

WILLETTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

# Newsletter

# ISSUE 6

SEPTEMBER 2023

A photograph of Trevor Hunter, the principal, walking down a set of concrete stairs. He is a middle-aged man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is smiling at the camera. The stairs have a dark metal handrail. The background is a modern building with large glass windows and dark structural elements.

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The passing of Nathan Harvey our Head of Languages has been a sad and difficult time for our school community. Nathan was not just a colleague but a friend, mentor and part of the fabric of our school. Nathan brought passion and enthusiasm to his work and embodied the Willetton spirit in every sense. We miss him.

Nathan's impact on our school will be spoken of in more detail in coming publications throughout the year.

Our busy term is nearly finished. OLNA catch up testing is completed for Year 10-12, Year 9s will be sitting week 3 of next term, and Year 12s are reaching the end of their academic journey. The 12s will be sitting examinations over the holidays and returning for revision and course completion before the ATAR examinations begin in November.

Our executive team were given a tour of our new classroom block which is due for completion by 30 November. It is a magnificent building with 22 classrooms and a Physical Education change room which will alleviate some of the challenges experienced at the beginning and end of PE lessons. I have included a number of building progress photos below.

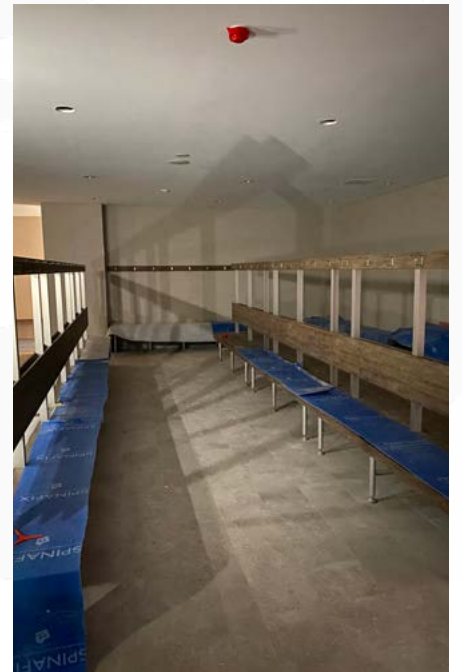
We congratulate the WA Police for locating and charging the driver who struck Lexie on our school crosswalk. We await the outcome of those charges. Meanwhile, we are continuing our negotiations with the City of Canning to enhance visibility on and around that area. Please also remind your children of the challenge the crosswalk attendant faces each day with the large numbers crossing.

Book Week was again a great success with many of our staff and students dressed as their favourite characters. There were many outstanding costumes to celebrate the end of the week, shown further in this newsletter. Many thanks to the English Learning Area and Library who work with staff and students to generate enthusiasm and participation.

The recent Year 11 and 12 dance recital showed the depth of talent our students have across all areas. Congratulations to the 15 students performing as not only was this a fantastic moment to dance in front of their family and friends but was also a major assessment event as they near the completion of their studies. Thanks to the staff and students involved in another successful evening.

I hope all families enjoy a happy and safe holiday break and we look forward to a healthy and productive term to complete 2023.

**Trevor Hunter**





# GENERAL

## MINISTER FOR EDUCATION VISIT

The Minister for Education, the Hon Mr Tony Buti MLA paid us a brief visit on 5 September. He was at the Willetton Basketball Stadium to participate in an Education Forum sponsored by Dr Jags, the member for Riverton.

At the end of the forum, we were pleased to welcome him to a visit of a Year 7 English class, a Year 8 Gifted and Talented Science class and a Year 11 economics class where he chatted to both students and staff.

The minister was accompanied on the tour by Board Chair David Harwood, our Head Girl and Boy and administrative staff.



## LIBRARY

### A new way to search!

Locating books in our library has just become modern. Instead of the library catalogue being on the cumbersome desktop computers, the library now has two wall mounted iPads. The iPad catalogues are stylish and modern. The students have adapted them to search their favourite titles, authors and series.

We are loving hearing students say, *Wow, this is modern and these are swish.*

Thank you to the IT Department for making the library modern.



### Wear it Purple Day

In support of Wear it Purple Day, the library gathered some of the books with purple covers for a display. They looked great, all together.



## INTERACT CLUB

In Interact Club, we have been very busy with our exciting, positivity-spreading fundraiser.

Candygrams, a culmination of a telegram and candy, allows students and staff alike to send each other personalised cards with chocolate. Our effective productivity allowed us to cut and organise over 240 candygrams all within one meeting.

We have been selling these in Week 8 and will be delivering these to the staff and students in Week 9. It has been so great seeing the support from all the students and faculty (some bought 15+ candygrams).



Week 8 also saw the end of the term-long Plush Toy Collection. We collected plush toys under 30 cm for a Rotary-backed organisation: Wheelchairs for Kids. They send wheelchairs overseas to children who wouldn't otherwise have mobility. Along with the wheelchair, they send a complimentary plush toy. Thank you so much to all the Willo staff and students who have donated plush toys.

Interact Club is always open to new members, including staff who are interested in becoming a facilitator. To join, simply come to our meetings every Wednesday recess in E2.

# NAPLAN 2023

Year 7 and 9 students achieved very pleasing results in the 2023 NAPLAN following the introduction of new proficiency standards this year.

