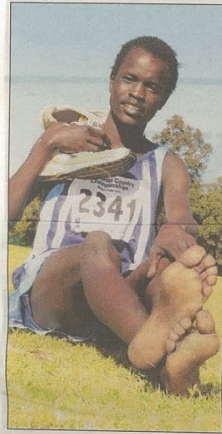


**News Paper Articles  
January 2011 to  
December 2013**

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
January 5, 2011



The *Fairfield Advance* has an abundance of young talent in this year's Junior Sports Star finalists line-up including cross country runner Deng Mawien, 15, tennis player Tammy Srbinovski, 15, sprinter Dieme Muhimbiwa, 12, and cricketer Jack Bray, 12.

## Countdown to an award is on for young champs

**BRIAN KARLOVSKY**

THE countdown is on among finalists as the Cumberland Courier Rebel Sport Junior Sports Star Awards night approaches.

And even with the vast pool of talent to choose from, the feats of the four *Fairfield Advance* 2010 Junior Sports Star finalists were simply impossible to ignore.

The winners will be announced at a gala dinner early next year and our finalists are excited to be in the running.

Each has made the final cut for the awards from hundreds of nominations received from across 19 newspapers in Sydney and the Central Coast.

Earlier this year, Cabramatta athlete Dieme Muhimbiwa, 12, didn't even own a pair of running spikes.

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.

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.

Abbotsbury cricketer, Jack Bray, 13, smashed his competition for six, several times over.

He was the highest scorer in Australia in the under-12s during the 2009-10 season with a total of 417 runs.

The Westfields Sport High School student's batting average was the fourth highest of any age group in Australia last season.

Outside of school he plays for Marconi Cricket Club and Fairfield-Liverpool Junior Cricket Association and he has been selected for the under-13s Emerging Blues for next season.

Tammy Srbinovski, 15, is hoping to ace the competition.



The Bossley Park tennis star went from playing tennis for fun to winning three tournaments in just two years.

Earlier ANZ Forster Optus Junior tournament playing against girls with much more experience.

She has already racked up age championships in the under-14s and 16s and made it into Westfields Sports High School's tennis program.

Fairfield cross-country runner Deng Mawien has won the Metropolitan Catholic Schools Cross Country for the past two years.

But when the Sudan born 15-year-old's lift to the NSW All Schools Cross Country Tournament pulled out on him at the last

minute, he was forced to take public transport.

And when he got to the bus stop in Rooty Hill, the bus never came.

"I had to go to Eastern Creek, but when I went to Rooty Hill to get the bus, there wasn't any bus," he said.

"So I decided to walk and it took me 52 minutes, I didn't get to warm up because when I got there, there was only 10 minutes for my race to start."

Deng finished the race in second place after putting up a titanic fight.

"I was winning the race, but because of the long walk I was too tired, so I couldn't sprint, so the guy came and passed me," he said.

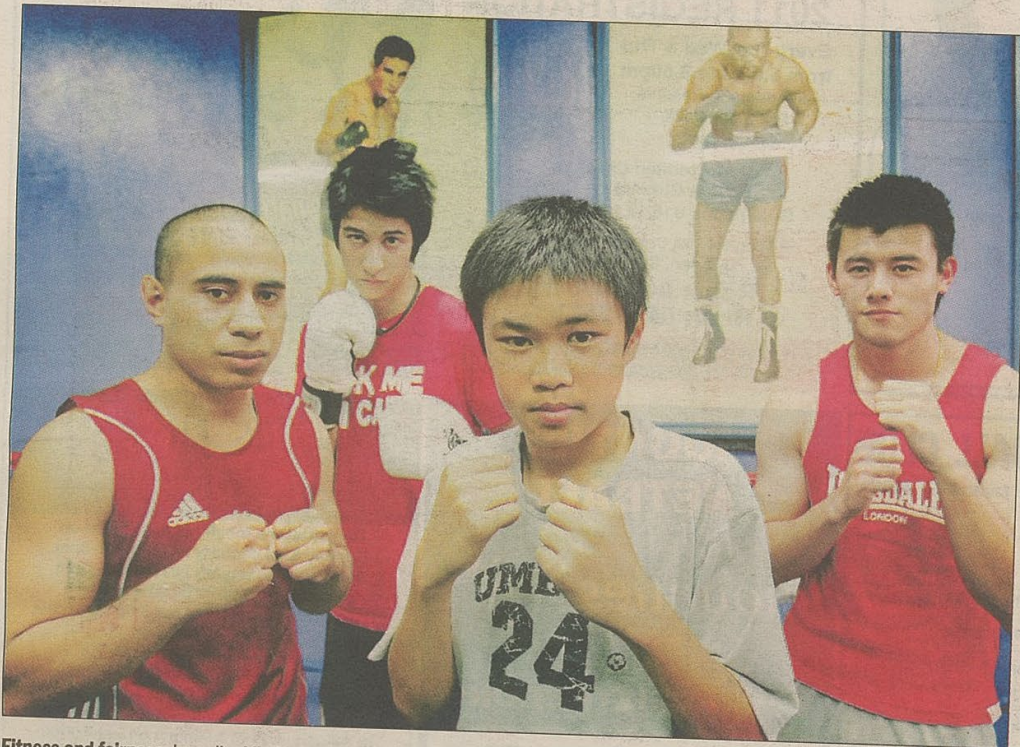
He has also been selected to represent the Metropolitan Catholic Schools competition in the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Athletics Carnival in the 800m and 1500m events.

The young sportspeople will celebrate the awards night with their families, teammates, club members and friends.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

## Noble art aids minds and bodies



Fitness and fairness: Lomalito Moala, Dan Kelly, Billy Tran, Max Baranov at Cabramatta PCYC.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

By Cindy Tran

LOMALITO Moala said growing up he never really had a role model to look up to.

After winning a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, Moala is hoping to run a boxing fitness program for young students this year.

The former Cabramatta High student says this would be a great opportunity to teach kids how to keep fit and to learn about setting goals.

"Now that I look back, I know that these kids need a role model to shape the paths to who they want to be," Moala said.

"It's a great start to develop good habits."

Moala said kids these days were doing some "serious damage" to themselves.

"They tend to sit around at home, play computer games and eat junk food," he said.

"This isn't healthy at all and they're wasting their time, when really they should be out and about."

"Even 30 minutes outside is good enough."

Billy Tran and Max Baranov, both

Cabramatta High students, say Moala is a great influence.

"I have always been a sports enthusiast and working with Lomalito will encourage me to set goals for myself," Billy Tran said.

Max agreed with his mate's sentiments.

"I also think the program is a great way for me to socialise with other students and make new friends," he said.

Westfields Sports High student Dan Kelly said the boot camp would help to improve his skills as a boxer.

"I hope to become a world champion one day," Dan said.

Moala said he hopes that some of his success can rub off on to the younger ones who are pursuing a dream in boxing or anything else.

"I do get enjoyment out of helping the younger ones."

The program will cost \$10 a lesson each week. "It will also cover the costs of [keeping an eye on] the young students after school," Moala said.

Details: Lomalito Moala, 0410 338 220.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

## Beth amazing young woman

CONGRATULATIONS Beth  
("Cabramatta students give  
Christmas surprise",  
*Fairfield Advance*).

Just watched the *Random Acts of Kindness* on Channel 9, you are a truly amazing young woman. It is a pleasure to know you. Australia needs lots more people like you to mentor our children of the future.

**Yvonne McMahon**  
[fairfieldadvance.com.au](http://fairfieldadvance.com.au)

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, January 26, 2011



Ning 'Nancy' Zhang, from Cabramatta High School has won the NSW Premier's Student Volunteering Scholarship.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

## Student volunteer bags award

MELISSA MATHESON

ALL Ning 'Nancy' Zhang wants to do is help people.

Now she's been given a helping hand with a \$2000 NSW Premier's Student Volunteering Award.

The education scholarship recognises Nancy's remarkable efforts in volunteering and will help her complete her HSC at Cabramatta High School.

"I'm very proud," she said. "I actually didn't know I could get this award.

"I do a part-time job and it would take me half a year to earn this money."

Nancy is on the student representative council, the environmental committee and the Leos Young Lions fundraising club at Cabramatta High.

She says her motivation comes from her fellow students.

"I know the feeling of being left out and alone because back in China my family was quite poor, so I know what it's like to not have enough food," she said.

"As a student I don't have money to donate but I can give. Helping others makes me feel good.

"Each term we find a problem, for example the Pakistan flood, and find ways we can help.

"We've organised to do a reading program with the IEC (Intensive English Centre) students."

Only 10 Premier's volunteering awards were handed out to Year 9 and 10 students in NSW.

Cabramatta High's volunteering co-ordinator, Anjana Nath said she hopes Nancy's award will encourage other students to get involved in volunteering.

"It's really good for the year 9 and 10 students to get recognition for their volunteer work in the community and school as well," she said.

"Cabramatta High has a very long history as far as volunteering is involved."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

## Uni offer fulfils a dream

By Sally Lee

NOTHING is impossible and recent Cabramatta High School graduate Billy Deng, 17, is a prime example of this.

The Universities Admissions Centre released main round offers online for undergraduate degrees on January 19 at 9pm.

"I wasn't really happy with my results because I didn't think they were that great," Billy said.

"But I put down University of Technology, Sydney, just in case a miracle happened, like now."

Billy's acceptance into the bachelor of business course at University of Technology, Sydney, came as a shock.

"I was reading carefully to check if the offer was really for me," he said.

"I'm so happy with the university offer.

"It was definitely better than expected."

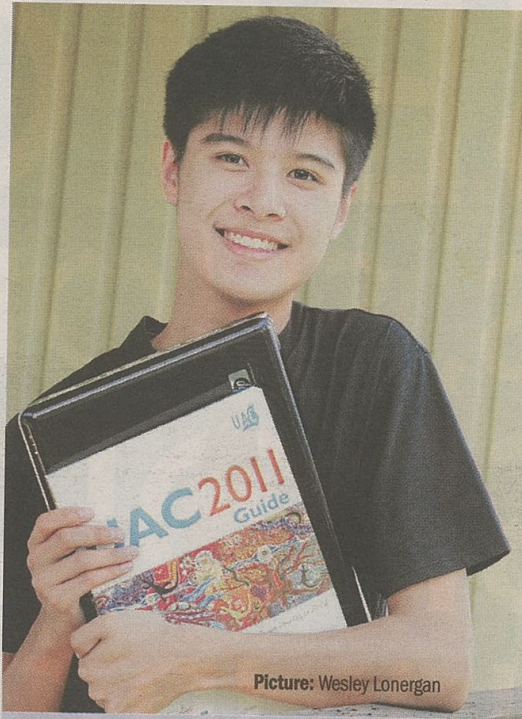
This was a dream come true as he has always been interested in business.

"I've wanted to do it since year 9," he said.

"I want to work in the finance sector, so I can be a stockbroker or get into banking."

Billy is looking forward to university but in the meantime he is going to enjoy the break.

"The stress is all over," he said. "It's time to just relax."



Picture: Wesley Lonergan

### ABOUT the 2010 Higher School Certificate:

- The largest total of 71,310 students sat the exams in NSW.
- Universities made 67,318 offers.
- Universities Admission Centre received 82,757 domestic applications.
- More offers will be made in early February and final round offers at 9pm on February 2.
- Students can change preferences by midnight on January 26 for the next round of offers.

Source: Board of Studies NSW and Universities Admission Centre

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

## An inspiration to all

Creating a positive image for the students of Cabramatta High School and the wider community is what this year's Fairfield Citizen of the Year Beth Godwin credits as her ongoing inspiration. **Stacey Vanoska** reports.

UPON receiving news of her award, high school principal Beth Godwin could only praise her 1200 students, their parents and the Cabramatta community for continuing to inspire her over the years.

"The school isn't just one person. It's a viable and valuable part of the community," she said.

Ms Godwin said the award was a "good surprise" that she had trouble keeping a secret until the official announcement last night.

"I hadn't told any of the students or staff, but of course I told my family," she said.

Ms Godwin said she would continue building the positive image of Cabramatta and the wider Fairfield area to the best of her ability.

"Every day I come to work and am inspired by the students, parents and staff," she said.

"That's what makes me want to

continue working at it on a school level and a personal level."

Ms Godwin recently appeared on the Channel Nine television show, *Random Acts of Kindness*, where she was nominated for her outstanding commitment to the students and school.

The achievements of Cabramatta High School are numerous under Ms Godwin's leadership including having prominent people such as former NSW premier Bob Carr, singer Jessica Mauboy and Sydney Peace Prize Winner John Pilger visit the school.

She has also implemented a partnership with the Australian Chamber Orchestra. The orchestra visits the school to perform with students.

In 2009, Ms Godwin introduced an annual award for students, Recognition of Cabramatta Knowledge, known as the ROCK Awards.



**Outstanding:** Pictured right is our citizen of the year, Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin. Picture: Wesley Lonergan

**Meet our other winners (pictured left) inside today's Champion**

# Fairfield City Champion


Wednesday, February 9, 2011

**HSC Results 2010**  
Congratulations to these schools & their students on their wonderful achievements!

SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

**CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL**  
*Cabramatta High School once again celebrates outstanding HSC results.*

Dux of 2010  
**Hoang Son HO**



**99.65 ATAR**

Hoang Son Ho also achieved 2nd place in English as a Second Language in NSW. Vanty Tang achieved 1st place in Khmer in NSW. Many of the 2010 graduates are pursuing further studies at university in a wide range of fields such as Medicine, Law, Business and Engineering. Cabramatta High School congratulates all the HSC students on their results and wishes them the best in their chosen careers.

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# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
February 9, 2011



## Reader of the week

Ashor Gewargis is the owner of Subway in the Fairfield Forum.

**What do you like best about working in Fairfield?** The friendly and happy environment.

**What is your favourite book?** *Action: The Action Movie* by Marshall Jullius. **On my bedside table is:** A glass of water and laptop.

**My favourite movie is:** *2 Fast 2 Furious*. **Three people I would love to invite to dinner:** My wife and my two beautiful boys.

**If I was the mayor of Fairfield for a day, I would:** Make more parking! **My favourite local eatery is:** Crust Pizza.

**The best advice I've ever received:** "Keep your family happy and satisfied." **One thing I can't live without:** My lovely wife.

**I'm passionate about:** Meeting new people every day.

**In 10 years' time I hope to be:** Working like today, more and more.

**My favourite meal is:** Steak.

**One thing I'm always being asked: How long have you owned Subway?**

**The best thing about owning a Subway is:** It's 100 per cent healthy and light.

**My favourite local shop is:** Dick Smith Neeta City.

**True love is:** My wife.

If you would like to be the reader of the week call the Champion on 9794 7000.



## Cabramatta

By Mick Derevlin

WHEN I first came to Cabramatta 18 years ago the media had branded it as one of the worst suburbs in the state.

Yet, through the continued efforts of the community and the local government, growing up as part of this community, along with everyone I knew, we experienced Cabramatta first-hand, which made it so much better and offered so much more than anyone would have believed.

Currently, Cabramatta is known for its eastern cultural influences, with people coming in from all over the Sydney region to experience a true authentic taste of its eastern cultures.

Chinese New Year celebrations and the moon festival have also helped put Cabramatta a step above many others

as an attractive tourist spot, which has helped spread what Cabramatta really is – a truly wonderful community.

The high school I went to, Cabramatta High School, didn't excel the most in academics but the atmosphere set up by the teachers, possibly some of the best in the industry, always encouraged us to be the best we could, motivating us and teaching us so much.

The school also worked hard for the community, holding multicultural concerts, peace days and fund-raisers for disaster relief, with many students donating blood and also helping in the Red Cross and Salvation Army doorknock appeals.

To me Cabramatta is more than the

place I call home. It is the friends that I have grown up with: together, learning, the culture that surrounds me, rich and diverse.

But above all, it is the will of the people who make this community, without doubt, spectacular.

Whenever I'm asked where I'm from I proudly say Cabramatta.

*Tell us why you love living in your suburb in 300 words and we'll publish it in the Champion. Send your article to the editor, Pat Stringa, pstringa@fairfaxmedia.com.au.*

Have your say...

[fairfieldchampion.com.au](http://fairfieldchampion.com.au)



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 9, 2011



**Sibling support:** Nikodin and Ognjen Matic are rising talents in their respective sports. Nikodin plays soccer and Ognjen plays handball.  
**Picture:** Wesley Lonergan

## A family affair with the brothers in arms

By Cindy Tran

THEY say there's sibling rivalry when it comes to sport but the Matic brothers have nothing to worry about.

The Cabramatta brothers Ognjen and Nikodin Matic both lead different paths.

The former Cabramatta High student, Ognjen recently came back from Sweden after competing at the Men's Handball World Championship.

The 21-year-old was the first goalscorer for Australia.

"I try to focus and play the game but after being the first scorer, I actually felt honoured, motivated and confident," Ognjen said.

"We played against the best nations in the world and I got to score seven goals in four matches.

"I think playing against countries like Denmark and

Croatia was the most competitive nations we've versed during the tournament."

Nikodin, 18, recently spent one week in England for the Nike Academy Scholarship, only to return home after making it as far as the final 32 players.

"There has been some mixed feelings but it's good to be back home," Nikodin said.

"I was really excited when I was selected as one of the top 30 players from Australia and New Zealand to compete for this scholarship."

The former Westfield Sports High student said the opportunity was something he has always dreamt about, especially going overseas.

"We got to meet 15 of the top Premier League legends and it was just unbelievable and inspirational," he said.

Ognjen said he is really

close to his brother and believes a lot will go his way.

"I think Nikodin has done really well and I know he will achieve a lot more than I will," Ognjen said.

Nikodin said: "Ognjen is a great role model to look up to." The Matic brothers will be focusing on their studies and, of course, sports on the sideline.

"I am into my final year of studying PE teaching and I want to get that out of the way before I can start focusing on going overseas for handball," Ognjen said.

As for Nikodin, he said he recently got offered a double degree at UWS in business but will be focusing on the Central Coast Mariners Youth League in the meantime.

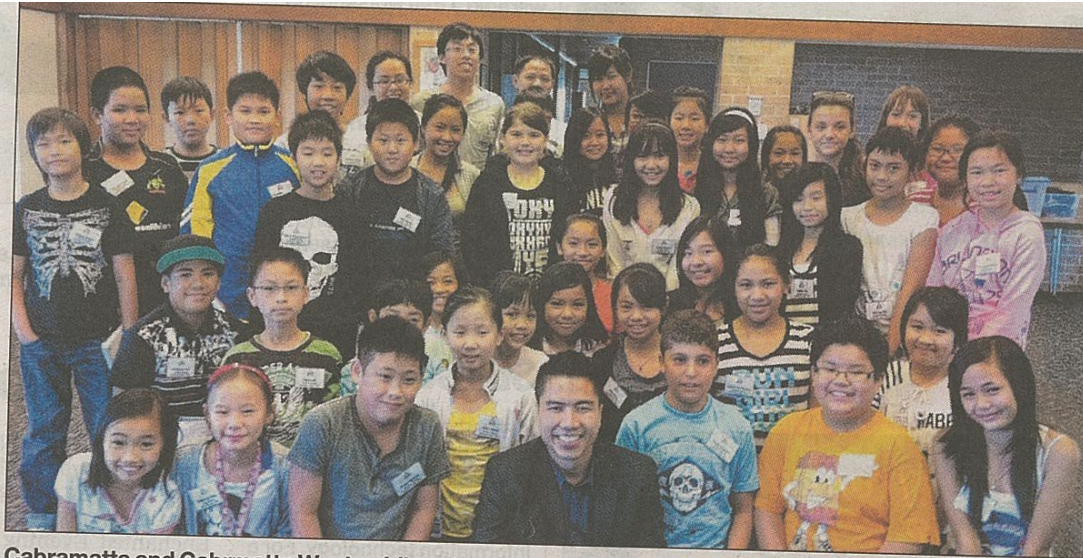
"I have been working really hard and it has been rewarding given that we are coming second," he said.

**Name:** Ognjen Matic  
**Age:** 21  
**Sport:** European handball  
**Position:** Left back  
**School:** Cabramatta High School  
**Club team:** UTS Handball Club  
**Representative honours:** Australian Men's Handball Federation

**Name:** Nikodin Matic  
**Age:** 18  
**Sport:** Soccer  
**Position:** Goalkeeper  
**School:** Westfield Sports High School  
**Club team:** Central Coast Mariners Youth Squad  
**Representative honours:** Central Coast Mariners

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, February 16, 2011



Cabramatta and Cabramatta West public schools and Cabramatta High School have teamed up for a leadership camp with guest speaker, 2005 Young Australian of the Year Khoa Do (centre).

## Leaders inspired by Young Australian

FORGET the scary stories, this school camp was full of wise words.

Cabramatta and Cabramatta West public schools joined with Cabramatta High School for a leadership camp with former Young Australian of the Year Khoa Do as guest speaker.

His message to the students was to "focus on what you have, not what you're lacking; be grateful for everything you have; and success is what you do with what you

are born with". The camp was all about creating stronger links between the primary schools and the high school, Cabramatta High teacher Rav Pillay said.

"For us, for secondary schools, they're our future," he said of the younger leaders.

"Through this project the students tap into the talents of primary school students."

Each school sent 15 students to the camp.

"I wanted to learn more about

leadership and I have quite a few friends that all became captains," Cabramatta West camper Tracy Chau, 11, said.

"When I was younger I saw them going on assembly and I thought 'I want to do that too'."

Samantha Pham, from Cabramatta High, was keen to pass on some of the leadership skills she learnt over the years.

"To me the main thing is having confidence and just expressing your ideas," she said.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

## 2011 School Leaders



### CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

#### 2011 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 – 5 days per week
  - Free HSC tutorials
- Gifted and talented programs
- Sporting opportunities
- Student mentoring



**Aladore Ave, Cabramatta NSW 2166**  
**Ph 9726 2424 - Fax 9726 4282**  
[www.cabramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.cabramatta-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

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# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 16, 2011



**Making headlines: Ex-Cabramatta High student, Philip Ly will move to Bathurst to study journalism at Charles Sturt University.**  
Picture: Wesley Lonergan

## And now the news from uni

By **Cindy Tran**

AS HUNDREDS of high-school graduates across Fairfield are packing their bags and textbooks for university this year, one Canley Heights student will be packing his room.

Former Cabramatta High student, Philip Ly, 18, was recently accepted into journalism at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst.

"I was really excited when I got the early-round offer to CSU because it was my first preference," he said. "I've always wanted to become a journalist and it'd be nice to be in front of a camera and talk because I love talking. I'm looking forward to the move and meeting new friends."

Philip said his parents were very supportive about the news. "Some of my relatives were trying to talk my parents out of letting me go but my parents were

really excited I got what I've wanted. It's very unusual for someone of an Asian-speaking background from my school to move out of home to study but you have to learn to be your own boss."

Philip said students, especially those from a cultural background as himself, should talk to a lot of teachers if they are interested in moving away for study. "Also talk to your parents and get their opinion about living away from home and what it would be like. They're the adults in your life who most likely know you best, so they're the best ones who can tell you how responsible and apt you'd likely be when living independently."

Philip will move to Bathurst this Sunday, the day before Orientation Week. "I'm a little scared but I know it's a good change and we'll have to see how everything goes. I'll miss the comfort of having my family and friends around when I move to Bathurst."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

## Korean students welcomed

MELISSA MATHESON

### @ Cabramatta High School

CABRAMATTA High School has said "annyeonghaseyo" (hello) to a new Korean friendship.

The school last week welcomed 14 Korean junior high school students and two teachers as part of an exchange program.

Today, the Cabramatta students will put on a barbecue for their guest, principal Beth Godwin said.

"We've been matched with a school in Korea, like a sister school but I like to call it a friendship school," she said.

"We do teach Korean here and both myself and the Korean teacher have been to Korea and part of the outcome of that was that we wanted to arrange a sister school.

"The students will exchange correspondence through email and that sort of thing so our English-speaking students will learn Korean and the Korean students will learn English."

The exchange students and teachers are from Jeju Seo Middle School on the small island of Jeju in South Korea.

While visiting Cabramatta High, they are living with local families which has provided each of them with a unique cultural experience.

"They're having the best time," Ms Godwin said.



Na Hee Kim, 14, from Jeju Seo Middle School in South Korea talks over school work with Cabramatta High student Katie Truong.  
Below: The student delegation from South Korea.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

"They've gone to Jamberoo, they've been up to the Blue Mountains and they're going to Featherdale so they have that Australian experience.

"Later this year our students will go to Korea and so will some of our teachers, including the principal."

Cabramatta's students will be faced with a very different culture when they visit Korea in the spring school holidays.

"It broadens the students' knowledge of the world," Ms Godwin said of the exchange. "There's nothing like learning a language by immersing yourself in it."



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

## Visitors like lifestyle



**Exchanging cultures:** Year 8 students from South Korea with year 9 students from Cabramatta High School, who are learning Korean.

**Picture:** Wesley Lonergan

**By Sally Lee**

VALENTINE'S Day marked a special union for Cabramatta High School and Jeju Seo Middle School in South Korea.

On Monday, February 14, Cabramatta High School welcomed 13 South Korean students and two teachers as part of an exchange program between the two schools.

Language teacher Helena Jun said the exchange pro-

gram offered students and teachers an "insight into real Australia" while Cabramatta High School students also learned about the language and culture of South Korea.

