace Prize.

This was awarded to Suzanna Najdavski of the Intensive English Centre by Blaxland MP Jason Clare, who sponsored the award.

A dance by the Yandel'ora Women's Dance Group and Sarah Redfern High School students, a traditional smoking ceremony and didgeridoo performance were highlights of the day, which ended with the symbolic ringing of the peace bell and the releasing of the peace doves.

Asquith Girls High School student, Natasha George, said the event had made her more determined to spread the word of peace.

"I liked seeing the different cultures dressed in traditional clothes. It gave a good vibe," she said.



Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
November 12, 2008



Year 9 student Milena Trkulja with her art work.

-PP214612

Personal lives inspire artworks

A NEW exhibition tells of the struggles Cabramatta High School students endured abroad before migrating to Australia.

100 Faces is a collection of paintings, collage, photography and short stories revealing the struggle students underwent to survive earthquakes, civil wars and abandonment.

The exhibition will be on display at the Commonwealth Bank's Martin Place head office until Friday.

Students were urged to share their stories by former Cabramatta High School student Tu Duong, who now works at the Commonwealth Bank.

"I come from a similar background to the students on the program so I wanted to help out," he said.

"It's an opportunity to show them positive ways to draw upon their experiences."

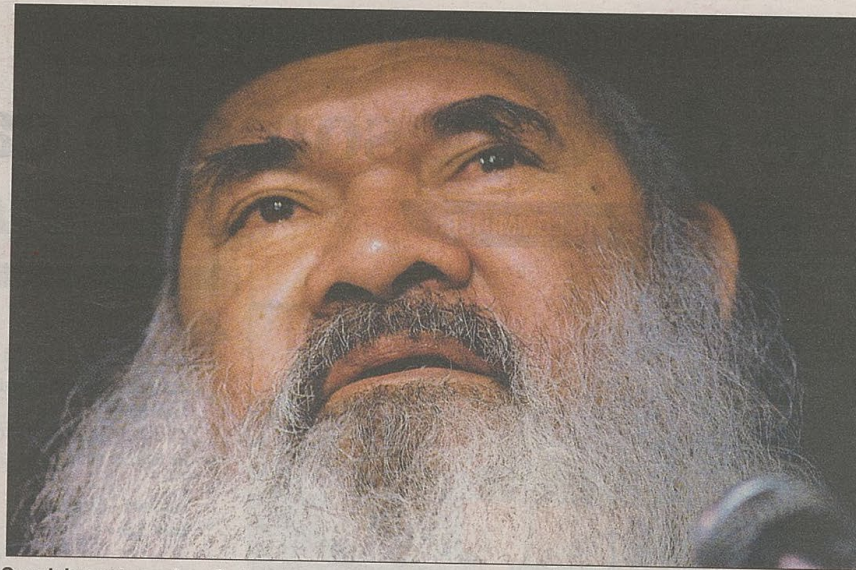
Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin said the best way to empower students was to encourage them to tell their own stories through art. "Many of our students have experienced more in their younger years than most of us will in a lifetime - and the exhibition reflects this."

The *100 Faces* exhibition is open from 9am to 5pm.

Entry is free.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 19, 2008



Prof Stuart Rees, from the Sydney Peace Foundation, speaks to students. -PP216481

Special guest speaker, Sydney Peace Prize winner Patrick Dodson told students he was moved by the school's annual Peace Day event. Top left: Students from the Coota Gulla Pre school perform dance routines. Bottom left: Students, dressed in traditional national costumes, greet their special guests.

Pictures: NICK ANDREAN -PP216447, -PP216478, -PP216480



See more pictures from Peace Day at www.fairfieldadvance.com.au

Day that gave peace a chance



MỘT BẢN DỊCH TỐT: Câu chuyện này được dịch ra tiếng Việt trên: www.fairfieldadvance.com.au

TRANSLATION: This story is translated in Vietnamese at www.fairfieldadvance.com.au

CABRAMATTA High School embraced the theme of change recently, days after US citizens broke racial barriers to elect its first black president.

This year's Sydney Peace Prize recipient Patrick Dodson, a champion of Aboriginal rights, was key speaker for the school's annual Peace Day.

During an assembly to make the UN proud, students danced before

asking questions of the former commissioner into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody inquiry.

One student asked what impact Sorry Day had had.

"The apology had a huge impact on Australia," Mr Dodson said.

Like many who thought a black president would never be elected in their lifetime, Mr Dodson said he thought Sorry Day would never happen.

"There are other things to be done but that was a very important moment. I think our country showed some maturity."

Mr Dodson, who was the first indigenous Australian to become a Catholic priest before leaving the priesthood, said he was moved by the annual event.

Cabramatta High students in lush uniforms formed an avenue

representing cultural groups which speak 90 languages.

"I didn't foresee anything like this," Mr Dodson said. "When I walked through that avenue of young people, it reassured me that the future of our great country is in very good hands here at Cabramatta. You are the new engine room, the turbo charges that will drive the aspirations, the hopes... into the future."

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 26, 2008

Former Cabramatta High School student Tu Duong overcame thick textbooks and a near-drowning experience in Vietnam to come out on top and become a mentor to students at his old school. He talks to reporter Linda Huynh* about his other firsts.

Old boy shares part of his long journey



my first time

What is your first memory? As a three-year-old I stumbled into a creek in Vietnam and nearly drowned. I was lucky to be rescued by my cousin who was on his way home from work.

What was your first day at Cabramatta High School like? It was very scary. I wasn't very comfortable with the concept of periods and having more than one teacher. Everything in the school was also on a much larger scale – more people, bigger buildings and thicker textbooks.

What was the first album or single that you bought? The first single I bought was Michael Jackson's *Remember The Time*.

What was your first pet? Believe it or not it was a chicken.

What was your first job? My first job was after I finished my HSC. I took up a three-month contract as a telemarketer selling \$3000 vacuum cleaners.

What is the first thing you do

every morning? I do sit-ups and push-ups in my bedroom. I find it gives me a lift because it gets my blood flowing and adrenalin pumping.

What was your first car? A \$1000 red 1984 Ford Telstra, it was just little younger than me with no air conditioning and a good serving of manual jump-starts.

Who was the first person you had a crush on? Her name was Le Tuyen and she was in Year 5. I

even picked out a special card for her for Christmas.

What was the first book you read? I can't remember. But the first memorable book I read as a child was Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*.

What is the first creative thing you remember making? Writing a 100-word ghost story in Year 1 complete with stick man illustrations. The teachers were

kind enough to have it printed and bound for me.

What was your first fashion mistake? Wearing white socks with my suit to a job interview for a graduate program with Telstra. One of the interviewers was kind enough to discreetly point it out to me after the interview.

*Linda Huynh is a work experience student from the University of Technology, Sydney



Tu Duong looks back on his first days at Cabramatta High School.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN - PP219194

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

Students top state

By Jessica Mahar in State Parliament

TWO of Fairfield's year 12 students were named as among the brightest in the state yesterday.

Cabramatta High School student Vanno Tang and Patrician Brothers College, Fairfield, student Andrew Dearing topped the state in their subjects.

Vanno, who studied Khmer continuers, and Andrew, who studied metal and engineering, were named first in class at a ceremony attended by Premier Nathan Rees yesterday.

The rest of Fairfield's class of 2008 finds out their results today.

But Vanno and Andrew have already done their schools – and Fairfield – proud.

Andrew's passion for metal and engineering should pay off for him, as he aims to get into a structural engineering course at UTS next year.

"I'm going straight back to studying," he said.

"Structural engineering involves design and creating new structures as in different types of bridges and roads, and create different methods."

The first-in-course award came as a complete surprise.

"I was amazed, I was really shocked that I could do it," Andrew said yesterday.

"I was overwhelmed with it. The HSC was very hectic and very draining too but it wasn't too bad."

Vanno Tang, who only came to Australia in 2005, demonstrated his commitment by dashing back to work after the ceremony.

His school principal, Beth Godwin, said she was very proud of him.

"He's a dedicated, hard-working student who is really focused on his learning and all his

teachers speak very highly of him – and that puts him in really good stead," she said.

Mr Rees congratulated the 112 students who topped their class.

"I'm delighted to meet these students that are the cream of the crop – the best of the best," he said. "The NSW HSC promotes outstanding achievement in every field from the sciences and humanities to technical trade skills."

Education Minister Verity Firth congratulated the students but urged others getting results tomorrow to not be despondent if the results were not what they expected.

She said there were always a number of avenues to reach a chosen career.

"It's not the end of the world," she said.

"Please don't despair – it's not the be-all and end-all if you don't get the marks that you wanted."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

Brilliant efforts in tests

Fairfield schools reported excellent results from the 2008 HSC.

Cabramatta High School

Deputy principal Janice Gooden was full of praise for Vanno Tang, who topped the state in Khmer continuers. Staff hadn't yet tracked down Vanno's UAI, but he was vying for top position with fellow student Quynh Anh Tran, who achieved 99.45. Eleven students with UAIs are reporting over 90, with more likely.

"Our English Extension 1 group all achieved above state average – an amazing outcome for a group whose first language is not English," she said. Geraldine Gaitan was also congratulated for her inclusion in ArtExpress and Duong Duong for her nomination for DesignTECH.

Canley Vale High School

Principal Pat Mahony said he knew of at least three students with UAIs over 99; including one 99.7 and one 99.4.

He said he expected at least another 20 students with UAIs in the 90s, and looked forward to catching up with students at a school barbecue on Friday. Students earned 64 band 6 results, 34 of which were in mathematics. The school had climbed in the rankings to be placed about 20th in the state.

Cecil Hills High School

With 24 students on distinguished achievers list, achieving band 6 results in at least one subject, principal Sean Bowen said he was very impressed with this year group. The highest UAI so far was 97.6, with another seven students achieving UAIs in the high 90s with more results to come. There was a 30 per cent increase in number of students getting a band 6, with 194 students achieving either band 5 or 6 results. Eleven subjects achieved above state results.

Bonnyrigg High School

Mathematics Extension 2 was the standout subject, said principal Michael Bryce. All four



Dancing his way to success: Tim Walsh is now waiting on a letter to tell him whether he's accepted into a Victorian dance school.

Picture: Wes Loneragan

students in the subject achieved band 6, though the school had not heard any UAI results at the time. Vietnamese continuers also performed outstandingly, with one student one of only three in NSW to achieve band 6 in the subject. One student achieved a mark of 96 in German

Student's surprise

By Jessica Mahar
in State Parliament

BONNYRIGG Heights student Tim Walsh was literally dancing for joy when he logged onto the internet to get his HSC (Higher School Certificate) results last week.

The dance student did not expect to do as well as he did and surprised himself by getting marks in the 80s – band 5s – for all his subjects.

Tim, who attended Newtown Performing Arts High School, has already auditioned for a dance course at the Victorian College of the Arts and finds out whether he is successful in mid-January.

"The HSC has probably been one of the most stressful things I've had to do," he said.

While focusing on contemporary dance, Tim said it's a dream of his to perform with the Sydney Dance Company.

continuers, while other strongly performers included software design and development, biology, society and culture and English as a second language.

CONTINUED PAGE 6

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

Stories of hardship inspire creativity

AN inspiring public exhibition by Cabramatta High School students was opened at the Commonwealth Bank's landmark 48 Martin Place building last month.

Each of the paintings, photographs and collages which make up the collection is accompanied by gripping written stories that tell of the extraordinary journeys students took to come to Australia, battling their way through civil wars, earthquakes and abandonment to arrive in a strange but exciting new country.

"Often the best way to empower students is to ask them about their own lives and encourage them to tell their own stories through art," principal Beth Godwin said. "Many of our students have experienced more in their younger years than most of us will in a lifetime – and the exhibition reflects this."

The artworks and stories are the culmination of a mentoring program, designed to improve literacy through artistic expression, between Commonwealth Bank



Creative: Cabramatta High School artists Sittichat Bamrung and Milena Trkulja.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

employees and students from Cabramatta High School.

Fifteen staff members from the bank were involved in the program, including Tu Duong, a bank staff member and former Cabramatta High School student.

"I come from a similar background to the students on the

program, so I wanted to help out," Mr Duong said.

"It's an opportunity to show positive ways to draw on experiences, and reinforce that despite the obstacles in their lives, they have the support and creativity to overcome them."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, January 7, 2009



Mind blowing: Students from five local schools were at Cabramatta High School for the Cabra-Vale Minds Challenge on Wednesday. Among all the work and quizzes was a group of children enjoying a different way of learning.

Picture: Wesley Loneragan

Great minds think alike

By Michael Chammas

WITH most children winding down for the school holidays, Cabramatta High School decided to step it up another notch.

The Cabra-Vale Minds Challenge was held at the school on December 10 with more than 50 students testing their knowledge in the day of activities and quizzes.

Students from Cabramatta High, Canley Vale High School, Lansvale Public School, Cabramatta West

Public School and Canley Vale Public School walked into the library not knowing any of the students from the neighbouring schools.

But when the students got split into groups of ten, it didn't take long for the brains to start ticking and the friendships to develop.

Several knowledge quizzes, spontaneous exercises, maths challenges as well as a structural building competition were among the list of brain-busters on the day.

Cabramatta High teacher

Lisa Treloar supplied the students with three newspapers and a roll of sticky tape to build the strongest and tallest building.

"It's amazing to see what the kids can come up with in just 45 minutes," she said.

The aim of the challenge is to provide students with the opportunity to build networks, an aspect of the event that Canley Vale High School student Sarah Le was excited about. "We've already made friends from five schools," she said.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, January 7, 2009



Vanno Tang hopes to study medicine at university.

-PP231014

Language flair sees scores soar

CABRAMATTA'S Vanno Tang has gone from a Cambodian refugee with minimal English to a HSC high-flier in three short years.

The Cabramatta High School graduate immigrated with his parents and four siblings when his mother and father sought a better education for their children.

Last month, Vanno rewarded them handsomely by achieving first place in Khmer, his native language, and a lofty UAI of 98.95.

"I was very proud of myself and I felt it was a very important achievement," he said.

Vanno achieved 93 per cent in Khmer and high marks in maths, English as a second language, physics and chemistry. He hopes to study medicine this year.

Proving Fairfield has a multilingual flair, Westfields Sports High School student Loredana Ontivero achieved first place in the Spanish Continuers course.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, January 21, 2009



Lachlan Erskine last year.

Top achievers saluted
for their civic exploits



PAST CITIZENS

- 08 – Lachlan Erskine
- 07 – Christina Eddy
- 06 – Coral McGovern
- 05 – Janet Hopwood
- 04 – Lucelle Harris
- 03 – Tony Fornasier

FAIRFIELD Council will
announce a new Citizen of the
Year at Fairfield City Farm on
Monday.

A Young Citizen of the Year and
Sports Achiever of the Year will
also be named. The new Citizen of
the Year will take the baton from
Cabramatta High School teacher,
Lachlan Erskine.

The Canley Heights resident
claimed last year's title, awarded
for his dedication to Cabramatta
High and volunteer work at the
Red Cross, St Vincent de Paul,
Cabramatta PCYC and the
Cambodian-Australian Welfare
Council of NSW.

Table tennis champion Kiet
Tran was last year's Sports
Achiever of the Year. Mt Pritchard
resident Julie Anne Bankowski
was the Young Citizen of the Year.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Leadership quality is recognised



CABRA-VALE Diggers Club director George Taylor presented the club's Arthur West Memorial Award to Cabramatta High School student Chloe Vuong (pictured with Mr Taylor) late last year. The award is presented to a student who exhibits leadership qualities among their peers, has potential to lead in the community and is of sound character. The club donated a cheque, medallion and honour board. Mr Taylor also presented the Principal's Academic Award for Dux of the School to year 12 student Kha Gek Banh.