Under the new standards, students are assessed against four proficiency levels based on previous years of schooling:

**Exceeding:** The student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.

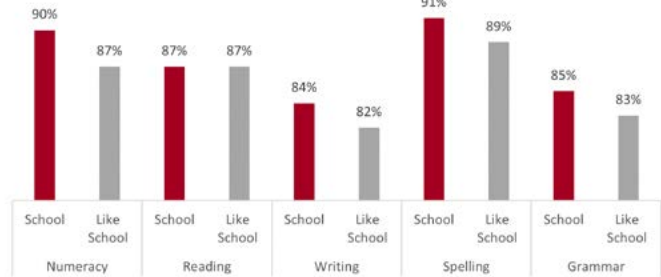
**Strong:** The student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.

**Developing:** The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.

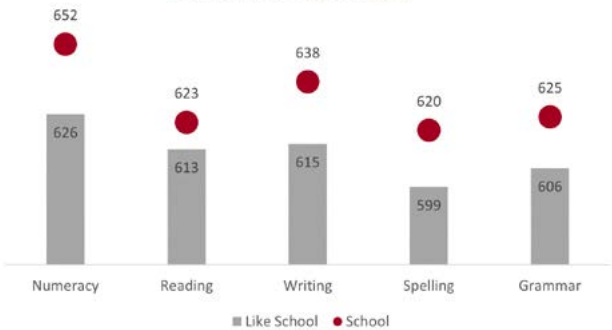
**Needs additional support:** The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

2023 NAPLAN results cannot be compared to results from previous years.

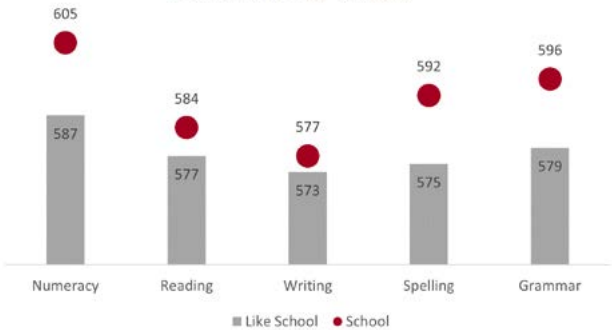
Percentage of Year 7 students exceeding the higher expectations  
(Exceeding and Strong Proficient Levels)



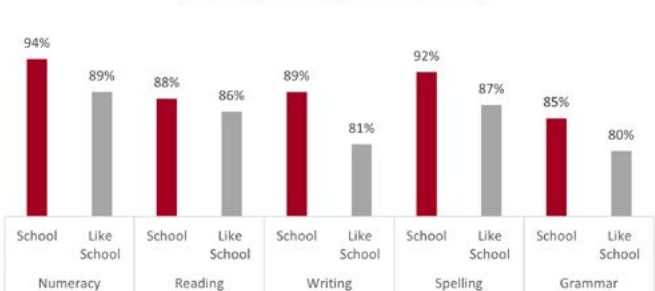
NAPLAN 2023 Year 9 Means



NAPLAN 2023 Year 7 Means



Percentage of Year 9 students exceeding the higher expectations  
(Exceeding and Strong Proficient Levels)





# GIFTED AND TALENTED

## HAVE SUM FUN

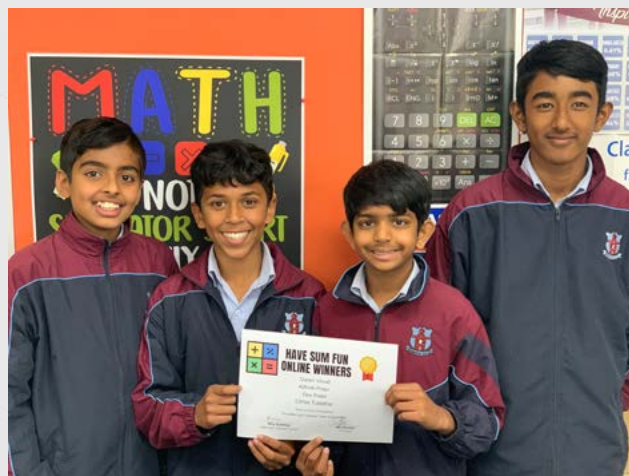
A competition was held in the Year 7 Gifted and Talented Maths classes. The classes worked in groups in the online competition, Have Sum Fun. The competition includes three rounds of questions which are designed to be completed over three weeks. The students had a busy week of testing and we decided to Have Sum Fun and attempt the three rounds within one lesson.



The students thoroughly enjoyed the challenge, and a winning team was decided from each class. Congratulations to the Have Sum Fun Champions.



Team 1: Sadia Azam, Naomi Bandara and Martha Merlas



Team 2: Daren Vinod, Advik Praju, Dev Patel and Cirrus Tuladhar

**Kerri Kalotay**  
**Mathematics Teacher**

## AUSTRALIAN HISTORY COMPETITION WINNERS

Last term, the Gifted and Talented HaSS classes participated in the Australian History Competition. This competition involved over 35,000 students Australia-wide applying their historical knowledge and skills to unseen sources. We achieved outstanding results in this competition, with each year group having scores of 15% above the national average. Callum Dermody and Raina Gupta from Ms Chow's Year 8 class were State Champions, meaning that they jointly received the highest marks in Western Australia. Callum and Raina have received engraved medallions to commemorate their outstanding achievement.