Three South Korean exchange students, Eun Ju Ko, Hyun Seo Na and Jun Su Kim agreed they are in love with Australia.

"I would stay forever if my parents let me," Eun Ju Ko said.

"It's so laid back here."

Hyun Seo Na is enjoying the luxury of being allowed to use calculators in class.

"It's so nice to be able to use a calculator for mathematics," she said. "At home, we're not allowed to use calculators in class and there's definitely not as much home work compared to South Korea."

The exchange students stayed in Australia for two weeks and visited the Blue Mountains, Jamberoo and Featherdale Wildlife Park.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 9, 2011



**Star performer:** Sneakers Sports employees Aaron Marques and Alex Wilson present Alex Sulusi with her award.

**Picture:** Wesley Lonergan

## Talented athlete wins award for her all-round prowess

CABRAMATTA High School student Alex Sulusi is the third winner of the Sneakers Sports Champion award.

A talented all-round athlete, Sulusi recently played in the Women's All Stars Rugby League Team. She has also represented at the higher level in volleyball, rugby union and touch football.

The Canley Heights rugby league star

received a \$50 voucher to Sneakers Sports Wetherill Park as part of the award and also goes into the running to be the overall winner at the end of the year.

If you think you know who the next Sneakers Sports Champion should be, email your nomination to [cboulous@fairfaxmedia.com.au](mailto:cboulous@fairfaxmedia.com.au) telling why your nominated sports person deserves an award.



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

## Summer at uni popular

WHILE most high school students were relaxing in holiday mode, these students signed themselves up for summer school.

Cabramatta High School students Sandra Ham, Sittichat Bamrung and Adam Urbancic took part in a summer holiday enrichment program at the University of Technology Sydney's School of Architecture.

"I just like to do tech drawings," Sandra, 16, said. "I thought it would be a good experience seeing what it was like in university."

The students were given areas within the university campus at Ultimo to theoretically redesign.

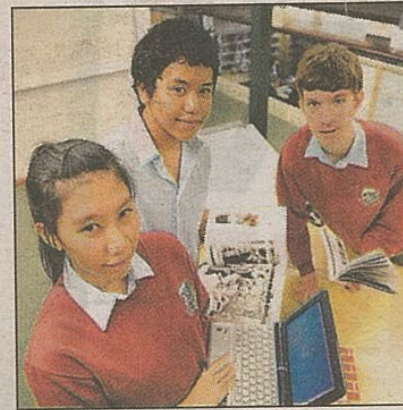
"We had to have a unique style of design," Sandra explained.

"We looked at some sort of cover because no one was using that area," Sittichat, 17, said.

"We learned a lot of skills in Photoshop and this Rhino program where we manipulated the models so you can change it around."

MB

The university experience gave



**Engineering hopefuls Sandra Ham, Sittichat Bamrung and Adam Urbancic.**

the students a glimpse of what they can expect after high school.

But not all of them thought it was so easy.

■ **Prairiewood High School** will hold a Discover Engineering Day tomorrow with the help of Engineers Australia.

Students can take part in hands-on engineering activities and hear presentations from professional engineers.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 16, 2011



Cabramatta High School student Jelena Josipovic talks about the Community Awareness of Policing Program with Cabramatta Police youth officer Sen-Constable Ha Son.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

## Lucky Jelena gets to hang out and train with police

MELISSA MATHESON

FEW teenagers would put their hand up to hang out with police but for Jelena Josipovic it's a dream come true.

Jelena, 16, has been selected for the Community Awareness of Policing Program.

The Cabramatta High School student will get a first-hand account of what policing is really like.

"After school I would like to join the police force," Jelena said. "It's something that I've wanted since primary (school).

"I'm going to start in general duties then we'll see if I can work my way up to detective.

"I want to take every single opportunity that comes up."

Jelena has been given a rare opportunity through the policing



### COMMUNITY IN THE BLUE

■ **What:** Community Awareness of Police Program

■ **Why:** To show school students what it's like to be a police officer

■ **Reality:** Sen-Constable Ha Son said the program was always fun and students needed to prepare for hard work

program and is just one of three students in the state to be selected.

Participants will travel to the police college in Goulburn for hands-on experience with the riot squad, marine command, forensics, counter terrorism and police prosecutions.

Cabramatta youth liaison officer Sen-Constable Ha Son said Jelena will be included in training exercises.

"Other people won't get to experience this course, to see behind the scenes what happens," he said.

"With the SWAT team you'll try on their vests and they'll take you through a whole exercise.

"You'll go out with the marine command and they will take you through an exercise on how they rescue people from out in the harbour."

Sen-Constable Son said the program is not all fun and games and there is often a big difference between the image of police and what happens in reality.

"They see what's happening on TV but they don't get to see what's behind the scene," he said.

"You get to arrest people but you also get paperwork.

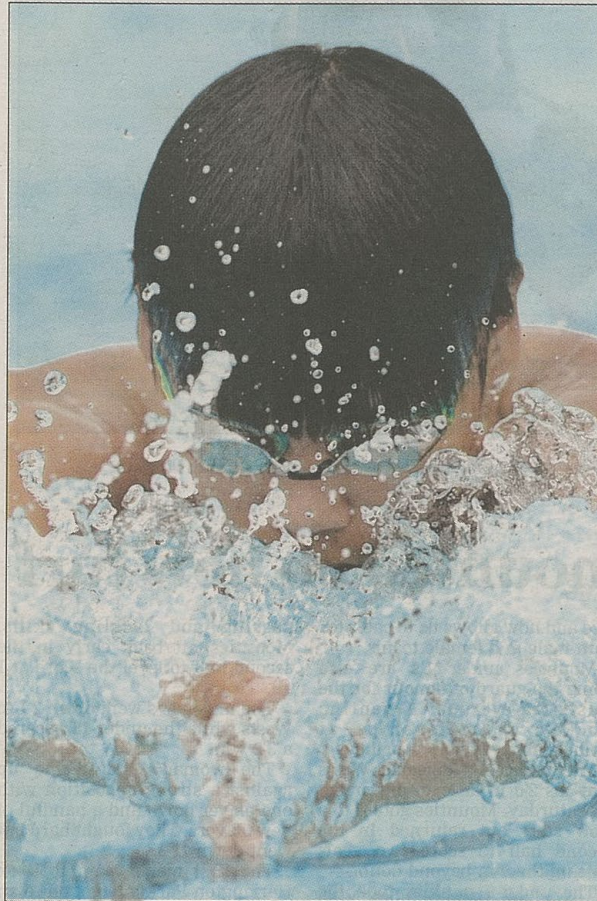
"It gives all the young people the insight about what's actually involved, rather than from friends who've been in trouble.

"It's definitely not like TV."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

## Swimmer needs help to make waves



Peng Cheng Zhang, 17, of Cabramatta, is an up-and-coming swimming champion looking for a squad to train with.

Picture: CHRIS McKEEN

LAUREN McMAH

CABRAMATTA High School's swimming star Zhang Pengcheng hasn't been in the country long, but he's already making waves in the swimming arena.

The Intensive English Centre student was chosen to compete in the NSW Combined High Schools Swimming championships under-17 100m breaststroke at the Sydney Aquatic Centre on Friday.

But while Pengcheng narrowly missed out on making the finals, he still has big dreams, Centre teacher Sophie Le said.

"He came in 13th and they take the first 12 into the finals," she said. "He missed out by .36 of a second; it was very close. But he's such a nice kid and he's very happy with what he's achieved.

"... he said he's going to start training up this year to be set for next year. It's a very positive attitude."

The breaststroke specialist, who turned 18 this week, trains with the help of Ms Le and fellow teacher John Nguyen.

Mr Nguyen said Pengcheng swam up to 5km a day when he lived in Beijing.

"He tells us that back in China in the under-17 in Beijing he came third in the national competition," he said. "We can only imagine how many people were in that championship."

As Pengcheng prepares to take the Australian swimming world by storm, Mr Nguyen said the star pupil needs help along the way.

"He desperately needs a sponsor to join a swimming club and pay for fees," he said.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

## Students tied in harmony

LAUREN McMAH

### @ Cabramatta High

CABRAMATTA High School students got roped into celebrating diversity at the school's Harmony Day last month.

Groups of students were tied together in groups of four to complete an Amazing Race-style competition.

Event organiser Rima Hussayni said the students had to learn to overcome differences and work harmoniously to achieve a common goal.

"The winner wasn't the best team or the fastest team, but the team that could work together and do all the challenges despite their differences in age, their backgrounds, and what they've been through," she said.

"The differences between year 12 and year 7 are huge.

"But the lesson was no matter how old you are, you have to work in a respectful manner to get to your aim."

The students competed a range of challenges including a wheelbarrow race, eating a dangling doughnut and passing through basketball hoops.

Penalties for not completing challenges including singing



Cabramatta High School students Charity Bosco and Geminah Omari compete in the "blind ball" event at the recent Harmony Day celebrations. Right: Year 7 student Ponnareay Pham searches for coins in the tub of spaghetti.

Justin Bieber songs and performing "girly" dances.

The winners were a group of two year 11 girls and two year 8 boys.

Mrs Hussayni congratulated the 24 students who gave up their spare time to help organise the day.

"It was organised by the students, they ran the challenges and really got the gist of Harmony Day," Mrs Hussayni said.

"Despite the rain the students had lots of fun.

"They're already asking what were doing next term."



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

## Wall becomes a work of art



**Beauty:** The mural will be completed by the end of the month.

**Picture:** Wesley Lonergan

By **Melanie Kembrey**

ANNA DANG is the young woman who stood up and said: "Why not?"

The former Cabramatta High School student wanted to paint a mural on the wall of the Cabramatta PCYC to inspire young people.

She approached the club's manager, inspired her friends and picked up her paint brushes.

"It's an excellent opportunity," Ms Dang, now 24, said.

"I just thought why not?"

"I'm really just the person who said 'Can we do that?' and 'Is that possible?'"

The colourful Think Global, Act Local mural is due to be completed by the end of the month.

A group of young men and women have worked twice a week since

February to create a mural that will turn into a work of art the wall facing Cabra Vale Park.

Cockatoos, balloons, oceans and sun rays will now greet people passing by the wall.

And what started as one woman's idea has now affected and will continue to affect many young people.

"I want to inspire young people to think more positively about the future and not the doom and gloom predictions often reported," Ms Dang said.

"I wanted to get a message across to my friends first and then to others.

"I wanted to create a ripple effect"

The painting of the mural prompted Anna and her friends to establish the Artise Action group.

They now have a website, Facebook page, followers and T-shirts. And they've teamed up with Fairfield Council to launch the mural on the same day as the council's 'I Sustain' website.

"I thought it was something I could give back to the community," Ms Dang said. "It's something I always wanted to do."

**THE Think Globally, Act Locally mural on the Cabramatta PCYC wall facing Cabra Vale park will be launched on Saturday, May 14.**

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

## The Student Voice: Cabramatta High School



University fans: (from left) Jelena Kalanj, Dalena Nguyen, Son Ho and Billy Deng.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

Each week, the *Fairfield Champion* finds out what's on the minds of our local students. This week, Cabramatta High School's most recent graduates pass on their tips for HSC success and provide a glimpse into their post-high school lives.

### Jelena Kalanj

Advanced Science at University of New South Wales (UNSW)

"The key is to study consistently. It's a foolproof method to make sure you stay on top of the work. Study is better when you start uni because you can choose what you want to study – no more PDHPE!"

### Dalena Nguyen

Business at University of Technology, Sydney (UTS)

"Time management was really important for the HSC. If you leave it to the last minute you can never do things properly. The great thing about uni is it's flexible. If you do miss a class, most of the stuff is online."

### Son Ho

Civil Engineering and Architecture at University of New South Wales (UNSW)

"It's important to know your strengths and weaknesses during high school, so you know where you need to spend the most time studying, and just practise, practise, practise! Now I'm at uni, it doesn't matter if I'm late any more! I still struggle with the one 9am class I have, but I get there in time for my 11am classes."

### Billy Deng

Business at University of Technology, Sydney (UTS)

"Working and studying with friends in groups is a good way to manage stress, you just have to avoid getting distracted by competing with each other! There's a lot more freedom once you get out of school and you meet lots of new people with the same interests as you because they're studying similar things."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

## Eyes opened to police work

By Jenna Daroczy

AFTER just two days of her time with NSW Police, Cabramatta High School student Jelena Josipovic has changed a lot of her earlier ideas about what the police do.

"We had a tour of the marine command boat and I was shocked to hear that police officers could be on the boat for seven days without rest and no one would know where they are," she said.

"We also found out about the public order and riot squad, who are there to protect the public and police officers if there are problems.

"However, they are not there to just go in and hit people; they are mostly there to scare the rioters or offenders off.

"I was surprised to hear that, because we usually see on TV when riots happen the police go in and arrest or hit the offenders but now I know they will only do that if the offenders will not stop."

Jelena was part of the four-day Community Awareness of Policing Program, which aims to strengthen relations between the police and the public by making police operations better understood.

Participants were also involved in mock crime re-enactments and high-speed driving training as well as simulated use of weapons on police officers.



**Thin blue line:** Jelena Josipovic (pictured with Constable Goran Stojilkovic) says her ideas of what really goes on inside the police force have changed since her behind-the-scenes experience.

Picture: Wesley Loneragan

"I personally really liked the presentation about the dog squad, because it showed me how much work was needed to train and lead the dogs to perform as police dogs," Jelena said.

"We got to see the dogs in action and got a few laughs from the show but it's fair to say that I would definitely not want one of the dogs to grab a hold of me or any body else — it will hurt.

"The other unit I was extremely fascinated by was the tactical operations unit, which showed us how skilled and fit these police officers have to be in order to step up and take control of a situation which has got out of hand."

The program took participants to police centres in Surry Hills, Homebush Bay and the police academy in Goulburn among others.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

'Performing these songs is like a little walk down memory lane'

## English goes back to roots

LAUREN McMAH

VETERAN rocker Jon English is revisiting his Cabramatta youth, live on stage.

The star is touring with *The Rock Show... More*, a live tribute to the music of the 1960s and '70s, when English was just an average Cabramatta teenager.

"It was such a fascinating time for all of us who lived through it," English said.

"Music is like a sense of smell; you remember songs from certain times and places.

"Performing these songs is like a little walk down memory lane."

Last month marked 50 years since English and his family arrived in Sydney Harbour after leaving their home in Hampstead, London.

The family settled in Cabramatta's Coventry St and it wasn't long before the former Cabramatta High School student discovered his passion for music.

"My sister took me to the Beatles just before my 15th birthday and I thought, 'yep, I want to be one of these guys,'" he said.

"The music scene in Cabramatta was quite vibrant; it was very exciting. There were a lot of places for us to play and we



### ENGLISH ROCKS GLORY YEARS

■ **WHAT:** *The Rock Show... More* is a celebration of hits from the 1960s and '70s

■ **WHO:** Jon English performs with a full band

■ **WHERE:** Parramatta's Riverside Theatre

■ **WHEN:** Friday, May 13

■ **TICKETS:** Call 8839 3399

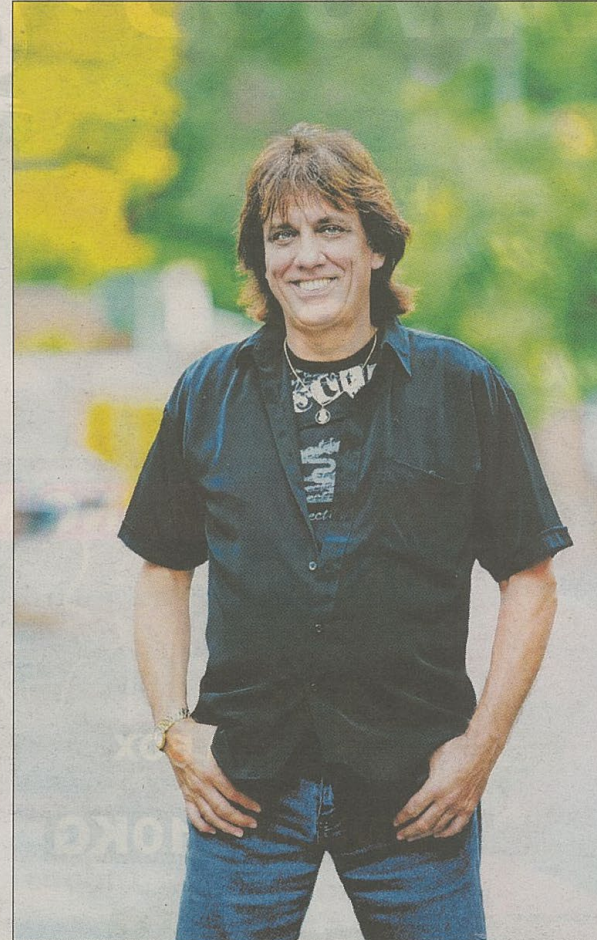
were lucky in that we were able to make a living.

"We had the Villawood Migrant Hostel (now Villawood Detention Centre) up the road where the Easybeats were playing and we all kind of knew each other."

Since then, English has gone on to become one Australia's most beloved musicians, television stars and stage actors.

In *Rock Show... More*, English performs with a full band to play the hits of the 1960s and '70s rock generation.

"It basically touches on what I think are the defining moments of that period," English said. "It's tongue-in-cheek and quite funny and very well played."



Jon English is going back to Cabramatta roots in his new show.



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 4, 2011



Cabramatta High School student Jelena Josipovic discusses her role in the Community Awareness of Policing Program with Cabramatta police youth officer Sen-Constable Ha Son.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

## Day in the life of the police

**LAUREN McMAH**

CABRAMATTA High School student Jelena Josipovic has a whole new perspective on policing after a recent experience.

The teenager joined the likes of surfing champion Layne Beachley and retired footballer Hazem El Masri in last month's Community Awareness of Policing Program.

Jelena was one of only three NSW students to be selected for the four-day program, which provided a

first-hand account of what policing is really like.

"I was very anxious and curious about the program," Jelena said.

"It was wonderful to see what the police force goes through in order to keep the public safe and to keep themselves from any harm."

Jelena got a lesson in all aspects of policing, including the drug unit, counter terrorism and special tactics, the marine command, weaponry, police driving and the public order and riot squad. The program

included a trip to the police academy in Goulburn and a special welcome from Commissioner Andrew Scipione.

Cabramatta youth liaison officer Sen-Constable Ha Son, who recommended Jelena for the program, said it would improve her understanding of why police do what they do.

"Out of this we are hoping these community leaders and the wider community will gain a more realistic understanding of the job we do," he said.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

## LAUREN McMAH

WITH an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank of 99.65, former Cabramatta High School student Hoang Son Ho had the world at his feet - so he decided to help build it.

The 2010 dux, who migrated to Australia just four years before his HSC year, is now studying civil engineering and architecture at the University of NSW.

He said hard work and planning were key to his HSC success.

"I wanted an ATAR of 99.1 at the time so I listed all my strengths and weakness, and what I knew and what I didn't know and needed to work on," Mr Ho said.

"My advice to this year's students is to know your strengths and weaknesses and study, study, study."

Mr Ho said he had a passion for French architecture and hoped one day to work in Vietnam or Europe.

"My dad is a civic engineer and for so long I've seen him design house plans and when I was little I tried to help him," he said.

"University is stressful and time-consuming but it's got good rewards."

His former classmate Shahed Al-Bayati is now studying interior design and decoration at TAFE in Lidcombe.

She said TAFE's emphasis on practical learning made it the right choice for her.



Cabramatta welcomed back its high achievers recently including Son Ho, Shahed Al-Bayati, Irene Shchupak and Kelly Phuong.

Picture: ISABELLA MOORE

"We do cutting, drawing, and learn all different skills," she said.

"We go on excursions which are important because we see new places and designers and watch them do their work."

Ms Al-Bayati said her school friends chose many different paths after graduating.

"It's good for people to try different things, because maybe the places are different, but at the

end of the day you still get a good education," she said.

The former students said their teachers were a huge inspiration to them and they were proud to be Cabramatta High School alumni.

"People think students who score 99 should be in a selective school," Mr Ho said.

"I want to show that a Cabramatta High School student can make a difference."



## ACHIEVERS MORNING TEA

■ **WHAT:** Cabramatta High School held a morning tea for the 2010 high achievers

■ **STUDENTS:** are now studying or working variety of industries like law, engineering, design and education

■ **TEACHERS:** say university isn't for everyone and students should also consider TAFE and apprenticeships

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 18, 2011



**Ready for action:** Fairfield resident Alex Sulusi has made the NSW Women's State of Origin team for the second year in a row.

Picture: Wesley Loneragan

## Origin dream a reality for Alex

By **Chris Boulous**

IT will be a moment Fairfield resident Alex Sulusi will never forget.

"Running out onto a stadium like Suncorp Stadium — the home of the Broncos — is going to be unbelievable," she said.

"It really is a dream come true to play in front of a big crowd before the State of Origin."

Sulusi, 17, will make her second appearance for NSW in the Women's State of Origin next Wednesday night.

Last year NSW lost 36-6. This year it is payback.

"Hopefully we can get a win," she said.

"It is going to be a

tough game but I am looking forward to it."

Sulusi also plays rugby union, volleyball and touch football.

"It is very exciting and I can't wait to get out there and play," she said.

The Canley Heights Dragons forward is the

**Running out onto a stadium like Suncorp Stadium — the home of the Broncos — is going to be unbelievable**

**—Alex Sulusi**

youngest player in the 20-person squad. She will be joined by teammate Kirri Te Moana in the Blues squad. The

Cabramatta High school student represented the Women's All Stars Rugby League Team earlier in the year at Skilled Park and is hoping to be selected in the Australia squad.

### PROFILE

**Name:** Alex Sulusi

**Age:** 17

**School:** Cabramatta High School

**Position:** Second row, centre

**Club:** Canley Heights Dragons

**Other sports:** Rugby union, volleyball, touch football

**Rep honours:** NSW State of Origin 2010, 2011, Women's All Stars Rugby League Team 2011

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

## Being green will bear fruit

LAUREN McMAH

@ Cabramatta High School

CABRAMATTA High School students gave their school a green makeover on Friday.

The school celebrated its third annual Green Day with year 7 and 8 students cleaning and maintaining the school environment and creating new gardens.

Principal Beth Godwin said this year's Green Day focused on outdoor projects and the living environment.

"It's about teamwork, responsibility and students communicating with each other, but it's also about students committing to their own environment," she said.

With the help of volunteers from the Commonwealth Bank, students got their hands dirty touching up paintwork, picking up rubbish and cleaning and weeding the school's Peace Garden.

They also helped plant trees along the school's "biodiversity corridor" along Cabramatta Creek.

One new feature is a vegetable and herb garden, which will provide food for the school's breakfast club and hospitality students.



Cabramatta High School students Ricky Tang, Easter Leuma, Malia Levao and Samuel Doung with volunteer Benjamin Chahola got their hands dirty for the school's annual Green Day. Picture: NICK ANDREAN

Students planted lettuce, broccoli, tomato, lemongrass, chilli and a range of herbs in large portable tanks.

"You can have a garden anywhere with these portable tanks and they don't disturb the ground underneath them," Ms Godwin said.

"The environmental committee from last year devised a business plan with the Commonwealth Bank to build this garden.

"They've done their research and they've worked hard on it."

Year 7 student Jordan Treloar said he hoped to pick up some

gardening tips during his first Green Day at the school.

"(Green Day) makes us realise what people are doing to the environment so we can help the environment," he said.

"I'm thinking about doing a vegetable garden at my own house."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 25, 2011



**Green thumbs:** Year 8 students Sophie So (front) with Ramona Simikic (left) and Mien Hall get into greening the grounds at Cabramatta High School.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

## Students keen to go green

By Jenna Daroczy

THE saying goes it takes a village to raise a child, and Cabramatta High School this week saw a cross-section of the community help out with greening their children's environment.

Donations of money, manpower and mulch came flooding in for the school's third annual "green campaign".

Teacher Toni Robinson said more than 300 students from year 7 and 8 teamed up with volunteers from the com-

munity for the day-long initiative.

"Students were involved in a variety of projects on the day, cleaning, maintaining existing garden areas and creating new ones," she said.

"One particular project is the creation of a portable kitchen garden that will supplement the herb gardens that were created last year.

"This garden will include bush foods and foods used by the breakfast club."

The kitchen garden has been sponsored by Sydney South West Area Health,

which sent along two volunteers on the day, as well as soil, plants and mulch.

Another team worked with the school's construction teachers to create fencing to protect the gardens.

Ms Robinson also acknowledged major sponsors over the past three years — the Commonwealth Bank, which this year sent along 20 staff and a donation of \$500 towards materials for the day.

The school also thanked Antique Tree Felling of Mount Pritchard, which donated mulch.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Students pop in to see Julia and Kevin Rudd on trip to Canberra

## Surprise visit to see our PM

LAUREN McMAH

### @ Cabramatta High School

THESE Cabramatta High School students got more than they bargained for during a trip to Canberra late last month.

School captains Jennifer Truong, Thomson Ko and Joshua Vuong visited Fowler Federal Labor MP Chris Hayes at parliament house - and he introduced them to his boss, Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

"She let us in her office and she was happy to talk to us even though she didn't know us," Joshua said.

"Her office was really big, just like in the movies.