Picture: Ernst Dorn

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

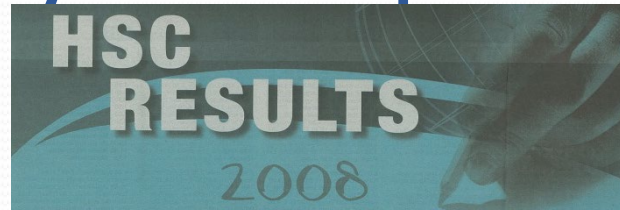
New bank manager, a local

The Commonwealth Bank has appointed former Cabramatta High School student Emily Chhor as the new branch manager at its Cabramatta branch.

Ms Chhor welcomed in the Luna New Year by sponsoring the Vietnamese Year Festival to the tune of \$5000 this weekend as well as donating her time to man the Commonwealth Bank stand.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
February 11, 2009



CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

In 2008 **Cabramatta High School** celebrated outstanding HSC results.

Among the successes was a top **UAI score of 99.45**. In Khmer, students placed 1st & 2nd in the state. A student was 2nd in the state for Serbian and another student was 8th in the state for Engineering Studies. A number of students made the honour lists for their excellent results. Some of our top achievers with outstanding UAI's included:

Kha Gek Banh

Christina Bui

Tanja Djokic

Yong Bo Guan

Milan Kalanj

Bianca Lam

Xay Hong Lam

Ngoc Khanh Vi Lam

Thuy Mac

Milijana Masanovic

Susan Ngo

Khoi Nguyen

Nghia Nguyen

An Minh Phan

Aleks Subotic

Janna Tang

Vanno Tang

Thi Thanh Thu Tra

Judy Tran

Thien Quynh Anh Tran

Virginia Tran

Annie Van

Milan Vukas

Many of the 2008 graduates are pursuing further studies at university in a wide range of fields. Cabramatta High School congratulates all the HSC students on their results and wishes them well in their chosen careers.

Aladore Ave, Cabramatta NSW 2166

Ph 97262424 - Fax 97264282

www.cabramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 18, 2009



CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

2009 School Leaders

Cabramatta High School "Our students are our main concern"

Cabramatta High School has been serving its community since 1958, 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. Students from all backgrounds gain the confidence to succeed academically, socially and as leaders.

Our school's student leaders participate in a variety of programs and opportunities that allow for growth and their development as future leaders of our community.

Student opportunities provided at the school include:

- After school study centres
- Free HSC tutorials
- Gifted and talented programs
- Sporting opportunities



From Left to right: Chloe Vuong, Alan Mok, Vicky Ly & Evan Le

Aladore Ave, Cabramatta NSW 2166
Ph 97262424 - Fax 97264282
www.cabramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Our new column Where Are They Now catches up with some of Fairfield's best and brightest. If you know someone who'd be a good subject, email editor@fairfieldadvance.com.au

Familiar face a fan of Cabramatta



Then . . . a young Emily (front row, fourth from left) in a 1987 Cabramatta Public School class photo, and now . . . at work in Cabramatta.

CARLEEN FROST

"DO I know you from somewhere?"

That's usually the first question branch manager Emily Chhor is asked by her customers at the Commonwealth Bank in Cabramatta. And her answer is usually "yes, you do".

Ms Chhor said she was constantly running into people she knew at the John St branch.

"I am truly a local girl. I grew up

in Cabramatta, went to Cabramatta Primary and Cabramatta High School, and am very passionate about making a difference in the community. I know a lot of the shop-owners because my dad used to take me around Cabramatta."

After leaving high school, Ms Chhor completed a Bachelor of



where are they now

Commerce at the University of Western Sydney.

She joined the Commonwealth Bank in 2001, and took up the role of branch manager at Cabramatta in late January.

"After the HSC I went into commerce because I went well in my business studies course. But when I was younger I always wanted to be an air hostess."

Already a popular addition to the Cabramatta branch, Ms Chhor speaks fluent Mandarin and basic Cantonese.

"I never appreciated Cabramatta when I was younger. But compared to some places overseas, it's like a slice of paradise here."

Ms Chhor now lives in St Johns Park and has two children - Tayla and Ethan.



Read this story in Chinese
at www.fairfieldadvance.com.au

翻譯：這故事已被翻譯成中文於：
www.fairfieldadvance.com.au

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
February 25, 2009



Goods to go: Cabramatta High School's staff and students have rallied together and donated a stockpile of goods for the survivors of the Victorian bushfires. Pictured (left to right) are Alan Mok, Eng Khiang Bruce Tia, Ada Yangnouvong, Thomson Ho, Anna Thi Van Tuong Mai and Chloe Vuong.

Picture: Wesley Loneragan

Generosity ongoing

By Stacey Vanoska

LOCAL support for the Victorian bushfire victims has continued despite the initial shock and horror at the devastation that occurred more than two weeks ago has subsided.

The Australian Red Cross Victorian Bushfire Appeal has raised over \$100 million and is still taking donations as local groups and organisations continue to support the cause.

■ Cetnaj Wetherill Park sent blankets, food, toys and can openers to the Victorian State Emergency Services to be handed out to needy families. They also organised a barbe-

cue lunch and raffle, with all proceeds going to the appeal.

■ The Bonnyrigg temple of the Cambodian Buddhist Society of NSW is still taking the donations until this weekend.

■ The Smithfield Young Liberals launched a Black Ribbon Bushfire fund-raiser. The members sold black ribbons to be worn as a sign of respect and mourning for all those who died in the fires. All proceeds went directly to the appeal.

■ Fairfield City Seniors Golf Club has donated \$500 to the appeal.

■ The Colo Colo Club held a weekend of entertainment to raise money for the appeal.

Volunteers cooked traditional Latin American dishes and held performances into the evening on Saturday.

■ Rumbles Pictures, with the support of the Jesus Family Centre (JFC) at Cabramatta, Powerhouse Youth Theatre and Community First Step, held the Great Cabramatta Sausage Sizzle last Saturday in the JFC car park, and raised more than \$900 for the appeal.

■ The Vietnamese-Australian Medical Association raised more than \$30,000 at a fund-raiser where Cabramatta MP Nick Lalich was urged to sign and auction the tie he was wearing. It raised \$3000.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
March 4, 2009

Just dripping with kindness

CABRAMATTA High School's students and teachers rolled up their sleeves for a bloody experience last Friday to help the Victoria bushfire victims.

More than 50 people from the school took part in the Vampire Day challenge and travelled to the Red Cross blood bank in Liverpool.

The school's special education teacher and co-ordinator of the blood drive, Udra Nand, said the students had been very keen to take part.

"Our Year 10 students really want to donate blood but they can't because they have to be 16-years-old to do so, so they're quite disappointed about that," he said.

"We started off with only 20 students but the number keeps increasing each day ..."

The blood drive will continue for another week.

Meanwhile, Ausviet Care - a small group of Vietnamese GPs from Bankstown, Cabramatta, Flemington and Marrickville - raised almost \$57,000 for the victims at a charity dinner on Saturday, February 21.

Marrickville GP Dr Van Hao Vu led the organisation of the charity dinner, said more than 800 people attended the event.

"The event really harnessed the goodwill of the Vietnamese community and gave people a



Evan Le and Alan Mok get ready to give blood.

chance to show their support, which I think is all part of the grieving process," he said.

His colleague, a GP from Flemington Dr David Minh Tang said local businesses, big and small, "really opened their hearts and donated numerous prizes for the raffles and auctions, which assisted with raising funds".

Gloria Jeans in Neeta City Shopping Centre, Fairfield raised an extra \$610 through their Salvation Army collection tin, situated at the front counter.

The store's franchisee Paul Moro said he was surprised at how quickly the tin filled up.

"I couldn't believe how much money was in there after a week and a half ... it was a pretty big tin," he said. "We will now match that amount dollar for dollar."

■ BIANCA MARTINS

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Students from three schools roll up sleeves

THREE of our local schools joined the battle against rubbish last Friday as students took part in this year's Clean up Australia Day.

Cabramatta High School students weren't scared to get their hands dirty to keep their neighbourhood clean.

Teacher Isabel Pachó said students were sent to Bolivia Park and Cabramatta Creek.

"Our year 7 and 8 students took part in the clean up this year," she said.

"They were very excited, especially our year 7 students because it was the first time they did it."

Lansvale Public School also had students collect waste from Long Creek.

The school's principal Mark Diamond said Fairfield Council donated gloves, sharps boxes and garbage bags to the school for the event.

Carramar Public School did their bit to help clean the environment, with students also cleaning up different areas of the school where rubbish had accumulated.

The school's media adviser Sheena Zagari said 240 students brought gloves and plastic bags last Friday and cleaned for 30 minutes.

■ BIANCA MARTINS

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
March 18, 2009



Helping hand: (Back l-r) Lions Club district governor Philip Lawler, the Leo/Youth Outreach chairman Martin Peebles and Cabramatta/Cabra-Vale Lions' Club president Jenny Tew with members of Cabramatta High School's Leo Club. The local Cabramatta/Cabra-Vale Leo Club is calling for more members.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

Appeal a roaring success

By **Michael Chammas**

THE 52 members of Cabramatta High School's Leo Club were joined by two special guests recently.

Lions Club district governor Philip Lawler and the Leo/Youth Outreach chairman Martin Peebles joined the students to discuss the latest affairs of the club over lunch.

Mr Lawler and Mr Peebles praised the students' latest fund-raising efforts for the victims of the Victorian bush-

fires, in which several students collected \$7000 after spending their weekends door-knocking to seek donations.

The high school's Leo Club began two years ago and has since more than doubled its members.

Group president Ranie Nguyen, 16, was proud of her group's recent achievements.

"We started with 20 members and now we have more than 50," Ranie said.

"I love that we help people

in our community and I love that last year we stopped farmers from committing suicide because we can help."

Vice-president Jocelyn Ly said the Leo program gave young people a chance to "step up and do something in the world".

"It was amazing to raise \$7000 for the bushfires, because Cabramatta is not the richest area," she said.

Details: Jenny Tew, 9724 7168 or 0419 252 288.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
March 18, 2009



Vampire Day: Cabramatta High School students (l-r) Srey Pov Chea, Kevin Tran and Chris Fakhoury with Margaret Harriman from the Liverpool Blood Bank. The school has raised over \$10,000 for the victims of the Victorian bushfires through the Leos Club, a talent quest and the SRC.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

Students driven to donate

By Jocelyn Ly
Cabramatta high School

SINCE February more than 50 senior students and teachers from Cabramatta High School have donated blood to the Australian Red Cross to help the victims of the Victorian bushfires.

The students and teachers took turns to give half a litre of blood at the Liverpool Blood Bank.

It was originally intended to be a one-day event, but due to the generosity of the students and teachers, the

event has continued for another two weeks.

Blood driver co-ordinator Udra Nand said: "This was a tremendous effort by students and teachers. It shows our school is trying to do everything we can to help".

"I am really happy that many of the other students were willing to help but unfortunately they couldn't because of their age," Mr Nand said.

One donor, Kerry Richards, said: "It was scary at first when they put the needle in

your arm but once it started it was fine. It was worth it for the cause."

For year 12 student Vicky Ly giving blood meant that she could save lives. "I'm one of the people who can give blood. I know that just by giving half a litre of my blood, I'm saving lives".



Initiated by the Fairfield
Business Education Partnership

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Hip hop hits the classroom



Jet Valencia takes Cabramatta students through some moves.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

BIANCA MARTINS

FROM the Bronx to Cabramatta, teenagers are learning how to break, pop, krump and chop in school hip hop workshops.

Critical Hype organised dancers to visit Cabramatta High last week to teach students basic hip hop moves.

PE teacher Trung Tran said

more than 30 students took part in the workshop and learned the tricks of the trade from dancers, including Channel 10's *So You Think You Can Dance* Top 100 contestant Jet Valencia

"I used to coach basketball to a guy who is the director for Critical Hype and when he told me what the organisation did I thought it was a good idea for them get some

dancers to visit the school and teach our students some hip hop," he said. "The students were excited because a lot of them are into that style of music."

Critical Hype director Jerome Valencia said the instructors taught students how to improvise.

"Jet and Solo Tihi, who is a breakdancer, spoke about how hip hop started at the beginning of the

workshop and then they did a demonstration to generate interest," he said.

Workshop organiser Sophie Le said her aim was to get students interested in the dance style and if successful, the school would introduce hip hop classes in term two.



See more pictures

from the hip hop workshop at
fairfieldadvance.com.au

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, April 15, 2009



High achievers: Cabramatta High students enjoyed the cross country day.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

Cross country event success

By **Phu Thap**
of Cabramatta High School

ON Friday, March 27, Cabramatta High School held its annual cross country carnival.

Aleksander Pupovac, 17, smashed the school's record by seven seconds. He finished the 1.75km race with an astonishing time of 5 minutes, 37 seconds.

"I was surprised by my result even though I've been training really hard. It's an achievement that I'll never forget," Aleksander Pupovac said.

Aleksander will continue on to the Bernera zone cross-country carnival in six weeks time with the school team.

Patricia Wu, 12, and Aleksandra Bjelosevic, 16, also broke school records for their age group. Both male and female students displayed great determination and sportsmanship this year.

Mr Trung Tran, a teacher, said: "It's fantastic to see the students being focused on the race but at the same time being respectful to each other."

News of Aleksander,

Patricia and Aleksandra's achievements spread throughout the school.

All students congratulated the sports stars and thanked the teachers for making the day a success.



Initiated by the Fairfield
Business Education Partnership

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
April 15, 2009

Hip-hop school lives up to hype



Breaking it down: The students at Cabramatta High School admire the talent of one of Critical Hype's dancers.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

By Michael Chammas

WHEN the bell rings to signal the end of the day, high school students are notorious for "busting a move" out the front gates.

But several students at Cabramatta High School have given the term a whole new meaning after 3pm.

More than 40 students took part in a hip-hop workshop after school last week in a program run by Critical Hype.

Students of all ages and dancing ability were joined by some of the profession's most competent dancers, who shared their knowledge while teaching the basics of hip-hop.

Critical Hype's Jerome Valencia said his organisation's role was to build up interest in urban dancing.

"The best way to do this is to work with the younger generation," Mr Valencia said.

"Workshops like this give students a taste of hip-hop and break-dancing."

He said since the introduction of television shows such as Network 10's *So You Think You Can Dance*, dancing had entered the mainstream culture in western Sydney.

It's a cash bonanza for schools

LOCAL schools are set to receive more than \$5 million in funding through the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution program.

Schools in the Fairfield city area that will receive funding include:

■ Bonnyrigg High, Bossley Park High, Cabramatta High, Cabramatta Public, Cabramatta West Public, Canley Heights Public, Canley Vale

Public, Fairfield Heights Public, Fairfield High, Fairfield Public, Fairfield West Public, Fairvale High, Fairvale Public, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary, St Johns Park Public, St Johns Park High, Freeman Catholic College, Mount Pritchard Public, Westfields Sports High, Patrician Brothers College Fairfield, Prairiewood High and Smithfield Public. These schools will receive \$200,000.

■ Bossley Park Public, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Smithfield West Public and Villawood North Public will receive more than \$150,000 each.

■ Carramar Public, Mount Pritchard East Public, Old Guildford Public and St Gertrudes Primary will receive more than \$100,000.

■ Horsley Park Public, Les Powell School and Yennora Public will receive \$75,000.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
May 13, 2009

School is right into green day

BIANCA MARTINS

CABRAMATTA High School students weren't afraid to get their hands dirty last Thursday when they took part in the school's annual Green Day.