Raina Gupta, Ms Chow and Callum Dermody





*Year 8 Students being instructed by a scientist from The International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research*

## INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR RADIO ASTRONOMY RESEARCH

The Year 8 Gifted and Talented Science classes have been using a radio telescope administered by the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research. Students accessed the telescope and took a whole sky radio wave frequency image. We were able to identify strong emissions from the sun and by applying the formula  $T = \frac{\lambda^2}{2K\Omega} S$  to calculate the temperature of the sun's atmosphere.

We calculated a temperature of 1.14 million degrees. The accepted value varies between 1 and 2 million degrees depending on the sun's activity cycle. We will be monitoring the temperature over the next few months to study the relationship between sunspot intensity and temperature.

**Darren Hamley**  
Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator

## YEAR 9 TRIANGLES & QUADRILATERAL PROOFS

This term, the Year 9 Gifted and Talented classes learnt about congruent triangles and writing proofs for the properties of quadrilaterals. To review their understanding of the concepts, the students worked in teams to play Maths Pictionary and Maths Taboo. Students were given cards with different congruence tests and types of quadrilaterals, where they were required to draw the diagram for their team members to guess or explain the shape without using the taboo words. The students enjoyed applying their knowledge of congruence and quadrilateral properties in a game setting and were made to think outside the box to communicate with their group.

**Ashleigh Colquhoun**  
Mathematics Teacher





## YEAR 10 EXCURSION TO THE LAW COURTS

This term, the Year 10 classes have been learning about our government systems and how disputes are resolved in the different courts of Australia. To further our understanding, Ms Hale and Mr Mabey took the year 10 Gifted and Talented classes to the CBD to visit the courts in person.

Our guide, Dean, took us to various courts, beginning with the Supreme Court, where we revised our knowledge of the different roles within the courtroom. Later, we viewed a drug case in the District Court, followed by a sentencing in the Magistrates' Court for drug possession. Here, we witnessed natural justice being upheld through the use of a translator who allowed the accused (who attended via a zoom call) to understand and communicate with the magistrate. After, we finally viewed a civil case regarding a workplace injury during the construction of a high school.

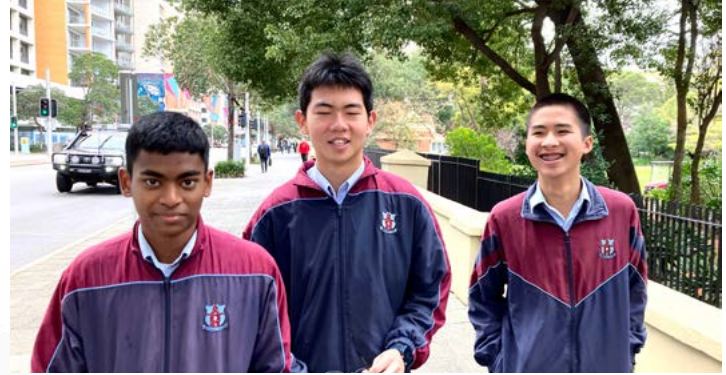
We ended the day by having lunch at an underground food court, Allendale Underground. This was a very valuable experience as we were able to apply the concepts, we learnt in school to real life situations. All in all, we thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to enrich our learning!

### **Elakkiaa Sukumar and Riya Pillai** **Year 10**

In August, Gifted and Talented students learning about Civics and Citizenship, attended the Francis Burt Law Education Centre where they learnt about the court systems and attended various courts in session.

We were shown the Supreme Court and sat in one of the courtrooms, and all the positions and personnel were explained to us. Seeing real cases in the District and Magistrate courts and discussing some of the legal concepts present in the cases, really gave us an idea of what our legal system was all about. We ended our excursion with lunch at Underground at Allendale. The excursion was fun, and one to remember.

### **Benjamin An** **Year 10**



## INSIGHT INTO AUSTRALIA'S ENERGY FUTURE

Year 10 Gifted and Talented Science students participated in their third Energy Club of WA session. Mentors, who are professionals from the energy sector, presented an in-depth perspective of the research and development of alternative forms of energy that major energy producers in Australia have invested in.

In collaboration with their group members, students made predictions about the usage of energy resources at present and in the future. They also looked at the energy requirements in different parts of an electric car.

**Mita Munshi**  
Science Teacher





# ACADEMIC EXTENSION

## YEAR 8 ACADEMIC EXTENSION PROGRAM MOVIE NIGHT

In August, the Year 8s enjoyed their second AEP Movie Night for the year. This time the students selected School of Rock, which showed that the classics never go out of style. The students enjoyed the cinema feel and the snacks included as part of their ticket. Door prizes included Hoyts and Coles vouchers. Thank you to the AEP Student Leaders who helped organise the event and snacks, as well as Mr Harvey and Mr Coe for attending the night.

**Ashleigh Colquhoun**  
**Academic Extension Program Leader**





## TUTOR SQUAD



Tutor Squad is an opportunity for Academic Extension Program students to receive peer tutoring from students in Year 10, 11 or 12. Sessions run on Wednesday afternoons from 2:45 – 3:50 pm. The sessions allow students to receive help from peers in any subject they need and is a fantastic way for tutors to develop their own understanding and skills. The program will be seeking expressions of interest from current Year 9 students to tutor in 2024.

**Ashleigh Colquhoun**  
**Academic Extension Program Leader**

As a tutor, there's so many opportunities for everyone at Tutor Squad. Tutor Squad allows me to put my skills to good use, to help other students and the Willetton community. I get to make new friends from different year groups and learn about their learning experiences, whether they are a tutor or a tutee. As well, it reaps great benefits for those doing Duke of Ed award or for those who just want to do good in the school. Tutor Squad this year was eventful, and I hope I get the chance to do it again next year, whether a tutor or tutee.