"Then Kevin Rudd walked past, Julia Gillard called him in and he shook all our hands.

"It was like a double surprise."

Ms Gillard, who visited Cabramatta High as Education

Minister in April last year, told the students about how she worked hard at school and university to become a lawyer before entering politics.

"She said high school was really hard but then she got into law, and it's through all her experiences that she became the leader she is today," Jennifer said.

"She said the future is not really stable and it changes at any time so you just have to see what happens."

As guests of Mr Hayes, the students also got a private tour of parliament house and watched a "dramatic" discussion of climate change during question time.

While none of the students have plans to enter politics after school, Thomson said their trip to Canberra was something he wouldn't quickly forget.

"Being in Ms Gillard's office was pretty inspirational - we saw photos of her and (US President) Barack Obama," he said.



Joshua Vuong (at rear), Jennifer Truong and Thomson Ko from Cabramatta High School met Julia Gillard in her office.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

## Teacher earns high praise

By Jenna Daroczy

A SENSE of community and a strong education have been the twin pillars of success for Mohammed Omar — a refugee from Somalia and now an award-winning teacher at Cabramatta High School.

Mr Omar arrived in Australia in 1993 as an eight-year-old.

He did not speak English and had fled the terrors of civil war.

"I'd never been in a classroom before so the support networks I had around me were vital to getting through primary school, then high school, then finishing the two degrees I have," Mr Omar said.

"That's why running the peer support program for new year 7 students at Cabramatta High School is so important to me — I remember how lost you can feel.

"I think it's important for them to know other people have been through the same experiences and come out the other side; so they know they can achieve whatever they want in Australia.

"There are opportunities everywhere."

Mr Omar runs youth programs, including coaching an under-11s soccer team, out of school hours because he says he wants "to give back to my community".

"One of the biggest things to finding a sense of home when we first got here was by playing football or soccer," he said.

"I used to play it back home in Somalia and in Kenya.



**Refuge found:** Cabramatta High School teacher Mohammed Omar has been awarded a Humanitarian Award for his work with young refugees and students.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

"So living in an area full of Turkish, Lebanese and Iraqi kids, we all had the sport in common.

"Everywhere you go there's a soccer ball and you're part of the community."

In 2009, Mr Omar founded and chaired the Horn of Africa Youth Agency of Australia, a sub-committee of the Horn of Africa Relief and Development Agency.

As part of Refugee Week celebrations, Mr Omar was this week awarded a Humanitarian Award from the Service for Treatment And Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors for his work with young refugees both inside and out of the school.

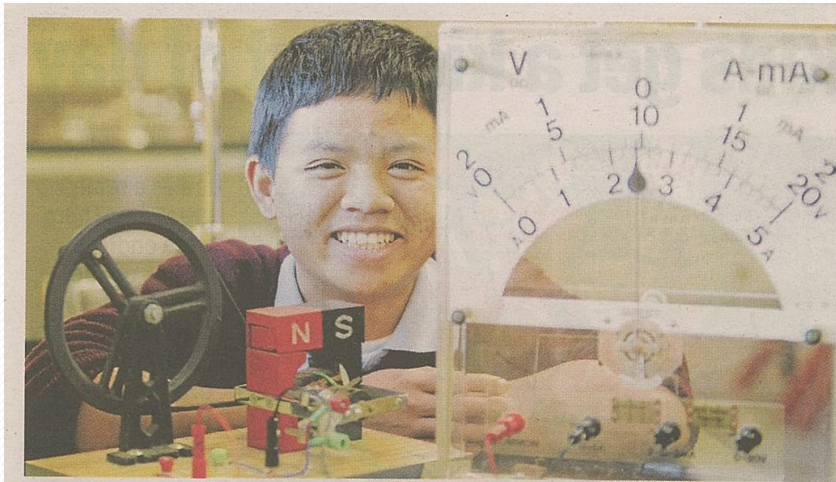
He thanked the Cabramatta school community for its support, as well as the Service for

Treatment And Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors and the Refugee Council of Australia.

**Mr Omar will take African students from Cabramatta High School to perform in the Refugee Week celebrations at Freedom Plaza in Cabramatta this Friday, June 24 from 10am.**

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, June 22, 2011



**Powering forward:** Hung Phat Duong, of year 11, is one of 149 students from around the world to participate in the prestigious Professor Harry Messel International Science School at the University of Sydney these school holidays.  
Picture: Wesley Lonergan

## Love of science pays off

By Jenna Daroczy

IN JUST two years since arriving in Australia, year 11 student Hung Phat Duong has powered forward in a range of activities.

From running publicity for his school's Rock Eisteddfod team, to coming second in his year group in English — a language he barely spoke when he arrived — the Cabramatta High School student has a proven flair for communication.

But it's in science where his real passion and talent shine, particularly in physics.

His talent has won him a

scholarship at the prestigious Professor Harry Messel International Science School at the University of Sydney.

Only 149 students from around the world passed the tough selection criteria to take part in the two-week course.

"I was so excited at the idea of going and when I found out, I was just speechless," Hung said.

"I put a lot of effort into my application, but I never thought I would be selected.

"I love science because I'm interested in the universe and how the world around us was created. I like experi-

ments too — I just like all of science!"

Hung studies biology, chemistry, physics, maths extension I, Vietnamese and English, but is keeping his post-school options "pretty open".

"I don't want to miss out on trying anything," he said.

He names geography, psychology or forensic science as possible future careers.

During the course, Hung will have lectures from professors in different fields from around the world and meet other young scientists in a range of activities, experiments and excursions.



# Local students meet **Prime Minister**



**Cabramatta High School Captains meet Prime Minister Julia Gillard.**

**The School Captains of Cabramatta High School had the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Julia Gillard on a recent trip to Parliament House.**

HSC students Joshua Vuong, Thomson Ho and Jennifer Truong, together with Deputy Principal Brendan Bryen, spoke to the Prime Minister about their plans for next year and attended Question Time.

I wish them, and all students in the community completing their HSC, best wishes for their future.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, July 6, 2011



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

## Celebration of culture

‘My people are the original custodians of this land, held around the fire linked by hand...’

From *My People*  
By Amy Boggs, year 8  
Cabramatta High School

**LAUREN McMAH**

**CABRAMATTA:** STUDENTS from Cabramatta High got a lesson in indigenous culture when the school held its first NAIDOC Week celebration on Friday.

The day was held to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to celebrate the contributions and achievements of indigenous Australians in a range of fields.

At a special assembly, based on this year's NAIDOC theme of "change, the next step is ours", students from years 7, 8 and 9 enjoyed a performance by the Koomurri Aboriginal Music and Dance Group.

The Koomurri troupe performed traditional indigenous dances and gave the students a lesson in playing the didgeridoo.



**The Koomurri Aboriginal Music and Dance Group gave Cabramatta High students and staff a lesson in playing the didgeridoo.**

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

"The group performed eight traditional dances and also got students and staff involved in the dances during the assembly," organiser Mohammed Omar said.

"We can definitely say that our staff at Cabramatta High School are the best dancers by a country mile," he said.

Year 8 student Amy Bogg presented a poem about Aboriginal identity and culture.

Following the assembly, the HSE faculty organised a morning tea for indigenous students, staff and the Koomurri dancers. "The day was a great success and was enjoyed by all," Mr Omar said.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

## THE STUDENT VOICE: CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL



School captains at Cabramatta High School shared the insights they learned during an Aboriginal cultural dance performance from the Koomuri group during recent NAIDOC Week celebrations, held each year by the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee.

### Jennifer Truong

"The performance wasn't like any other group we've had come to the school: they really took us with them as they explained it all. I never knew that the dances are all related to stories of survival in the bush. It was also really cool the way they used their body to tell the stories."

### Thomson Ho

"It was great to have the interactive side of the performance. Getting the teachers up and dancing is always going to be a winner! It's a very different way of learning history, and seeing it still alive and being practised is a much more powerful way of understanding cultures than reading a textbook."

### Joshua Vuong

"It completely changed what I thought about the didgeridoo, seeing it played and explained like that. I'd always thought it was just a monotone, but when he explained it had bird and animal calls through it, it totally changed what I could hear. It was really traditional and old but contemporary and new at the same time."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, July 27, 2011



## Cabramatta High School

Cabramatta High School has been serving its community since 1958, providing learning opportunities to a diverse student population.

Our high school and the onsite Intensive English Centre have students from many different backgrounds who together **“Strive and Serve”** to achieve their potential and serve the community as active citizens.

Students are encouraged to develop strong values that are shared by the community. The school enjoys strong links with local primary schools and values the contributions of many local organisations.

Living and learning through the school's values and the school motto of “Striving and Serving”, students at Cabramatta High School are part of a vibrant, progressive and caring learning community.

### The values of Cabramatta High School are:

Co-operation  
Academic  
Being ethical  
Respect and responsibility  
Achievement

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, July 27, 2011



## Thank you for opening our minds



**SUSANNA  
FREYMARK,**  
education  
editor

TWO thirds of the state's children go to a public school.

This figure, from the Education Department's annual report released last month, hasn't changed much since 2003 when 67 per cent of children attended public schools.

As education editor I have had the opportunity to visit numerous schools to talk to principals, teachers and students.

It is obvious in these visits how dedicated teachers are.

I've heard students talk excitedly about "sliming" their teachers for a fundraiser or how a teacher pushed them to be better than they thought they could be.

As a former primary school teacher, I know how involved a

teacher can become in the lives of their students. They not only teach our children to read, write and count but on my school visits I see much more than that happening.

Teachers care, and the relentless and consistent work they do can easily be taken for granted.

Yes, there are problems in schools with NAPLAN, buildings and infrastructure and issues specific to each school and classroom yet it is teachers who have the capacity to change lives.

I am biased, I wouldn't be who I am today without some remarkable teachers.

They put up with my chatter and misbehaviour in the classroom, (sorry about the itching powder on your desk, Ms Nicholas) and left me with a life-long love of learning.

During Public Education Week, August 1-5 - I'd like to take a moment and thank all of our educators.



Cabramatta High maths teacher Pauline Constantinedis shows her year 8 students how to dig in for the school's annual green day.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
August 3, 2011

## Students Gaga over puff pastry

LAUREN McMAH

POPULAR culture phenomena Lady Gaga and *MasterChef* were among the inspirations as Cabramatta High School celebrated NSW Education Week this week.

In the Ecogaga challenge on Monday, textile students designed runway couture inspired by the eccentric costumes and styling of pop princess Lady Gaga.

The students were required to use recycled materials to create their outfits, which were displayed in a fashion parade at the school assembly.

Also on Monday, students with a flair for cooking battled against each other in a Masterchef-style cook-off.

Teams of students had a limited time frame to cook and plate a blueberry stack with toffee shards which was assessed by a panel of judges.

The students put their skills to the ultimate test as they whipped up a luscious creme patissiere, browned puff pastry to perfection and mastered the art of the toffee shard.

A survivor challenge later in the week is just another of the many activities Cabramatta has prepared to celebrate their academic achievements.

Hundreds of schools around NSW are expected to take part in Education Week events, which this year are based on the theme of NSW Public Schools - creating the future.

Education Minister Adrian Piccoli said the week was an important chance to showcase the programs and initiatives that our schools have to offer.

"It's an opportunity for schools



Budding master chefs Randy Tran, Tony Duong and David Truong show off their skills during Educator Week festivities.



Year 11 students Elizabeth Trinh and Amy Yung showcase their sewing talents at Cabramatta High School.

to exhibit how they support a whole range of students, showcasing their academic strengths and outstanding results as the focus on teaching strong values," he said.

"Education Week is a chance to reflect just how far we've come, and where we're headed.

"All our Education Week events will reflect the fact that students, teachers and communities across NSW are witnessing an exciting time in public schools."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

## Ready to rock



**Excitement  
builds for  
eisteddfod  
comeback**

**Page 7**

Picture: Wesley Lonergan



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 17, 2011 (Continued)

## Rock Eisteddfod returns

By Jenna Daroczy

SOME of Cabramatta High School's brightest and loudest students will be leading the triumphant return of the much-loved Rock Eisteddfod Challenge this year.

After 30 years of the eisteddfod running in various forms, it was cancelled last year because of lack of funding.

But this September, the Sydney Entertainment Centre will again ring with the voices and shake with the dance steps of thousands of high school students from all over NSW.

Among them will be year 7 student Jordan Treloar, who will be doing his impression of controversy-plagued NRL player Willie Mason. Jordan said Mason's character was one of a number of celebrities to appear and represent influences on youth culture.

"We show five teens going through life as though it's a video game, like a fantasy, living like celebrities, until there's a street party and they all make bad choices that end in someone dying," Jordan said.

Year 10 student Samantha Pham is one of the team's producers and also plays a rock Gothic teenager influenced by Lady Gaga. She has performed in previous Rock Eisteddfods, and said last year's cancellation had been "really disappointing".



**Ready for the stage:** Some of Cabramatta High School's eisteddfod cast get into character. **Picture:** Wesley Lonergan

"We're excited to have it back," Samantha said.

"It's a lot of work, but everybody gets so much out of it.

"All can express a different part of themselves."

The eisteddfod team's media manager, year 11 student Hung Phat Duong, said that he and his school fellows were hoping that the wider community would get as

excited as the school community.

"It's a great chance for us to show our talents, and the community can come along and support the event by buying tickets through the school office," he said.

Tickets to the show on Friday, September 2, are \$50 each through Cabramatta High School on 9726 2424.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

## Martial aid for students

When you feel good about succeeding, you're keen to try more new things. It gives you a real feeling of achievement and accomplishment.

By Jenna Darocz

TAKING a preventive and active approach to negative news stories was the driving force behind self-defence classes at Cabramatta High School.

But these classes haven't been organised by teachers.

They are an initiative of two senior students who are taking part in the Max Potential leadership program.

Ning (Nancy) Zhang and Peter Nguyen developed the idea of running introductory self-defence sessions at the school after a couple of months of meeting with "coaches" — in this instance, older community members who guide them in setting goals, facing challenges and taking on leadership roles.

"Martial arts is something we've both been passionate about and we wanted to do something positive to counter all the negative stories in the news about people being in danger on our streets," Nancy said.



**Potential punch:** Martial arts instructor Benjamin Silaphet takes Cabramatta High School students through self-defence moves as part of the Max Potential leadership program. **Picture:** Wesley Lonergan

Both Nancy and Peter are thinking foremost of youth safety, and both plan to join the police when they finish high school.

"We also hoped to just get the students thinking more about their safety, and maybe take up some form of martial arts after school, even just for fitness reasons which is important too," Peter said. "The program has really developed our ability to organise events like this, having the regular sessions with different students co-

ordinating everybody to set it up."

Nancy said she and Peter were not only picking up new skills, but were also becoming more confident.

"When you feel good about succeeding, you're keen to try more new things," she said. "It gives you a real feeling of achievement and accomplishment."

The staff and students thanked St Johns Park Bowling Club, which sponsors the Max Potential leadership program.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

## Life through their eyes

‘It’s been a really huge job, but we’re very excited to show the results to everyone’

LAUREN McMAH

**CABRAMATTA:** ROCK Eisteddfod is back – and these students are set to prove that it’s larger and louder than ever.

Cabramatta High School students are putting the finishing touches on their performance at the Rock Eisteddfod challenge in September.

Called “Through Our Eyes”, the performance follows a motley crew of teenagers – a goth, a nerd, a popular girl, a gangsta and an athlete – and explores how the choices they make affect their transition into adulthood.

Year 11 student Hung Phat Duong said the team have been rehearsing almost every day to ensure they have a polished performance.

“We’re full of anticipation,” he said.

“We started last term and it’s been a really huge job, but we’re very excited to show the results to everyone.”

The competition showcase at the Sydney Entertainment Centre in September marks the return of Rock Eisteddfod, which was cancelled last year due to lack of funding.



Cabramatta High School students are putting the finishing touches on their Rock Eisteddfod performance.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

“A lot of kids were really disappointed when Rock Eisteddfod was cancelled last year,” teacher Lisa Treloar said.

“We’re not a creative arts school, but the students have a lot of potential and without the Rock Eisteddfod they have no avenue to show it.

“It gives kids such a great opportunity to build their self-esteem and leadership experiences.”

Almost 70 school teams from across NSW will take part in this year’s dance and drama extravaganza.

Students select their own

themes, based on issues that concern them and create their own sets and costumes for an eight-minute performance.

Tickets to the show on Friday, September 2 are \$50 each and available from Cabramatta High School. Bookings: 9726 2424.

More @school Page 29

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

## Young leaders share power

LAUREN McMAH

### @ CABRAMATTA HIGH

TWO students at Cabramatta High School are taking their self-defence skills to the max.

As part of the Max Potential leadership program, year 11 students Ning (Nancy) Zhang and Peter Nguyen organised an introductory self-defence course for students in years 7 and 8.

Nancy, who has training in tae kwon do, and Peter, who has practised a range of martial arts, enlisted the help of a tae kwon do master to help build the students' skills and confidence.

They said they wanted to help empower students to defend themselves if ever faced with danger.

"We decided to hold the classes because we read the news and there are a lot of things happening in the community and it can be a dangerous place," Nancy said.

She said it was hard work organising the introductory class but she and Peter hoped to develop it into a regular club for all students.

"We're thinking of building up a club with self defence and some basic movements," Peter said.

"This class was more like a teaser, really."

Through the 22-week Max Potential program, Nancy and Peter



Cabramatta High School students Ning Nancy Zhang and Peter Nguyen show their self-defence class some moves.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

attended group sessions at St Johns Park Bowling Club, which funded the program, and received leadership training from staff at Cabramatta High.

The self-defence course was a way for the students to demonstrate their newly found leadership skills.

Year 8 student Amy Boggs, who took part in the introductory

lesson, said the experience was worthwhile. "It was different to what I thought it would be; I thought tai kwon do was about fighting but it's really about defending yourself," she said.



Join in the conversation: like the **Fairfield Advance** on Facebook and tell us about all the good things happening at your school



### REACHING MAX POTENTIAL

■ **WHAT:** A program offering leadership development to young people

■ **WHO:** Students from Cabramatta High, Bossley Park High, Freeman Catholic College and Mary MacKillop are taking part at St Johns Park Bowling Club

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

## Kids get ready for the big leap to high school

By Jenna Daroczy

THERE are few bigger and more daunting transitions in life than the leap from year 6 to high school.

But a camp at Stanwell Tops last month made the big step easier for 30 of next year's year 7 students at Cabramatta High School.

Year 6 pupils from Cabramatta and Cabramatta West public schools as well as eight student leaders from Cabramatta High School spent the week talking about the changes and challenges of high school as well as the new and exciting opportunities it presented.

Raymond Thong, who's in year 6 at Cabramatta West Public School, said he was now "more confident to go to high school; not shy any more" after the week at the camp.

Fellow pupil Aaliyah Kim said she wouldn't be scared on her first day at high school, thanks to having met other new students and high school teachers.

"We worked together over the week," she said. "We made lots of new friends and helped each other.

"There's lots to look forward to at high school as well — new subjects like languages and cooking."



**Onwards and upwards:** Cabramatta West Public School year 6 pupils Raymond Thong, Tiffany Vu and Aaliyah Kim were among a group of youngsters who went to a transition camp for incoming Cabramatta High School pupils.

Picture: Mike Sea

Tiffany Vu said there would still be things to get used to but now they weren't so scary.

"The other older students, having assignments instead of just homework, getting lost around the school — they're all scary things," Tiffany said. "But we're all going to be in the same boat so we can all help each other. That's

what we learnt at the camp."

The camp was funded by the NSW government transition initiative and will be followed up throughout the year with inter-school visits for the students, reciprocal visits for staff and then the peer-support program that runs for all year 7 students at the high school.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

## Eight-building project to get new injection of state funds



Thomson Ho, school principal Beth Godwin, Joshua Vuong and Alex Sulusi at Cabramatta High School.

**CABRAMATTA:** NEW buildings and upgrades at Cabramatta High School have been given the final green light under a \$640 million state budget commitment for capital works projects at NSW schools.

This is the third consecutive year the state government delivered funds for the building project at Cabramatta High, which began in February and was expected to be completed in three and a half years.

Eight new buildings will be built, including gyms, specialist music rooms, design and technology rooms and a new staff administration block.

The new buildings will replace existing demountables and will include state-of-the-art technology, extra shade cover and wheelchair access.

The school's first lift will also be installed.

Principal Beth Godwin said the new buildings were needed to accommodate the large increase in students at the school since it was established in 1958.

"Fifty-two years ago there were 800 students and now we have 1,400, so there is an obvious need for those extra 600 students," she said.

"This area is a dynamic area and it is growing.

"It's wonderful that we've been looked after – by both governments – and we're very, very grateful."

The specific amount allocated for Cabramatta High, the only local school mentioned in the budget, is yet to be determined.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday September 21, 2011

## CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL Champion

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

A CHAMPION SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

READ ALL ABOUT I

# Students' work helps save lives



**Inspired to act:** Cabramatta High School's SRC, (front row from left) Dieme Muhimbiwa, Timothy Lam; (back row from left) Petra Matic, Kim Quyen Phan, Favour Erhunmwunse, Jordan Treloar, Cindy Thach and Zeljana Kalapac.

The SRC wanted to do more than just fund-raise for money this time round.

By Jennifer Truong

EVERY 90 seconds, a woman in a developing country dies during childbirth.

Cabramatta High School student representative council (SRC) members are taking action to try to change this statistic.

They say they are inspired by the quote, "every dollar can make a huge difference".

To make their contribution count, the group has joined with The Birthing Kit Foundation, which provides packages costing one dollar to women in need.

These life-saving packages contain six basic items needed during childbirth: a plastic sheet, soap, two gloves, a sterile scalpel blade, two cords and five gauze squares.

The Cabramatta students will be helping out by assembling the kits. Construction of the containers and the placing of the equipment will be

administered personally by the students.

The finished packages will then be shipped off by The Birthing Kit Foundation to countries including Vietnam, Ethiopia, Kenya, Afghanistan and Papua New Guinea.

Before the packing can begin, the students need to raise funds to buy the supplies.

"The SRC wanted to do more than just fund raise for money this time round. We wanted to do something practical and hands on, which would mean a lot more to us and, hopefully, to the women that will receive them," said SRC member Thomson Ho.

Fund-raising for this project will start next term, and will be the first of many exciting projects undertaken by the new SRC leaders.

The SRC is hoping that the 600 personally made packages can help save the lives of 600 mothers along with their newborn children.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

## Funds for famine relief

By **Sheila Lam**

THE famine striking East Africa leaves children starving while in Australia any amount of food is available in shops.

Cabramatta High School's Red Cross Committee recently held a fund-raiser for the East Africa Famine Appeal. The initiative was part of the Horn of Africa Relief and Development Agency (HARDA organisation).

This Red Cross fund-raising project aimed to heighten student awareness to the problems faced by developing countries.

Mohammed Omar, a Cabramatta teacher, suggested students take part in the appeal by raising funds.

"I couldn't believe the level of enthusiasm and determination from

the Red Cross Committee members to help the helpless," he said.

The students and teachers did so through the World Vision Smile Program.

The Red Cross recently sent the proceeds overseas to a struggling community. This money was used to help provide the basics and tools for the villagers to survive.

Like the East Africa Famine Appeal, the World Vision Smile Program is important to the Red Cross because it provides a chance for young people to be involved in the process of making a difference.

"Red Cross shows the ability of young leaders to lead and helps to portray a positive image for the youth," said Cabramatta High School captain Jennifer Truong.

## Project tackled starvation

By **Lisa Nguyen**

STARVATION is not something that is experienced by Australians on a day-to-day basis, but it is a very real concern for millions of people worldwide.

The LEOs Club members from Cabramatta High School have taken part in the World Vision 40 Hour Famine to help fight chronic hunger in countries such as East Timor, Nepal and Kenya.

The contribution the LEOs members have made in 2011 to this World Vision cause is in the form of several hundreds of dollars. The money raised has gone towards feeding over 50 families for a month.

While the LEO participants were involved in the project they gave up something that really mattered to them. It gave the students an opportunity to experience living in a world without certain luxuries.



**Went without:** Cabramatta High School's LEOs recently took part in the World Vision 40 Hour Famine.



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

## @ CABRAMATTA HIGH

NINE students from Cabramatta High School's hip-hop group have been selected to perform at the Schools Spectacular in November. The boys, who were among 80 students selected for the showcase, are no strangers to the stage, having featured in the school's recent performance at the Rock Eisteddfod. This is the first time Cabramatta High students have been selected for the event, a huge variety concert featuring schools from across the state.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

## New school of thought at camp



### TRANSITIONING FUTURE LEADERS

■ **WHAT:** Transition camp for students starting year 7 next year.

■ **WHO:** Year 6 students from Cabramatta and Cabramatta West public schools and student leaders from Cabramatta High School.

■ **WHY:** To build relationships between next year's year 7 pupils and older students, and to help them ease into high school life.

■ **SUPPORT:** The program was funded by the state government and will be followed up with inter-school visits and the year 7 peer-support program at Cabramatta High.

### @ CABRAMATTA SCHOOLS

A RECENT combined schools camp helped make the upcoming leap from primary school to high school a little less worrying for year 6 pupils in Cabramatta.

At a transition camp at Stanwell Tops last month, year 6 students from Cabramatta and Cabramatta West public schools joined eight student leaders from Cabramatta High School to discuss the changes and challenges ahead.