Lessons were suspended and more than 1200 students and 120 teachers worked on environmental projects across the school.

They were joined by 40 staff from the Commonwealth Bank, including Chief chief executive Ralph Norris.

Teacher Toni Robinson said small groups of students cleaned rubbish from the school grounds and touched up paint work.

"We had students cleaning up the shed by cutting trees, cleaning debris and painting the walls. They made it look very neat," she said.

"Other students cleared out the store-room, to improve the workspace they spend so much time in, and some kids learnt how to recycle paper.

"Some of our Year 12 students also painted an outdoor mural."

One of these students was 17-year-old Chloe Vuong.

Along with classmates and Mr Norris, she painted a landscape on the mural.

"We painted mountains, the sky and wrote *Year 12, 09* in the centre of it," she said. "We had so much fun doing it."



Commonwealth Bank chief executive Ralph Norris and Cabramatta High School student Peter Loa give a wall a colourful makeover.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Plants were donated by Fairfield Council and students planted them in the school's Peace Garden.

"They did the mulching, weeding and planting," Ms Robinson said.

"Everyone did their bit for the environment and they had fun doing it."

The school's Year 11 hospitality students also got involved – providing morning tea and lunch for the guests.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Our column Where Are They Now? catches up with some of Fairfield's best and brightest. If you know someone who'd be a good subject, email editor@fairfieldadvance.com.au

Cabra helped launch a life on stage

CARLEEN FROST

ALTHOUGH admitting he was a "wayward" student, entertainer Jon English did make good use of his time at Cabramatta High School.

The teenager used up most of his study hours trying to woo his high school sweetheart, Carmen, and launching a career in entertainment with his mates in rock group Sebastian Hardie.



where are they now

"I was not that intelligent and basically unmotivated," he said.

"But it was quite good fun."

His persistence paid off, with English later marrying his high school girlfriend and becoming one of the most recognisable faces on Australian television.

His big break came when Sebastian Hardie landed a support spot on a national tour with Johnny O'Keefe in 1968.

As the band's frontman, the exposure launched English into the public eye and on to the stage where he starred as Judas in the hit musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*.



Jon English as a high school basketballer, as a man-about-town in 1976, and today.

He went on to star in musicals and television dramas for more than 35 years including *Altogether Now*, *Stopover*, *Number 96*, *Flying Doctors*, *Ocean Girl*, *Matlock*, *Police, Division Four*, *Frontline* and *Against the Wind*.

His stage resume includes roles in *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *Rasputin*, *H.M.S*

Pinafore, *Are You Being Served*, *Uncorked*, and *Blood Brothers*.

"It's all about making yourself available," he said. "I was lucky to be able to try lots of things."

Although he now lives in Port Macquarie, English said he had fond memories of Cabramatta.

He lived in Coventry St, with his parents and three brothers and

sisters, after the family emigrated from England in 1961.

"In the '60s Cabramatta was like an old country town. It was good fun," he said.

He said the most "happening place" was the Stardust Hotel.

"I was there when it opened," he said. "It was very flash."

English is now focused on his favourite forte, music and returns to Fairfield to perform with Jonah's Road at Smithfield RSL on Saturday, May 30. Tickets are \$12. Details: 9604 4411



Check out more Where Are They Now at fairfieldadvance.com.au

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
May 27, 2009



Linda Tran on her way to winning Cabramatta's High School's Ready Steady Cook challenge.

Picture: ALEX WISSER

Kids in the kitchen cream the opposition

STUDENTS at Cabramatta High School took part in their own *Ready Steady Cook* challenge on Monday to celebrate Education Week.

Years 11 and 12 hospitality, food and technology students battled it out in the kitchen for an hour in a desperate measure to be crowned the school's Master Chef.

Much like the TV reality show, the students had to prepare and present a dish using four key ingredients -

chicken, potato, carrots and snow peas.

Challenge co-ordinator Gurdeep Kaur said the students created "fantastic" dishes.

"They were all really good. The judges found it extremely difficult to pick a winner," he said.

The judges included the school's principal Beth Godwin, former student who now works at Lansvale's Ambrosia Seafood Restaurant

Michael Mai and home economics head teacher Michelle West.

They evaluated the dishes based on presentation, taste and texture.

"The winner was in Year 11 - Linda Tran. She did stuffed chicken breast and was the only student who made that dish," Ms Godwin said. "The stuffing was made with fresh ingredients ... it was absolutely delicious."

Linda won a \$50 voucher from Rashays Cafe in Wetherill Park.

■ BIANCA MARTINS

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Students step up

BRAZIL is known for its coffee beans, party life and more recently its martial arts/dance capoeira.

For decades, the Brazilian dance has entertained people all over the world.

And it's now being used to build confidence in our own back yard.

Cabramatta High School students have been learning capoeira every Friday at the school.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) teacher Sophie Le said her aim was

to build the self-esteem of students who came from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"We are targeting refugee students to give them the opportunity to be part of something," she said.

"It's a way for them to be able to express themselves as well as teaching them social skills."

More than 20 students were taking part in the program.

"It's going really well. We've noticed a lot of

changes in the behaviour of those students," Ms Le said.

The students recently took their skills to the streets - performing at different events across Sydney.

Capoeira is a blend of self-defence, acrobatics and dance accompanied by drums and tambourines.

It was used by the African slaves in Brazil in the 16th century as style of fighting, disguised as a form of dancing.

■ BIANCA MARTINS



Cabramatta High School students Miriam Omari and Rita Gawam learning capoeira.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, June 10, 2009



Student Ranie Nguyen spent a day in the boss's seat.

Picture: BRAD HUNTER

Director for a day

CABRAMATTA High School's Year 11 student leader Ranie Nguyen spent last Wednesday running all of the state's schools, as part of Education Week's Director-General for a Day program.

The 16-year-old replaced the NSW Education Department's deputy director-general for schools Trevor Fletcher and carried out his role – travelling to schools and speaking to students.

"We went to Blaxcell

Street Public School in Granville and gave a mini leadership workshop, which involved making a mind map of what makes a good leader," she said.

"We also gave advice to students about how they can tackle issues that need improvement within their school."

After spending half the day making appearances, she went back to the department to experience firsthand the stresses of the job.

"We went back and spoke about the issue of swine flu and how to tackle it if students at a school had the disease," she said.

"It was very stressful but fun at the same time."

Director-General for a Day provides opportunities for secondary students to learn about the challenges and satisfaction of working in senior management in the department.

■ BIANCA MARTINS

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
July 1, 2009



On the offensive: Cabramatta High students Cindy Nguyen, Katie Truong, Julie Van, Annie Lam and Jenny Nguyen took part in a workshop that tackles cyber bullying.

Picture: Wesley Loneragan

Drawing the line on bullying

WITH cyber bullying on the increase, schools like Cabramatta High are taking a stand and educating their students on the methods and strategies for combating the newest form of bullying.

Cyber Safety Project co-ordinator Linh Nguyen, who's a teacher at the school, said getting the students engaged was a key factor in battling online bullying.

"We get them to discuss and interact," she said.

"That way they are more likely to take on the suggestions of methods and strategies for dealing with this sort of problem. By making the workshops interesting and including lots of practical activities, we hope to change the students' idea of cyber bullying."

The school also had a visit from the police school

liaison officer, Senior Constable Dave Brown, who told the students of the effect of cyber crime.

Principal Beth Godwin said the school was also educating the parents.

"We have to address the fact that most cyber bullying happens from home, so it's important that parents understand what's going on," Ms Godwin said.



**Have you experienced
cyber bullying? Tell us.**

**fairfieldchampion
.com.au**

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 8, 2009



What a story she sings!

SINGER Jessica Mauboy (pictured) has come a long way since she won *Australian Idol*.

The girl from the Northern Territory was at Cabramatta High School last Friday, sharing the story of her rise to stardom with more than 40 pupils at the school.

Mauboy joined them as part of the school's third 40 Faces Project, coinciding with this year's "People With A Story Theme".

After sharing stories with the 46 year 9 pupils in the project, Mauboy did what she does best and performed some of her hits in front of the entire school.

The guests on the day included 26 volunteer mentors from the Commonwealth Bank.

They spent time with the project's students to explore their cultural backgrounds and express them through literature.

Check out all the pictures of Jessica Mauboy's visit to Cabramatta High School at fairfieldchampion.com.au.



fairfieldchampion.com.au

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, July 15, 2009



Cabramatta High school teacher Rodd Kenny is retiring after 31 years.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN -PP294042

Long career shows real class

BIANCA MARTINS

IN all his years of teaching, the one thing Rodd Kenny will remember when he retires later this month is the change of students at Cabramatta High School.

"When I first started at the school 31 years ago there were only two Asian students. Now 70 per cent of our students are Asian," he said.

"Seeing that change has been the biggest highlight of my teaching career."

The 59-year-old has been the school's languages other than English head teacher and maths teacher for the past 31 years.

But he also did extensive hours

of voluntary work for the school, driving the school bus whenever there was an excursion.

"I really enjoy anything to do with public transport, which is why I offered to drive the bus," said Mr Kenny, who also offers to drive a bus for his church every fortnight, doing night patrol to feed the homeless.

"I always believe that if you're a lucky person then you need to give things back to people who aren't as lucky as you," he said.

Cabramatta High School spokeswoman and teacher Toni Robinson said Mr Kenny will be "greatly" missed by all the staff and students.

"Rodd has been one of the school's most inspirational teachers. He has been instrumental in the student exchange program with our sister school in Manila and he has been an active member of the school council," she said.

"Rodd is also well recognised for his charity work outside school. He received a medal from Fairfield Council during the Australia Day Awards."

Mr Kenny said he would continue to keep in contact with the staff and students after he retires.



Pay tribute to Mr Kenny

Got to fairfieldadvance.com.au

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, August 5, 2009

Ablaze with emotion

MELISSA MATHESON

CABRAMATTA High School students have found the spotlight with *Searching For Sunshine*, their entry in this year's Rock Eisteddfod Challenge.

The school will compete in the heats at the State Sports Centre at Homebush tomorrow.

The performance tells the story of the Victorian bushfires and the outpouring of emotion that followed.

There is even a tribute to Sam the koala, who was rescued from the burnt-out bushland and given a drink of water by a firefighter.

"Fire comes to destroy Earth, water comes to heal everything, harmony puts everything together and makes peace," dancer Linda Tran, 17, said.

"We worked together as a group and everyone just contributed to everything."

Cabramatta High has entered the Raw category of the Rock Eisteddfod, so no props are allowed.

Almost 50 students have spent six months choreographing routines and designing costumes.

Costume committee members Kelly Phuong, 16, and Tytyana Nguyen, 16, worked with the elements of fire, earth, water and harmony to bring the story to life.

The 2009 Rock Eisteddfod Challenge Raw grand final will be held at Sydney Entertainment Centre on September 9.



Linda Tran during rehearsals at Cabramatta High School.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN



See a video and picture gallery
at fairfieldadvance.com.au

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
August 19, 2009

ADOPT A SCHOOL

Read the Adopt a School blog online



It's all in the genes: Minh Nguyen and Jocelyn Ly

Kids cotton on to gene nous

By Jocelyn Ly, Cabramatta High School

CABRAMATTA High School took part in the Jeans for Genes Day fund-raising event recently.

Students and teachers wore jeans to support the cause and donated a gold coin.

The event was organised by the Student Representative Council as part of their charity fund-raising.

Student organiser Vicky Ly said: "This event is productive, because it gives us the opportunity to make a stand to save children's lives from gene-related diseases."

Teacher Julie Evans taught her senior and junior science classes about human genes as part of this project.

"The event provides a great opportunity to educate students about genetics and at the same time raise awareness of childhood illnesses," she said.

Julie Nguyen of year 11 said: "I didn't know much about Jeans for Genes Day but now knowing that I could help someone just by donating a gold coin made me realise how easy it is. It doesn't take much to lend a helping hand."

Throughout the day students donated money and brought the merchandise. Cabramatta High raised more than \$400 for Jeans for Genes Day.

Rock presentation recalls bushfire tragedy

By My Tien Nguyen
Cabramatta High

ON THE stage at the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre, Cabramatta High School showed their talents in the annual Rock Eisteddfod challenge.

"Searching for Sunrise" was this year's theme,

dedicated to the Victorian bushfire victims.

Cabramatta High School received four awards, which included Gemma Dale (an award given to the school that was the friendliest, most courteous and polite), school initiative, school concept and environmental and a

social awareness award.

The choreography exhibited the unpredictable strike of disasters and the impact it had on the people and the environment. The stage was filled with dancers in red, black and green costumes to portray the chaos between fire and the earth.



Maths man really measures up

By Sandra Ham, Cabramatta High School

"SO LONG, farewell and hope you'll say goodbye" is the tune Cabramatta High School students sang during the last week of the term to farewell their retiring French and mathematics teacher Rodd Kenny.

Mr Kenny has been teaching in the public education system since 1972. He has seen the changes in culture and students throughout his years of service and is 100 per cent certain that Cabramatta High School is one of the best schools in NSW.

"This school is outstanding with excellent students and staff. Students and staff are excited in learning and understanding new and unfamiliar culture," Mr Kenny said.

"Mr Kenny is a fantastic teacher and entertainer. He makes learning mathematics enjoyable and light. I always look forward to his lessons. Everything he has taught me always sticks in my mind because it is comical and simplified," said student Joanna Lam.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 9, 2009



Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin with student Shayla Dang and her mother Hanh Do.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Rockin' celebration

PARENTS, teachers and students came together for a rocking event at Cabramatta High School last week.

ROCK stands for Recognition of Cabramatta Knowledge and six students from each grade were selected for their excellence in attendance and dedication.

Their parents were invited to the school to share morning tea with their children in what was a "really good celebration", principal Beth Godwin said.

"You've got a wonderful child - everyone wants to hear that," Ms Godwin said. "Parents don't get a certificate, parents don't get a medal. They're so proud of their children.

"It's a really good celebration that also celebrates the partnership - the child is not only a product of the school but also the home." This was the first ROCK morning tea, and Ms Godwin said the school planned to make it an annual event.

"The staff of the school wanted to recognise the students who are always doing the right thing and also to congratulate the parents," she said. "It's a nice connection for them to have with the school.

"They trust their children in our care every day. To know that it's working and that it's a well-judged trust, I think that's important."

- MELISSA MATHESON

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 9, 2009



Tropfest best actor award winner Gerard O'Dwyer talking to Cabramatta High School students.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Gerard says dare to dream

DENIS O'Dwyer is proud to be Gerard's brother.

Mr O'Dwyer is a casual PE teacher at Cabramatta High School and he introduced his younger brother, Gerard O'Dwyer – who won the Tropfest Best Actor award for his performance in *Be My Brother* – to the students on Thursday as part of the school's 40 Faces program.

Gerard has Down syndrome, and after a screening of his film he answered questions from the students.

"I'm glad that you enjoyed my movie," Gerard said.

"I always wanted to be an actor, I always wanted to be in a movie.

"I have made another film, it's called *The Memory of You and the Reflection of Me*.

"In my spare time I dance with the group of Merry Makers, I do some reading and karate classes and sometimes I go to the library."

Gerard lists Robin Williams, Ruth Cracknell, Russell Crowe and Glenn McGrath as his idols.

When one of the Cabramatta students asked what he would tell other young aspiring actors, Gerard answered: "To go for their dreams."

"I'm just really proud of him, what he's achieved," Denis O'Dwyer said.

"He has such a positive effect on people, he's just a natural with people."

The 40 Faces program has been running for three years at Cabramatta High School and this year's theme is People with a Story.

Participating students have the opportunity to share stories with each other, their mentors from the Commonwealth Bank, and members of the community.