**Aliyah Taufiq**  
**Year 10**



# THE ARTS

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

More than 200 students from Senior Concert Band, Middle School Concert Band, Senior Jazz Band, Senior Classical Guitar Ensemble, the Willo Choir and Senior and Middle Contemporary Bands have recently received fantastic feedback following performances at the annual band festivals.

Senior Band, under the baton of Jenni Templar, and Senior Classical Guitar Ensemble, under the baton of Joe Bonini, both received adjudications of Outstanding, which is the highest level given. Middle School Band, under the baton of Iain Robbie, did us proud, receiving an Excellent. We await the results of the other performances.





### **A valuable addition**

Over the last few years our music program and ensembles have grown in size and improved the level of musicianship they play and perform. For example, our top concert band - the Senior Band - have been performing music from the ABODA Band Festival A-Division, but now have the capabilities to delve into some more challenging repertoire from the Premier-Division. This positions us amongst a small, elite group of schools that can play and perform at such a level.

With this increased level of musicianship, higher quality instruments are essential. The Music Department and students thank the School Board and the Finance Committee for funding our new Bass Drum. This new bass drum will allow our students to showcase their talents with even more precision and power. It is a fantastic addition to our music program and will undoubtedly enhance our performances into the future.

**Jenni Templar**  
**Music Teacher**





# ENGLISH

## YEAR 12 PERSUASIVE SPEECHES

Throughout time, the voice of youth has often fought hard, but valiantly, to be heard. And based on the Year 12 ATAR English students' final persuasive speech assessment, it is clear that their voices are meant to be heard.

[Please click here](#) to enjoy Emerlyn Kaur's discussion on Barbie, Dharendra Suresh's musings on museums; and Annabelle Turner and Anton Brown's thoughts on why art should be given the same respect as science.

These speeches were delivered to classes throughout the school in the last teaching week of the Year 12 students' school careers and, as they spoke, Year 12 teachers were able to nod happily, knowing the youth of today will be strong adults of tomorrow.

**Daisy McCauley**  
English teacher

## BOOKWEEK 2023

### READ GROW INSPIRE

This year, Bookweek delivered this theme in spades. Staff and students were abuzz with literary love throughout the week. Please enjoy this (small) snapshot of the week and the fantastic photos!

### PENGUINS

Inspired by Frank's Red Hat, the cute as a button picture book by Sean Avery, 27 penguins were hidden around the school at the beginning of Bookweek. When over 20 of the penguins were found and returned to the library on the first day, the pressure was on to find the remaining penguins throughout the week. Your correspondent saw the last penguin on Friday hiding in Mr Webb's dressing gown pocket (he was dressed up as Arthur Dent of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy fame). Congratulations to all of the beady eyed students who found them.



## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

All week Mrs Coten and her indefatigable library officers ran a series of activities in the library for our literary bookworms. An enormous penguin puzzle and French knitted scarves took shape over the week. Students also feverishly embraced the Blind Date with a Book stall and their gold coin contributions have gone towards our donation to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. To our wonderful library staff, thank you for donating so many of your recess and lunch times.



## DAILY QUIZZES

Year 7s would have had an easy time guessing the Thursday daily notice quiz which constituted a picture of a sharp hammer. In fact, it was a hatchet, to denote the popular Year 7 set text Hatchet by Gary Paulsen. Congratulations if you succeeded in guessing the quizzes.

## CLASS READING COMPETITION

Teachers are a competitive bunch, and this was on show as teachers across the school took part in the best Class Reading Competition. There were some fantastic submissions from the Maths learning area in particular. The prize winners who enjoyed a class sized canteen voucher are:

### 1st Place: Ms Goldsmith – Year 10 Dance



### 2nd Place: Ms Stevenson – Year 12 Philosophy



### 3rd Place: Ms Bruder's – Year 11 Design



And an honourable mention to Miss Leal's Year 7 class who ate their books.



## DRESS UP DAY AND BEST DRESSED COMPETITION

To the dulcet tones of the Minions from Despicable Me singing through the speakers in the Quad, Friday 25 August was a riot of colour as students and staff alike flaunted their favourite character dress ups in the quad.



Judges, Miss McCauley, Mr Hanley and Mrs Packirisamy, were hard pressed to choose their best dressed for each of the categories, and they ended up inventing new prizes to cater for the incredible innovation, creativity and passion of our students! Students who took out the 'big' prizes were lucky enough to take home Bunbogu notebooks and pens while students who took out the minor categories will be enjoying some canteen treats throughout the remainder of the term.

# BOOKWEEK BEST DRESSED PRIZE WINNERS



## BEST GROUP DRESS UP

Cat in the Hat  
Sarena Carusi,  
Caitlynn Simon,  
Annelize Stipp,  
Fiona Subysh,  
Laura Chapman,  
Riki (Niharika)  
Benjamin,  
Connie Zhou

And the Telle Tubbies:  
Amelia De Felice,  
Rose Kingston,  
Erika Hassell,  
Cynthia Stewart

But of course, the staff also got involved in the Best Dressed Competition and they battled it out in their own competition. Congratulations to the prize winners:

1. The Pied Piper – Ms Judy Gauci
2. Sid from Toy Story – Mr Alec Kanganas
3. Character from 1984 – Mr Brett Boughton

And an honourable mention to Mr Kevin Perkins who looked menacing as a terrifying Viking.