The week was aimed at students who were most apprehensive



Cabramatta West year 6 student Roger Ly is welcomed home by his mother, Rim Keo, after attending the transition camp recently.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN -PP468270

about the transition into high school life, Cabramatta Public School deputy principal Sue Goodwin said.

"Kids can tend to feel a little isolated or a little unsure of the new environment," she said.

"The camp was an extra boost and a chance for them to see what it is all about.

"It was also a chance for them to meet some of the high school students as well as year 6 students from other feeder schools, so they already have some friends when they start next year, and help build those relationships."

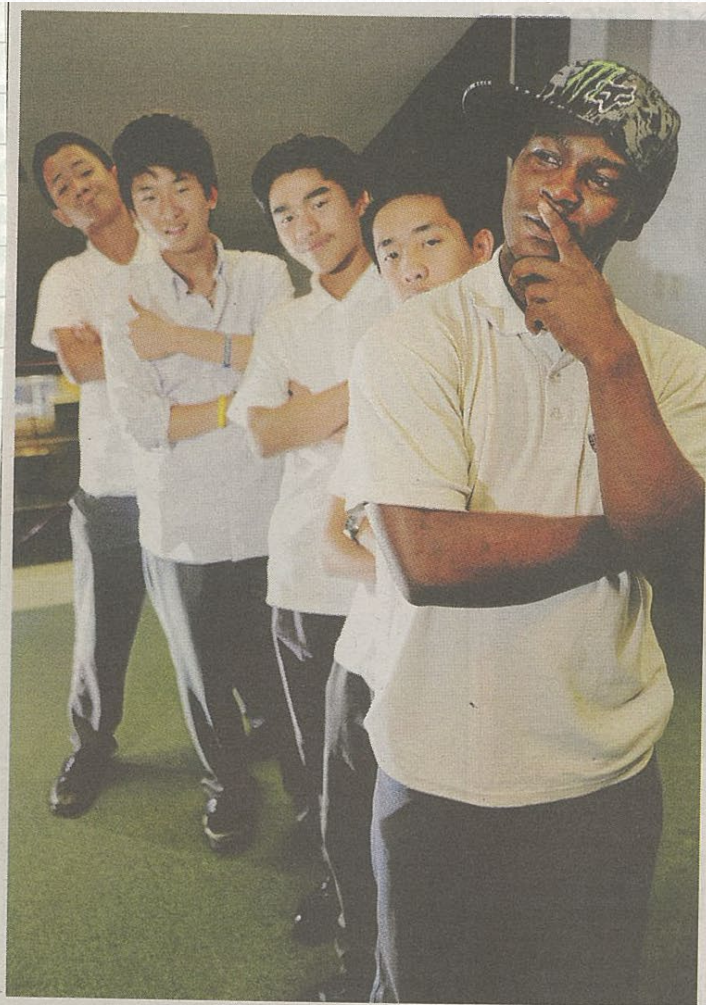
During the week, the students took part in team-building and confidence-boosting exercises and

were also able to meet their future teachers.

The camp was funded by the NSW government and will be followed up throughout the year with inter-school visits for the students and staff, as well as the peer-support program that runs for all year 7 students at Cabramatta High.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 12, 2011



**Cabra crew:** Five of the nine students from Cabramatta High School to be selected for this year's Schools Spectacular. From left, Arya Sutadisastira, Tuong Vuu, Tony Tran, Jason Tran and Favour Erhumwunse.

Picture: Mike Sea

## Students dance into spectacular

By Jenna Daroczy

NINE students have made history by being the first dancers from Cabramatta High School chosen to perform in next month's NSW Schools Spectacular.

Students from the school's 'Cabra Crew' dance group recently tried out for the prestigious performance showcase, taken to the auditions by their proud creative arts co-ordinator Suzana Matic and PDHPE teacher Sophie Le.

The audition process saw students split into three groups to work with six choreographers to develop a performance, including two set routines and an individual freestyling section.

The successful students are from years 8 to 11.

Hoang Dinh and Arya Sutadisastira from year 8 made the cut, as did year 9 student Jason Tran.

Year 10 students Kelvin Chung, Favour Erhumwunse, Vinh Chau, Gia Tuong Vuu and Tony Tran were also chosen, as was Ivan Phuoc Ly of year 11.

Ms Matic said the Cabra Crew had been rehearsing together for about three years, practising at

least once a week but up to four hours a week if there was a performance on the horizon, including two hours a week for three terms in the lead up to the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge.

Their regular choreographer is *So You Think You Can Dance* competitor and Sydney hip-hop artist Jet Valencia.

"The school has a long tradition of participating in performing arts events and we are exceptionally excited and proud of the boys' achievement as this is the first time that a dance group has been selected for Schools Spectacular from Cabramatta High School," Ms Matic said. "The auditions for Schools Spec are highly competitive and of an exceptionally high standard.

"From approximately 280 public school students who auditioned on the day, only 80 were selected for the final group and we have nine students in this group.

"This is an outstanding achievement considering we were competing with students from sports high schools and performing arts high schools across the state."

The group will attend four days of rehearsals next term to learn their choreography for the show.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 19, 2011



Alex Sulusi, 17, a year 12 student at Cabramatta High School, has been selected to play rugby league for the Australian women's team.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

## Sulusi passes her Test

Brian Karlovsky

FAIRFIELD rugby league star Alex Sulusi has helped the Australian women's rugby league side to wins over Fetu Samoa and Samoa Patrons XIII in the Jillaroos recent tour of Samoa.

Sulusi, 17, of Cabramatta, kicked off her international career

### LEAGUE STAR SHINES AGAINST SAMOA

with a 42-14 win over Samoa Fetu in front of more than 1000 vocal fans at Apia International Stadium, Samoa.

The majority of Australia's tries came from impressive backline movements while Fetu

Samoa scored from kick returns and capitalised on Australian errors.

Their second match saw the Jillaroos defeat Samoa's Patrons XIII 20-16 in a physical encounter. The players faced

extremely warm and challenging conditions at Marist College Stadium, Lotopa. Sulusi, who represented NSW in a State of Origin curtain-raiser earlier this year, said she was proud to represent her country for the first time in Test match.

"But I guess the biggest highlight was just getting the chance to represent Australia."

The Jillaroos were scheduled to take on world champions New Zealand last Saturday, but the match was cancelled when a major sponsor pulled out.

"I was pretty gutted," Sulusi said. "I was really excited about playing against NZ."

Sulusi said it had been an uphill battle to overcome stereotypes that deprived the women's game of the recognition it deserved.

"It's challenging trying to get girls to start up a team," she said. "The reaction from some of the girls is that they think it's a guy's sport."

To page 119

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Email nominations to [cboulous@fairfaxmedia.com.au](mailto:cboulous@fairfaxmedia.com.au)

## Rita puts fine feats to the fore

SINCE moving to Australia from Sudan in 2005, Cabramatta resident Rita Gawam has hit the ground running.

The 16-year-old has been a star on the track for the Cabra Vale Diggers/Fairfield Athletics Centre Little Athletics club and has broken several running records in the past 18 months.

The Cabramatta High school has also dominated track events at school-based events winning the cross-country and sprint events in consecutive years.

The all-round sportswomen has also been in school-based soccer, basketball, touch football and netball teams.

"But running is my favourite," she said.

"I like all the running events and trying to run as fast as I can."

sneakers  
SPORTS  
**Champion**

Gawam is the September Sneakers Sport Champion.

She received a \$50 gift voucher from Sneakers Sports Wetherill Park as part of her award.

Nominations are now open for the November Sneakers Sports Champion.

### TELL US ABOUT THEM

Nominations are open for the November Sneakers Sports Champion. Nominees must be aged six to 17 and live in the Fairfield Council area. Nominations can be emailed now explaining why your sportsperson deserves an award.



**Winner:** Rita Gawam and Aaron Marques from Sneakers Sports. Rita is the October Sneakers Sports Champion.  
**Picture:** Chris De Jon

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

## Citizen search begins



WHAT do a Cabramatta High school principal, Parramatta Eels Toyota Cup winger and a youth advocate that supports humanitarian causes have in common?

They were all Fairfield City Australia Day Award winners.

Beth Godwin (Citizen of the Year), Jacob Gagan (Sports Achiever of the Year) and Tarsha Gavin (Young Citizen of the Year) won the 2011 categories for their service to the community.

Now the search is on for the 2012 winners.

Nominations close on Monday, October 31 for this year's Australia Day awards from Fairfield City Council.

Categories in the annual awards include Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year (aged 14-25 on January 26, 2012) and City Sports Achiever of the Year.

Fairfield mayor Nick Lalich urged members of the community to nominate outstanding residents for the awards.

"We have so many outstanding members of our community and it is important we acknowledge their great work," he said.

"If you know someone who is making a strong contribution to the local community, whether it is through volunteering, helping keep the environment clean or inspiring others through their community work, I encourage you to consider nominating them."

**Nomination forms are available at [fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au](http://fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au) and close on Monday, October 31.**

**Nominees must live, work, volunteer or study in Fairfield City.**

**Winners:** 2011 Australia Day award winners Tarsha Gavin, Beth Godwin and Jacob Gagan.

## Cabra High School Visit



Nick Lalich welcomes students from Cabramatta High School.

Last month two Year 11 Legal Studies classes from Cabramatta High School paid a visit to the NSW Parliament House. They took a tour of both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, and of the grounds of the oldest Parliament in Australia. The students were taught the role of the local Member, how Parliamentary debate functions and even participated in a mock Question Time role-play!

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 2, 2011



**Artistic vision:** Saha Jones (from left), Katie Truong, Kelvin Chung, Jola Jones and Andrew Morgan at Cabramatta High School.

**Picture:** Chris De Jong

## Home-grown art project

By Sally Lee

THERE'S an exhibition growing in our backyard. It's the first of its kind in Australia and it will open in Cabramatta next year.

Andrew Morgan, a filmmaker and one of the directors of Gallery 2166, hopes to "reinvigorate art" through the project.

"Gallery 2166 is a free art exhibition space coined after the postcode of the community in which it'll reside: Cabramatta," he said.

"Cabramatta High School has agreed to transform its design and technology building into an art space for us.

"We believe it's important to provide access for artists to exhibit in their own backyard.

"This is also an innovative approach to the work we curate for the students while also engaging them with unique, forward-thinking and ground-breaking art projects that will tease out their unique talent and perspective on the world."

Curator of the project and emerging artist Saha Jones said she wanted the gallery to rep-

licate life in western Sydney. "This is a unique part of Sydney . . . so we want to break down concepts of segregation and seek out the multicultural aspects of Cabramatta," she said.

"Exploring life in western Sydney and learning what knowledge and insight we can gain from Cabramatta and vice versa."

Jones's sister and high school teacher Jola Jones believes the project will benefit students.

"With a background in teaching and the arts, I was intrigued by the possibilities that Gallery 2166 might initiate especially in relation to alternative learning models," she said.

"I'm excited about the potential of such a space in enabling student creativity outside of a traditional classroom."

Members of the project have launched a fund-raising platform to "equip the gallery with the relevant tools needed to operate".

Other directors of the project include Nicole Dennis and Trevor Parkee.

Details or donations: [www.gallery2166.org](http://www.gallery2166.org).



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 2, 2011



## OSCAR TRAN Smithfield

It really depends on what we're doing but we'll usually go to the library, either the library at (Cabramatta High) school or the library in Cabramatta, which is a really good one.



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
November 9,  
2011



## LET YOUR VOICES BE INSPIRATION

Lauren McMahan

VOICES can inspire peace - that was the message from Sydney Peace Prize winner Noam Chomsky at Cabramatta High School's Peace Day celebrations on Friday.

Students gave their guest of

honour a warm welcome and staged performances that reflected the varied cultural heritage of the school community.

Many of the students reflected on how they were born in countries where peace seemed impossible.

FULL STORY PAGE 15



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

## Peace of mind left at school

### POLITICAL COMMENTATOR INSPIRES STUDENTS

#### VOICES INSPIRE

- The 2011 Sydney Peace Prize recipient, Noam Chomsky, was the guest of honour at Cabramatta High School's Peace Day celebrations on Friday
- The theme of the day was "Voices Inspiring Peace"
- Students staged cultural performances and presented their guest with an anthology of poetry about peace
- Year 8 student Gemimah Omari and year 11 student Hung Phat Duong received the school's peace prizes
- Principal Beth Godwin said the hard work of students and staff made her "the proudest principal in not only NSW, but all of Australia"
- Previous Peace Day guests of honour include journalist John Pilger, environmentalist Vandana Shiva, Aboriginal rights campaigner Patrick Dodson and former UN head weapons inspector Hans Blix

Lauren McMahon

SYDNEY Peace Prize recipient Noam Chomsky reminded Cabramatta High School students that world peace was possible at the school's Peace Day celebrations on Friday.

One of the world's leading linguists and political commentators, Prof Chomsky asked students to take up the challenge to protect mankind from its two major threats – war and environmental destruction.

"What kind of legacy is my generation leaving? Not one that we can be very proud of," he said.

Prof Chomsky, who decried the Vietnam War in the 1960s, met with students, many of whom were refugees from war-torn countries that he had visited.

To welcome their guest, students dressed in various national costumes, staged

multicultural performances and delivered original poetry on the subject of peace.

Students asked the Philadelphia-born philosopher questions about US foreign policy, the status of democracy and Iran's perceived nuclear threat.

Prof Chomsky presented Cabramatta High School peace prizes to two students, Gemimah Omari and Hung Phat Duong.

He also placed a plaque honouring peace prize winners in the school's Peace Garden, before helping release a flight of white doves into the mid-morning sky.

School principal Beth Godwin said the day's theme, Voices Inspiring Peace, was inspired by their special guest.



Sydney Peace Prize winner Noam Chomsky (above right) was among the festivities (top). Pictures: NICK ANDREAN

PHOTOS ONLINE   
fairfieldadvance.com.au

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

## He came in peace



Sydney Peace Prize winner Noam Chomsky shares message of hope

Page 5

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

## Peace envoys captivate school

We are now at the point where humans have the capacity to destroy life for future generations. Your generation will have the choice to remedy the legacy our generation has, not proudly, left.

By Jenna Daroczy

FROM this year's Sydney Peace Prize winner to its potential future winners, a message of hope, peace and justice was delivered at Cabramatta High School's annual Peace Day celebrations on Friday.

Linguist, activist and public intellectual Noam Chomsky visited the school during his whirlwind trip to Sydney, during which he made only two other public appearances, both in exclusive Peace Prize related events.

Professor Chomsky, who teaches in many disciplines at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, discussed the legacy his generation was leaving for the next.

He paid tribute to the well-researched questions on world politics posed by students.

"As well as the threat of nuclear war, the second shadow that hangs over the future is of environmental destruction," he said.

"We are now at the point where humans have the capacity to destroy life for future generations.

"Your generation will have the choice to remedy the legacy our

generation has, not proudly, left."

Students asked questions about future relations between the US and Iran, government policy of keeping information from their own people as revealed by WikiLeaks, and the future for the Middle East in the context of America's decline, which drew detailed and provocative responses from Professor Chomsky.

"I'm at a stage of life where I can't help but reflect on what kind of world I'm leaving to my grandchildren, who are about your age, and it's not a legacy of which I'm proud," he said.

"It's a future that radically violates the commitments of the Peace Foundation, that violates a dream of a peace with justice.

"But just your interest today is our hope for the future, which is in your hands."

The director of the Sydney Peace Foundation, which awards the annual Peace Prize, Stuart Rees, said the warm welcome he and Professor Chomsky had received from students was a good omen for the future.

"Ghandi said the offer of hospitality was always the first step when



**Guard of honour:** Mr Chomsky was welcomed by an honour guard of students dressed in the national costume of more than 20 nationalities.

Picture: Anna Warr

you want to make peace," Professor Rees said. "And in your warm welcome today and the design your school has selected for today — of a world being freed from a cage — it's evident many of you have come here having sought peace, and seeking to spread it in your futures."

Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin commended her students on their contributions to Peace Day, from performances to written compositions.

"Any one of you could be a future winner of this prize, inspired today by the words of Noam Chomsky,"

she said. "You are the ones who have come here, knowing the value of peace, and every day you make me believe peace is possible."

**Check out our full collection of photos from the day in a slideshow at [fairfieldchampion.com.au](http://fairfieldchampion.com.au)**



School of the future, where every student achieves.



## Cabramatta High School

Principal: Elizabeth Godwin

Address: Aladore Avenue,  
Cabramatta NSW 2166

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# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

CABRAMATTA

## Shooting the breeze and some hoops

➤ CABRAMATTA High School students and police battled it out on the basketball court at the annual Police Links Day last Wednesday. The annual event aims to improve relationships between students, police and teachers, and to highlight the importance of reporting crime within the community. Year 7 students and Sen-Constable Ha Son and Constable Goran Stojkovic, from the Cabramatta command, discussed issues such as cyber-bullying, peer pressure, drugs and juvenile crime - and their consequences. "The main aim was to give an insight and some awareness about what can cause crime, what crime is and how our actions have consequences," school co-ordinator Dhiresh Prakash said.



Cabramatta police officers get competitive with the kids on the court.



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

## Police link-up an eye-opener

By Jenna Daroczy

DID you know it's against the law to be around someone when they shoplift — even if you didn't do it yourself?

Or did you know police keep your criminal records even after you die? Yes, even after death.

How about sending nasty text messages to people at school? Did you know even after you delete them, they can be found, traced, and held against you for cyber-bullying?

It was a day of eye-opening legal information as well as insights into the personal and friendly side of local police for year 7 students at Cabramatta High School's annual Police Links day last Wednesday.

Aside from fielding "the usual" questions about their guns and stun guns, youth liaison officer Senior Constable Ha Son said students had been very receptive to their messages.

"Today was mainly about educating the students and giving them a bit of awareness of crime and drugs in the community, things to be on the lookout for," he said.

"Talking about peer pressure to shoplift or to cyber-bully is also important, whether the kids are thinking about committing that kind of crime or are a victim of it. We want to open up the lines of communication with them and the school."

Co-year co-ordinator for year 7, Christopher Rapinette, said



**On the ball:** Cabramatta police officers Senior Constable Ha Son, centre, and Constable Goran Stojilkovic, right, built relationships with Cabramatta High School students at Wednesday's Police Links day.

**Picture:** Wesley Lonergan

workshops, activities and talking with the police aimed to help students understand the consequences of their actions.

"Things we used to take for granted are all changing now because of technology, and we have to teach the kids to be responsible with their mobile phones and social networking sites like Facebook," he said.

"The students watched a DVD on cyber-bullying, and they were totally silent through it — quite an achievement for year 7! But it really struck a chord with them because it's so close to their own experiences."

Year 7 student Petra Matic said she learned a lot from the day.

"It's really important not to give out your details to people, and to

think about the effect your words and actions might have on people: once it's online there's a history of it there forever," she said.

Fellow student Jordan Treloar said it was a great way to find out about becoming a police officer.

"It would be a great job to be in the police. Finding out more about them today and how they work was really inspiring."



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 23, 2011

## White Ribbon Day Friday, November 25

**STUDENTS** at Cabramatta High School will take the White Ribbon pledge on Friday as the whole community is urged to get behind the message of ending domestic violence.

Women's refuges, Cabramatta Community Centre, Cabramatta police, Community First Step, Anglicare and The Men's Shed will all visit the school to spread the message that violence against women is a crime, and that there are support networks to help people overcome violence.

At Fairfield Forum, shoppers are invited to participate in the "My Oath" campaign, by "swearing" to stop violence against women.

Between 11am and 2pm there will be a sausage sizzle in the car park with guest speakers, information stalls and performances.

The activities are supported by Fairfield Forum Shopping Centre, Bonnie Support Services, Fairfield Council, Fairfield police, The Men's Shed, Radio 2ME, Community First Step and Hume Community Housing.

Visit [whiteribbon.org.au/myoath](http://whiteribbon.org.au/myoath) and swear never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.



United stand: Cabramatta High School students show their white ribbons.

Picture: Wesley Loneragan

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

## Taking study across ocean

STUDENTS, TEACHERS VISIT SOUTH KOREA

### CULTURE CLASS

■ **WHAT:** Cabramatta High School students and teachers visited South Korea recently

■ **WHY:** The aim of the 10-day student trip was to promote greater cultural awareness

■ **EXPERIENCE:** The students experienced the sights and sounds of the capital, Seoul, and Jeju province to improve their understanding of Korean language and culture

■ **FRIENDSHIPS:** They also caught up with Korean students who visited Cabramatta High School earlier this year

■ **SCHOOL:** On the trip, the students also took part in classroom observations and excursions, and learned a lot about Korean culture, language, food, their lifestyle and their customs.

Lauren McMah

CABRAMATTA High School students swapped their language textbooks for passports during their recent trip to South Korea.

Fourteen students and five teachers, including principal Beth Godwin, soaked up the sights and sounds of the capital, Seoul, and Jeju province during a 10-day trip.

As well as experiencing Korean food, folk music, art, film and customs, they caught up with students from Jeju Seu Middle School, who visited Cabramatta High School during an exchange visit in February.

Head languages teacher at Cabramatta High School, Linh Nguyen, said the trip was the best way for the students to consolidate

their knowledge of Korean language and culture.

"Their Korean language improved a lot," she said.

"They took part in classroom observations and excursions, and the kids learnt a lot about Korean culture, language, food, their lifestyle and their customs.

"The aim of the trip was to promote cultural awareness and the Korean students asked our students about Australian table manners, food and so on. It really built up a friendship."

The students were surprised by how modern and technologically advanced the Korean cities were.

"The people were really nice and always initiated conversation, even though they knew we weren't fluent in Korean," Year 10 student Annie Lam said.



Cabramatta High School students Annie Lam, David Le, April Nguyen and Sarah Hua.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 14, 2011



**Beat of another drum:** Cabramatta High School students had Spanish drumming classes with Claudia Chambers as part of "Inspire Week", which consisted of activities aimed at opening the youngsters' minds to new horizons and perspectives. **Picture: Wesley Lonergan**

## Former students come to tell tales out of school

By Jenna Darocz

AS STUDENTS entered the annual period of reflection and redirection that comes with the end of the year, Cabramatta High School held its second "Inspire Week".

This gave staff and students a chance to meet, listen to and talk with a variety of motivational speakers and groups.

As part of the program, several past students returned to the school on Wednesday to tell the current aspirants about their first few years out of high school.

The former students who returned included a graduate from the Whitehouse School of Fashion, a journalism student, and one of the school's current casual teachers.

On Thursday, students took part in "Drumming Up Confidence" workshops with Spanish drummer Claudia

Chambers, who spent four years with leading flamenco artists.

She studied the cajon, a wooden box that's played like a drum.

Ms Chambers recently won an Australia Council "Artists In Schools" grant and is in residence at Curran Public School in Macquarie Fields.

And on Friday, students heard from the founder of Childcare Kitgum Servants, Irene Gleeson, who visited Africa in 1988 and was moved to try to improve the living conditions of children there.

In 1991 she sold her Sydney beachside home and left her four children and many grandchildren to found Childcare Kitgum Servants. This group has started a medical clinic, an AIDS hospice and infant orphanage, community churches, an FM radio station, cultural arts studios and water bores.

"Inspire Week" stretches out today, when students will take part in a "Mind Works" program.

This has been developed by Tony Busan, a leading author, lecturer and adviser on the brain and on learning and thinking skills.

Mr Busan is credited with having created the concepts of mind mapping, radiant thinking and mental literacy.

These concepts have been widely adopted and adapted by governments, businesses and other organisations that are keen to benefit most out of their intellectual capital.

Year 11 students will have the opportunity to take part in small-group workshops to practise the mind-mapping concept used and explained by Mr Busan.

Members of the school staff will have the opportunity to take part in a workshop later in the day.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 21, 2011

## Linda overwhelmed by scholarship win

By **Shella Lam**  
Cabramatta High School

YEAR 10 Cabramatta High School student, Linda Chan, was one of two lucky recipients of the Doug Jukes' Memorial Scholarship in Australia in 2011.

Linda was selected from 100 candidates for the scholarship due to her academic progression and her vibrant attitude towards life.

In early November, Linda was notified of her achievement by Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin.

"For me, the feeling was indescribable; it was just surreal," said Linda. "I had to call my father straight away to share the good news."

Doug Jukes was a leader of the ABCN Company, and after his death in 2009 his wife and the company wanted to remember his good work by assisting students who have suffered from adversity. The Doug Jukes Memorial Scholarship was created in his honour.

Recipients receive \$3000 over the course of two years in senior school and \$4500 for their first year of university studies.

As well as the financial



**Wonderful result:** Scholarship recipient Linda Chan.

assistance, Linda will receive a laptop and mentoring as she continues her studies.

To be eligible for the application process, only those that had participated in the ABCN Goals Mentoring Program could apply.