– MELISSA MATHESON

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 16, 2009



Hung Phat Duong, a year 10 student at Cabramatta High, has won an iPod in a competition.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

The truth wins a prize

HUNG Phat Duong knows how to tell *The Truth*.

The Cabramatta High School student won first prize in the Education Department podcast competition with his entry, *The Truth*.

Students were asked to write a piece of poetry or rap and turn it into a creative 60-second MP3 or

WAV file for National Literacy and Numeracy Week.

"I made the poem and I put the sound effects in the poem to make the podcast," Hung Phat, 15, said.

"It's like a short autobiography of my life in the early years. It was my true feelings and thoughts."

Hung Phat won an iPod for his efforts and was celebrated in front

of the school by principal Beth Godwin.

"I love music and sometimes I have done things like put music and lyrics together," he said.

"I think the podcast competition is a really good chance for me to show my love for music and my love for poetry."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
September 16,
2009

Poetry wins award

By Tien Nguyen
Cabramatta High School

CABRAMATTA High School students have congratulated year 9's Hung Phat Duong who won the National Literacy and Numeracy Week Podcast Competition in the south-west Sydney region.

The competition searched for talented students who were able to compose a creative piece of work that would capture an audience's attention.

The work was later assembled with sound effects played in the background to set the intended atmosphere.

Hung Phat's entry was an autobiography of his life in Vietnam and since he arrived in Australia.

It was written as a poem.

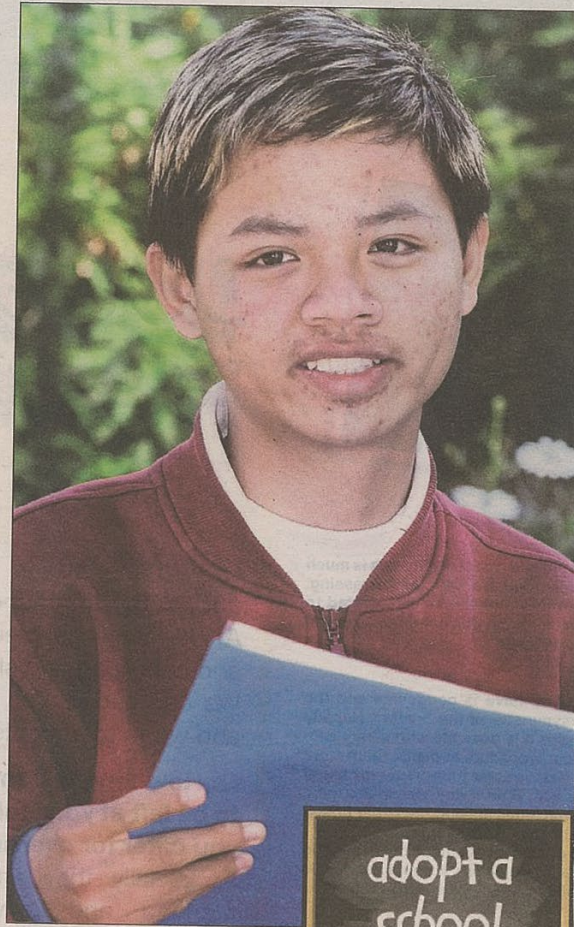
The piece described the changes Hung Phat has made to adapt to Australian society.

It is titled *The Truth* and portrayed Hung Phat's struggle in his home land and his determination to find a brighter future.

Hung Phat said: "The poetic techniques that I have learnt in Australia really came in handy because the intentions and passion in my poem is well represented."

"I am delighted that I have won this competition.

"This is a personal accomplishment of mine to prove that academic achievements can happen for those who have just



arrived in Australia," he said.

Hung Phat was congratulated by his peers at the school assembly.

adopt a
school

Initiated by the Fairfield
Business Education Partnership

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 7, 2009



Ly Choeu Lim has blossomed in Cabramatta High School's Intensive English Centre.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Life story moves audience to tears

LY CHOEU Lim has a talent for public speaking – and she can bring audiences to tears with her moving words.

It's a remarkable story, because Ly Choeu, 15, arrived in Australia from Cambodia five months ago.

On September 25 she spoke about her life at a Shades 4 AIDS event and brought the audience to tears.

"I was quite nervous but my teachers, they gave me support and encouragement, they told me I could do it and they made me very confident," Ly Choeu said.

Ly Choeu is one of the latest graduates from the Intensive English Centre at Cabramatta High School.

Next term, she will join the mainstream year 10 classes at the school.

Back in Cambodia she was expected to be at school from 6.30am to 8pm, six days a week.

"Back in Cambodia, parents take control, they worry until you find a family," she said.

"Here I find there's a lot more opportunity for me to express my

talent and I don't feel scared to show it."

The program for each student at the Intensive English Centre depends on their level of education and English, relieving head teacher Ana Sentic said.

"Someone like Ly Choeu makes outstanding progress, but some of our refugee students who have never been to school may stay here for up to a year," she said.

"Often you'll see a stage of real quiet and then they blossom and become great speakers."

■ MELISSA MATHESON

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 14, 2009



Cabramatta High's advanced learning class, pictured with science teacher Nalini Jeyakumar.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Advancing kids' curiosity

THESE students are multiplying their knowledge at an advanced rate.

The year 7 advanced learning class at Cabramatta High School has allowed gifted and talented students the opportunity to examine life in their own backyard under the microscope.

"Cabramatta Creek is out the back of the school on our campus and we visit there and

take like samples," science teacher Nalini Jeyakumar said.

"Snails mating – they saw all that.

"The survival value of the flora and fauna in the creek, they get really interested about that."

This is the first year Cabramatta High School has run the advanced learning class.

Student Anthony Pham said he liked the

science fieldwork because "we get out of the classroom".

"The snails mating looked like they were trying to eat each other," he said.

"We got to test the turbidity in the creek water – there was a dead rat," classmate Shayla Dang said.

■ MELISSA MATHESON

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Alex a champion of girl power

ALEXANDRA Sulusi admits footy is not the easiest sport for women to take on.

The Cabramatta High School student competes in both union and league at the school, zone and state levels.

Alex, 15, plays for the NSW Under-19 girls merit squad and the Canley Heights Dragons Under-19 side for league, as well as in her school's union team.

She trains at least three times a week during the rugby season, and keeps fit by running and participating in athletics in the off-season.

It can be a little rough but she still encourages more girls to take up the sport.

"You get pretty smashed sometimes," she said. "I fractured my foot recently so that set me back a little.

"(People) probably think it's just a men's sport but it's really fun – you meet new friends and it's a big opportunity."

Alex has had the opportunity to train with the Australian women's rugby league team while playing for the NSW merit squad.

With league as her preferred sport, she hopes to join the national side in the not-too-distant future.

Last weekend's NRL grand final result was a little disappointing, she said.

"I thought it was pretty tight, with Parra coming through in the last few minutes, but Melbourne was just too good."



MAJOR SPONSOR



■ ZILKA GROGAN

Alex Sulusi is a champion rugby union and league player.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
October 21, 2009



Kick-off: Cabramatta High School students prepare to tackle the HSC on Tuesday.

Picture: Carlos Furtado

It's time for reckoning as students tackle HSC

By Chris Boulous

NERVOUS smiles, last-minute study and SOS calls to family were the order of the day as the Higher School Certificate (HSC) began at Cabramatta High School on Tuesday.

The 50 teenagers who faced the three-hour business studies exam were among a record 69,261 students who will tackle the 2009 version of the HSC.

"They have worked very hard and put in a lot of effort over the past two years," business studies teacher Charmaine Walton said.

"They couldn't have done any more to prepare.

"As a teacher, the start of the HSC is very exciting and I hope they all perform to their potential."

The 24-day HSC journey continues

today with the bulk of the state's students completing their second English exam.

Next week the focus turns to mathematics and science.

The final exams – French extension, information technology and textiles and design – are on November 13.

Cabramatta High School year 12 student, Chloe Vuong said she was glad the exams were finally taking place.

"We had a big group study session last night so hopefully we are ready for the exam," she said. Results will be available on December 16.

Students needing help during the exams can call the HSC advice line, 13 11 12, to speak to an experienced teacher.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 4, 2009



Jing Lin and Yenny Tran wait to sit their Chinese Background Speakers exam at Cabramatta High School.

Picture: BRENT MCGILVARY

Hoping to improve

THE HSC has been a test of nerves for many students.

The exams started on October 20 with Business Studies and Greek and the final bell will toll on November 13 with French Extension, Information Technology, and Textiles & Design.

On Thursday, Cabramatta High School students turned out for the

Chinese Background Speakers exam.

Jing Lin, 18, was hoping to improve her marks after her mathematics exam didn't go exactly to plan.

"When the first exam started I said, 'it's OK'," she said.

"Math was more difficult than the trials for me, I ran out of time."

Classmate Yenny Tran,

20, is aiming for a career in childcare.

Both students have organised celebrations for the end of the HSC.

"I'm going back to China for a holiday because I've had two years here and I haven't gone back," Jing said.

"I'm going to celebrate in my house with a barbecue," Yenny said.

■ MELISSA MATHESON

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

introducing your school



"Our students are our main concern". Cabramatta High School has been serving its community since 1958, providing learning to a diverse student population and enjoying strong links with local primary schools.

The school provides the opportunity for talented students to excel with like minded achievers. The Advanced Learning Class is designed to run a specialised curriculum to cater for academically advanced students. A variety of programs are offered including: accelerated Mathematics programs, academic and sporting scholarships, Top 20

academics, student leadership and Tournament of the Minds.

Cabramatta High School sets high expectations for student performance and behaviour, and has a proven track record of producing very successful HSC candidates. Over 85% of Year 12 graduates surveyed from 2008 are currently undertaking tertiary studies, including university degrees such as Medicine, Law, Business, Accounting and Engineering.

On site at Cabramatta High School are a number of specialised units. There 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 has an experienced and dedicated staff with a number of senior HSC markers and textbook authors. A variety of tutorials, including HSC preparation, and the after-school study centre that operates two afternoons each week at the school library ensure that each student can achieve his or her 'personal best'.

Cabramatta High School



Aladore Ave, Cabramatta NSW 2166

Phone: (02) 9726 2424

L1902027-181100

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 25, 2009

Tolerance is their creed



Friendly bunch: Despite their families coming from different backgrounds, Cabramatta High students say racism isn't a problem at their school. **Picture:** Wesley Lonergan

Michael Chammas went to Cabramatta High School this week to ask the students if racism was a problem at their school.

A RECENT study by the Foundation For Young Australians found that 70 per cent of students experience at least one form of racism during their six years in high school.

But if you asked the students at Cabramatta High School if they had been victims of racial abuse, they would be quick to say no.

"I have never had or seen any problems with racism at this school," 16-year-old Milica Susa said.

With 97 per cent of its students coming from non-English speaking

backgrounds, Cabramatta High School has built a reputation based around embracing multiculturalism.

Principal Beth Godwin said the students relate well to each other and have developed understanding of the different cultures.

"From understanding comes acceptance," she said.

"Some of the students come from backgrounds where understanding isn't easy but we have no problems here."

The principal of six years also said

the school wasn't disrupted by racial abuse because the teachers and students treat each other as individuals.

"They aren't the Serbian kid or the Asian kid. They are all equals."

With more than 40 languages spoken at the school, Cabramatta High has employed interpreters and community liaison officers to assist parents and students at special events.

"At parent/teacher night we have about 30 interpreters," Ms Godwin said.

The school holds annual multicultural and peace day celebrations which aim to unite the school community.

Statistics about high school racism

- The group most at risk is first-generation female migrants in years 11 and 12.

- 80 per cent of students from non-Anglo backgrounds reported experiences of racism;

- 55 per cent of students from Anglo backgrounds reported experiences of racism;

- School education programs around racism are proven to reduce racist behaviour.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
December 2, 2009



Cabramatta High School teachers have a group shave.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

School mo's no more

ARKADIUSZ Bryl's face was beaming with pride at his Movember efforts.

The Cabramatta High School student grew a moustache in honour of his mate who lost his battle with depression this year.

"I wanted to grow one last year with my best friend but I couldn't really grow one at all and a couple of months ago that friend passed away; he took his own life," Arkadiusz, 17, said.

"He was secretly dealing with depression. He could talk to me about it but there were two months where I couldn't speak to him at all.

"He had no one to talk to and open up to and that's why I have been participating in Movember.

"He'd be laughing now. I'm pretty happy, it feels good."

Arkadiusz has raised almost \$500 for Movember, which aims to raise the awareness among men of depression and prostate cancer.

"Especially with young people, there's that thing where young men have to be tough and be a man and that what's good about Movember - people don't look down on you when you

show your emotions," he said.

Arkadiusz wasn't in a class of his own - 10 male teachers at Cabramatta High also participated in Movember and hosted a shave-off on Monday to add to the \$940 they had already collected.

"It gets itchy and irritating," PE teacher Chris Rapinette said.

"The pros of it is you look older and the kids comment on it a lot.

"Over all the kids are starting to talk about men's health."

■ MELISSA MATHESON

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

You get to live on just one planet

By Jocelyn Ly
Cabramatta High School

WITH the world leaders meeting in Copenhagen to discuss a global strategy addressing climate change, Cabramatta High School is doing all that it can to assist to protect Earth for future generations.

On Friday, the school held its first Environment Day addressing issues of climate change and the relevance of recycling.

Special guests included Aboriginal elder Aunty Mae Robinson and Blair Palese, organiser of Sydney 350.

Ms Palese encouraged young people to work together to make a difference.

"There are lots of things people can do," she said.

"We are depending on your generation to make a change. I encourage you to act on climate change".

Prior to this event, students from various years participated in environmental activities.

They created projects from recycled materials that were displayed on Environment Day.

Year 9 student Michelle Ky said: "The presentation from the school's Leo Club was an eye opener. I didn't know the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has exceeded dramatically."

There's now overwhelming evidence climate change

will have serious economic, social and environmental impacts that will threaten our quality of life.

Organising teacher Charmaine Walton said:

"This is the first joint exhibition by all faculties.

This important initiative goes hand in hand with what is happening around the world."

Highlights of the day included special guest speakers and a screening of Oxfam Australia's *Sisters on the Planet*.



Initiated by the Fairfield
Business Education Partners

An awareness activity was run to commemorate the fifth birthday of every child living in poverty.

They they will be the most affected if climate change continues.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Lights out on eisteddfod



Shattered: Cabramatta High School students are disappointed by the recent cancellation of this year's Rock Eisteddfod challenge.
Picture: Wesley Lonergan

THE cancellation of this year's Rock Eisteddfod Challenge has left students and teachers at Cabramatta High School "devastated" and "shattered".
Michael Chammas reports.

CABRAMATTA High School prides itself on individuality and creativity when developing its Rock Eisteddfod performance, but this year the school shares a mutual theme with all the entrants from across the country – disappointment.

The annual event was cancelled due to lack of funding, ending Cabramatta High's 15-year run at the event.

Rock Eisteddfod co-ordinator Kim Catton said the cancellation would have a huge effect on the school's students.

"It allowed those kids who were not academically brilliant a chance to showcase their talent," Ms Catton said.

"But it also brought kids together from all over the country and our kids learned a lot from that."

For year 12 student Monica Phan, 2010 was meant to be her swan song.

"I have been involved in it since year 7," she said.

"It meant everything to me."

Anthony Phonlamuang is also feeling the effects of the recent decision to cancel the event.

The year 12 student came up with the concept for this year's performance.

"We had started organising everything," he said.

"It was about rebellious teenagers and the decisions they make because of their friends."

Principal Beth Godwin said the decision was going to have a huge effect on the lives of children across the country.