## BONBOUGO PRIZES!



Most original and unusual  
Alyssa Picknoll,  
Annabelle Turner Year 12



Simple but Effective  
Leela Ipock 10



Most Fantastical  
Lillian Stanton-  
Cooke Year 7



Craftiest (all handmade)  
Huan Yi Choo (Max) Year 12



Best thing that moves  
Arianny Chan Year 7



Best non-human  
Alden Little Year 7

## EXTRA PRIZES – CANTEEN VOUCHERS

Stephanie Irons – Year 11

Duncan Evans – Year 12

Ethan Green Year 9

Lakshmi Dinesh – Year 7



## STAFF MORNING TEA

On 25 August staff also enjoyed a Literary Morning Tea put on by the English department. All the food was related to some sort of literary pun. For example, have you read *The Great Gatsby*. Well, perhaps you would enjoy the Great Gateau cake! Or are you a fan of *Catcher in the Rye*? You might have liked to sink your teeth into the rye bread sandwiches . . . The camaraderie and joy of teaching was visible on the faces of all who joined the English Department to celebrate this special day.



## FUNDRAISING

Throughout the week students and staff raised a whopping \$375 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. This all came from gold coin donations for the Blind Date with a Book and the Staff Literary Morning Tea. We couldn't have done it without you!

## THANK YOU!

To conclude, we thank the following people who were just some of the fantastic staff and students who helped make this week a success:

- Our wonderful Library staff
- The Bookweek committee
- Mr Taylor for the awesome photos
- The English staff
- Joe, Wendy and Adam, our IT specialists
- Gardening staff
- Year coordinators
- The executive team
- Matthew Langford for his work at Year 11 Assemblies
- And you, for making this a success!

Signing off for another year.

**Daisy McCauley**  
English Teacher













## NORMAN JORGENSEN VISITS OUR YEAR 7S

It's not every day you get to sit in the library, eagerly anticipating tales of smugglers, grave digging, gold and trips across the globe. However, Miss Manzi's, Miss Leal and Miss McCauley's Year 7s were lucky enough to experience just this when local author, Norman Jorgensen visited the school.

Miss Manzi's class were particularly enthralled, because they studied his novel *The Smuggler's Curse* as their class novel. Mr Jorgensen's description of grave digging and the gold bullion he once found treasure hunting captured the imagination of everyone.

We would like to thank Miss Manzi who worked tirelessly to provide us with this awesome opportunity. Thank you also to Mrs Coten, our teacher librarian, and the library officers who helped rearrange the library for his talk.

Happy adventures everyone!

**Laura Manzi, Cris Leal and Daisy McCauley**  
English Teachers



L-R: Rozin Razzaq, Zoraiz Masood, Nathan Pham, Jose Aya Rodriguez, Eddy Yu, Abdallah Ali, Kiash Desai

## MAKING THE INTANGIBLE CONCRETE

One of the challenges of ATAR courses is learning complex and invisible concepts. Year 11 and 12 ATAR English students will be very familiar with the terms such as 'voice', perspective, tone and mood. However, Mrs Rossi's Year 11 class found a novel way of representing the latter. Here are her students representing an exciting mood. Congratulations guys!

**Kate Rossi**  
English Teacher



# HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

## AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION

In Term 2 of this year, students from Year 8 and Year 7-10 GT classes challenged their geographical skills and knowledge in the annual Australian Geography Competition.

Our students were amongst 65 000 students Australia wide from 700 state and private schools who took part in the 2023 Australian Geography Competition, which has been running for thirty-one years. Willetton Senior High School was once again well represented in the competition with 514 students taking part.

The table below indicates the number of students at Willetton Senior High School who received the higher certificates.

(HD High Distinction, D Distinction and C Credit)

Willetton SHS Results			
No. of students	HD	D	C
<b>514</b>	72	70	92
<b>%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>

The following nine students are to be commended on their fine results, achieving a certificate of **HIGH DISTINCTION and finishing in the top 1% in Australia.**

Year 7 - **Ethan Yuen**, with a score of 86.67%

Year 8 - **Callum Dermody** (79.33%), **Raina Gupta** (75.33%), **Max Kriswahyudi** (83.33%), **Kenzie Atha Prawira** (77.67%).

Year 9 - **Christian Joel Bismonte** (77.5%)

Year 10 - **Aayan Abid** (82.5%), **Cohen Beveridge** with a score of 86.88%, which was the highest score at Willetton Senior High School, and **Emily Yap** (81.88%).

Congratulations to all the students who took part in this year's competition.

**John Maxwell**  
**Head of Humanities and Social Sciences**



L-R: Raina Gupta, Emily Yap, Max Kriswahyudi, Cohen Beveridge, Aayan Abid and Kenzie Atha Prawira

# LANGUAGES

## CLASS NOVEL STUDY – YEAR 8 EALD

During the past few weeks, our class worked on a short novel called Camel Rider, written by the Australian author Prue Mason. This story introduces the fact that even with language and cultural differences, people can still make friends and work together in a beneficial way.

Our class has enjoyed reading and understanding the culture differences between the two main characters, Walid and Adam, and learnt that even in this civilized modern world, there is still poverty and exploitation.