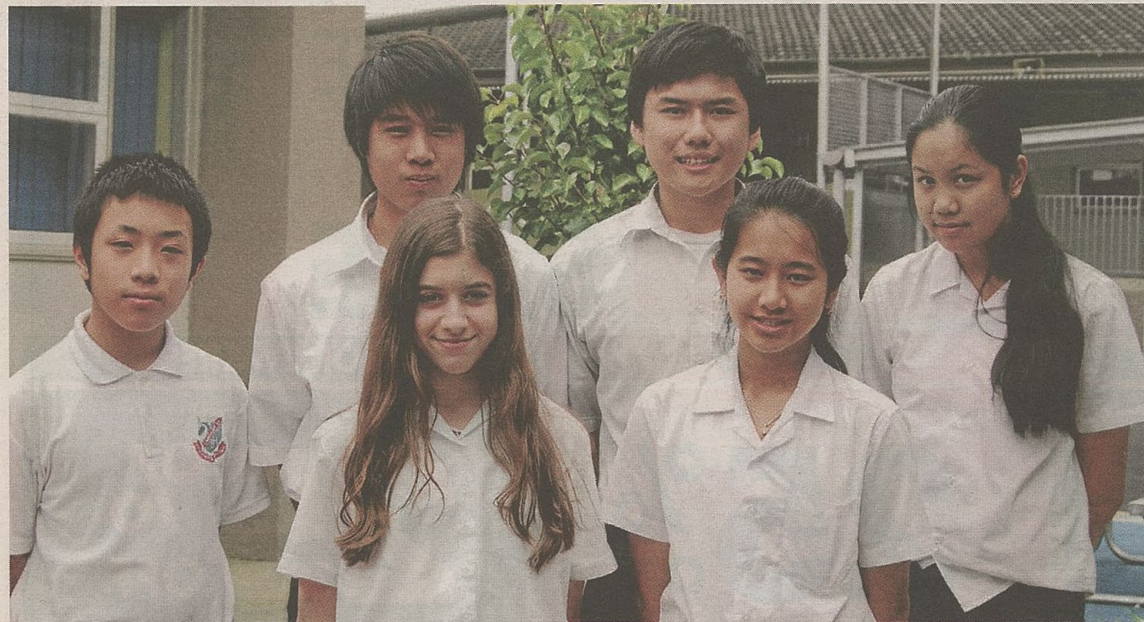
Applicants had to complete a 500 word entry about how

the scholarship would change their life, as well as outline their vision for their future.

"It is really exciting to see a most deserving student be able to follow their dreams courtesy of this scholarship," said Linda's year adviser Andrew Barnes.

# Fairfield City champion

Wednesday, December 21, 2011



**Mind masters:** (from left) Winson Wen, Raymond Tang, Tina Inic, Timothy Lam, My Vy Ho and Amy Ngov

## Calling on the power of their minds

By Lilly Thai, Cabramatta High School

A GROUP of Cabramatta High School's budding quizmasters did their school proud during two heats of the 2011 Mastermind competition.

They team were called to answer questions relating to history and geography at the heats held on Friday, October 28, at St Marys Band Club, and Friday, November 18, at the Hills Sports High School.

There were 49 other schools competing. Aimed at younger students, the competi-

I was studying 196 country's flags the whole night before the competition. I didn't know that Latvia existed until that night.

**Cindy Thai**

tion called on group members to study their topics and then answer questions prepared by the organising teachers.

Year 8 student Cindy Thai was one of the participating students.

"It was crazy," she said, "I was studying 196 country's flags the whole night before the competition. I didn't know that Latvia existed until that night."

Another of Cabramatta's crew was My Vy Ho, also in year 8.

My Vy said that she spent the night before second round competition studying the Roman Empire.

The Cabramatta team finished in the top half of the competition and each agreed they had gained much from having taken part in the competition.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 21, 2011



**Sharing her story:** 2011 Cabramatta High School Peace Prize Award winner Gemimah Omari.

## Sound advice on peace

By **Shayla Dang**  
Cabramatta High School

YEAR 8 Cabramatta High School student Gemimah Omari was the proud recipient of this year's Peace Prize Award at the school's annual Peace Day assembly.

To claim the prize she was deemed the winner of an English essay writing competition titled *All obstacles to world peace can be resolved*.

Gemimah, 13, said she was shocked when she was told

the good news. "To be honest, I didn't expect anything at all," she said.

"I just did it for fun."  
Being of Congolese background, Gemimah and her family faced severe poverty whilst living in Africa.

Her essay took a personal approach to the topic and detailed how she suffered pain and hunger until she arrived in Australia.

Once in Australia with her family, Gemimah said she was able to find her own

peace through music and being a part of a netball team.

"I want to play netball professionally for a Malawian team and become a Gospel R&B singer," she said.

Gemimah believes that one day she will be able to advocate peace via music and sees it as a personal future goal.

Winning the Peace Day Award for her essay has proven to Gemimah that anything is possible, so long as you set your mind to it.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday,  
December 28,  
2011

## Exam axing raises concerns

By Jenna Daroczy

THE State Government's decision to axe the year 10 School Certificate qualification from next year has been met with concern from year 10 students at Cabramatta High School, who say it provided vital experience in exam conditions and external assessments ahead of the year 12 Higher School Certificate.

Nina Abhilash is one of the year 10 students to have just finished the last ever School Certificate.

She said the government's plan to increase retention rates by dropping the qualification would not work.

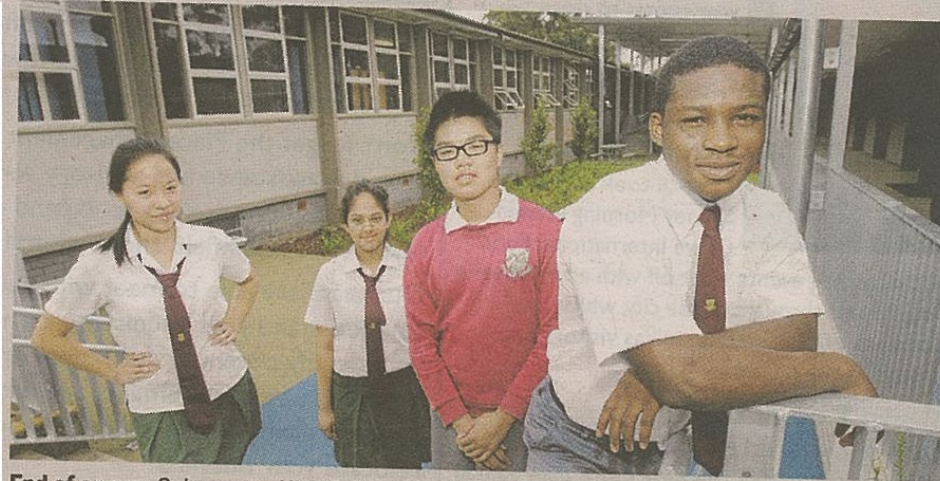
"I think people who want to leave school at year

10 will do it with or without a School Certificate, they'll just have less of a work ethic because they haven't had the same exam preparation," she said.

Fellow student Favour Erhunmwunse said the School Certificate had given him "the confidence to approach the more serious year 12 exams", while Kevin Truong said it risked meaning more year 10 students would leave school unprepared for work.

Samantha Pham said she hoped it would at least provide a less stressful junior school experience for students to come.

"Make the most of it now before the real pressure starts in senior years!" was her response.



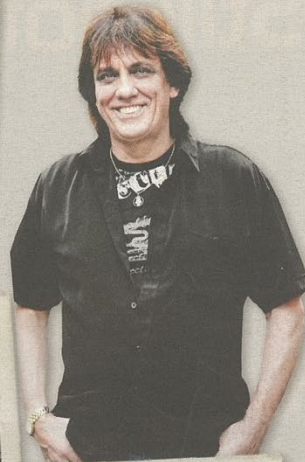
**End of an era:** Cabramatta High School year 10 students Samantha Pham (from left), Nina Abhilash, Kevin Truong and Favour Erhunmwunse had mixed reactions to the axing of the School Certificate.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

# Sunday Life

am what i am

1.



2.



3.



5.

## Jon English

SEEING THE BEATLES  
LIVE AS A TEENAGER  
SET THIS MUSICIAN AND  
ACTOR ON THE ROAD  
TO *SUPERSTAR*-DOM.

4.



Interview  
PAUL CONNOLLY

### 1. THERE'LL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLISH

I spent the first 12 years of my life in the UK, and this was probably taken at my grandmother's place at Walton-on-Thames in about 1950, when I was about 16 months old. I actually turned 12 on the boat coming out to Australia in 1961, two days out of Fremantle. My dad, Sydney, was in civil aviation, and had come out six months earlier after he'd been offered a job in Sydney with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. So it was just my mum, Sheila, and the four kids – Janet, me, Jeremy and Jill – on the boat. But Mum did it – easy.

### 2. THE BOYS IN THE BAND

My sister took me to see the Beatles in 1964 at Sydney Stadium and that's when the penny dropped. I said I wanted to be one of them, so I asked for a guitar, and took it from there. The done thing after you learnt more than four chords was to join a band, so I joined one called Sebastian Hardie, alongside brothers Peter and Alex Plavsic and Graham Ford. They were a year above me at Cabramatta High School. This is me and, left, Peter, probably at a gig at the Blue Fountain bar in Fairfield in Sydney. I'd be about 18. There was nothing like playing music with your mates, a real close bonding thing. And obviously one of the main motivations was girls!

### 3. TREADING THE BOARDS

Being at university kept me out of the army after being called up for Vietnam. We were hoping Gough Whitlam would win the election and he did [in 1972], ending conscription. After that I left university. Around the same time I auditioned for Harry M. Miller's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. My wildest dreams were getting a role in the chorus, but I ended up getting a big gig [as Judas Iscariot], alongside the likes of John Paul Young and Marcia Hines, who played Mary Magdalene. This is me and Marcia in around 1973. That was the big turning point for me, when I could become a full-time musician. It opened so many doors.

### 4. TAKING ON TV

I signed an album contract with Phonogram shortly after getting the role in *Superstar*, and on tours I was playing to loads of people. *Superstar* also helped me get some roles in Crawford TV productions – usually as a drug-crazed hippie, which is interesting because I stayed right away from drugs most of my life – and later in *Against the Wind* [a 1978 TV miniseries, for which English won a Logie for Best New Talent]. Jump cut to the '90s; I got another television gig with a superlative cast including Rebecca Gibney on *All Together Now*, playing an ageing rock star who wasn't very bright. This is the cast from about 1992. It embarrassed my kids when people thought I was playing myself!

### 5. STILL ROCKING

I married my high school sweetheart, Carmen, when I was quite young and we have four children: Jessamine, Josephine, Jonathan and Julian. Carmen took the whole journey with me and although we aren't together any more, we remain very good friends. My doldrums came around 2000. Things weren't going great. Carmen had had enough of me and my moods, and I went for a tree change. I ran into the wonderful Coralea [Cameron] during that time and we've been together since, living outside Cofts Harbour, NSW. This is us in recent times with our poodle, Monday. Coralea is now my co-producer on *The Rock Show*, a show we're taking around the country. After everything I've done, I'm still a musician first.




# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

**Zest** HSC Results

## Brilliant results in HSC



**CABRAMATTA High School student, Mai Tran Anh Thu, who scored 99.75 in her HSC.**

BY Jessica Aquilina

STUDENTS from Cabramatta High School have blitzed their HSC exams.

Mai Tran Anh Thu from Cabramatta High scored a near perfect UAI of 99.75.

To add to her UAI success, she also topped the state in English as a Second Language (ESL).

Principal of Cabramatta High School, Beth Godwin, said achieving a mark in the top 10 per cent of the state was very difficult to achieve.

“Scoring a 99.75 is almost perfect,” she said.

“I don’t know of anyone who receives a mark like that even in their work place.”

An additional number of students received UAI results in the 80s and 90s, and will attend university later this year.

“Many of our students have been accepted by many universities in a number of courses such as legal and business,” Ms Godwin said.

Ms Godwin credits her teaching staff, the parents and her eager students for the school’s success.

“Our teachers go beyond their teaching duties to aid students in their studies,” she said.

“A bonus is that many of our teachers write the questions that feature in the HSC exams.

“This doesn’t mean that our students know what the questions are, it means that we have teachers who know the curriculum very well.

“Many of our students come from homes that put education first and you can see that in our students’ willingness to learn.

“We have brilliant students who attend Cabramatta High and they work really hard to achieve great results.”

**To help students go above and beyond in this year’s HSC, the school will hold a number of extra-curricular activities, workshop and tutorials, free of charge, so students can achieve their HSC goals.**

**The school has also extended its library hours to 5pm.**

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

## Excellent results for 2011 class

### DUX IS TOPS

CABRAMATTA High School has once again produced and celebrated another year of HSC graduates. Among those who did exceptionally well are Tran Anh Thu Mai, dux in 2011, achieved equal first place in English as a second language in NSW and was rewarded with an ATAR 99.75 and will study science at Sydney University.

Jamie Duong, ATAR of 97.1, Thang Tung Nguyen, 85.1, and Anna Sou, 88.35, all attained meritorious results.

"The Cabramatta High School graduating class of 2011 have maintained the high standards that has been left before them and continue to further the tradition of excellence at the school," principal Beth Goodwin said.

Many of the 2011 graduates are pursuing further studies at university in a wide range of fields such as medicine, law, business, engineering, health and education.



Cabramatta High's 2011 captains Thomson Ho, Joshua Vuong and Jennifer Truong, congratulate the high achievers from their year.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

## CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL ONCE AGAIN CELEBRATES OUTSTANDING HSC RESULTS

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We congratulate our 2011 DUX Tran Anh Thu Mai, who also achieved equal first place in English as a Second Language in NSW.

She has accepted an offer to study Advanced Science at Sydney University.

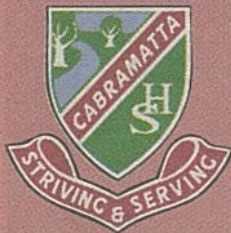
Many of the 2011 graduates are pursuing further studies at university in a wide range of fields such as Medicine, Law, Business, Engineering, Health and Education. Cabramatta High School congratulates all the HSC students on their results and wishes them the best in their chosen careers.



**Dux of 2011**

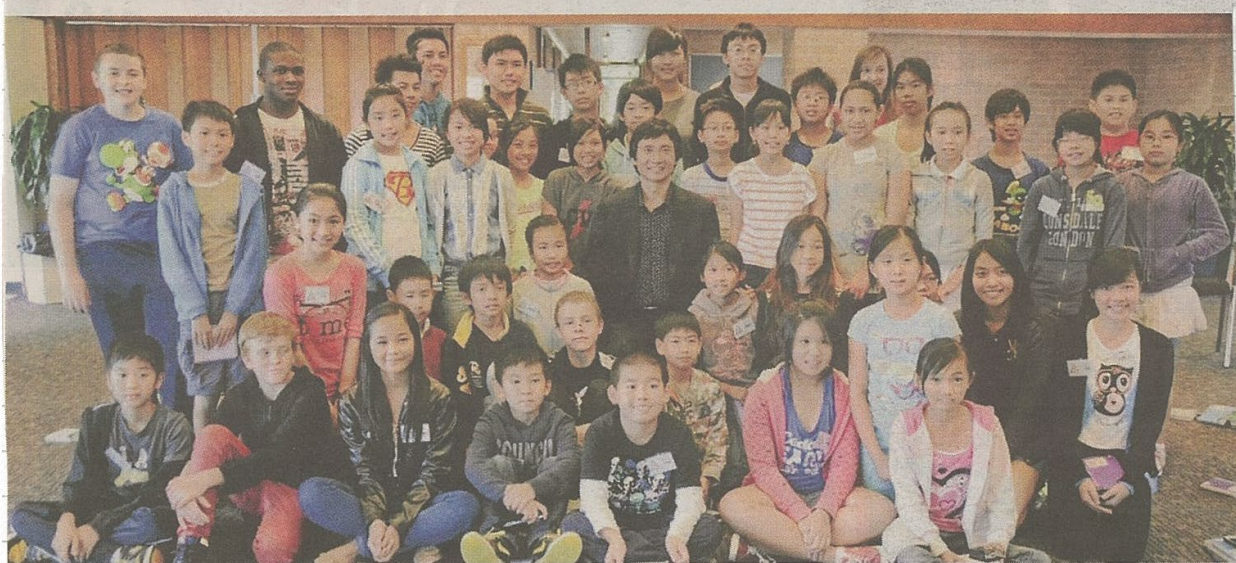
Tran Anh Thu Mai

99.75 ATAR



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 22, 2012



**Combined experience:** Cabramatta's student leaders during their recent study camp.

## Leadership sessions inspire projects

Students from Cabramatta West Public School, Cabramatta Public School and Cabramatta High School told the *Champion* what they learnt at a recent leadership camp at Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Park. Guest speaker Li Cunxin, a former ballet dancer who wrote *Mao's Last Dancer*, inspired the students by telling his story.

### THE STUDENT VOICE

**Robert Phounsavanh,**

**Cabramatta Public:** "Li told us to use every opportunity that we have."

**Nancy Zhang, Cabramatta High:**

"A good leader is someone who also lets others lead."

**Steven Tang, Cabramatta High:**

"I learned that failure can actually help you overcome and succeed."

**Kevin Tran, Cabramatta West**

**Public:** "Never give up or waste an opportunity."

**Justin Hay, Cabramatta Public:**

"We always need to persevere in our role as leaders."

**Nita Kong, Cabramatta West:**

"Li's speech showed us all how we can overcome challenges."

**Cathy Pham, Cabramatta Public:**

"Sometimes you need to fail to succeed. Good leaders learn from their mistakes."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

CABRAMATTA

## Principal in line for top award

**'I DO WHAT I BELIEVE IS RIGHT'**

**Lauren McMah**

YEARS of community advocacy and volunteering has earned Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin a nomination for the Women of the West award.

Since she became principal in 2004, Ms Godwin has personally taken part in a long list of community projects, from charity fundraising and strengthening the school's Police Links program to putting Cabramatta High on a global stage with its annual Peace Day celebrations.

Ms Godwin said she was humbled to be nominated by her long-time friend and former colleague, local indigenous elder Aunty Mae Robinson.

"I guess I do what I believe is right, and I think that's what drives everybody when you see there is a need," Ms Godwin said.

"It's not hard to be nice to people and it's not hard to extend a hand; they are the easy things in life and that's what I tell the students."

Aunty Mae, who won the Women of the West award in 2010, praised Ms Godwin for her outstanding professional and personal leadership.

"She is tireless in her efforts towards her school and towards the good name of the Cabramatta area," she said.

"She is a high-energy person, who devotes a large amount of time outside normal working hours."



Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin has been nominated for the Women of the West award.

Pictures: NICK ANDREAN

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

ALL SCHOOLS

## Early leaver certificate

### SIX-MONTHLY TEST RESULTS

HIGH school students who drop out before the HSC will be given several attempts to sit tests on a new school leaving certificate, Education Minister Adrian Piccoli announced last week.

Under the new Record of School Achievement (RoSA), students will be allowed to sit literacy and numeracy exams twice a year between years 10 and 12. RoSA replaces the scrapped school certificate.

Mr Piccoli said the credential would be awarded to eligible students who left school before their HSC, while still allowing students to view and download a transcript of their achievements when applying for jobs, or further education or

#### THE ROSA WILL:

- Record all student achievements up to the day they leave school
- Be available electronically for students to use at any time
- Use assessment by teachers in schools, modified by the Board of Studies for fairness
- Include citizen and leadership achievements like first aid courses, languages.

training. "The RoSA will be available electronically and as a verifiable hard copy on demand, with the most up-to-date information on a student's achievements across all subjects and a range of extra-curricular activities," Mr Piccoli said.

CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL



Cabramatta High School 2011 HSC high achievers met up last week.

## HSC high achievers say hi

Lauren McMah

CABRAMATTA High School's best-performing students in last year's HSC returned to their alma mater for the annual high achiever's morning tea last week. The former students

relied high school memories with old friends and teachers during Monday's catch-up session and school assembly.

Among them was Thomson Ho, who said 2011 was a particularly good year for Cabramatta High's HSC

students. "We haven't seen these people for so long so it was good to catch up and see how people went in the HSC and what they're doing now."

Thomson is set to start a Bachelor of Media at UNSW this year.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

CABRAMATTA SCHOOLS



Cabramatta school students meet author Li Cunxin at a leadership camp.

## Inspired by struggle

### KIDS LEARN AUTHOR'S SURVIVAL SKILLS

Lauren McMahon

ACCLAIMED author Li Cunxin shared his inspirational story with Cabramatta school students at a school camp recently.

Forty-five students from Cabramatta West Public, Cabramatta Public and Cabramatta High schools trekked to Stanwell Park for the four-day leadership camp, where they took part in indoor and outdoor work-

shops to develop their leadership and public speaking skills.

But they were most excited to meet Cunxin, a former ballet dancer and author of the best-selling memoir *Mao's Last Dancer*.

"He was a motivational speaker and the kids were really inspired by him," Cabramatta West Public School assistant principal Reem Hanwell said.

"He told the kids all about

his life and the struggles he has had to overcome to achieve his goals."

Cunxin told the student leaders that true leadership was about having the courage to make tough choices and be willing to conquer the impossible.

Ms Hanwell said the purpose of the camp was to challenge the students to reach their own goals and the goals of those they are leading.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

## Diversity a delight for principal

By Sally Lee

FOR a woman who grew up on a rural NSW farm, Beth Godwin, 50, still finds it amazing that she's the principal of a school with students who speak 40 different languages.

She's proud of her students and the fact that 97 per cent of them are from non-English-speaking backgrounds.

But of her own achievements, she's not so quick to speak.

Ms Godwin is a finalist in this year's Women of the West awards.

"I'm a little bit embarrassed, to tell you the truth, but I just want women of the west to know that we can all be leaders," she said.

"It's possible to make a difference, and every little bit helps."

Ms Godwin is one of 13 nominees for the UWS annual awards.

The winner's name will be announced on Friday.

Ms Godwin grew up wanting to be a teacher and hoping to help children, but said she had no idea she wanted to be a principal.

A former Fairfield Citizen of the Year, she said she never thought she would be an advocate of multiculturalism, which she said was never even mentioned during her childhood.

"But being principal is one of the best things that's happened to me," she said.

Now eight years into the job, her achievements are endless.

"Every time I travel, I try to have a deep understanding of the culture and bring my experiences back to school to keep my students grounded," she said.



**Humble:** Cabramatta High School principal Beth Godwin is one of the nominees for the University of Western Sydney's Women of the West awards. **Picture:** Chris De Jong

"Our students are from all over the world, but once they are here they mustn't be insular.

"That's my drive and focus. I want my kids to be global citizens. We're not just Cabramatta High School; we belong to the world."

Ms Godwin has built global relationships through sister schools from countries that include South

Korea and Kenya.

She hopes these relationships will lead to what she believes in.

"Is it wrong for me to say I just want world peace?" she asked.

Ms Godwin wonders how it is possible for people not to live in a multicultural society.

"Every day I come to work and learn something new," she said.

"It's just fabulous!"

And Ms Godwin still has unfinished business.

"My immediate goal is to accommodate for the students," she said.

"Are we there yet? No, I don't think we'll ever get there, but I want to do my best to give these kids the best they deserve. This isn't just a job. It's really a way of life."



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL



Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner presenting Trung Hieu Bui with his award.

## Honour for model student

**Lauren McMah**

A CABRAMATTA High School student was among those listed as a finalist for the prestigious NSW Premier's Awards for International Students.

Year 12 student Trung

Hieu Bui was announced as a finalist in the schools category by deputy premier Andrew Stoner during a presentation last month.

While Hieu did not win the coveted award, which was announced during the International Student Festi-

val in Sydney last week, he was awarded the Department of Education's 2012 international student gong.

The award, presented by deputy director-general of schools, Greg Prior, recognised Hieu's academic feats and community service.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 21, 2012



**In harmony:** Cabramatta High students (from left) Steven Nguyen, Josephine Lang, Miriam Omari and Andy Trang celebrate Harmony Day. **Picture: Wesley Lonergan**

## Teens tune in for harmony

By **Tamara Gasser**

YOU could say every day is Harmony Day at Cabramatta High School.

Staff and students will tell you how their school thrives on a mix of different cultures.

To celebrate Harmony Day today, students will perform cultural dances and talk about their heritage during a special assembly.

"For me it's about all our different cultures coming together and seeing how we all act in harmony," year 11 student Miriam Omari said.

"Harmony means to be at peace, so when you have Harmony Day everyone from all different countries comes together.

"Our school has so many different cultures and we all learn from one another because of that."

Teacher Izzy Sayed has co-ordinated Harmony Day at Cabramatta High with the help of 50 enthusiastic student volunteers.

For a \$3 donation students get an orange bandanna – the colour of harmony – and a barbecue.

"The primary message is that we all have something to give," Mr Sayed said. "To have this day where we appreciate one another and bridge the gap between different cultures is an important message to communicate to the kids."

Harmony Day celebrations will be held across Fairfield today with the aim of celebrating diversity, uniting people of all ages and fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance of other cultures.

"It is a day where we celebrate multiculturalism and all the different cultures get together and bring food and enjoy ourselves," Steven Nguyen of year 7 said.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, March 28, 2012



Cabramatta police give students a lesson on the dangers of alcohol.

## Lessons for Year 12s at pub

Lauren McMah

CABRAMATTA High School students went to the pub last week — but it was all in the name of education.

During a presentation at Cabramatta police station, licensing officer Sergeant Troy Williams and school liaison officer Senior Constable Allan Clapham talked to the students, most of them yet to reach the legal drinking age, about

fail to quit laws, drink spiking, drink driving and the dangers of excessive alcohol use.