"It generates excitement and is something they will look back on as one of the highlights of their time in school," she said.

"When they had the chance to shine."



Anthony Phonlamuang: "I was looking forward to helping out and being a role model for the younger students. I'm devastated because I had come up with the concept for this year's performance."



Monica Phan: "This would have been my sixth year. I'm disappointed that I won't get another chance. I loved it. It's the best memory I have of high school."



Linda Tran: "We have been working hard and gathering ideas. It's nice to see students and teachers working together. Now there is nothing to look forward to each year."



Andrew Nguyen: "It's really sad that it has been cancelled. It's tragic. It has been a good experience for everyone involved. You gain so much confidence from it."

What do you think about the cancellation of the Rock Eisteddfod? Tell us online.



Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 17, 2010



CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

2010 School Leaders


Cabramatta High School "Our students are our main concern"

Cabramatta High School has been serving its community since 1958, 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. Students from all backgrounds gain the confidence to succeed academically, socially and as leaders.

Our school's student leaders participate in a variety of programs and opportunities that allow for growth and their development as future leaders of our community.

Student opportunities provided at the school include:

- After school study centres
- Free HSC tutorials
- Gifted and talented programs
- Sporting opportunities



Ranie Nguyen Diana Nguyen Andrew Kouch Billy Deng

Aladore Ave, Cabramatta NSW 2166
Ph 97262424 - Fax 97264282
www.cabramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

L2034226-170210

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

We must save vital event

The annual Rock Eisteddfod faces extinction without a \$50,000 injection from the State Government. Get behind our campaign to save it.
MELISSA MATHESON and REBECCA WOOLLEY report

STUDENTS across Sydney have been left devastated after organisers of the popular Rock Eisteddfod Challenge announced it would not go ahead this year and refused to commit to a 2011 event.

Cumberland-Courier Newspapers thinks the show must go on and this important national event should be supported as a strong community initiative which binds together people from all backgrounds.

Cabramatta High School PE teacher, Kim Catton, who helped organise the school's Rock Eisteddfod team last year, said the students would love to see the competition return.

"Rock Eisteddfod is an opportunity for the kids who don't normally get to shine; it's a



Anthony Phonlamuang, Linda Tran and Jordan Faamausili rehearsing for Cabramatta High School's Rock Eisteddfod piece last year.
Picture: NICK ANDREAN

chance for them to step up and take a leadership role and express themselves," she said.

"Without it they don't really have that creative outlet.

"We were in a division that allowed the students to take the creative leaderships role.

"Raw division is all about the students expressing themselves through dance and this year we had two year 12 students who were stepping up to create the

story and the dances, so for them it's a massive disappointment."

Executive producer Peter Sjoquist said he cancelled this year's show when the State Government refused to guarantee funding until the 11th hour.

"Four months into production we had to let all the staff go," he said. Schools were finally told the challenge would not go ahead in February, with letters last week stating organisers were assessing their options for staging it in 2011.

A chance to shine

FOR thousands of school students across Sydney, being involved in the Rock Eisteddfod is a chance to shine and brings experiences that last a lifetime.

NSW Secondary Principals Council president Jim McAlpine said he strongly supported the event which had been going for three decades.

"Several generations have gone through school doing the Rock Eisteddfod and have really enjoyed it," he said.

Kim Catton, a PE teacher from Cabramatta High School, said it provided students with a creative outlet and an opportunity to take on a leadership role.

"I had an attendance increase from what you'd call the less academically motivated kids because they had something to look forward to," she said.

"This was a chance for them to let people know what they were thinking and feeling."



THE ROCK SHOW MUST GO ON

Across NSW in 2009 there were:
■ 103 secondary schools represented
■ 38 primary schools
■ 4678 secondary school students
■ 2884 primary school students



Should the government fund the event? Tell us what you think at fairfieldadvance.com.au

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, April 14, 2010



Grand chess master Ian Rogers helps Cabramatta High School year 11 student Aaron Moala with some moves.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Master moves

MELISSA MATHESON

KINGS, queens and bishops were killed left, right and centre at Cabramatta High School on Friday.

The school hosted chess grand master Ian Rogers, who took on 72 students from six primary and high schools – all at the same time.

Mr Rogers said the key to being a great chess player is “talent and practise”.

“There’s some kids who can pick up the game really easily – I’ve seen kids playing in tournaments at three years old,” he said.

“Obviously you don’t learn what they know, it’s like a language or music, some people just do it.

“I learnt when I was about eight and I was the top player in Australia for about 27 years.”

Cabramatta High School student Aaron Moala was on the receiving end of Mr Rogers’ talent.

“It’s really hard to see what he’s doing next, he’s always killing something,” the 16-year-old said.

“My older brother and I like competing in a lot of competitive games.

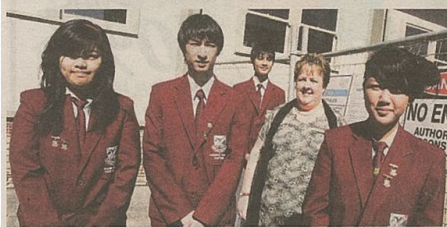
“I don’t mind being nerdy, it’s kind of cool.”

The exhibition tournament involved students from Cabramatta, Fairfield, Patrician Brothers, Holroyd and Marist College Eastwood high schools along with Fairfield West Public School.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Fairfield's Building Education Revolution



Money well spent: Beth Goodwin and her students say they are excited about the school's building projects, which are currently under construction by government contractors.
Picture: Wesley Lonergan

Revolution is under way

FOR Cabramatta High School principal Beth Goodwin, deciding who should manage the construction of her school's Building the Education Revolution projects was an easy decision.

"I'm a principal – not a builder," she said.

"I'm out for value for money but I'm not a builder. I'm trained to manage education."

Like all large schools in Fairfield, Cabramatta High School received \$200,000 under the federal government scheme.

Students were consulted on how the money should be used and chose to upgrade toilets and install new kitchens in the hospitality classrooms.

Ms Goodwin elected to use one of the appointed contractors to manage the projects because she needed the work completed quickly and efficiently.

She said she made the right decision for the school and students would benefit from her leaving the work up to the professionals.

"We would do the same given the choice again," she said.

"Our school is grateful for the funds we have received and we believe we have received value for money."

Ms Goodwin is also awaiting the construction of a new section of the school, which will include new home economics, design and technology classrooms, a fitness studio and administration block.

The work, funded by a state government grant, is also being completed by contractors.

"It is going to revolutionise this school," she said.

"At the end of it, we won't have any demountables."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
April 14, 2010



Revolutionary: Education Minister Julia Gillard, with Labor candidate for Fowler Chris Hayes, met hospitality students from Cabramatta High School, who are learning to cook in new kitchens funded through the Building the Education Revolution scheme.

Picture: Wesley Loneragan

Gillard defends program

By Laura Speranza

LESS than 24 hours after bowing to rising public concern about alleged roting in her \$16 billion school building program, federal Education Minister Julia Gillard visited Cabramatta High School to inspect one of its more successful projects.

On Tuesday, Ms Gillard joined principal Beth Goodwin and students for a tour of the school's new hospitality kitchens.

The kitchens were one of two projects at the school funded through the federal government's Building the Education Revolution program.

Cabramatta High School received \$200,000 from the funding package, as did many other large schools in the Fairfield area.

During her visit, Ms Gillard talked to year 12 students studying the hospitality VET course about how the new kitchens would benefit them.

She sampled mushroom

bruschetta, cooked by students in the new kitchens, before answering questions from the awaiting media pack.

On Monday, Ms Gillard announced a \$14 million inquiry into irregularities in the controversial scheme.

She said the inquiry would investigate complaints and make sure projects delivered value for money.

On Tuesday, Ms Gillard rejected suggestions the move was an acknowledgment the program had run off the rails.

The work comprises the largest single element of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's \$42 billion stimulus package.

"The number of complaints, compared with the breadth and depth of the program, is still limited," she said.

"I formed the view it was time we had a further level of insurance."

"This taskforce is that further level of insurance."

Ms Gillard said the taskforce would produce a public report every six months, with an initial report after three months.

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott said the move was a "monumental backflip" after months of government denials there was a problem.

He also claimed the inquiry was a cover-up.

Public submissions have been called for a parliamentary inquiry into the Building the Education Revolution program. The inquiry is open to all members of the public and will investigate aspects of the program including: fees and charges imposed; cost of building projects; use of local builders and tradespeople; quality of the projects and their suitability to the needs of the school; and the effectiveness of government oversight and contracts. Submissions can be emailed to gpseno2@parliament.nsw.gov.au. The closing date for written submissions is Monday, June 7.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Vow to save rock event

ORGANISERS of the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge are thrilled the state Opposition has promised to provide extra funding for the event should it get into government next year.

Opposition arts spokesman Anthony Roberts has announced the Coalition's pledge to provide annual funding of \$200,000 for four years if the Liberals and Nationals wins the March 2011 election.

"We have been able to secure this funding," he said. "I really want to congratulate the Cumberland-Courier Newspaper Group for its grassroots campaign that's really brought attention to this and we are happy to come on board."

If elected, the Opposition has promised to provide \$150,000 from the health budget and an additional \$50,000 from the arts budget, Mr Roberts said.

The extra cash would secure the future of the Rock Eisteddfod and J Rock, which had to be cancelled this year after running into financial difficulty, devastating students across Sydney.

Despite repeated requests for extra funding, the State Government had not increased its \$150,000 contribution in a decade, executive producer Peter Sjoquist said.



Students from Cabramatta High School celebrated when they heard the news the Rock Eisteddfod had been promised funding.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

He was forced to pull the pin on the event after losing \$243,000 in corporate funding while the State Government did not commit to providing a grant until the 11th hour.

Mr Sjoquist said the Rocka and J Rock were "fantastic opportunities" for pupils to learn how to work in a team and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Thousands register for Talent Storm

SCHOOLS have only a few days left to register for *Talent Storm*, a performing arts show that aims to fill the void left by the cancellation of this year's *Rocka*.

So far about 1600 students from 18 NSW schools have signed up.

The deadline to register has been extended until Friday, May 7. Program dates for the show, which organisers hope will culminate in a finale at Sydney Entertainment Centre, will be released on May 14.

Go to talentstorm.com.au.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Wetlands get a boost

MELISSA MATHESON

CABRAMATTA High School students showed their green thumbs on Friday.

The school celebrated Green Day by planting 1200 native plants donated by Fairfield Council.

"They're all native to Fairfield and all grown by volunteers at council's community nursery at Fairfield Showground," the council's natural resources officer, Eddie Ferry, said.

"The main part of it is controlling the weeds throughout Cabramatta wetlands - it's a big wetland which runs from Bowden St to the southern rail line and it opens up from a creek to a large wetland area."

The Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority provided a \$40,000 grant to the Green Day project to create a "biodiversity corridor" along Cabramatta Creek.

"It's good education to teach them about plants and how to plant plants and also, hopefully, to help them appreciate the environment," Mr Ferry said.

Classes were suspended all day so every student and teacher could take part in the project along with volunteers from the Commonwealth Bank.

Environmental science teacher Mark Skinner organised the event



Cabramatta High School students Aisha Nguyen, Jenni Duong and Choulisa Tieng get their hands dirty for the school's annual Green Day.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

and had to pay careful attention to certain students.

"Some are allergic to grasses, so we are keeping an eye on those kids, we're making sure they're fully gloved," he said.

"Our little environment group, who meets once a week, now

they're going to every two weeks come down and check on the plants."

Year 10 students Helen Lu and Michelle Ky are members of the environmental group.

"It's a work in progress," Michelle said.

"We'd like to see more plants, maybe more animals, native animals," Helen said. "We get to get our hands dirty and we get to help the environment."



Should more schools be involved in green activities?

fairfieldadvance.com.au

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Students have fun showing they care



Green teens: Cabramatta High School student Jelena Kalanj (left to right), Ranie Nguyen, and Andrew Kouch started a herb garden as part of Green Day.

Picture: Carlos Furtado

By **Melanie Kembrey**

CABRAMATTA High School students are keen, teen, tree-planting machines.

They were out in force with rubber gloves, rubbish bags and shovels to take part in the school's Green Day on Friday.

In an effort that put Captain Planet to shame the students planted trees, created gardens and cleaned up rubbish.

More than 1000 local provenance trees were planted around the school's new football fields.

School principal Beth Goodwin said she was surprised by the students' enthusiasm.

"It amazes me how much Generation

Y think and care about environment," she said. "They really, really want to make a difference."

Ms Goodwin said she wants students to feel like they own the school's environment.

"It helps them to take better care of the school and have a bit of pride in the place," she said.

More than 1000 students took part in the annual event, which has been running for three years.

Year 12 student Jelena Kalanj was in charge of starting a portable herb garden. The herbs, planted in recycled washing machine tubs, will be used by the school's cooking classes.

Jelena said she didn't mind getting dirty for a good cause.

"It makes the school self-sufficient and gives people hands-on experience with the environment plus it's fun."

She said she would sample any food made using the herb garden.

More than 40 Commonwealth Bank volunteers also helped out.

Bank manager Andrew Roberts said it was was a great opportunity for businesses to get involved with Fairfield high schools.

"It was refreshing to get away from the normal rapid pace of the city environment and work side by side with the kids," he said.

**See the green day
video online.**



Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 19, 2010



Teacher Linh Nguyen gives student Catherine Pham, Hung Phat Duong and Leanne Lui some tips on how to be sage online.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Giving students a safety net

MELISSA MATHESON

CYBER safety was just a mouse click away at Cabramatta High School on Friday.

The Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Department brought its cyber safety workshop to the school to encourage students to discuss issues such as bullying and protecting their privacy online.

Teacher and project coordinator Linh Nguyen said the internet could capture the

curiosity of students and they needed to be cautious.

"Through the classrooms we discuss the methods of how to keep themselves safe on the internet, they're taught not to trust strangers, not to believe everything on the internet, not to arrange meetings without their parents' consent," Ms Nguyen said.

The students were given the opportunity to anonymously raise issues they had faced while using the internet.

The government plans to use the information to develop new

strategies to address cyber bullying and privacy online.

"They want to know their motivations and the issues they come across online regarding cyber safety, any issue the kids have come across while they're on the internet," Ms Nguyen said. "The kids can log onto the forum and chat with students from other schools to exchange their opinions."

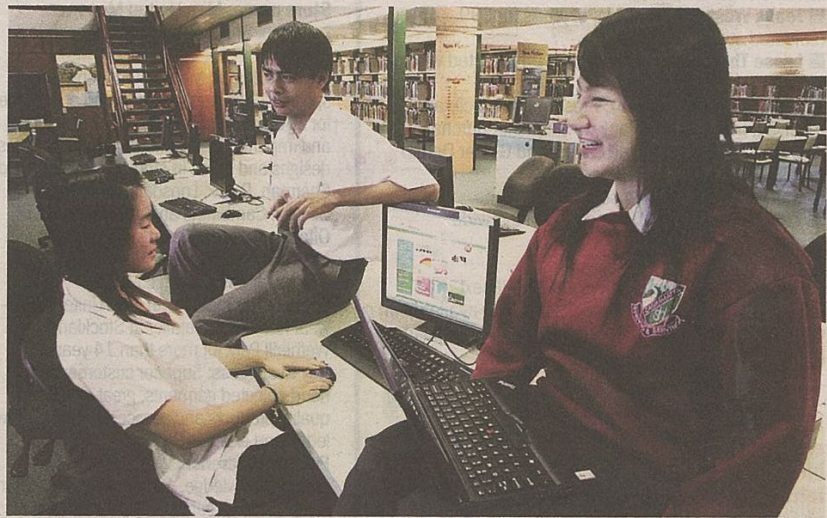


Can more be done to protect teenagers using the net?

fairfieldadvance.com.au

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 19, 2010



Anti-bullying: Dung Tran, Shan Ngov and Summy Ly took part in the program. **Picture:** Carlos Furtado

Cyber cops are out to stop bullying

By **Samantha Pham**
Cabramatta High School

CABRAMATTA High School students are on a mission to control, alt and delete cyber-bullying.