**Xiaoran Gao**  
**Year 8**



*Book Week, Year 8 pretending to ride camels*

## YEAR 12 会話デー KAIWA DAY

Each year the Japanese Teachers' Association of WA organises Year 12 会話デー (conversation day) to help students prepare for the ATAR practical exam. Again this year, the event was held at Willetton and was attended by nearly 200 people. Year 12 student, Emma Htut, reflects on the day.

Kaiwa Day was a fantastic opportunity for students to improve their Japanese speaking skills as we were not only exposed to questions from real ATAR examiners but we also got the chance to listen to other students' responses from other schools. This was very helpful in preparing for our speaking test and exams as we could practise phrases and vocab from the that may be useful in those tests and in any future Japanese study.

It was also an enjoyable experience as we were able to talk to other students studying Japanese, listen to some of the teachers' interesting stories and watch a very entertaining exam roleplay performance which we all loved. I think Willetton students, in particular, got to really shine and show off their Japanese ability on the day and it really showed how skilled our Japanese students and staff are.

Kaiwa day is definitely not a day to miss as a language student and I am very thankful for this experience.

**Emma Htut**  
**Year 12**





## INTERCULTURAL/WAATI EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Hi everyone,

I am Massimiliano and I'm from Rome, Italy. I arrived in Perth on 19 July 2023 and started shortly after at Willetton to begin my two months as an exchange student as part of the Intercultural/WAATI exchange programme.

This experience, for me, has been like a rollercoaster of feelings and emotions and excitement. I discovered a country that I have longed to visit ever since I was a child, and which now will always have a special spot in my heart. During these two months, I met so many nice people whom I will never forget and became a part of a school that, before I arrived, felt like an unattainable dream but which very quickly became true.

Being a part of an exchange program does not just mean visiting a city, a country, and so on; it's so much more. For two months I became an Australian citizen, travelling around WA and seeing many beautiful places. I discovered a

completely new culture which in reality is full of different cultures. I learned to become more independent and to face difficult situations by myself, thousands of miles away from my home. I know, it sounds scary, but actually it's been a beautiful opportunity for me to grow. Even staying in a home with people I had never met before sounded worrying but as soon as I got in touch with them, I immediately felt like I had found my second family – a family that I will miss so much. I have to be honest though: realizing that I would not be in my comfort zone with my friends and family for such a long period was not easy, but as soon as I arrived in the country that I had always wanted to visit I realized that I was living one of the best experiences of my life. This helped me a lot to forget about all my worries. For this reason, I would highly recommend anyone who can, to go on an exchange, wherever you want to go. I am absolutely sure you will never regret it.



## A LETTER FROM 2009 ALUMNUS

To the languages learning area

I wanted to write to you about what I've been doing.

One of my most favourite moment at WSHS was interacting with Japanese high school exchange students that would come visit our school every year. I had studied Japanese and thought it was exciting to put the language learning into practice. Just saying the most basic phrases and being understood was fun. Talking in a foreign language felt like communicating in morse code and only the ones who studied could understand it. Japanese is said to be one of the most difficult languages to learn for an English speaker and I wanted to take on the challenge. My Japanese wasn't perfect in high school but the exposure of studying the language and culture strongly inspired me to try experiencing life abroad in Japan one day.

Since graduating from high school I went to study Mechatronics Engineering and Japanese at the University of Western Australia (UWA). My course allowed me to study abroad and I did just that and fulfilled my high school dream of studying abroad in Japan for a year at age 21. Life as a university exchange student was exciting. Everything was different. Food, culture, traditions, clothes, technology and way of living. I had experienced many culture shocks, painful and awkward experiences but



thankful that it had taught me valuable life lessons such as cross-cultural awareness and learning to communicate with people of different cultures and backgrounds. This is especially important in an ever-growing globalised world. This is useful if you plan to work in global companies or overseas.

After graduating from university, I knew I had to put my Japanese language skills and study abroad experience to good use. I searched through countless of job ads and found my first career with Mitsubishi Corporation (a top tier Japanese trading company) that was involved in the oil and gas industry in Western Australia. Mitsubishi Corporation is not to be mistaken for Mitsubishi Motors Corporation which manufactures cars. I worked as an analyst and helped with the development of oil and gas projects in WA. The gas you use for heating your house or the gas you use for your Sunday barbeques were the type of gas we were exploring for.

After my first stint of four years, I decided I wanted to learn Mandarin Chinese in Taiwan for a year. A friend recommended studying at NTNU (National Taiwan Normal University) which happened to be where Australia's former prime minister Kevin Rudd also studied Chinese. I went to Taiwan in early 2020 and stayed there for two years. I had plan to stay for one year but COVID-19 happened and I ended up staying for two. At the end of my Taiwan journey I could confidently say I was trilingual, English, Japanese and Mandarin Chinese.

As of writing, I'm currently in my early 30s and working in Tokyo for a Vietnamese IT company called FPT Software Japan. I'm lucky that I'm involved in the IT tech industry which is now a growing and booming industry. I get to use my English, Japanese and Chinese skills at work on a daily basis and now also learning Vietnamese to help better understand my colleagues.

I'm not sure what the future will hold but I'm confident that my transition into the IT tech industry will help my career in the long term. If you asked my Year 12 self what I would be doing in 10 years' time, I probably would have said I'd still be in Perth. Fast forward today, I'm overseas living and working in Tokyo, Japan.