Some students learnt how alcohol could affect their judgment when they tried, and failed, to complete simple tasks wearing custom-made goggles that recreated the limited vision of a person affected by alcohol.

Then they were off to the Stardust Hotel on Broomfield St, where they

heard from local licensees about the expectations of patrons in licensed venues.

“This was a great opportunity to obtain information that is not easily accessible to us,” Linda Trang, 17, said.

“I was thinking that the pub owners were interested in spoiling our fun, but as they explained their responsibilities I can see that it’s not for those reasons, it’s because there are laws they need to abide to.”

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, April 4, 2012

PRAIRIEVALE AND CABRAMATTA

## All seeing orange for Harmony Day

▶ PRAIRIEVALE Public and Cabramatta High schools were among many schools in Australia that turned vibrant orange for Harmony Day last month. Prairievale Public School students came dressed in orange, the day's officially recognised colour, for a special school assembly to celebrate this year's theme, "Everybody Belongs".

Over at Cabramatta High, students worked for days creating hundreds of orange bandannas to wear at their Harmony Day event.

The day coincided with the school's acknowledgement of National Close the Gap Day, when Australians remind political leaders of their commitment to closing the life-expectancy gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians within a generation.



Students from Prairievale Public School (above) and Cabramatta High (left).

Pictures: NICK ANDREAN

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

**The Student Voice: Cabramatta High School**



An eager group of year 9 Cabramatta High School students kicked off the school's annual *40 Faces* program on Friday. Students met with mentors from Commonwealth Bank and welcomed special guest speaker Khoa Do [pictured above] who was the Young Australian of the Year in 2005. The program aims to encourage students to share their stories through art. *The Champion* asked students about what kind of story they wanted to share with the community.

■ **Stefan Mlinar, 14:**  
"No idea what kind of story. But so far I'm enjoying my first day in the program. Hopefully it'll build my confidence."

■ **William Tang, 13:**  
"I want to find out what kind of story I want to tell and also find out what I want to be later on. I guess this program will also help me express myself."

■ **Cindy Pham, 14:**  
"I want to tell the story about me and my family, especially about my mum and dad who came to Australia on a boat from Vietnam. The program is really fun and it lets me draw and express myself."

■ **Chanmonita Lok, 14:**  
"I don't have a story yet but it'll be something about my life. I think the program is about fun, confidence and getting to know my mentor. I think it'll be all beneficial in the end."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

## THE STUDENT VOICE



### **Cabramatta High School**

**Cabramatta High School students acknowledged Sorry Day last week with a number of activities which gave them an insight into Aboriginal culture. The Champion spoke to four students about what Sorry Day meant to them, and why it was an important day.**

■ **Nancy Chhun, year 8:** "It's a day when everyone says sorry for all the pain suffered by the Stolen Generation and to make sure that nothing like this happens again. It's good that the school acknowledges the day but we need more. I think it should be a public holiday."

■ **Danica Djukic, year 8:** "I think it's important because people know about what happened, which

will hopefully prevent it from happening again. Today I learnt that women did most of the work with food while the men went out hunting."

■ **Alexandar Pavlica, year 8:** "Sorry Day is a day we say sorry to the Stolen Generation. Nobody really knew about it until Kevin Rudd said sorry. But I don't think it's enough. We need to do more than just say sorry."

■ **Lilly Thai, year 10:** "Sorry Day means that the Stolen Generation finally get their apology. They waited too long for it. Aborigines are the original people of [the] Australian land so the apology isn't enough, but it is a step forward to a better future."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

## Indigenous past and present



Muru Mittigar worker John Boney with year 8 students at Cabramatta High School.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

### STUDENTS GET FEEL FOR CULTURE AND TRADITIONS IN SORRY DAY EVENT

Lauren McMah

CABRAMATTA High School's year 8 students acknowledged Australia's indigenous past and present with a Sorry Day event on Wednesday.

Sorry Day, held across the country on May 26, is a day of commemoration and re-

membrance for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children of the stolen generation.

Together with year 5 pupils from Cabramatta Public School, the students took part in rotating workshops led by visitors from the Muru Mittigar cultural centre, and explored tra-

ditional indigenous food, art, warfare and survival techniques.

"We wanted to not only give the students an education about Sorry Day, but a better understanding of the Aboriginal cultural experience," organising teacher Andrew Barnes said.

The students took part in

boomerang throwing lessons, heard a talk about traditional weapons and instruments and tasted bush tucker, including native food sourced from the Cumberland Plains.

They also tried their hands at dot painting.

"I really enjoyed painting the symbols of the Aborigi-

nal people," year 8 student Raymond Ngo said.

"This day is a good way to acknowledge the Aboriginal people and especially people who were part of the stolen generation."

PHOTOS ONLINE   
fairfieldadvance.com.au

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

CABRAMATTA

## Helping hands get a pat on the back



Samantha Pham and Sean Ngo with their awards from the NSW Premier.

Picture: PHIL ROGERS

FOR Cabramatta High School students Samantha Pham and Sean Ngo, volunteering has become second nature.

The two year 11 students have been awarded Black Opal awards in the NSW Premier's student volunteering awards

program. The Black Opal award is presented to students who complete more than 150 hours of volunteering.

Sean was also awarded the volunteering scholarship, worth more than \$2000, for his exceptional record in volunteering.



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

## Artist's eye on the job

### STUDENTS TO REAP BENEFITS

Lisa Herbertson

CABRAMATTA High School students are turning creative under the guidance of an expert street artist.

Thanks to a grant, to participate in the Creative Education Partnerships – Artists in Schools Program, the high school will be running a series of workshops in term three.

“We are lucky to have secured the street artist Jason Wing,” school spokeswoman Toni Robinson said.

“This is the launch of the program with Jason to work with students from Year 9 visual arts, Year 10 textiles technology and Year 10 photography classes for the first six weeks of term three.

#### GET CREATIVE

■ **Program:** Developed in conjunction with The Australia Council for the Arts and Arts NSW

■ **History:** A four-year grants program, that started in 2009

■ **Artists:** Involves dance, drama, media, music, visual arts and creative writing

■ **Details:** curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au

“Each class will create artworks using Wing’s artwork and experiences as their inspiration as well as learning the art of stencilling and street art.” Wing’s work forms part of the upgrade to an area of Chinatown.



Street artist Jason Wing talking about art with students Anhtai Leitran and Fanaafi Tamati. Picture: NICK ANDREAN

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 11, 2012



**Artistic talent:** Street artist Jason Wing [right] will hold several art workshops at Cabramatta High School.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

## Art classes will hit the street

By Bianca Martins

CABRAMATTA High School students are getting a whole lot more creative thanks to their new in-house artist Jason Wing.

The school secured the street artist as part of the government's Artists in Schools program.

The four-year grants program, which started in 2009, aims to provide students, teachers and parents with opportunities to work with professional artists, as well as enriching the school arts programs.

The School's Creative and

Performing Arts head teacher Suzana Matic said Mr Wing would hold a series of workshops and mentor students next term.

"At the end of the program we will have an exhibition of the finished work," she said.

"We will also have a special mural project that we will be doing with our Aboriginal students."

There were just 12 schools across the state that applied for the grant but only two, including Cabramatta High, received the funding.

Mr Wing recently spoke to students about his background, education and

body of work during the program's official launch.

"The students were ecstatic," Ms Matic said.

"Jason's style of work, the messages and cultural and conceptual layers in his works really appealed to the year 9-10 group that we are working with."

Mr Wing said the students would learn about stencil art, concept development and basic design principles as well as how to make money from art and fashion design, graphic design and creative solutions to visual challenges.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

## School is ready to rock

By **Kim Hoang Duong**  
Cabramatta High School

AFTER many sessions of planning, organising teachers Miss Le and Mrs Treloar believe they have a troupe of performers ready for this year's Rock Eisteddfod Challenge.

The school's heart-stopping routine involves 46 dancers.

This year's theme is *freedom*.

The Rock Eisteddfod Challenge involves dance, drama and design.

The event has led to students and teachers bonding closely together over a period of months of planning and rehearsing, before

they compete against other schools. Cabramatta's interpretation of the theme sees the students take the form of birds — a sign of peace and tranquillity.

"Every time, before I perform, I get nervous and really excited at the same time," said student Xena Yangnouvong.

"When I perform I feel so free and like it's my time to shine. I'm always happy when I perform. I can't find the right words to explain the feeling of performing on stage. It's an overwhelming experience."

The Cabramatta High School students will have their chance to perform at the Sydney Entertainment Centre on August 22.

## Roar cultural talent

By **Raymond Tang**

IN just two years Cabramatta High School's first lion dance team has grown from a couple of eager enthusiasts to a dedicated core of 20.

Known as the Young Lions, the troupe includes 16 boys and four girls, aged 13 to 17.

They train every Friday afternoon.

Group supervisor/organiser, Kim Keo, has been with the group since its debut performance at Cabramatta High School's 2010 Peace Day.

After finding its feet within the school, the Young Lions now perform at events around the community, including weddings and festivals.

"Lion Dancing is not just about showing off our skills, but it also allows us to express our cultural background and represent Cabramatta High School as a multicultural based school," said Young Lions member Timothy Lam.

All Young Lions performances are free.

"Lion dancing is fun," said another troupe member. "It's a good way of exercising and I feel like it connects me to my culture."

To organise a Young Lions performance, the group can be contacted via the school.

## Diploma course a popular option

By **Amy Ngov**

CABRAMATTA High School commerce and economics students now have a chance to obtain diplomas while in high school.

The Vocational Education Training (VET) courses are offered by the Australian Institute of Financial Services and Accounting.

Cabramatta High School is one of the only schools in the state offering this program.

Completing the courses, throughout years 9, 10, 11 and 12, means if students choose to continue studying these areas beyond high school, they could potentially shorten the course by 18 months.

The course is completed online.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

## Olympic spirit takes over at Cabramatta



Sarina Lay from Cabramatta High School jumps the hurdles with her egg.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

CABRAMATTA High School students kicked off Education Week in messy fashion on Monday with their own Mini Olympics.

The students devised their own challenges, modelled on sports at the London Olympics, but with a twist.

In one challenge, inspired by the hurdles, students completed the course carrying a fresh egg, before crushing it on an ill-fated team mate's head. In another, students slid down a muddy hill into a pool of jelly, which contained an Olympic clue. Teacher Kim

Catton said the students had to come up with five activities and think about how they would run them, who would manage which event, and what equipment they needed.

"It's all about team work, and overcoming challenges in the spirit of the Olympics," she said. "They really stood up and took ownership."

The Mini Olympics were the start of Education Week activities at Cabramatta High, which include a *MasterChef*-style cook-off and awards presentations.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

CABRAMATTA

## Brownies baked to perfection are simply delightful

Lauren McMah

CABRAMATTA High School students turned up the heat on Monday in a hard-fought *MasterChef*-inspired cooking competition.

A highlight of Cabramatta High's Education Week, the cook-off had students from years 9 to 12 face off in a *MasterChef*-style pressure test in their industrial grade kitchen which was installed earlier this year.

Years 11 and 12 had the ambitious task of making a chocolate fudge brownie with caramelised bananas and a caramel sauce.

Four tough judges channelled *MasterChef*'s Gary, Matt and George as they assessed each dish on its execution, taste and overall appearance. They were looking for the holy grail of brownies: a slightly chewy cake, a smooth caramel and luscious, light-as-air cream.

With his well-baked brownie topped with a cleverly spun toffee, year 12's Justin Jankhum produced one of the day's best dishes.

"The caramel turned into toffee, so I had to impro-

### TASTE TIME

■ Cabramatta High School held a *MasterChef*-style cooking competition to celebrate Education Week.

■ Students in years 9 to 12 had to recreate a dessert within a limited time frame, similar to the pressure test challenge on Channel 10's *MasterChef*.

■ Four judges tasted each dish and assessed their taste and overall presentation.

■ A winner was determined from each year group.

vised," Justin said. "The recipe looked easy, but it wasn't. You really had to make sure you tasted it all the way through to see how sweet it was.

"The biggest challenge was definitely watching how long you spent on each part of the dish."

Justin said he was still deciding whether to become a chef, but for the time being, he said it was great fun testing out the kitchen.

PHOTOS ONLINE   
fairfieldadvance.com.au



Year 9 students David Nguyen and Harry Nguyen prepare their dish for the judges.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 15, 2012

## Cabra kids rock



### Show time

Cabramatta High School students will take to the Sydney Entertainment Centre stage on August 22 to take part in this year's Rock Eisteddfod Challenge. Students Ahn Tai Le Tran, Catherine Pham and Xena Yangnouvong gave the *Champion* a sneak peek last week of what to expect come performance night.

Full story page 4

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 15, 2012 (Continued)



**Ready to rock:** Cabramatta High School students Catherine Pham, Ahn Tai Le Tran and Xena Yangnouvong will perform at the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge on August 22.  
Picture: Wesley Lonergan

## Talent takes centre stage

By Sally Lee

THE fresh scent of hairspray, teased hair, glitter, over-the-top make-up and costumes can only mean one thing for students at Cabramatta High School.

The Rock Eisteddfod Challenge is near. Students from years 7-11 held their first dress rehearsal last Thursday to prepare for the event on August 22 at Sydney Entertainment Centre which gives high school students a chance to demonstrate their dance, drama and musical talent.

Literacy teacher Lisa Treloar, who has been co-ordinating the event for Cabramatta High School since 1998, choreographed a routine which highlights the theme "breaking free".

"It's really open to interpretation," she said. "Initially we thought of the idea of caged birds because they were supposed to represent our kids.

I guess it was about the constraints of being a teenager.

"The birds, who are controlled by a master, are then inspired by the freedom bird."

Year 10 student Ahn Tai Le Tran, who plays the freedom bird, has never set foot on stage.

His role is to entice his audience with a dance which expresses "freedom and hope".

"This is my first ever Rock Eisteddfod and I've never danced on stage before," he said.

"I've just danced at home so being one of the main characters is pretty exciting."

Another year 10 student, Catherine Pham, plays the master role.

"My character is classy but crazy and wants to keep her birds locked up and in control," she said.

"I think I can really relate to the theme because I'm at an age where I don't want to do what my parents or teachers say."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, August 15, 2012

CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

## High-achieving student says he owes his success to mum

### COMMITMENT EARNS \$5000

Lauren McMahon

THEY say behind every great man is a great woman and the adage certainly rings true for Cabramatta High student Sean Ngo.

A steadfast commitment to his studies and extra-curricular activities earned Sean a \$5000 Ralph Norris scholarship from the Commonwealth Bank to help with his tuition fees.

But the high-achieving 16-year-old said he owed all of his success to his mum, Thi Phan.

"She's more than my mother, she's my inspiration," Sean said.

"She's the one that gets me up and gets me going.

"The two of us are a great

team." Sean was selected for the scholarship because of his academic prowess across all subjects, 150 hours of volunteer service and a remarkable 100 per cent attendance record since year 7.

"It is a lot of work, but my motivation is to just get out there and take advantage of every opportunity that comes to me," he said.

"With volunteering, it's nice to know you're helping but it also gives you experience you can use down the track." Sean planned to study primary school education and he said the scholarship money would help him on his way. "I'm going to give it to my mum for safekeeping - she's a very responsible person."



Sean Ngo with principal Beth Godwin and Commonwealth Bank executive general manager Tristan Landers.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN

fast  
lane

### Brain Bee

THE best NSW year 10 students, including pupils from Cabramatta High School and Mary MacKillop Catholic College, took part in state finals of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge. Jasmine Nguyen from Cabramatta High finished in third place.



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 29, 2012

## Students shine and rock out on stage



**Back stage:** The Cabra Rock Crew in Sydney.

By **Annie Lam**  
**Cabramatta Public School**

AFTER more than one hundred hours of hard yakka behind the scenes, Cabramatta High School's Rock Eisteddfod Challenge crew had their chance to strut on stage last week.

The students, dubbed the Cabra Rock Crew, turned rehearsal into performance before a packed Sydney Entertainment Centre.

The group comprised students from years 7 to 11.

They were helped along the way by four teachers from the school and choreographer Lidia Sentic from Freeman Catholic College.

While they didn't walk away with one of the two major awards, the school received special mentions for six aspects of their performance: concept, costumes, soundtrack, student achievement, choreography and drama.

Year 10 student Catherine Pham played one of the lead roles.

Design judge Andrew Benson commended Catherine on her powerful presence and character portrayal.

Another year 10 student, Anh Tai Le Tran, played the bird of freedom.

Mr Benson said he was astounded by Tai's performance and he was proof that all males could dance.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 5, 2012



Cabramatta High students rehearse their Rock Eisteddfod Challenge piece Break Free. Pictures: NICK ANDREAN

## Teens spread their wings

**CABRA HIGH'S STUDENT SHOWCASE SUCCESS**

Lauren McMahon

CABRAMATTA High School students soared to new heights at the Rock Eisteddfod competition at the Sydney Entertainment Centre last month.

The team came sixth overall and won five awards, including best drama, concept, soundtrack, costuming character and student achievement.

Their performance piece, *Break Free*, told the story of a group of trapped birds who longed for freedom after being inspired by a colourful, liberated bird.

Co-ordinating teacher Lisa Treloar said the team of 65 students from years 7 to 11 worked in all areas of

### FLYING HIGH

■ Cabramatta High School placed sixth overall in the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge on August 22

■ They also won five awards: best drama, best concept, best soundtrack, best costuming character and student achievement

■ Their piece, *Break Free*, was about a group of trapped birds inspired by the freedom of a colourful, liberated bird

■ The students worked in all areas of production – behind the scenes and on stage

production, from arranging the soundtrack, costumes, props, choreography and design, to co-ordinating back-

stage duties and, of course, performing on stage. "The kids loved being part of the experience," she said.

"They learnt teamwork and leadership skills (and) made new friends across year groups.

"They also really enjoyed the practice – meeting other kids from many other schools was great for their socialising skills."

The students began putting the show together in February and held lunch-time and after-school rehearsals in the lead-up to the Rock Eisteddfod on August 22.

Did you take part? Tell us about it at:  
[fairfieldadvance.com.au](http://fairfieldadvance.com.au)

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 19, 2012



**On a mission:** Cabramatta High School's mathematics teacher Set Befkadu hand-making cards with year 10 students Joy Cheung and Alec Ha to raise funds for prisoners in Ethiopia. **Picture: Wesley Lonergan**

## Belief in second chance behind teacher's quest

By Sally Lee

FOR a country that may seem foreign to many, Ethiopia remains close to the hearts of students and staff at Cabramatta High School.

And distance makes the heart grow even fonder for the school's mathematics teacher Set Befkadu.

Though he left his homeland nearly 40 years ago, the 60-year-old has been visiting Ethiopia as a missionary for the past nine years.

It's all part of his quest to give others a second chance.

"When I first went back to Ethiopia I was very, very upset with the living conditions," he said.

"Seeing the poverty left me heavy-hearted. But then I went to visit the jail and that's when I decided that I needed to do something.

"When I was young my dad was a prison official, so I always knew what the conditions were like for the prisoners. It's very difficult to even compare it to the Australian jails."

Mr Befkadu's program *Second Chance* does

exactly what the name suggests. It provides prison inmates with an opportunity to start over.

"Everyone deserves hope and help because they can learn from their mistakes," Mr Befkadu said.

"No matter what religion, age, gender, every human being deserves a second chance."

Two years ago, Cabramatta High principal Beth Godwin joined Set Befkadu on his annual visit.

"For a country that has nothing, the people are full of hope," she said.

"The program teaches prisoners to have skills, so when they are released they can make a living and not reoffend."

Ms Godwin will return to the Horn of Africa with Mr Befkadu from December to January. She has organised card-making workshops at the school as a fund-raiser.

They will be sold locally and at the markets. Funds will purchase equipment such as looms and sewing machines for inmates.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 26, 2012



Cabramatta High year 10 students Catherine Pham and Alec Ha make greeting cards to raise funds to help give prisoners in Ethiopia new skills.

Picture: TIM CLAPIN

## The cards that can change lives

EVEN the most sentimental commercially available cards are not nearly as meaningful as the ones being made at Cabramatta High School this month.

Students and staff have spent weeks creating the greeting cards to raise

money for Ethiopian prisoners under the Second Chance program.

Maths teacher Set Befkadu, who has visited Ethiopia as a missionary for nine years, said he was heartened by the students' willingness to help give prisoners

a second chance at life.

"It encourages me, because if everyone contributes a bit it creates a great change," he said.

"These (prisoners) think they are criminals and they have to pay the price, and that is it.

"We give them materials and educate them about how to live in harmony and reduce the crime rate."

Mr Befkadu said money raised by the school would buy the inmates looms, sewing machines and wood machines, which cost up to

\$2500, to allow them to learn a skill and prepare for life after prison.

Mr Befkadu and school principal Beth Godwin will visit Ethiopia in December and January.

Lauren McMaha

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

## This dance crew has all the right moves

By **Raymond Tang**

YOUNG and determined, Cabramatta High School's dance troupe, the Cabra Crew, is proving a success for students from all ages.

The dancers have worked hard in recent years perfecting their craft, and have performed at many youth events across Sydney, including *West Express* and *Bring It On*.

They also perform during events at their own and other local schools.

It started off as a small group of young and determined students who taught each other to dance until teacher, Ms Le, founder of

the Cabra Crew, took the students under her wing.

She continues to do so as she believes it is important to give students the chance to show off their talents.

"I am very proud of Cabra Crew and their success throughout the years as talented hip-hop performers," said Ms Le.

Crew member Sim Sok said being part of the troupe was quite important.

"It has increased my confidence in being in front of people in public. It makes me feel happy as we learn together as a crew and bond overtime like a family"

Cabra Crew get together each Tuesday after school.



## Volunteers celebrated

By **Winsen Wen**

A CULTURE of lending a hand has developed among year 9 and 10 students at Cabramatta High School, thanks to their embracing the Premier's Student Volunteering Awards program.

The school joined the program in 2010. It encourages students to complete volunteer work within their community.

Some of the exciting programs student volunteers have been involved with include assisting students in the Intensive English Centre, serving at Breakfast Club, fund-raising and visiting primary schools.

Participating student Lauren Ly Huynh said she enjoyed serving as a volunteer.

"Not only does it help raise confidence, but it also makes you feel great because you've helped people," she said.

Organiser Anjana Nath said she had received positive feedback.

So far, two Cabramatta High School students have received scholarships and two have received Black Opal Awards — meaning they have completed more than 150 hours of volunteer work.

## Cabramatta kids gain much from telling their stories

By **Kim Duong**

DESPITE the event still being more than a month away, excitement is already starting to build at Cabramatta High School for the unveiling of this year's *Your Face Your Story* art exhibition.

The event will be held in front of the CBA Banking Hall at Sydney's Martin Place in November and will see year 9 students gather with their parents and CBA executives.

During the event, students will be handed published books including their

stories and they will be able to witness a display of their artworks, which have taken a term of planning and creation.

Program founded, Ronda Gaffey, said she enjoyed seeing the students' faces light up in the course of the event.

The *Your Face Your Story* program has

been running at the school for four years. It aims to enhance self-esteem, confidence and motivation as well as inspiring an interest in the written word.

Students and their CBA mentors meet throughout the course of two terms, sharing both friendship and knowledge.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 17, 2012



**New initiative:** Cabramatta High School students Joe Penitani, Joe Hall and Emil Wilson with Detective Inspector Darren Newman during the first session of the police mentoring program.

**Picture:** Wesley Lonergan

## Students join forces with cops

By **Sally Lee**

CABRAMATTA High School students were on their best behaviour while Cabramatta police officers roamed the hallways and classrooms last Wednesday. But there was one purpose for their visit.

They launched the first police mentoring program at the school, focusing on 14 Pacific Islander students who aspire to follow in their footsteps one day.

During the first workshop, students

were split into six groups led by officers as they embarked on an Amazing Race challenge around the school.

Year 8 student Joe Penitani hopes for a career in policing.

"My family and especially my parents want me to have a good education and have a good job," he said. "So that's why I think policing is a good choice. It's great to help others and solve problems. Plus it looks really exciting."

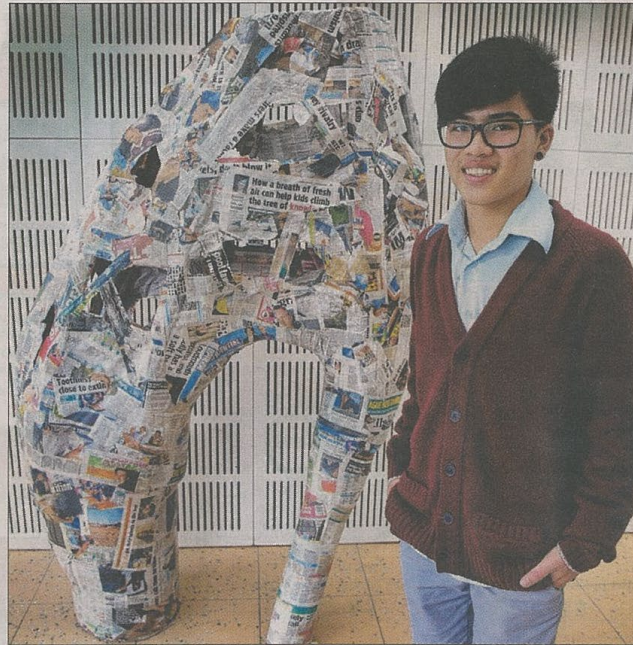
Principal Beth Godwin says the initi-

ative is about "getting to know the growing Pacific Islander community in Cabramatta".