Cabramatta High is one of 30 schools across Australia taking part in the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) program which aims to promote awareness of the practice.

"Today's technologies are rapidly advancing," guest speaker Natasha Munasinghe told the Cabramatta High students.

"Young internet and mobile phones users are at risk of exploitation."

The Australian government has committed \$125 million for the cyber-safety plan over four years.

It aims to enforce laws, filtering and education on cyber-bullying.

On May 14 a group of 23 students from year 8-10 started working on the project.

'Cyber-bullying affects mainly young children so we are researching and getting students' perspectives on cyber-bullying from ages 8-17 to the Australian government," said Andrew Verdon, consultant of the YAG Program.

Teacher and organiser Linh Nguyen hopes the students involved in the program are able to spread the word on cyber-bullying "so students can become better informed on this technological issue which affects all young people".

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Teenagers crowd into the kitchen

By **Melanie Kembrey**

MORE students do Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses at Cabramatta High School than at any other school in the area.

This year more than 200 senior students are taking VET courses in the fields of construction, hospitality, retail, business and information technology.

Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin said the number of students taking the courses had increased in the past few years.

She said the courses, which are offered in addition to the standard subjects, were a way of making students enjoy learning.

"We try to keep as many kids at school as possible," she said.

"We try to offer a really broad curriculum, that is the bottom line. It's about making sure you have something for every kid.

"We have been promoting the courses and growing them to try and broaden the curriculum and cater to the top, middle and bottom kids."

She said the two-year courses also allowed students to finish school with a "dual credential".

"They have completed both a TAFE course and their HSC," she said. "It's about giving students as many options as you can when they graduate."

The most popular VET course is hospitality, with more than 100 senior students selecting the subject this year. For year 11 hospitality student Jimmy Tran, the course is a way of preparing for life after school: he wants to be a chef.

"I picked it because I'm interested in food and it's fun and there's also teamwork."

He said the course was "way better" than studying mathematics or science.

Hospitality teacher Michelle West said the course's popularity increased by word-of-mouth.

"We tend to get a lot of students whose brothers and sisters and friends did the course and enjoyed it," she said.

"It's interesting because it gives them a chance to learn hands on.

"I must say, it is more fun."



Growing popularity: Cabramatta High School hospitality students, from left, Van Cong and Nguyen Nguyen are two of more than 200 senior students doing VET courses at the school this year.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

Popularity rank of VET courses at Cabramatta High School:

1. Hospitality
2. Business
3. Retail
4. Construction
5. Information technology



Aaron Slender: "I picked the course because I like cooking. It's fun and you get to learn lots of new stuff."



Tony Duong: "I wanted to do hospitality because I like food. The best part is preparing the food."



Max Yang: "It's practical. It's probably more fun than other subjects. The best part is dessert."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Winner, in and out of class

By **Melanie Kembrey**

TARNI Loreggian is a winner both inside and outside of the classroom.

She has a gold medal around her neck and a teaching award in her hands.

Ms Loreggian, 22, is in her first year of teaching physical education at Cabramatta High School.

But she made her mark on the school even before she started working there.

She has been awarded an Australian College of Education Outstanding Preservice Teacher's Award for her contribution to Cabramatta High when she was a prac teacher.

"I helped to organise and facilitate a pentathlon event as an education-week initiative," she said.

"I didn't do it knowing there was an award. I just did it because there was an opportunity and I knew the kids would be passionate about it."

She said her success was a success for all PE teachers. "The award rarely goes to a PE person – it hasn't gone to one for about five years. I was really surprised to get it."

Ms Loreggian, now a full-time teacher, teaches pupils about the importance of leading a healthy and active lifestyle.

And she practises what she preaches.

She is a member of the NSW ice hockey team, which earlier this month won the national tournament.



Terrific teaching: Cabramatta High teacher Tarni Loreggian, 22, is celebrating her success in the classroom *and* in the ice-hockey rink.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

She helped lead the way to victory by scoring two goals.

"It really does my teaching justice. The topic at the moment is injury prevention and I brought

my hockey kit into school one day and passed it around. It helps me relate to the kids and that's the main thing – the relating to them."

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, July 7, 2010



Australians of the Year Prof Patrick McGorry, Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin, Ronni Khan and Maggie Beer with captains Andrew Kouch and Ranie Nguyen.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

A prof, a cook and a hero

"THE most exciting school ever" – that was Maggie Beer's verdict on Cabramatta High School.

The cook, and *Masterchef* favourite, visited the school last month as part of the Australians of the Year tour.

Ms Beer, the Senior Australian of the Year, was accompanied by the 2010 Local Hero, OzHarvest founder Ronni Kahn, and Australian of the Year, Prof Patrick McGorry.

"This is the most exciting school I have ever been to in my life, in a multicultural sense," Ms Beer said.

"I was lucky enough to have a

good food life growing up in the western suburbs of Sydney."

Hospitality teacher Michelle West had the daunting task of preparing morning tea which included potato and leek soup, beef canapes, mini quiches, brown sugar palmiers and macaroons.

The students then had a chance to ask the visitors about their careers and what inspired them.

Prof McGorry spoke about helping young people with mental illness – he established the Headspace and Reach Out organisations.

"I always say having an Australian of the Year is kind of un-

Australian because everyone's an equal person," he said.

"I suppose we're lucky to be picked out from a range of amazing people. We've just tried to do something that's a bit different."

Mrs Khan founded OzHarvest five years ago and the charity has served more than 5.4 million meals.

"When our first truck actually drove out of the office, I can remember my heart just stopped and I pinched myself," she said of the beginning of the charity.

"Now we have seven refrigerated trucks leave our office every day."

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday July 7, 2010

Ice queen's hockey gold

MELISSA MATHESON

TARNI Loreggian uses an ice hockey stick and a gold medal to teach her students a lesson.

The Cabramatta High School PE teacher is a proud gold medallist after her NSW team won the National Ice Hockey Championship in Newcastle last month.

It was a particularly sweet victory for Loreggian, who was the rookie of the team and scored two goals in the tournament.

"We were ecstatic, the feeling's just unbelievable," she said.

"We did our lap of honour at the end singing Queen's *We Are The Champions*.

"It was my first gold in anything really."

News of the win spread fast at Cabramatta High.

"I was a bit embarrassed because it got announced on assembly," Loreggian said.

"In year 9 we do a subject called team sports and we're looking at protective gear and protecting your teammates - I brought in my hockey gear.

"That was probably one of my most successful lessons to date because of the hype. It got the kids really involved."

Loreggian took up ice hockey while she was living in Canada on a student exchange as a way of keeping fit in the freezing temperatures.

"I used to do a lot of running and I used to play netball, but netball doesn't exist in Canada and it was minus 28C over there so I couldn't really go running," she said.

"I thought I'd try skating and at first I couldn't even stand up on the ice."

When she returned to Australia in 2008 she joined the ice hockey league at the Liverpool Catholic Club.

Now she plays in both the women's and men's leagues.

"The men's league is really quite testing because it's really physical - it's doesn't matter if you've got a ponytail, they still target you," Loreggian said.

"That's made me a lot more physical on the ice."



Cabramatta High School teacher Tarni Loreggian is also a member of the NSW ice hockey team which won the recent national titles.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,
July 14, 2010



Gift of the gab: Year 10 student Jamian Vuong took part in the YMCA Youth Parliament Program.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

Meet a would-be MP

Tomorrow's politicians are practising and perfecting their skills – and they haven't even finished high school. **Melanie Kembrey** reports.

FOR the past week Jamian Vuong has had a taste of what life is like for a politician.

He has made policy announcements, witnessed factional disputes and has been hounded by journalists.

Local politicians better sleep with one eye open because this youngster is hungry for more.

The Cabramatta High School student represented the Cabramatta electorate in the YMCA Youth Parliament Program.

The program mirrored real parliamentary practices with

question time, ministerial statements and debates.

Jamian had no problems getting the parliament to pass his Online Cultural Education Course Bill.

And like many politicians he spent the next day spruiking his policy.

"It's about educating all students about the different cultures and religions in Australia and how to appreciate each one," he said.

"It feels good to know that I'm doing something for my community and to raise issues that could improve the

electorate and all of the state."

The bill will now be passed on to actual members of the State Parliament.

"It was a lot of fun getting up to speak and the podium and raising some of the issues of the bill," Jamian said.

"It's an experience and it felt like the real deal."

Jamian confirmed he had considered being a politician but would not reveal details about election campaigns.

"I have an interest in politics and being a politician is up there with some of the things I want to do," he said.

He said a highlight of the program was the talent quest – but he said no members of parliament danced on any tables.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, August 4, 2010

Egging on young chefs

@ school

MELISSA MATHESON

TAKE 11 high school students and one teacher, mix in 1.5kg of dark chocolate and turn up the heat.

Cabramatta High School decided Education Week was the perfect time to set a *MasterChef*-style pressure test. The task set by hospitality teacher Michelle West: make a chocolate mousse cake, coffee mascarpone, salted peanut praline and chocolate lattice garnish in 1 hour and 40 minutes.

I have the difficult – and delicious – task of judging the finished products. Step aside Gary, George and Matt. My spoon is at the ready and I won't take any crying in this kitchen.

Lachlan Erskine, who is the head teacher of secondary studies at the school, fancies himself as a master chef and is taking on the year 11 and 12 students.

The students have been given question tokens they can exchange for help from Ms West if they get stuck.

Your time starts ... now!

No one seems to be in a rush.

All the contestants are carefully measuring out their ingredients.

Each small cake requires 100g of dark chocolate, which is melted down with golden syrup and butter. It smells good already.

Out come the beaters. The contestants have to beat eggs and sugar, then fold in flour and the



Cabramatta High School students feel the pressure in the Master Chef competition held to celebrate Education Week.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

chocolate mix. I bags not cleaning up the kitchen.

The recipe says to bake the cake for 12 minutes but because the contestants are continually opening the oven doors, it may be a case of guessing if the cake is cooked. I could be eating runny raw egg chocolate.

While the cakes firm in the fridge the contestants move onto the praline.

Something tells me the school nurse should be notified.

There are a whole lot of pots of boiling sugar syrup and I don't think many of these kids have made toffee before.

The aim of the game is a light, golden-brown caramel colour.

There are a few pralines that look perfect. One or two look like they're going to break my teeth.

I've spotted one where the sugar hasn't dissolved properly and is now lumped on top of a peanut.

On to the coffee mascarpone.

Dairy lesson 101: mixing hot

ingredients with cold cheese is tricky. Ms West tells me the clever students will let the coffee cool before they beat it into the cheese.

Once the cake is cooled the contestants have to cut a nice, neat slice for their tasting plate, put a "smudge" of mascarpone to the side and place praline on top.

All that's left is to melt more chocolate and create a pretty lattice design to place on top.

The clock is ticking.

Principal Beth Godwin has ar-



Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin and Fairfield Advance journalist Melissa Matheson judged the student's efforts.

rived to help me judge and she gets right into the spirit. "You've got five minutes," she warns. "If it's not on the plate, it's not getting judged."

Time's up, step away from your benches. One by one I taste 12 plates of cake, cheese and crunchy nuts. I feel like Goldilocks: this cake is too runny, this one is too dry, this one is messy. And there it is, the one that's just right.

Plate number two is to die for.

The cake is moist and chewy, the mascarpone is smooth with a mild shot of coffee and the praline is gold. And the winner is ... year 12 student Nattacha Khatthongluan.

■ See more from our schools: Page 64

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 11, 2010



Former NSW premier Bob Carr walked and talked with Cabramatta High School students last Thursday. He spoke to senior students about sustainability, the theme of this year's Education Week.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

Program leads by example

By Chris Boulous

THE road to leadership, confidence and prosperity suddenly looks a lot clearer for Cabramatta High School student Thomson Ho.

The 16-year-old is reaping the benefits of the community-based Max Potential – a 22-week program which connects community leaders with emerging young leaders.

Thomson is paired with small business owner Chris Baker.

The pair are helping each other to, well, help each other.

“My coach, Chris, has allowed me to see the road to becoming a leader and challenged me to take that extra step in confidence building,” Thomson said.

“This program has helped me steer towards my goals in the future.

“It has also helped me become a better, and more confident, person.”

The pair have worked on finding ways to deal with procrastination and ways to manage the year 11 student's time efficiently with regard to school work.

“It has given me confidence to speak in front of a big



Two is better than one: Chris Baker and Thomson Ho are enjoying the benefits of Max Potential.
Picture: Kieren L Tilly

crowd and has helped me take risks and be innovative,” Thomson said.

“This program has helped me a lot in building confidence and helping others in need but, at the same time, helping myself.”

Mr Baker is also benefiting as a coach and at his business, Enchil.

“I have been very proud of the growth and results he [Thomson] has achieved so far through the coaching and using the Max Potential principles,” the Fairfield Heights resident said.

“It has helped my to re-focus my efforts to create the results I am looking for in my small business, and to also

examine all areas of my life to achieve happiness and success, not just in business but also with family, friends and health.”

The Max Potential Program is supported by St Johns Park Bowling Club.

“Max Potential aims to grow and realise the leadership potential of the Fairfield community,” St Johns Park Bowling Club CEO Greg Kearins said.

“Young leaders are teamed up with a community or business coach and – as a partnership – they work toward achieving both personal and community change.”

Details: faafoundation.com.au.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

New labs make learning fun at Cabramatta High



Nick Lalich gets a science lesson from Cabramatta High students Mai Nguyen and Kha Nguyen.

CABRAMATTA High School students have given their new science laboratories the thumbs up after taking part in physics and chemistry experiments on Monday.

The renovation, funded by the State Government, included the complete refurbishment of all four laboratories and improvements to safety features.

Year 12 students took part in hands-on science experiments, while year 9 students completed environment and susceptibility activities on an interactive white board.

Mayor Nick Lalich and acting School Education Director, Pat Marney, were also on hand for the opening.

Year 12 student, Andrew Couch said the new labs made learning fun.

"The modern labs are more comfortable and make learning fun and it is a lot easier to do our experiments," he said.

Head science teacher Radhika Singh said the new classrooms were fantastic.

"New classrooms for the 21st century will provide our students with great experiences and assist them to achieve better outcomes," she said.

Cabramatta High School is a large school within a multicultural community. The school first opened in 1958, and since then, has been providing quality education to the students of Cabramatta and the neighbouring suburbs. Many of the students are from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Fairfield Advance,

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

@ Cabramatta High

Cabramatta High School will play host to 2010 Sydney Peace Prize winner Dr Vandana Shiva on November 5. The distinguished physicist and environmentalist will be the special guest of a forum held to introduce the peace prize recipient to the students and public. Dr Shiva won the award in recognition of her courageous leadership of movements for social justice – the empowerment of women in developing countries, advocacy of the human rights and small farming communities and for her scientific analysis of environmental sustainability.

For more information call 9726 4282 or go cabramatta-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 22, 2010



Year 10 students at Cabramatta High School are involved in a recycling initiative with mentors Su Lin Macdonald and Neil Davenport (left).
Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Students' chance to learn business ropes

BRIAN KARLOVSKY

CABRAMATTA High School students got a chance to strut their stuff in the business world as part of the TEAM mentoring program for year 10 students with an interest in mathematics and technology.