**Jackie Wong**  
**Class of 2009**

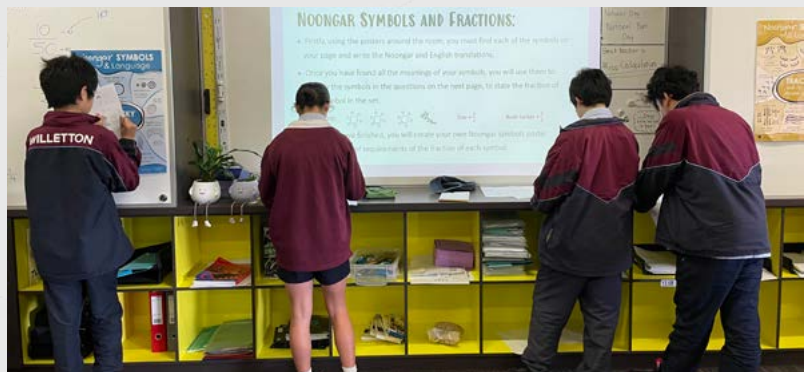


# MATHS

## YEAR 7 FRACTIONS & NOONGAR SYMBOLS

This term, the Year 7 cohort have been learning about fractions. As the school also celebrated Naidoc Week, the Year 7s applied their knowledge of fractions while learning about Noongar symbols and their meanings. Students learnt about the significance of symbols in Noongar culture, as well as the different translations of symbols. Students were tasked with stating the fraction of each type of symbol in a group of symbols, before they created their own Noongar posters, meeting different fraction requirements. They enjoyed applying their understanding of fractions whilst learning about Noongar culture, as well as getting creative.

**Ashleigh Colquhoun and Nichola Steer**  
Mathematics Teachers

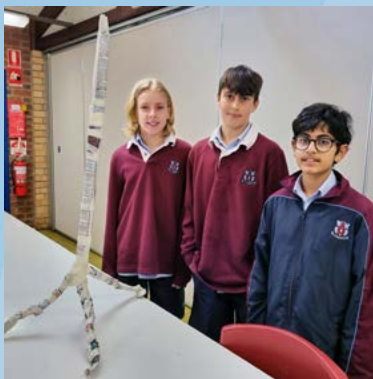


# SCIENCE

## SCIENCE WEEK







## TOWER BUILDING

During Science Week, the Year 7 science students were given a challenge to construct the tallest tower they could within a 30-minute time frame. The tower had to be sturdy enough to stand independently for at least a minute and withstand gusts of wind from a pedestal fan set at maximum speed, which was placed two metres away. Congratulations to Raj Hande, Michael Simpson, Jeremy Xiao and Jayson Fu, who came first in their respective classes for their impressive builds.

**Kath Davies and Michael Hu**  
Science Teachers

## PAPER PLANE COMPETITION

In addition to the tower building competition in which all Year 7 students participated, Mr Ta organised the paper plane competition.

Mr Taylor dazzled students by turning glass to metal and Mr Singh caused excitement with his thermite reaction in the yard.



## WEST OZ WILDLIFE INCURSION

To celebrate Science week, some classes of Year 7-9 students were offered a special treat. They had an up-close experience with some of our amazing native animals.

Presenters brought a range of different Australian animals. These animals included a koala called Judah, Yappa the dingo, pythons, and a goanna.

This experience was really appreciated by students, as the joy and enthusiasm on their faces was seen, as they held and touched the animals.

By raising awareness about our native animals and their conservation, this opportunity will have a positive impact on the future of our environment and our precious endangered species.

**Gloria Wynhorst**  
Science Teacher







# VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## ALL GO, GO, GO WITH THE YEAR 12 CAREER AND ENTERPRISE

### SMALL BUSINESSES

As part of the Year 12 Career and Enterprise course students learned and reflected on their skills working as part of a random team effective communication, capabilities in planning and organising and ensuring all the boxes have been ticked and approved by different sections of the school.

This reflects, in part, the challenges of transitioning from school to TAFE, University, apprenticeships, working and learning and balancing them all with life.

Our businesses in 2023 had the ups and downs of a roller coaster.... there were mistakes, problems and creative thinking which helped to smooth the way forward when students were on camp and not available, or the pressures of the day of the small business, or when "sales" were slow.

Our businesses included cupcakes, brownies, honey cornflakes, chocolate crackles, chips and gravy, spicy noodles, red velvet cupcakes, have hair sprayed yellow, green, red or blue on carnival day, caramilk slice... who can eat the spiciest noodles, fruit sticks, fresh juices .... And ALL was to recoup the \$45 loan and then to make a profit.



We had a special guest on campus in the quad - Batman, he was there to attract customers to the red velvet cupcake and caramilk slice business. We also had e energy and the grooviest dancing style

of all time encouraging those testing themselves eating spicy noodles... all to music with a it's hot theme.

Our profits in 2023 came to a staggering \$1,515.60 after each group repaid their \$45 loan.

Students take the distribution of the profits very seriously. Over the lifetime of completing this task, students from over 17 years have donated over \$20,000 to the community to support research, care of animals, support cancer care and research or MS.

The organisations to which the 2023 profits will be sent include:

- Beyond Blue
- Breast Cancer Research Centre WA

- Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research
- UNICEF
- Red Cross
- Cancer Council WA
- Motor Neurone Disease Association of Western Australia
- UNHRC

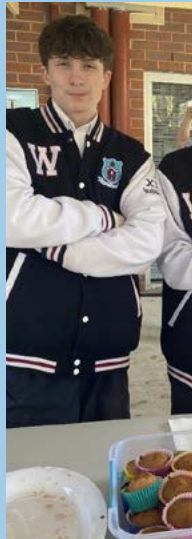
Again, it was a win situation for our students writing great assessments from their small business adventure and for the community with the generous donations from our students who are to be congratulated on their amazing creativity, business efforts and success.