"We did a survey and found that 14 per cent of our Pacific Islander students wanted to be police officers," she said. "That prompted us to create this initiative in order to develop that attitude so these students can become leaders in their community. Basically our local cops can adopt these kids for five weeks and give them insight and vision in what they want in life."

# The Telegraph

Thursday, October 18, 2012



Tuong Vo with his winning One Degree entry. Picture: Gregg Porteous

## Well-heeled winner a shoo-in

ROSEMARIE LENTINI

AS an aspiring fashion designer, Tuong Vo understands the industry mantra to “just make it work”.

So using 80kg of newspaper and a lot of glue, the Cabramatta High School student built a 2m-tall stiletto based on Alexander McQueen’s shoe designs for *The Daily Telegraph’s* One Degree Schools Sculpture competition.

Tuong said the sculpture, called *Alexander McQueen’s Dream*, which took out the competition’s senior

division, was inspired by Lady Gaga, who made the sky-high heels famous.

Schools across Sydney were invited to submit their plans for a sculpture made from recycled newspapers as part of *The Daily Telegraph’s* environmental sustainability initiative, which encouraged students to think about how old materials could be reused.

Punchbowl’s St Jerome’s Primary School won the junior division for their *Our Olympic Games* sculpture, which showcased the students’ favourite sports to celebrate the recent London Olympics.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

## Students push action on poverty at the seat of power



Local students visit Canberra.

Lauren McMah

STUDENTS from Cabramatta High School discussed poverty and injustice in developing countries with political leaders during their recent visit to Canberra.

Ten students from year 9

and year 10 took part in the four-day Micah Challenge: Voices for Justice campaign, where they learned about poverty in developing countries and the overseas aid commitments of past and current governments.

This year's campaign aims to keep politicians fo-

cused on their 2007 commitment to provide 0.5 per cent of Australia's gross national income in an effort to halve poverty by 2015.

The students were invited into politicians' offices and meeting rooms and discovered the inner workings of Parliament House.

They met Senator Trish Crossin and earned a mention on Assistant Treasurer David Bradbury's Twitter feed after their visit.

"Enjoyed speaking with western Sydney representatives from Micah Challenge about issues of poverty and injustice," he tweeted.

Now in its eighth year, the Micah Challenge, together with Make Poverty History, is seeking bipartisan support from federal politicians to increase Australia's overseas aid to 0.7 per cent of the gross national income, in line with the agreed international goal.



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

## Students craft chances

### 'REBIRTHED' JEWELS GIVE ETHIOPIAN PRISONERS FRESH HOPE IN LIFE

Lauren McMah

IT'S not just Ethiopian prisoners who are getting a second chance at life through Cabramatta High School's charity work.

As part of their ongoing involvement in the Second Chance program, staff and students are "rebirthing" old jewellery into new pieces that will be sold to buy looms, sewing machines and wood machines for inmates at Ethiopian jails.

During an after-school session recently, the busy volunteers created 100 beaded bracelets under the creative direction of Year 10 student Iesha Ho.

"I make a lot of jewellery at home, it's a hobby I've had since about Year 8," Iesha said.

"The trick is to come up with a colour palate and then improvise with your own ideas. Being part of this is good in two ways — it's good fun, and at the same time I get to raise money for those in need."

#### CHARITY BLING

■ Through the Second Chance program, Cabramatta High is raising money to buy looms, sewing machines and wood machines for Ethiopian prisoners to learn a skill and prepare for life after jail

■ This term, students and staff are making bracelets that will be sold to raise money for the Second Chance charity

■ Last term they raised \$700 by making and selling greeting cards

Iesha said it was exciting to see so many students and teachers give up their time to support the cause.

"I thought it would only be a couple of students and maybe a teacher, but we're really getting carried away," she said.

Second Chance aims to equip prisoners with skills and tools to prepare for life after prison.

Cabramatta High's involvement was sparked by mathematics teacher and missionary Set Befkadu.



Cabramatta High School students Sandy and Cindy Liu make jewellery for the Second Chance Project.

Picture: TIM CLAPIN

fast  
lane

#### Exams over

➤ After years of preparation, months of intensive study and four weeks of gruelling exams, the HSC exam period will end tomorrow. Design and technology, Latin extension and visual arts students are the lucky last to head into the exam rooms for 2012. HSC results will be released on December 19.

#### More study time

➤ Students can spend more time studying at Smithfield library after Fairfield council extended its opening hours. The library is now open from 9.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 5pm on Friday and 9.15am to noon on Saturday. It will also stay open during lunchtime.

#### Woman of peace

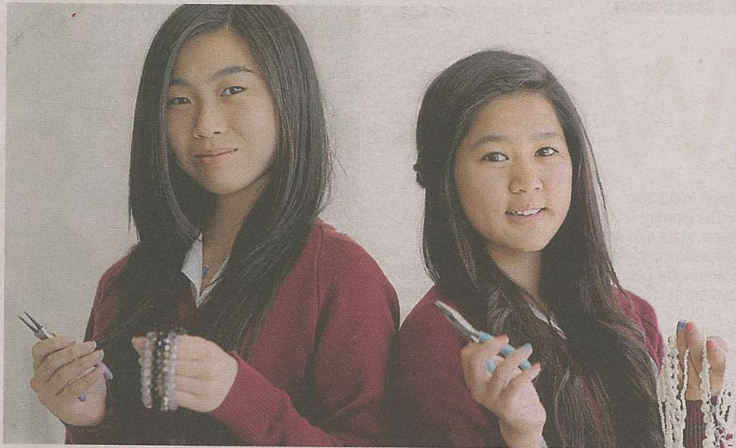
➤ Zimbabwean senator Sekai Holland will be the guest of honour at Cabramatta High School's annual Peace Day celebrations on Friday. The 2012 Sydney Peace Prize winner is known for her advocacy of women's rights and democracy. Peace Day will include student performances, the release of white doves in the Peace Garden and a forum with Ms Holland and students.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

DESIGN AN  
**AD**

## Second Chance program at school



**Fund-raisers:**  
Year 10 students Joy Cheung (left) and Ilesha Ho get creative.  
Picture: Wesley Loneragan



**"No matter what religion, age, gender, every human being deserves a second chance."**

CABRAMATTA High School is giving Ethiopian prison inmates a chance to start over. Reporter Sally Lee explains.

**T**HIS is through the Second Chance program established by the school's mathematics teacher Set Befkadu who left Ethiopia nearly 40 years ago. Students began card-making workshops in September to fund-raise for the program. Last week students and staff met after school to create jewellery pieces for the fund-raiser. Year 10 student Ilesha Ho is on familiar territory when it comes to jewellery-design. "It's fun, creative and no-one tells you what's right and wrong about your design," she said. "I've been making my own jewellery since year 8

and it's been my hobby ever since. I love Bohemian designs." Ilesha consulted with principal Beth Godwin in the lead up to the workshop. "We're just improvising with the beads and colours to create a theme and different styles at the workshop," she said. Another year 10 student Joy Cheung, who also participated in the card-marking workshop, enjoys adding her own touch to her accessories. "I like it because it's your own design and that makes it unique," she said. "And now I can use those skills to help people in need and it's not hard at all."

Mr Befkadu has been revisiting his homeland as a missionary over the past nine years. This year he will return with Ms Godwin from December to January. "Everyone deserves hope and help because they can learn from their mistakes," he said. "No matter what religion, age, gender, every human being deserves a second chance." Students will be selling cards and jewellery at their annual Peace Day on November 9. Funds will purchase equipment such as looms and sewing machines for inmates.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, November 14, 2012



Peace of mind: Sydney Peace Prize recipient Sekai Holland was the special guest at Cabramatta High School's annual Peace Day.

Pictures: Wesley Lonergan

## School gives peace a chance

By Sally Lee

WORLD peace is certainly achievable.

This is the message Sydney Peace Prize recipient Senator Sekai Holland shared at Cabramatta High School last Friday.

It was her story of courage that inspired principal Beth Godwin to invite her to the school's sixth annual Peace Day.

Mrs Holland holds many titles. This includes the minister for national healing, reconciliation and integration in the Zimbabwe Unity Government, advocate for human rights and democracy.

"Let's use our heads and not our fists," she said as she addressed the students and staff.

"Peace begins with me, peace begins with you and peace begins with us."

The 70-year-old experienced the inherent cruelty of humanity first-hand.

She was a victim of brutal torture by the Mugabe forces during the violent 2008 elections in Zimbabwe.

When the *Champion* asked if



world peace was achievable, she responded without hesitation.

"Yes and I know that because the United Nations was set up in the 40s and it's still there," she said.

"It's stronger but it's up to you young people to make the United Nations what it should be."

The notion of equal rights was imprinted into Mrs Holland's beliefs during her upbringing in Zimbabwe.

"What drives me, really, is the

knowledge that we are equal," she said. "No one is superior to anyone and no one is inferior to anyone. We are all equal."

"This is what was hammered into us by our parents."

It's clear she won't rest until her mission for peace is accomplished.

"Peace is where people in their hearts really feel good about themselves," she said.

"So good that they know there is no need to fight the next person

in the family, in the community and in the playground. They just know that the nicest thing about life is to dig into your positive attributes and enjoy life with everybody. That's peace for me."

Ms Godwin said it's time to be pro-active about world peace during her address to the school.

"What are you prepared to do for world peace? Instead of sitting around hoping for it, what are you prepared to do? Will your story be of courage and peace?"

Mrs Holland said the old Cabramatta she once knew was dead and gone.

She first came to Australia as a student and met her husband Jim Holland in 1965.

"I used to know Cabramatta a long time ago but it is not what I have seen today," she said.

"You [Cabramatta High School] take the prize for peace because you've shown us what it's all about."

See the gallery online

[fairfieldchampion.com.au](http://fairfieldchampion.com.au)



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

CABRAMATTA

## Simple lessons in building our world of peace

ZIMBABWEAN ACTIVIST SHARES THE MESSAGE

Lauren McMah

PEACE begins at home, 2012 Sydney Peace Prize winner Sekai Holland told Cabramatta High School students at Peace Day celebrations on Friday.

The school hosted performances to honour the Zimbabwean senator and human rights activist.

"We should try to begin at home," she said.

"I don't think there is a country today that is not growing from the bottom with people building peace.

"I can see peace-building at this school at its finest."

Senator Holland said that as in many countries, peace in Zimbabwe could only happen if political leaders did not repeat the

### SEKAI HOLLAND

■ The Zimbabwean Co-Minister of State for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration has campaigned for indigenous Australians' rights, women's rights and democracy in Zimbabwe, and against apartheid

■ In 2007 she was famously arrested and tortured at a police station in Harare

mistakes of their post-colonial predecessors.

"In our lifetime, people will want to come to Africa because I believe... we have Zimbabwean leaders who want to get the government right," she said.

Senator Holland praised the school for its Peace Day

activities, and enjoyed a performance written in her honour, called *Fusion*, celebrating the native cultures of Africa, Australia, Asia and the Pacific Islands.

The ceremony culminated in the school's Peace Garden with the release of white doves to symbolise a peaceful future.

Principal Beth Godwin said a committee of 200 staff and students researched Senator Holland's life in preparation for Peace Day.

"We were overcome with Sekai's excitement, passion and determination, and what she was prepared to do for peace," Ms Godwin said.

PHOTOS ONLINE  
fairfieldadvance.com.au

### NEWS

#### High school welcomes leader

SYDNEY Peace Prize winner Sekai Holland was a guest at Cabramatta High's Peace Day celebrations on Friday. Performances were held to honour the Zimbabwean political leader. **PAGE 13**



Peace Day celebrations ended in the school's Peace Garden with the release of white doves to signify a peaceful future.

Pictures: CHRIS MCKEEN



Senator Holland addresses the gathering.



Participants wore costumes from their country of origin.



The many faces of participants at Cabramatta High School.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 5, 2012



**New trees:** Fairfield Council's Nicole Thomas assists Cabramatta High School students Linda Ly and Luke Trainor with planting the new shrubs in the Cabramatta Creek Wetland. **Picture:** Wesley Lonergan

## Planting creates habitat

By **Bianca Martins**

THE foreshores of our creeks and wetlands have been graced with new trees thanks to a small group of Cabramatta High School students.

The students took part in a tree planting ceremony with Fairfield Council last Thursday where they each planted new trees and shrubs in the Cabramatta Creek Wetland.

They planted a variety of grey box, flax lily and pale fan-flower plants in a bid to increase the existing riparian zone, providing habitat for the native fauna.

"The tree planting day involves the students in the protection and enhancement of our wetlands and creeks within the city," mayor Frank Carbone said.

"It is good to see young people in Fairfield city take an interest in the local

creeks and wetlands, and participate in rejuvenation projects such as this."

The tree planning ceremony was part of the Cabramatta Creek Wetland plan of management implementation stage 1, which is funded by the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority.

For more news, now...  
[fairfieldchampion.com.au](http://fairfieldchampion.com.au)



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, December 5, 2012



**Making a stand:** Cabramatta High School students support White Ribbon Day.

## Violence 'not tolerated'

By Amy Ngov, Cabramatta High School

CABRAMATTA High School students showed their commitment to stamping out violence against women by hosting their own White Ribbon Day fund-raiser last month.

The event encourages men and women to take an oath, swearing to never commit violence or stay silent about violence against women.

It is also about raising awareness and allowing victims of violence to know that they are not alone.

"We acknowledge the important role the school can provide to raise awareness of this community issue to all students," said organising teacher Andrew Barnes.

"We want the youth of our community to be part of a cultural change whereby violence is not tolerated.

"This day provides all students with this message while providing them with support and strategies to help with prevention and early intervention."

Fairfield City Council supported the event along with Cabramatta Community Centre, Cabramatta police, State Emergency Service, Bonnie's Refuge, Lotus House, MTC Work Solutions – Youth Connections, Centrelink Youth Services, On Fire Christian youth group and Multicultural Health Services.

Students and staff were treated to a sausage sizzle and were encouraged to sign a poster to show their commitment to the cause.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

CABRAMATTA

## Mediation led by students

**BEHAVIOUR, SOCIAL MEDIA  
MONITORED BY ELECTED TEAM**

Matt Hagias

STUDENTS at Cabramatta High School have established a peer mediation program to eradicate bullying from the schoolyard.

Confronting bullies in an intervention-style format and monitoring social media sites are among the strategies being used.

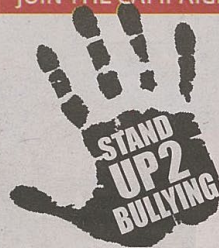
Cabramatta teacher Margaret King said a sharing method dubbed "circle time" held students to account and prevented bullying in its early stages.

The method involves students sharing their feelings with each other in a group setting to highlight any wrongdoing by individuals.

"It puts the spotlight back on students that have been bullying others," Ms King said. "It's been really effective because it helps to solve conflict before it escalates to anything further."

A peer mediation team of elected students monitors student behaviour on Facebook and Twitter to spot signs of cyber bullying.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN



HOW IT WORKS

- The Peer Mediation Team is made up of 12 students
- Elections are held to choose members of the team
- Students and teachers meet regularly to discuss how best to address bullying and monitor behaviour

Year 9 student Brooke Hepworth said it was important to speak up and report bullying when it occurs. "Bullying usually starts from a misunderstanding so it's good to get everything out in the open and sort it out," she said.



Peer mediators at Cabramatta High Brooke Hepworth, 14, Amy Bogg, 15, and Breanna Skinner, 14.

Picture: CHRIS MCKEEN

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
January 9, 2013

CABRAMATTA



Constable Stevo Jokic on court.



Building links with students.



Sen-Constable Allan Clapham.



Cops have some fun visiting Cabramatta High School as part of the Police Links Program. Pictures: KRISTI MILLER

## Court case of building links

### SERIOUS MESSAGE BEHIND BASKETBALL GAME

Susanna Te

CABRAMATTA High School students proved too good against Cabramatta police in a friendly basketball game during the school's Police Links Day.

The annual event is held to teach Year 7 students about the effects and impacts of cyber bullying, cyber safety, stealing, drugs and behaviour in public.

Teacher and event coordinator, Dhires Prakash, said it was a fun day with a serious message.

"Prevention is better than cure," he said.

"The officers show the consequences of crime and the kids learn about the effects and impacts by examples of real life scenarios."

Some examples they shared included stories where friendships were broken, parents that had involved themselves in student affairs and crimes that could land you in trouble and facing arrest.

The police officers implemented interactive activities to engage the students, including the basketball game towards the end of the day.

#### EVENT

■ **WHAT:** Cabramatta High School's Police Links Day

■ **WHY:** To teach Year 7 students about the effects and impacts of cyber bullying, cyber safety, stealing, drugs and behaviour in public

"The students were taken aback after the officers showed them graphic images of the effects of a drug user," Mr Prakash said.

"They want the kids to know that police officers are approachable and are there to help."



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday,  
January 23,  
2013



Cabramatta High student Pei Xin Guo achieved an ATAR of 99.10 and is set to study engineering and commerce at the University of NSW.

Picture: MELVYN KNIFE

## Mr 99.10 sees career in mining engineering

**Lauren McMahon**

YEARS of preparation, months of study and weeks of gruelling HSC exams have paid off for former Cabramatta High School student Pei Xin Guo.

Having achieved a near-

perfect Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank of 99.10, Pei is set to embark on his next challenge – completing a degree in engineering and commerce at the University of NSW.

“I’m mainly interested in engineering because I love

mathematics and science, and engineering is a by-product of the two fields combined,” the 18-year-old said.

“I chose commerce because I thought it would be good to focus on the business side of engineering. At

this point, my goal is to become a mining engineer.”

Pei did HSC subjects he was passionate about – mathematics, biology, chemistry and English (Advanced) – and managed to place sixth in the state for mathematics extension 1.

The modest student attributed his HSC success to consistent study.

**Read more about the next phase for HSC students in our special feature starting on page 20.**

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

CABRAMATTA

## Inspired by kind words

### TEACHER CHANGED TAGA PAA

Lauren McMah

WHEN *The Voice* finalist Taga Paa made a surprise visit to Cabramatta High School for its Inspire Week celebrations late last year, a teacher was on his mind.

Mr Paa said he was a rough kid who was more interested in schoolyard fights than class work when his teacher, Pam Lightfoot, pulled him aside.

"She said she was there for me and wanted to see me on the right track," he said.

"Knowing that I had someone who had faith in me was the inspiration I needed. I will never forget her and what she said to me that day."

Despite his musical talent

- he will support his other childhood idols, Boyz II Men, during their Australian tour - Mr Paa is a dedicated support officer at Merrylands High School.

"There are a lot of kids out here in southwest Sydney who have come from all walks of life, but the resilience they have is an encouragement to me and other people," he said.

"I want to use music to connect with young people and make a positive difference. If musical fame comes, it comes - I'm not chasing it."

After receiving a rock star welcome from Cabramatta High students, Mr Paa shared his inspirational journey.





Singer Taga Paa talks to Cabramatta High students during Inspire Week.

Picture: Chris McKeen

# Fairfield City Champion





Wednesday, February 13, 2013

**Congratulations Cabramatta High School Class of 2012**

	<b>Pei Xin GUO</b> 6th in state Mathematics Extension		<b>Ivana DIMIC</b> 2nd in state Serbian Continuers
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**These students received 96+ score in their ATAR**

			
<b>Elizabeth TRINH</b>	<b>Janet SOU</b>	<b>Hung Phat Duong</b>	<b>Kimberley TRAN</b>

Many of the 2012 graduates are pursuing further studies at university in a wide range of fields such as Medical Science, Commerce, Journalism, Science, Mathematics and Education.

*We congratulate scholarship recipients that will study Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Sydney and Mathematics Education at the University of Western Sydney.*

**Principal: Elizabeth Godwin**  
**Address: Aladore Avenue, Cabramatta NSW 2166 | PH: 9726 2424 | Fax: 9726 4282**



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# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, February 13, 2013



## CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

A dozen top HSC achievers from Cabramatta High School went back to school last week for their final hurrah before university. The *Champion* spoke to six students who will begin their studies at the University of Sydney on March 4.

■ **Oscar Tran, 18:**

"It was great to catch up with everyone. I'll be studying nursing . . . I've always wanted to work in the health sector."

■ **Jenny Nguyen, 17:**

"I'll be doing a bachelor in education and majoring in maths. I hope to become a secondary teacher."

■ **Ivana Dimic, 17:** "I've always seen myself doing commerce."

■ **Vicky Phon, 17:** "Ever since I was little I've always wanted to be in the business world. I guess I had this perception that it was really cool and that idea really grew on me."

■ **Elizabeth Trinh, 17:** "I'm doing commerce and liberal studies which allows me to study Chinese. I think that will help me in the Asian markets."

■ **Janet Sou, 18:** "I'm also studying commerce and liberal studies."



**Success:** Cabramatta High School's top six HSC achievers returned to school last week.

**Picture:** Wesley Lonergan

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, February, 2013

CABRAMATTA HIGH

## High achievers pass on study tips

**DUX VALUES  
A QUIET SPOT**

**Kimberley Caines**

TOP-PERFORMING students in last year's HSC returned to Cabramatta High for the annual high achievers' morning tea.

The former students spoke to Year 12 during a school assembly about preparing for their HSC year.

Hard work and studying in a quiet environment were tips shared by former student Pei Xin Guo, who received an almost perfect Australian Tertiary Admission Rank of 99.10.

"I was relieved with the results," he said. Mr Guo placed sixth in the state for mathematics extension 1 and begins his degree in engineering and commerce at the University of NSW next week.

During the assembly Mr



(From left) Oscar Tran, Samantha Pham, Janet Sou, Sean Ngo, Favour Erhunmwunse, Steven Tang and Sarah Hua share their thoughts.

Guo was announced dux of the school for 2012 and was presented a Mini iPad by Cabra-Vale Diggers director Ronnie Moore, who donated the gift.

"We have supported the school for some time and are looking at expanding our existence," Mr Moore said.

Principal Beth Godwin

said there was a good spread of results across the grade with a lot of practical works exhibited at state level.

"Each year gets better . . . education makes a differ-

ence," she said. As they prepare to study courses ranging from nursing to architecture, the students have already proven they are equal to the best.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

## ■ Classroom inspires work of 18-year-old



In the frame: Troijarra Ebio's work has been selected for ArtExpress.

Picture: Michael Szabath

## She's an artist with such winning ways

By Sally Lee

TROIJARRA Ebio finds comfort in Cabramatta High School's art room.

It's where she let her creativity run wild.

Ms Ebio, 18, revisited the classroom two weeks ago after her work was selected for the 2012 HSC visual arts students' major exhibition, ArtExpress.

"It feels like home," she said of the classroom. "I spent most of my time here."

Ms Ebio's art is on display in the Olympic Park Armory Gallery until April 28.

Her series of portraits, *Alis Volat Propriis*, which translates as "She flies with her

own wings", were inspired by her colleagues at school.

"The portraits are of my friends from school and an animal that suits the subject's personal traits and qualities," she said.

"This touches on concepts that matter to me — individuality and self-image.

"This is because I feel as though people often get lost at this age and become followers. It's important that we find and recognise our own unique selves."

Ms Ebio, who is studying for a bachelor of fine arts degree at the College of Fine Arts NSW, hopes her art is appreciated "aesthetically".

She wants people to "feel

curious as to what it actually means".

"I was surprised that my major work got selected, because the work of my peers was equally strong and more visually elaborate than my own simple drawing," she said.

Other local students who have had their work selected for the exhibition include Kieran Ginoh and Sara Shinko, of Fairvale High School, and Flavio Scotece of Bossley Park High School.

ArtExpress is free and is open daily, 10am-4pm.

For more news, now...

[fairfieldchampion.com.au](http://fairfieldchampion.com.au)



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 15, 2013



**High note:** Cabramatta High School drama, dance and singing students are thrilled with their new studio.

**Picture:** Wesley Loneragan

## Space for the love of arts to grow

By **Bianca Martins**

IT'S time for lights, camera and action at Cabramatta High School now the school has officially opened its new performance studio.

The building, which comprises a sound system and lighting, was opened with a smoking ceremony on Friday.

Principal Beth Godwin said she was excited, surprised and thrilled to have a state-of-the-art facility.

"It is a dynamic and contemporary space which will allow our love of the performing arts to grow," she said.

"I can see that when we have visiting

performers to the school, I will not need to apologise for the poor sound system and the lighting that may not meet their needs.

"Instead, I will be able to say our performance space is better than any stage you will see elsewhere."

Ms Godwin thanked the state government and the NSW Department of Education and said the facility was one of eight new buildings planned.

"It's not every day that schools are given such generous contributions to create a fantastic learning environment," she said.

Drama student Huu Manh Phat

Nguyen, 16, said he was excited to perform in the new studio.

"I feel like it's a step forward in the school environment and it gives students the opportunity to discover new experiences," he said.

"Their potential will advance better."

His friend Jason Tran, 15, said the new studio would enhance his creativity.