The 20 students selected were given a mentor and taken into the city to use mathematics and science to solve a problem.

The objective of the program was to stimulate the students' interest in technology and maths through a series of project management workshops, highlighting the fact that

both subject areas are practically applied in everyday life.

Students chose the issue of reducing paper waste and presented their solution to principal Beth Godwin and a representative from Ernst and Young.

Teacher Anjan Anath said the students appreciated their mentors' help researching and presenting the solution to the judges.

"They learned how being prepared and doing the research helps them become more confident in presenting their ideas," she said.

See more stories in the @school section on Page 32

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

New kid on the block



Cabramatta High school student Dieme Muhimbiwa, 12; recently won the State 100m, 200m and hurdles events for his age group with the help of Peter Pham and on right, CJ Rapinette.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

BRIAN KARLOVSKY

UNTIL a few months ago, Cabramatta athlete Dieme Muhimbiwa, 12, didn't even own a pair of running spikes.

He had never used starting blocks either.

But when Cabramatta High School teachers Peter Pham and CJ Rapinette discovered his freakish speed at a school carnival they were more than happy to take Dieme under their wing – they even shelled out for his first pair of spikes.

The young dynamo, who came to Australia from the Democratic Republic of Congo two years ago didn't disappoint. In his first State Championships, with little training, he shocked rivals to win the 100m, 200m sprint and the 80m hurdles. He also placed second in the long jump.

"The teachers saw I was running and I was in normal shoes and two of the sports teachers bought the spikes for me and they taught me how to use the blocks and I finally went to state and I did it," Dieme said. "Last year I was just standing in normal shoes at the beginning. When I reached regionals and I had spikes they told me I had to use blocks – that



MAJOR SPONSOR



was very difficult for me.

"I don't really train but I was trained how to use blocks for two hours before the State Championships by one of my sport teachers."

Dieme said his favourite events were the 100m and 200m but that he enjoyed most sports, especially soccer.

Head of PDHPE, Joy McElligott, said Dieme now has his sights set on the Athletics Australian Nationals competition in December.

To Page 103

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

ADOPT A SCHOOL

Students are making headlines

By Shayla Dang
Cabramatta High School

MARIE Claire and Girlfriend magazines. Which young female journalist wouldn't want the opportunity to work at these famous Australian, trend-setting magazines?

Charles Sturt University communications student Cindy Tran visited her former school, Cabramatta High, to give an inspirational talk to ambitious students considering a career in journalism.

"Journalism has always been something I wanted to do and the teachers here at Cabramatta High School have encouraged me to pursue it," Miss Tran said.

"Now I am where I wanted to be and I would like to offer the same support to these students."

Year 8 student Sheila Lam said she never thought someone from



Inspirational: Former student Cindy Tran talked to students about breaking into journalism.

Cabramatta could be in the spotlight.

"Seeing Cindy in person and talking to her about her achievements has given me the motivation to chase my own dreams," Sheila said.

Year 11 student Phu Thap is determined to become a journalist and would like to work for *Vogue* magazine.

"Cindy has given me the courage to publish my articles on BlogSpot for people to read and comment," Phu said.

"She has taught me to take criticism from others as positive feedback and to use it to my advantage."

Cabramatta High School students will follow Miss Tran's blog at "Football Pixie" BlogSpot.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

School's out as students prepare for HSC



Billy Dang, Andrew Kouch, Diana Nguyen and Ranie Nguyen graduated last week.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

IT was a bitter-sweet occasion for Cabramatta High School students last week as they celebrated not just their graduation but their last day as students of the school.

Boys' captain Andrew Couch, 18, said he was relieved but also a bit sad as he took a break before the pressure of studying for the HSC which begins in two weeks time.

"I felt very honoured to be among my friends and peers," he said. "They are a great bunch of people and I'll truly miss them and, although not all of us were

close, we were like one big happy family."

Andrew hopes to study law at the University of NSW.

Girls vice-captain Ranie Nguyen, 18, who hopes to study bio-medical engineering said the graduation was an emotional day.

"It was fantastic," she said. "We had a lot of parents turn up and we had a great response from the audience. We were just celebrating. Everyone was happy. There were some emotions of sadness but that was just because it was the last day of school."

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 27, 2010



Cabramatta Police Senior Constable Ha Son shows off some of his basketball skills in a game with students from Cabramatta High school.

Picture: NICK ANDRE

Students shoot the breeze and some hoops with police

MELISSA MATHESON

CABRAMATTA High School students took to shooting hoops with police to develop some new links.

Constable Ha Son, from the Cabramatta command, visited the school for a basketball match against year 7 and 8 students as part of the Police Links program.

School co-ordinator Dhiresh Prakash said early intervention was the key to keeping young students on the right path.

"The aim of the program is to improve the relationship between the police, students and teachers," Mr Prakash said.

"For many of the kids this is the first time they've interacted with police.

"Most of them come from countries where they're actually afraid of the police; talking to them in their countries is



very different from in Australia.

"(Here) they can see police are people and they can have a game."

Constable Son, teachers and students discussed the effects of drugs and alcohol, as well as advice on cyber safety.

Feedback from the students helps the teachers and police

continue to develop the program. Mr Prakash said there are always a few surprises.

"We did a survey at the end of the session and it was interesting that they didn't know some of the things they were doing was a criminal offence," he said.

"For example, if someone is running down the street yelling and screaming, that's an offence.

"One of the things year 7 and 8 students get caught up in is shoplifting, petty things like hiding a lipstick.

"The officer explained that if you have something in your pocket after the registers it's considered stealing."



Tell us what's happening at your school.

fairfieldadvance.com.au

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

News

Oh, Oprah!

If someone asked Oprah Winfrey "where the bloody hell are ya?" next month she might reply "in Fairfield". **Melanie Kembrey** reports on a *Champion* exclusive.

OPRAH Winfrey could be coming to Fairfield.

She could eat pho in Cabramatta, falafels in Fairfield and lobster in Canley Vale.

She might drink fresh milk in Horsley Park and pearl tea in Smithfield.

The whole wide world would get a taste of all that Fairfield has to offer.

Fairfield Council has invited the US TV talk-show queen to visit our city when she heads Down Under next month.

The council hopes to lure Ms Winfrey here through her stomach.

It has offered to treat her tastebuds with a food tour of the city.

Fairfield may not have koalas or coral reefs — but boy, does it have great food. The council submitted the invitation to Tourism NSW last week.

Fairfield mayor Nick Lalich said he was positive the city could show Ms Winfrey a "fabulous time".

"A big part of the council's decision to place a bid to have Oprah visit Fairfield City is about giving our residents confidence and pride in their city.

"It's about our residents knowing we are a unique, diverse and wonderful city, worthy of an international guest like Ms Winfrey," he said.

"One of the most unique features of our country is our diverse cultural influences that contribute to our society.

"What better city to showcase this diversity than Fairfield City?"

Residents, workers and leaders in the area have been quick to welcome the TV show host to the community.

Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin said Oprah would be an inspiration for young people.

"The heart of Australia is its people and this is where the people are," she said.

"Oprah would be an inspiration to our disadvantaged students because her background is very similar to theirs.

"She proves that anyone can do anything." Cabramatta Golf Club president Bill Basan generously offered Oprah a free round.

"She can do whatever she wants while she is here," he said.

"We are pretty unique. If she wants to come to the real world and the real Australia then she should come here."

Fairfield will have to compete with thousands of other tourism agencies that have applied to be featured on the show.

The council is now awaiting a response from Tourism NSW about the success of their invitation.

Ms Winfrey did not respond to the *Champion's* request for a comment.

Welcome Oprah: Cabramatta High School students Jennifer Truong (left to right) Joshua Vuong, Thomson Ho and Alexandra Sulusi hope Oprah will find time to visit their school.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Cabramatta High School



"Our students are our main concern". Cabramatta High School has been serving its community since 1958, providing learning to a diverse student population and enjoying strong links with local primary schools.

The school provides the opportunity for talented students to excel with like minded achievers. The Advanced Learning Class is designed to run a specialised curriculum to cater for academically advanced students. A variety of programs are offered including:

accelerated Mathematics programs, academic and sporting scholarships, Top 20 academics, student leadership and Tournament of the Minds.

Cabramatta High School sets high expectations for student performance and behaviour, and has a proven track record of producing very successful HSC candidates. Over 80% of Year 12 graduates surveyed from 2009 are currently undertaking tertiary studies, including university degrees such as Medicine, Law, Business, Accounting and Engineering.

On site at Cabramatta High School are a number of specialised units. There 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 has an experienced and dedicated staff with a number of senior HSC markers and textbook authors. A variety of tutorials, including HSC preparation, and the after-school study centre that operates two afternoons each week at the school library ensure that each student can achieve his or her 'personal best'.

Introducing
our
School



Aladore Ave, Cabramatta NSW 2166

Phone: (02) 9726 2424

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Peace prizewinner's inspiring speech

MELISSA MATHESON

CABRAMATTA High school did its part to heal the world with its annual Peace Day.

Each year the school hosts the Sydney Peace Prize winner and on Friday, 2010 winner Vandana Shiva gave an inspiring speech about the state of the earth.

"The real reason today is such a special gift is the gift of diversity," Dr Shiva said. "Probably this is the most diverse pocket of Australia."

The theme of this year's Peace Day was "heal the world".

Dr Shiva started her environmental work near the Himalayas in India in the 1970s.

Stopping logging in the area was one of her first campaigns which encouraged women to stand up and be heard.

"The women came out and said we're going to hug the trees and if you want to cut the trees you'll have to kill us," she told the students.

"At that time I used to say it would take 40 years for good instincts to sink in, we just have to be patient.

"I get inspiration from a world of diversity; I get

inspiration from young people like you."

On Friday, Cabramatta High students planted seeds blessed by the Dalai Lama to commemorate Dr Shiva's visit.

Principal Beth Godwin said the school chose not to give programs this year and created fans instead to promote sustainability. "Maybe we don't always need to turn on the aircon when a bit of hand action creates a cooling breeze for us," she said. "These fans themselves have many design features associated with peace."



Students at Cabramatta High School dressed in their traditional costumes for the welcoming parade at the annual Peace Day.

Picture: CARLY EARL

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

School gives peace a chance

A school in the area is sowing the seeds for a better future. **Melanie Kembrey** reports.

CABRAMATTA High School celebrated Peace Day last week with a great deal of noise.

The day included African drummers and lion dancers, hip-hop performers and the release of 100 white doves.

There were colourful lanterns, Vietnamese dancers and sashes decorated with "peace" in multiple languages.

But Sydney Peace Prize winner Vandana Shiva had to take the cake — and not only because it was her birthday.

The well-known ecologist, feminist and philosopher talked and walked with students.

She addressed an assembly and answered questions, and enjoyed a piece of birthday cake.

Dr Shiva also helped students to plant seeds blessed by the Dalai Lama.

Year 10 students made hand-painted silk fans as a symbol of peace which were then given to guests instead of programs in a gesture of sustainability.

The school choir sang Michael Jackson's *Heal the World* to promote working together to protect the environment.

Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin said Peace Day was special. "The talented staff and wonderful students have spent time reflecting on the work of Dr Shiva and what peace means," she said.



Celebration: Cabramatta High School students celebrate Peace Day last week.
Pictures: Wesley Lonergan

"They've filled today with many symbols of peace that also reflect Dr Shiva's connection to the environment.

"The peace bell will ring as we release white Cabramatta doves

as strong symbols of peace," she told the assembly. "The very act of releasing them sends a vision of freedom. You, too, can heal the world and make it a better place."

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
November 10, 2010



Cabramatta High School's Leo's Club has been busy preparing stationery packs for refugee students at Fairfield High School's Intensive English Centre.

Club a roaring success

MELISSA MATHESON

@ Cabramatta High School

THE junior Lions are roaring loudly and proudly at Cabramatta High School.

The school's Leo Club has been performing acts of charity kindness for the past three years.

Its latest project has seen the club donate stationery packs to refugee students at Fairfield High School Intensive English Centre.

The packs include notebooks, pens and calculators, all purchased with money from the Leos' ongoing fundraising.

"We've already done 20 IEC packs for our students and we wanted to continue every year," Leo member Nancy Zhang, 15, said.

"We had many fundraisers," classmate Julie Nguyen, 15, said.

"We had a sausage sizzle ... most fundraisers were food because

students always have an appetite.

"We know the students are obviously appreciative of what we've done. I hope it inspires someone to do the same thing."

The Cabramatta Leos Club, a junior version of Lions, started in 2007.

In the first year 45 students signed up, teacher co-ordinator Azadeh Slade said.

"It's designed to give the kids an opportunity to get involved in leadership," she said.

"It's to help the disadvantaged in Cabramatta, in Australia and the world, that's the three things we try to target."

Leos are not only focused on fundraising.

Other projects include trips to Canberra for public speaking events and advocacy training.

"They have their fingers in everything to do with the school," Mrs Slade said. "They're very, very involved."

"We've gone to Canberra a

couple of times for Voices for Justice and that's really helped with their confidence.

"They spoke with politicians to advocate for the international poor, for kids that couldn't speak for themselves."

The Leos have helped with fundraising for the Haiti earthquake and Pakistan flood.

Closer to home they support The Children's Hospital Westmead and Fairfield Hospital, The Salvation Army doorknock appeal and drought relief campaigns for farmers.

"We actually got a note from a farmer who was suicidal and he said the care package we sent actually kept him going," Mrs Slade said.



What's happening at your school?

Tell us about your achievements by emailing editor@fairfieldadvance.com.au

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 17, 2010



Fairy tale had happy ending

Street theatre: Jennifer Truong, 16, Anna Mai, 17, Phung Nguyen, 16, and Mimi Lam, 16, practised for weeks during lunchtime and after school in their neighbourhoods.

By **Liam Pender**

LITTLE Red Riding Hood met Snow White on the journey to her grandmother's house. When she arrived she discovered her grandmother was actually an evil witch.

Anna Mai's play is not a conventional story and its purpose is not usual either.

Last week Anna and 12 of her fellow Cabramatta High students performed their take on the Red Riding Hood tale at the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

"My little brother has Down syndrome and cataracts so I spend most of my time in and out of the hospital," she said.

"I wanted to give something back to help my little brother and the other kids."

Anna and her crew performed the twist on the traditional fairy tale in the Starlight Room at the hospital.

The play was also broadcast to every ward in the hospital so the kids who couldn't make it didn't miss out.

"Kids need cheering up," Anna said. "They don't have the life we have. They can't go out so we wanted to bring the outside world to them."

"We wanted to do a modern fairy tale with a comic twist."

"The aim of the project was to bring laughter to the kids. We all know laughter is the best medicine."

Anna wrote, directed and narrated the play, as part of the Max Potential program at St Johns Park Bowling Club.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Cabramatta students have got the moves, says Justice Crew



Justice Crew hosted dance workshops at Cabramatta High School for the inaugural Inspire program.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

JUSTICE Crew has declared Cabramatta is where the talent is.

The winners of *Australia's Got Talent* visited Cabramatta High School on Thursday for a hip-hop workshop with the students.

Their visit was part of the school's first Inspire Week and the inspiration flowed both ways.

Crew member Emanuel Rodriguez was impressed with the students' moves during the dance-off.

"Cabramatta has talent!" he said. "If I had \$250,000 I would give it to the principal."

"Don't worry about what the teachers say, make as much noise for each group that comes out because I'm the teacher today."

All that noise has been a constant reminder of Justice Crew's success since they won the *Australia's Got Talent* title in July.

For Fairfield's Solo Tohi, his hearing has only just started to cope with all the screaming fans.