"I will be able to see my moves in the mirror," he said. "The sound system is also great because it allows our drama performances to be more realistic and dramatic. For the dancers, it will allow us to hit the beat more perfectly. I love the new studio."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

CABRAMATTA HIGH

## Showtime for drama studio

### NEW FACILITY WELCOMED

**Kimberley Caines**

MOVING tables and chairs for performance space is a thing of the past for students at Cabramatta High School, who recently celebrated the opening of their drama and dance studio.

The official opening service on May 8 featured performances by drama and dance students and an Aboriginal smoking ceremony by Uncle Steve.

Drama teacher Azadeh Slade said the students would benefit from the new studio in many ways.

"The large open space is not only suitable for practice and creation but also for performances," she said "I think the new space will inspire our current students and the rest of the student body to take drama and dance classes."



Uncle Steve blesses some of the construction workers of the new building at Cabramatta High.

Picture: TIM CLAPIN

The school community was thrilled to view the new building for the first time, complete with a sound system and lighting.

Year 11 drama student Catherine Pham said she al-

ways hoped there would be access to better equipment and more rehearsal space.

"It makes me feel like dance and drama students are being appreciated for the effort they put in and

trusted by the school to have their own little home," Catherine said.

Principal Beth Godwin said the studio provided students with a dynamic space.

"It will give them the op-

portunity to develop, rehearse and perform in a space specifically designed to showcase their talents," Ms Godwin said. "It sparks imagination of the possibilities of live performances."



# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

CABRAMATTA



Australian cricketer Lisa Sthalekar with Cabramatta High students Joanna Qiao, Joseph Latu and Mathew Viane at the launch of the 2013 *Your Face, Your Story* program.

## Students to be tutored on heritage

STUDENTS from Cabramatta High School will explore their cultural heritage as part of the 2013 *Your Face, Your Story* mentoring program with staff members from the Commonwealth Bank.

The school celebrated the program's launch on May 8 with special guest Australian international cricketer Commonwealth Bank Southern Star Lisa Sthalekar.

Ms Sthalekar shared her inspiring story of

migrating to Australia and her rise to the world cricket stage with the students.

"We learnt that life does not start easily. You must be dedicated and work hard," Year 9 student Joanna Qiao said.

The program will pair 42 students with Commonwealth Bank staff members to complete six one-to-one mentoring sessions.

The first session begins today and the final works will be exhibited and in a booklet.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

 **The Student Voice**  **FAIRFIELD CITY Champion**

## CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL

Pupils at Cabramatta High School spent last week removing weeds and rubbish from the grounds as part of the school's annual Green Day event. The *Champion* asked five students about its importance.

- **Nita Kong, 12:**  
"We live in the environment and without it we don't have the necessities of life. That's why looking after it is important. Not only do we do it for us, but also for the future generations."
- **Ken Xaybounheuang, 12:**  
"It's important because we want to keep the greenery. We also know that plants produce oxygen, which we need. I also think natural beauty is really important."
- **Helen Nguyen, 12:**  
"It's important because most of our environment consists of trees and that's what keeps us alive."
- **Natalie Jankhum, 12:**  
"It's trees which create oxygen and we need air to live. It also makes the school grounds look beautiful."
- **Sorina Ung, 11, 12:**  
"We clean up all the trees, bushes and leaves that fall out. We also help look after the natural beauty of the trees. Without them, we have no oxygen so it's important to maintain the environment."



**Green thumbs:** Cabramatta High School students learn about the environment and sustainability at the annual Green Day event. **Picture: Wesley Lonergan**

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# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, May 29, 2013

CABRAMATTA

## Loose coins grow into cash mountain

➤ CABRAMATTA High has hosted the Red Shield Appeal for as long as principal Beth Godwin can remember.

Students, ex-students and teachers met at the school last weekend for their house-to-house collection of donations for the annual Salvation Army fundraiser.

"We asked people to support a worthwhile cause, a really visible cause," Ms Godwin said. "Even by getting a dollar, that was one dollar more than we had yesterday.

"The organisation doesn't discriminate.

"They help everyone."

Year 11 student Joy Cheung said she began volunteering two years ago because she liked helping out.



**Cabramatta High volunteers.**

"I always hear good things about the organisation," she said. "People are not afraid to give loose change."

Last year the school won the schools challenge by raising the most money.

Funds raised go to the Salvation Army services including providing meals, food vouchers and counselling for those in crisis and beds for the homeless.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

## Kids reflect on Sorry Day

### PUPILS GET A VITAL LESSON

Kimberley Caines

STUDENTS from Cabramatta High School connected with Australia's indigenous culture through dot painting, boomerang throwing and bush tucker tasting for Sorry Day.

Last month, more than 230 Year 8 students recognised the national day by remembering the mistreatment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children of the Stolen Generation.

HSIE teacher Andrew Barnes said the students took part in workshops led by visitors from Koomurri Management.

"The students explored traditional Aboriginal artefacts, music, dance, art and food," Mr Barnes said. "The activities were an extension of what the students learnt in the classroom."

Year 5 students from Cabramatta West Public School also joined in the activities.

"We invited the primary school along to share learning, plus it's a nice way to



Year 8 students from Cabramatta High School learn about Aboriginal culture for Sorry Day.

Picture: TIM CLAPIN

mentor younger students," Principal Beth Godwin said.

Ms Godwin said the activities "matched beautifully with the curriculum".

"Every year, our Year 8 students acknowledge Sorry Day and develop an appreci-

ation of culture. It's a day of respect," Ms Godwin said.

She said students realised the government played a role in the mistreatment and were making a difference.

Student Representative Council member Tracy

Chau, 13, enjoyed learning about Aboriginal culture.

"To me, Sorry day is a day that we as Australians reflect on how cruelly the settlers mistreated the indigenous people," Tracy said.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, July 24, 2013



**Kicker:** Ognjen Matic in action on the handball court.

## European dream start in Germany

By **Petra Matic**

FORMER Cabramatta High School student Ognjen Matic is trying his best to fulfil his childhood dream of becoming a professional athlete.

It means all else, including his PDHPE teaching career, is having to take a back seat.

Ognjen, 23, is currently in Germany refining and developing his skills in the sport of European handball.

European Handball is vastly different from the handball played by students with a tennis ball during lunch breaks.

It in fact, has more in common with a range of sports including volleyball, basketball, futsal and water polo. It is the second fastest sport after ice hockey and is the second most popular sport in Europe after soccer.

Ognjen's passion for European handball began when he was a student at Cabramatta High School.

While at the school, he was given the chance to represent NSW teams in the sport.

He became a part of the junior and senior Australian National Teams at the Oceania Qualifiers and World Cups. His hunger for the sport was only matched by his desire to teach others.

"I'm glad to be able to pass on my knowledge and experience, hopefully get students to follow their dreams and reach their potential in whatever they do," Ognjen said.

According to his former coaches, he shows great determination, mental and physical strength along with natural skill when it comes to jumping, strength and gameplay.

The school community keenly follows his progress.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday July 24, 2013

## Winter appeal was a huge success

By Nancy Chhun

LATE last month Cabramatta High School teachers Rameena Nissan, Marsha Marasinghe and Marie Pettas embarked on a spot of retail therapy.

But unlike regular shopping trips, their list of things to buy included clothes, blankets, hygiene products and children's toys.

The ladies were sent on a mission from the school as part of its Winter Appeal.

The entire school community got behind the fundraising initiative which aimed to benefit local families and individuals in need.

In the lead up to the shopping trip the teachers spoke to their classes

about the importance of charity organisations in helping to guide and support young people through tough times.

The students were inspired to donate food, clothing and money.

Ms Nissan and Ms Marasinghe said they were surprised by the response and that they had raised more money and goods than they'd anticipated.

"I think that it's really important to help those that are in need because there are so many people out there that aren't as fortunate as us," said Susanna Ngo of year nine.

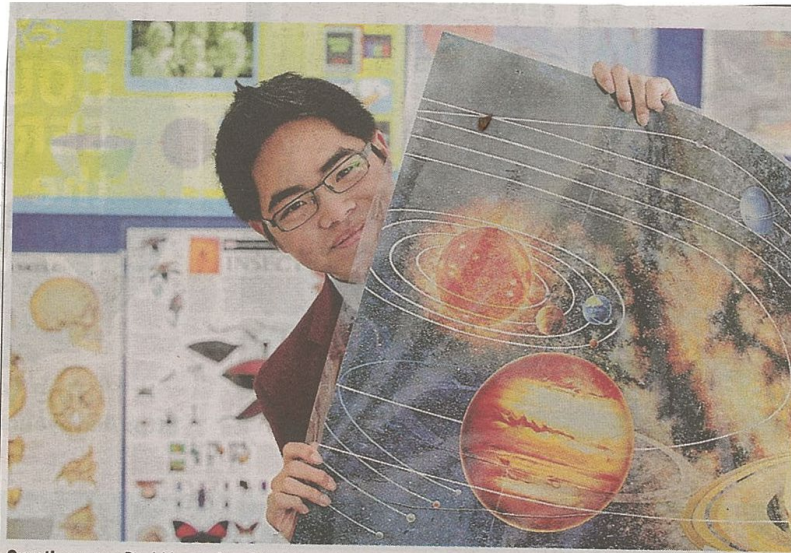
What started out as an awareness campaign turned into a substantial tally of goods to benefit those less fortunate.



Shoppers: [l-r] Marie Pettas, Marsha Marasinghe and Rameena Nissan.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 7, 2013



**Over the moon:** David Le can't wait to attend the space camp at NASA.

Picture: Wesley Loneragan

## Astronautical adventure

By Bianca Martins

EVER wondered what it would be like to travel into space and spend a day in the life of an astronaut?

Cabramatta High School student David Le is about to find out.

The 16-year-old will travel to the USA on September 22 to attend a space camp at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

He will experience hands-on astronautical physical training including weight-

lessness, as well as the emotional demands an astronaut must face.

He said he was excited but also overwhelmed to be visiting NASA.

"I think it's going to be an amazing experience and it's something I'm really looking forward to, especially because I love physics and chemistry," he said.

"I'm also really interested in space and its mysteries so I will be asking lots of questions."

He said he had always wanted to be an astronomer and

study space, which was why the trip had become a dream come true.

The school's head teacher for science Julie Piesse, who will be accompanying David on the trip, said they were among 56 students and teachers across south-west Sydney taking part in the space camp.

While David and Ms Piesse are funding the trip themselves, David received a \$1000 donation from Cabra-Vale Diggers to help him with his costs. He also raised \$500 by selling raffle tickets.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 7, 2013

## OPEN DAY A SHOWCASE OF SERVICES

Council staff built on the success of last year's inaugural Open Day to make this year's a function of facts, familiarisation and fun!

Visitors, including busloads of community groups and students from Cabramatta High School, enjoyed more than 30 stalls showcasing Council's many projects and services.

Some stalls offered showbags, demonstrations and free products.

Council staff went all out to make their stalls bigger, brighter and more informative than last year and were spurred on not only because they wanted to showcase their departments, but also because there were prizes to be won.

The three winning department stalls were Pool Safety (outdoor), Rates (internal) and Waste and Illegal Dumping (most creative).

Two lucky door prizes were drawn, and the lucky winners walked away with a mountain bike and a worm farm.

Thank you to those who attended - we look forward to our Open Day next year and hope to see you there!





# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, August 21, 2013



The Student Voice



FAIRFIELD CITY  
**Champion**

## **CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL**

CABRAMATTA High School held a Best Enemies workshop on Friday to raise awareness about cyberbullying. Guest speaker Ross Bark spoke to year 8 students about how to deal with cyberbullying. The *Champion* asked five students why it was important to raise awareness about cyberbullying.

■ **Sandra Dang, 13 :**

"It's important to know that you have to stick up for your friends and also to tell an adult when someone is experiencing cyberbullying."

■ **Larry Huynh, 13:**

"Most people get bullied over texting and the internet so It's good to learn ways to stop it from happening."

■ **Jerome Dao, 13:**

"It's important that people learn about its effects."

■ **Nue Chan Sau, 13:**

"A lot of people who get bullied feel depressed so by learning about it, it will help stop that and also for them to know that their not alone."

■ **Clementine Kayungu, 13:**

"It's important to support someone who is being bullied by defending them against the bully."



**Awareness:** Cabramatta High School held a Best Enemies workshop on Friday in a bid to raise awareness about cyberbullying.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

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# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

CABRAMATTA HIGH

## Taking aim at bullying

### PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS

Kimberley Caines

YEAR 8 students at Cabramatta High School were asked to close their eyes and put up their hand if they or someone they knew had been bullied. They all did.

The issue has led schools to participate in the Best Enemies education program. This includes a number of workshops focused on cyber-bullying, its issues and how to deal with them.

South West Connect arranged the program to raise awareness of the problem.

"Students learnt that bystanders can make a difference," executive officer Jayne Occhiuto said.

Students watched a short film on a teenager who was

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- A study has revealed one in 10 students in Years 7 to 9 has sent a sexually explicit message via social media
- 73 per cent of 12- to 14-year-olds have smart phones and use Snapchat
- Two in 10 students check Facebook on their phone more than 15 times a day

severely bullied at school, and then acted out a scene.

Student Aaliyah Kim said she used social media to keep in touch with family and friends.

"If I were to be cyberbullied, I would tell my parents or a teacher about it so they could help me with the situation," the 13-year-old said.



Lana Davis, group facilitator for the Best Enemies program, speaks to Year 8 students at Cabramatta High School about anti-bullying strategies.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September, 2013

## Museum visit shines new light on texts



**Special visit:** Cabramatta High School's Year 8 students during their visit to the Jewish Museum at Darlinghurst.

By Nancy Chun

A group of Cabramatta High School's Year 8 English students have a greater understanding of the times surrounding two of their current study texts following a trip to Darlinghurst's Jewish Museum.

Along with their teachers, Diane Ikonomos and Jennifer Duvall, the two classes which are studying the novels *The Diary Of Anne Frank* and *Hana's Suitcase*, made the trek to the city earlier this year.

"The excursion to the Jewish Museum is a really valuable one for our students," Mrs Duvall said. "It helped the students to understand the texts that they had studied in class."

At the museum, the students were shown a short film about what happened to Jewish people before, during and after World War II.

They were also able to hear from a witness who survived the Holocaust. The students were extremely touched and amazed that he was willing to talk about his story so openly.

After a question and answer session, students were divided into two groups and taken on a guided museum tour. They were able to see artefacts, pictures and recorded footage from the Holocaust, which allowed them the chance to gain a real understanding of that particular period of time.

Many agreed, one of the most notable and memorable parts of the museum visit was observing the Children's Memorial.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

## Annual gala day keeps getting better

By Petra Matic

CABRAMATTA High School's years seven and eight students recently had the chance to spend the day decked out in their casual sporting gear.

The special Gala Day was held on Thursday, August 15, and gave the young students the chance to cut loose and show off their sporting abilities.

Throughout the day they took part in a variety of sports, including European handball and volleyball.

While it was the younger students who took to the courts and fields, Gala Day wasn't just held in their honour.

It was also a chance for the coaches of the teams - students from older years - to show off the skills they had acquired from their Physical Activity and Sport Studies (PASS) classes.

The student coaches have been taught many skills, including how to conduct themselves in high pressured situations where they find themselves in charge of



more than one thing on the day.

Their most challenging task was leading their teams to victory.

"Gala Day was a success with students showing great sportsmanship

at every venue," said Cabramatta High School host organiser Peter Pham. "This event gets better every year and the students look forward to it. They are the sporting future of this area."

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday September 11, 2013

## Fit way to start the day

By **William Tang**

WHILE many folk are still wiping the sleep from their eyes, a group of keen Cabramatta High School students are well and truly up and at 'em.

The school's Fitness Club meets from 7.30am on Tuesdays and Fridays for bouts of cardio, strengthening, team-building and game play.

The school actively encourages its students to take part in the club as an extra curricular activity.

As well as helping participants stay fit, the program also aims to help students gain confidence and develop their team building skills.

The Fitness Club has been a feature at Cabramatta High School for the last seven years.

It has proven its popularity with the increased number of students attending the sessions. Students

clearly enjoy the activities, they feel good about themselves and their achievements.

Ms Sophie Le, one of the teachers who operates the Fitness Club, has recently been working with a personal trainer to gain new training ideas and deliver a variety of fun activities to the students each week.

Students who become regular club attendees are rewarded at the end of each year with a camp.

While on the three-day camp, students are able to take part in a range of outdoor recreational activities including rock-climbing, high ropes and many other team games.

Students learn to support and rely on one another.

"What I love most is the variety of students from different backgrounds, working hard together and clearly enjoying fitness," Ms Le said.

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, 11, 2013

## Chronic disease in focus

One third of people who have it here don't even know they have it, so we're trying to raise awareness for people to get blood tested.

— Debbie Nguyen

By Blanca Martins

CABRAMATTA High School has created and launched an animated film focused on hepatitis B in a bid to help raise awareness about the virus.

The short film, *Master Zanzu's hep B masterclass*, discusses statistics on the virus, the ways it can be caught and where to go to get treatment.

It was created using characters made out of plasticine as a way to engage young people.

The film's narrator, Huu Manh Phat Nguyen, said the project, which ran in partnership with Cancer Council NSW, aimed to inform people about the virus so that it could be prevented.

"It's really important because the earlier we can raise awareness about it, the earlier people can get checked and if they have it, get treatment," he said.

"Prevention is the best cure."

The 17-year-old said it took 18 students, from years 10 and 11, 15 weeks to complete the film.

He said that during that time, they learnt much about the virus.

"I learnt a lot about it," Mr Nguyen said.

"Before starting the film, I didn't know what hepatitis B was.



**Raising awareness:** Huu Manh Phat Nguyen is the narrator of the *Master Zanzu's hep B masterclass* film.  
Picture: Wesley Lonergan

Cancer Council NSW community educator for the hepatitis B positive program, Debbie Nguyen, said Fairfield had the highest rate of liver cancer in NSW because of hepatitis B.

"Chronic hepatitis B is a big issue in migrant communities, especially in south-east Asia, which is the reason why we came out to this area and asked students if they wanted to take part in the project," she said.

"One-third of people who have it here don't even know they have it, so we're trying to raise awareness for people to get blood tested."

Ms Nguyen said the short film would be translated into Vietnamese and Chinese before it was distributed to local libraries, community centres and schools.

For more information about hepatitis B, visit [tinyurl.com/o38vuh7](http://tinyurl.com/o38vuh7).

# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

## Devoted mentor's 38 years

By Bianca Martins

IT was a sad but memorable day at Cabramatta High School last Wednesday when one of the school's longest-serving teachers retired after 32 years.

Ronda Gaffey, who started her career at the school in 1981, was farewelled during an afternoon ceremony.

The 69-year-old, who has been the school's Intensive English Centre (IEC) head teacher since 1988, said she would take with her plenty of wonderful memories.

"The highlights would definitely be the students and their life stories," she said.

"I think of the incredible disadvantages that students and their families face and how we're able to help them re-establish their lives."

Ms Gaffey said she had seen many changes during her time at the school.

"There was a lot of Spanish kids when I first started and then we had the Vietnamese refugees, boat people in the '70s and '80s, the Cambodian people, who are some of the most traumatised, then there was the fall-out of Tiananmen Square, we had the Bosnian and Serbian groups and then the Africans and Afghans, Iraqi and Iranian groups come in," she said.

The school's principal, Beth Godwin, said it was through the work of Ms Gaffey that many students began their



**A fine innings:** Ronda Gaffey has retired from teaching after 38 years, starting in London.  
**Picture: Wesley Lonergan**

life in Australia with hope and a direction for the future.

"Ronda has been a champion of students newly arriving in Australia," she said.

"She has fought with passion and determination for their inclusion in Australian education and society.

"She has been the voice of the silent. She has been the hope for those who may have felt helpless.

"She has been instrumental in families finding a new beginning in Australia."

Ms Gaffey said she decided to retire after losing her husband of 45 years earlier this year.

"After I lost him I didn't have the energy to continue so it's bitter sweet that he's not here to share it with me," she said.

"I am now going to explore all the different identities that I have other than my professional identity so I will read a lot of books and hopefully do some volunteer work in the school."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 2 2013

## Farewell to a hero

### CABRAMATTA'S GOODBYE TO ONE SPECIAL TEACHER

Kimberley Caines

LONG-SERVING teacher Ronda Gaffey was hailed a hero at her retirement farewell for her tireless help and support of students newly arrived in Australia.

The 69-year-old Intensive English Centre head teacher at Cabramatta High School retired after 32 years last term.

"It was a very special day. It was lovely saying goodbye to the kids and the people I've known for 25 years or so," Ms Gaffey said.

Ms Gaffey began her career at the school in 1981 and saw many changes during her time, especially the diversity of students.

"We have been through waves of refugee intake and immigration changes, from Vietnamese refugees to boat people to Cambodians to an influx of Chinese people," she said.

Her biggest highlight was listening to student's stories and helping re-establish their lives in Australia.

#### RONDA RETIRES

- **1981:** Ronda Gaffey started her career at Cabramatta High School
- **1988:** Ms Gaffey became the Intensive English Centre head teacher
- **2012:** She received the Education Minister's Award for teaching excellence
- **2013:** Ms Gaffey retired

"Once you get involved with newly arrived students, you just get hooked. I think a lot of them emerge from dark places and are traumatised," she said.

"But seeing their growth ... is very satisfying."

Principal Beth Godwin said she was honoured to work with Ms Gaffey.

"She has been the hope for those who may have felt hopeless," Ms Godwin said.

"I have always considered Ronda's heart to be enlarged and strong to withstand the tales of trauma and the journey to educational freedom."



Ronda Gaffey was farewelled at Cabramatta High.



# Fairfield City Champion

Wednesday, October 2, 2013



**Recycled treasure:** Cabramatta High School students recently hosted a fashion show with a difference.

## Fashion goes from trash to flash

By **Bianca Martins**

STUDENTS from Cabramatta High School's Intensive English Centre (IEC) tapped into their creativity late last term to host their first "Trashion Show".

The project called on participants, aged 11 to 17, to transform rubbish into fashionable clothing. The creations came to life during art lessons.

The school's IEC art teacher May Yang said the idea behind the

project was for students to think about sustainable possibilities for the environment.

"A work of art does not always have to start with a brand new sheet of paper or a new canvas or from the use of the most expensive or finest materials," she said.

"There is a limit to the earth's natural resources so students were asked to think about how to re-use and recycle everyday materials to produce meaningful wearable art pieces."

Ms Yang said the most important aspect of the project was raising awareness about the importance of sustainable living.

"Today, everything can be thrown out too easily," she said.

"Lots of people don't give a second thought about the things they throw out or even acknowledge the harm done to the environment.

"Through this project, IEC students were able to demonstrate that anyone can reduce, re-use and recycle their trash."

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

## David gets spaced out

### TEENAGER TURNS ASTRONAUT

Kimberley Caines

DAVID Le's dream became a reality when he turned into an astronaut and felt what it's like to walk on the moon.

The Year 11 student from Cabramatta High School blasted off with 30 students from south west Sydney to attend the iSTEM and LAZ-STA US Space Academy Program during the holidays.

The students, who have a passion for science, participated in simulated space shuttle missions and conducted science experiments.

"I was the pilot of the Endeavour of the Space Shuttle," David said, who thanked Cabra-Vale Diggers Club for supporting the trip.

#### AT A GLANCE

- David Le attended a trip to South Korea and America during the school holidays
- A highlight of the trip was the Space Academy Program at the US Space and Rocket Centre in Alabama
- He participated in simulated space shuttle missions

"We did various activities and had separate missions. "I loved the whole experience. I would love a career in it (science) because it's a way into the future."

Science head teacher Julie Piesse also attended the two-week trip and said: "They experienced weightless training and what it feels like to lift off earth."



Budding scientist David Le has just returned from a space camp in America courtesy of a \$1000 sponsorship which was donated by Cabra-Vale Diggers.

# Fairfield Advance

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

CABRAMATTA

## Victor says thanks

### UNDERGRAD HAILS LATE STUDENT FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Frances Sacco

A SCHOLARSHIP created in honour of late Cabramatta student Ngoc Tram Nguyen is on offer again next year thanks to some serious fundraising.

A charity ball held last month netted more than \$60,000, with more fundraising planned.

Recipients of the scholarship, which was last awarded in 2012 to Victor Lam, receive \$5000 each year for the first five years of their undergraduate law degree at the University of NSW.

"It's provided me with financial stability," Mr Lam said. "It's meant I could focus more on my work. It would have been much more difficult to do this without the scholarship."

At the ball, Mr Lamb told students from Canley Vale, Fairvale and Cabramatta high schools about the opportunities the scholarship had given him.

"It's a good way to meet like minded people," he

#### AT A GLANCE

- The Ngoc Tram Nguyen scholarship gives \$25,000 over five years to a UNSW undergraduate law student
- Financial hardship is considered when awarding the scholarship
- For details go online to [scholarships.online.unsw.edu.au](http://scholarships.online.unsw.edu.au).

said. "I had a passion for English and just writing in general. I like to argue and to get into conversations with other students and the way this uni teaches law is very practical."

Ngoc Tram Nguyen was a gifted young student whose ambition was to study law and to help friends and her community. She enrolled in the University's preparatory program, but died in an accident in 2004.

UNSW Dean of Law David Dixon said the scholarship aimed to help students like Ms Nguyen, who came to Australia as a young refugee and left school early.



Victor Lam won last year's scholarship.