"At the start it was very bad, you couldn't hear for a couple of days," he said. "I think one of the coolest things is just seeing talent, kids just participating, not too shy and in the moment just going for it, it's really cool."

Tohi and his crew have filled the past four months with two songs and a DVD, plus an endless schedule of television appearances, corporate events and charity performances.

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 17, 2010



Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin learns how to act out an awkward first date scenario with Sydney Theatre Company's Stefo Nantsou during Inspire week.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Achievers share their secrets

@ Cabramatta High School

IT'S not every day students get to put words in the mouth of their principal.

Inspire Week at Cabramatta High School took an unexpected twist when principal Beth Godwin was brought into a drama workshop with the Sydney Theatre Company's Stefo Nantsou.

The pair were thrown into a first date scenario in the name of theatre sports.

"I was so set up," Ms Godwin said. "Stefo and I had to talk

gibberish together and then two students would interpret what we said and the situation was a first date.

"Of course the students will make up their own interpretation, the theme will go any way the students want it to go."

Nantsou's visit was part of the school's first-ever Inspire Week.

The week's program included a dance workshop with Justice Crew, sporting tips from Ellyse Perry and a visit from Commonwealth Bank CEO Ralph Norris.

"The whole week has been in-

spiring and there's been moments when I thought the people who have spoken or the activities we've done have inspired me," Ms Godwin said.

"It's hearing how they got there, that sense of energy."

The school will consider making Inspire Week an annual event.

"We decided every student needed to receive something during the week that was inspirational," Ms Godwin said.

"I'm always keen if someone wants to come along and share their story."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 24, 2010

Proudly Sponsored by St Johns Park Bowling Club

MORE SUCCESS STORIES

3

Participant: Justin Ung, 17, Miguel Maia Lee, 16, and Jesse Iese, 16, of Cabramatta High School.
Coaches: Lam Nguyen and Matthew Dillon.
Project: Three-on-three basketball game.

"We held a basketball tournament last week at Cabramatta PCYC as a way for the youth in the community to interact and to show the positive image that youth can make in the Cabramatta community." **Justin Ung**



Participant: Anna Mai, 17, of Cabramatta High School.
Coach: Tairyn Vergara.
Project: Stage play at Westmead Hospital.

"It was a way to give something back to the hospital which has helped my brother with down syndrome. We managed to raise \$200 and a group of us staged a play which I never thought possible before I started Max Potential. It has given me great confidence and has even helped mend my relationship with my father."

Anna Mai



4

2010 participating schools and organisations

- Bossley Park High School
- Cabramatta High School
- Mary MacKillop College
- St Johns Park Bowling Club
- TAFE
- Centrelink
- Liverpool Volunteer Resource Centre
- Hennessy Coffee
- The Parks Community Network
- Assyrian Resource Centre
- Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre
- African Australian Union
- University of Western Sydney
- South West Connect

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 8, 2010



Handy pair: Australian Handball Federation representatives Mitchell Hedges and Ognjen Matic.

Picture: Chris De Jong

Two local lads are out to prove Aussie boys can not only play handball in the school yard. **Chris Boulous** reports

FAIRFIELD'S ace and king of the handball court Mitchell Hedges and Ognjen Matic are aptly preparing for a white Christmas.

It's apt because their white-hot form has led them to Sweden in December/January to compete in the 2011 Men's Handball World Championships.

Hedges, 19, of Bonnyrigg Heights, and Matic, 21, of Cabramatta, are not strangers to the green and gold.

European handball has become almost a second language to the pair.

Apprentice electrician Hedges has been provided a spark for the Aussie team since his debut in April.

The pivot/left wing is relishing his time at the top after trying several other sports including baseball and wakeboarding.

"It is a great honour to play for Australia," Hedges said.



It has been a great ride so far.

"I only started three years ago, so it as all happened pretty quick," Hedges said.

The Harbourside handballer will warm up with the under-20 Oceania Challenge competition in Ipswich this week.

Matic, on the other hand, will continue to do what he does best: work hard.

A member of the national team since 2008, Ognjen or Ogi treat every game in the green and gold like it was Christmas Day.

"It is an honour and a privilege every time I am selected for Australia," said Matic, who is studying to be a PE teacher.

"It is something I never take for granted."

"And to play with a good friend like Mitch is

"It is an honour and a privilege every time I am selected for Australia — it is something I never take for granted"

— Ognjen Matic

an added bonus. We both play on the left side and come up with combinations."

The pair weren't always good friends.

In fact, they started out as enemies.

Hedges, playing for Cecil Hills High and Matic, playing for Cabramatta High learnt their trade at school and often were on opposing sides of the court.

In a memorable game, Hedges scored a goal in the final minutes to tie.

Today, they are on the same team and causing havoc for the opposition.

They have been regulars in NSW junior squads, now they want to show their skill on the biggest stage.

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Body image tops young people's concerns

By Melanie Kembrey

BODY image, family conflicts and stress are the leading concerns of young people in the area according to recently released data.

Mission Australia's national survey of more than 50,000 young people provided a fascinating snapshot of their worries, values and priorities.

Nearly one in three of the respondents aged 11 to 24 listed body image as their biggest personal concern.

Almost 30 per cent listed coping with stress — a nearly 10 per cent increase from last year's survey.

The *Champion* interviewed several Cabramatta High School students aged 12 to 17 about the results.

The students, some of whom took part in the survey, said they were not surprised by the results.

Despite their age and gender differences, school captain Joshua Vuong, 17, and year 7 student Cindy Thach, 13, both said they had experienced anxiety about their personal appearance.

They said images of the "perfect" body in the media and targeted advertising put pressure on young people to look a certain way. Joshua said body image was equally a concern for young males as it was females.

31.1

per cent of respondents said body image was a personal concern

27.8

per cent listed family conflicts

27.3

per cent said coping with stress was a concern

Source: Mission Australia

"I used to be really, really skinny and in order to be accepted I tried to gain weight and I used to always think twice about what I ate," Joshua said.

"You always get pressured to be more masculine."

Young people living in Fairfield also have concerns that are unique to them, the students said.

They said the negative perception and stereotyping of young people from the south-west of Sydney was widespread and disconcerting.

"There's this idea that everyone here comes from a low-socio economic background and if you walk on the street you will get shot," Joshua said. "It's different from the response you get if you say you're from the north shore."

The students also said they felt that the economic recession had a more significant impact on young people living in the area.

Year 12 student Vivian Lau said she had family members who had lost their jobs.

Racial discrimination and cultural stereotyping were also top concerns for some.

Vice-captain Alex Sulusi, 17, said: "I'm Samoan and we often get stereotyped as the bad people — the ones who steal things and are just out to cause trouble."

The students said they believed that communication with parents and programs of education were ways to combat some of the concerns.



Cindy Thach, 13
"I think having to cope with high expectations in terms of family and school is a worry for young people. I think you have to talk to the people who are pressuring you and do what is best for you."



Julia Pham, 12
"I think making friends, particularly when you start at high school, can be a problem. You don't know anyone and you can feel left out and struggle to find a good friendship group."



Vivian Lau, 16
"I think the biggest worry is being someone you don't want to be and feeling pressure to try to fit in. I guess you can't try to be someone you're not and you shouldn't change yourself to make other people happy."



Youth talk: Cabramatta High School captains Joshua Vuong, Thomson Ho, Jennifer Truong and Alex Sulusi shared their thoughts on the results of Mission Australia's survey of young people.

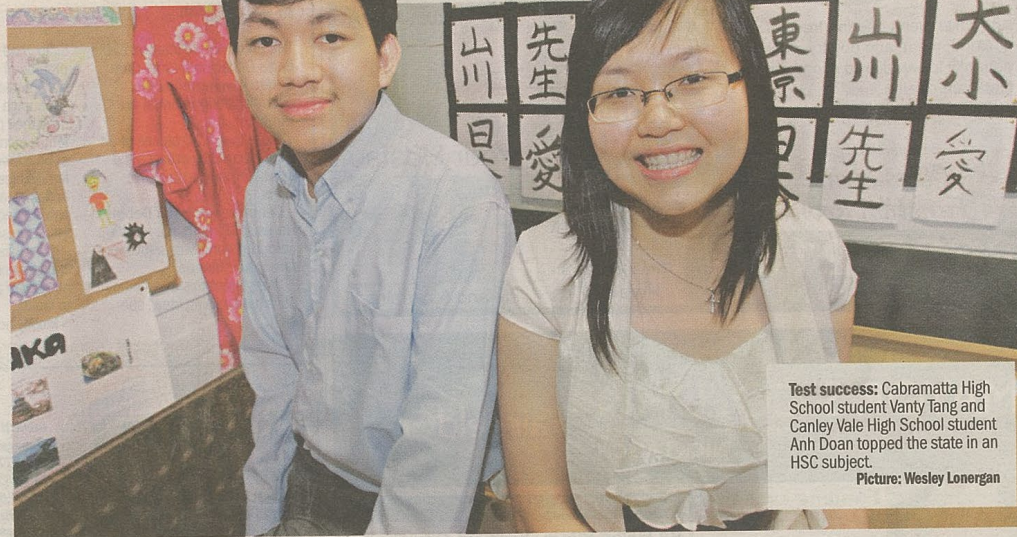
Picture: Kieren L. Tilly

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

1st in the state

Our students blitz HSC language exams



Test success: Cabramatta High School student Vanty Tang and Canley Vale High School student Anh Doan topped the state in an HSC subject.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

Choum reap suor and chao ban! You might not understand but two Fairfield students definitely will. **Melanie Kembrey** explains.

FAIRFIELD students have topped the state in two HSC language subjects.

Hours of exams, weeks of studying and more than a decade of schooling have ended in remarkable success for two students.

Canley Vale High School student Anh Doan topped Vietnamese continuers and Cabramatta High School student Vanty Tang came first in the state in Khmer continuers. Both are advanced courses.

"I was amazed — it was so much more than I expected," Anh, 18, who wants to study commerce at university, said.

"I tried to believe strongly that I could do well and I tried my best.

"I am especially thankful to my parents and my dedicated teachers for all their help.

"I enjoy studying Vietnamese and I've always wanted to develop my skills."

Vanty, 18, said his stomach did

star jumps when he learnt about his success.

He arrived in Australia five years ago from Cambodia and hopes to achieve the high marks needed to study medicine.

"I didn't believe it at first — I just felt so happy," Vanty said.

The two students' talent for language is a reflection of Fairfield's own linguistic diversity.

More than 70 per cent of residents speak a language other than English at home, with nearly 20 per cent speaking Vietnamese.

The students plan to celebrate their success with trips to Vietnam and Cambodia.

But first Anh and Vanty, and hundreds of Fairfield students, will find out their examination results from 6am today and their tertiary admission rank, ATAR, from 9am tomorrow.

It's a day that will trigger a veritable smorgasbord of emotions.

There is sure to be elation and disappointment in equal measure.

And perhaps the sound of a sigh as the relief that comes at the end of a long wait settles in.

The *Champion* spoke to St Johns Park High School graduate Jecyka Ablahad before she received her results.

The teenager needed an ATAR of at

least 70 to get into her dream course, social work.

"I'm pretty nervous but I'm also really excited to finally finish everything and for all it come to an end," she said on Monday afternoon.

"I think I did fine — my teachers did keep telling me to relax during the examinations."

Some inventive students have planned to make the most of the wait.

Jecyka and her friends have organised an "ATAR party" tonight.

"I'm sure some people won't go to sleep," she said. "We're all getting together to party and to celebrate."

"I'll definitely be up at 9am to see the results."

Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 15, 2010



Bags of hope: Cabramatta High School student representative council members Jennifer Truong, Thomson Ho and Anthony Pham are collecting bags to send to students in Cambodia. **Picture: Wesley Loneragan**

By Melanie Kembrey

SCHOOL BAGS are known to carry lunch boxes, textbooks and every so often the odd squashed banana.

But Cabramatta High School students think school bags can carry something with more weight than a turkey sandwich: hope.

The school's student representative council is collecting bags to send to Cambodian high school students.

Dog-chewed satchels, library bags worn thin over the years or that 1970s sack – if it's a bag, they will take it.

They hope the donated bags will not only take the weight off students' arms but will also unzip their hope for a brighter future.

This is the first year the school

has participated in the Bags of Hope campaign.

SRC member Anthony Pham has donated his old backpack to the cause.

"It feels great to know that you're helping out other students," he said. "It's amazing to know that one small thing could make such a difference and help someone else."

It's also a country close to the hearts of many Fairfield residents. More than a fifth of residents in the Fairfield local

government area were born in South-East Asia.

But it's still hard for many to imagine not putting on a backpack before heading off to school, SRC co-coordinator Brenda Schmidt said.

"They don't have backpacks like they do in Australia. They have to carry everything freely in their arms – their books, their equipment, their lunch," she said.

"There are lots of school students living around the world in poverty and poor conditions."

CAMBODIA:

- 18 phones per 100 people.
- Life expectancy at birth: 61.
- 40% of population lives on less than \$3 a day.
- 42% of children under five suffer from moderate or severe stunting.

Source: UNICEF, 2007

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Hampers for needy people

MELISSA MATHESON

@ Cabramatta High School

EVERYONE loves a surprise gift at Christmas but, for some people, it could mean a whole lot more than just a present.

Cabramatta High School has given the community a big "we care about you" hug with hampers for families who have had a difficult year.

Principal Beth Godwin said the hampers would provide 10 families, including those at the women's refuge Lotus House, with food and luxury items so they could enjoy Christmas.

"We're giving to local families who have had a really tough year or who have found themselves in really difficult circumstances," she said.

"All the students and staff have donated goods or cash and then we had the local Commonwealth Bank and (CEO) Ralph Norris donate money so we were able to buy vouchers for local businesses and luxury items like movie tickets.

"It's all the things everyone



CARING AT CHRISTMAS

■ **HAMPERS:** Cabramatta High School has prepared hampers for 10 families who have had a tough year

■ **GIFT:** The hampers are given anonymously so no one is embarrassed

would like to do in the holidays but if you don't have the money they're the first thing you cut back on."

This is the second year Cabramatta High has prepared hampers for families.

The recipients never know who donated the goods and they are left to enjoy their goodwill gift in peace.

"It's a surprise," Ms Godwin said. "It's all done anonymously so it's not about embarrassing anyone; it's about saying 'we care about you, have a package'.

"It's nice for the local community to help the local community."



Cabramatta High School students Alex Sulusi and Jennifer Thruong and principal Beth Godwin have prepared Christmas hampers for needy families.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,
December 22,
2010



Cabramatta High School languages head teacher Linh Nguyen congratulates HSC student Vanty Tang for topping the state in Khmer.

Photo: NICK ANDREAN -PP427152

Language of success

FAIRFIELD and Cabramatta students know the language of HSC success.

Three students in the area topped the state in language subjects, with one student taking out two titles.

Rand Mohan, of Fairfield High School, came first in the state in Arabic Continuers and Extension through the Saturday language school at Arthur Phillip High.

Canley Vale High School student Tran Kim Anh Doan topped the state in Vietnamese Continuers, while Cabramatta High School's Vanty Tang was first in Khmer Continuers.

Vanty said his Cambodian parents were proud of his efforts.

"They're happy because it's

something that's our language," he said. "I feel really good.

"I felt that I needed to do really well at it because I came from there."

Vanty's family moved to Australia in 2006. His brother topped the state in Khmer just two years later.

"When I first came to Australia I didn't speak a lot of Khmer," he said. "Some words I forgot but when I was in Cambodia, most of the time it was easy for me to write the words but after two or three years of not practising it was hard."

Vanty will enjoy a family holiday in Cambodia before entering university, where he plans to study commerce and science.