**Ruth Barratt**  
**Career and Enterprise Teacher**











# SCHOOL BOARD

## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The next School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 October. A list of Board meetings for this year can be found on the school website, under the School Board information.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP - YEAR 8 2024

Willetton Senior High School celebrates its position as the inaugural WA Secondary School of the Year by offering a scholarship to a student entering Year 8 in 2024.

The Willetton school community is committed to maximising the intellectual, creative, and social growth of its students. Our school strives to develop competent, skilled, and socially responsible citizens who recognise they are members of a world community, respect the needs of others and have a sense of self-worth and future direction.

We wish to recognise a student who is showing strong leadership skills.

One scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in Year 8 at Willetton Senior High School in 2024.

The recipient of the WA Secondary School of the Year Scholarship will receive:

- The WA Secondary School of the Year Scholarship 2024 award and certificate
- Payment of 2024 Year 8 subject contributions and charges

- \$300 uniform voucher, kindly donated by Uniform Concepts
- Leadership training opportunities

Interested students should pick up an application form from Mrs Kathryn Young in the main school admin office. As this is a leadership scholarship, applications forms will not be emailed and may only be collected by the student

### APPLICATIONS CLOSE 2:00PM WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2023 (WEEK 3, TERM 4)

Late applications will not be considered. Applications should be returned to:

Mrs Kathryn Young  
School Board Executive Officer  
Willetton Senior High School Board  
Pinetree Gully Road  
Willetton WA 6155

An email confirmation will be sent upon receipt of application.

Short-listed applicants will be contacted by Wednesday 8 November 2023 (Week 5) with interviews scheduled to take place on Monday 13 November 2023 (Week 6).

The successful applicant will be notified by Monday 20 November 2023 (Week 7).



## ENTERTAINMENT MEMBERSHIP FUNDRAISER

### FUNDRAISING WITH entertainment

Entertainments memberships continue to be available for purchase through the School Board.

Your Entertainment Membership gives access to thousands of deals, with 20% of your membership purchase going towards a Student Leadership Development Program initiated by the Board. Your support is much appreciated.

Your savings from dining out a couple of times will quickly pay for the cost of your membership!

#### **Your VIP Upgrade Awaits - Get a Multi City Membership when you purchase any Single City Membership**

A Membership to The Entertainment App will provide you with VIP access to play, dine and save across Australia and New Zealand. For a limited time only, you can get a bonus Multi City upgrade on any Single City 3, 12 or 24 month Membership purchased. You can unlock exclusive access to thousands of discounts on the best restaurants, events and experiences across 20 cities for as little as \$29.99. Plus 20% from every membership purchased goes back to raising funds for our cause! Buy now to ensure you don't miss out on this VIP offer.

ORDER HERE - <https://subscribe.entertainment.com.au/fundraiser/904a46>



For enquiries, please contact Kathryn Young on [9334 7236](tel:93347236) or email [willetton.shs.schoolboard@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:willetton.shs.schoolboard@education.wa.edu.au).



# SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS PROGRAM

We have registered with Gilbert's Fresh Market, Southlands to be part of the Support Our Schools Program. Please sign up with them and for every purchase you make in store, 1% of your purchase spend will be donated to the school. It does not cost to sign up, and it's an easy way for you to support the school. To date, nearly \$3,000 has been raised, with these funds being put towards student scholarships

# HOW TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

	Trading Hours during school term	Location
<b>Secondhand Bookshop</b>	Wed 9am-11.30am  For enquiries phone 9334 7282 during trading hours	Room B23 in the Undercover Area, next to the Canteen.  Eftpos facilities now available
<b>Secondhand Uniform Shop</b>	Wed 9.15am - 11.15am  For enquiries phone 9334 7236 during trading hours	In the PAC building

# HOW TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

To find out more about the School Board or how you might get involved, please contact Kathryn Young, School Board Executive Officer on [9334 7236](tel:93347236) or email [willetton.shs.schoolboard@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:willetton.shs.schoolboard@education.wa.edu.au)



**SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

**Support Our Schools - SOS Program**

Gilbert's Fresh Market will donate 1% of the money spent by you to your nominated school every time you shop with us.

**Don't delay! Join our SOS Program today!**

- Sign up In store
- Present your SOS Card for scanning at the checkout each time you shop
- Start to earn the benefits for your school straightaway

**Get your entire school community involved and earn more funds for your school.**



**GILBERT'S FRESH MARKET**

Open 7 Days

**Gilbert's Fresh Market**

[www.gilbertsfresh.com.au](http://www.gilbertsfresh.com.au)



## ALUMNI NEWS

### ALUMNI MERCHANDISE ON SALE

Do you miss your time at Willo? Feeling nostalgic? You can purchase some great alumni merchandise and keep the Willo spirit alive. For a limited time, purchase any two alumni items and receive the third item free (lowest priced item). We have a range of hoodies, bomber jackets, t-shirt and caps starting from \$25.

Please contact Kathryn Young at [kathryn.young@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:kathryn.young@education.wa.edu.au) for enquiries or to purchase.

### ALUMNI REUNIONS

Organising a Willo reunion?

Send your details to [willetton.shs.alumni@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:willetton.shs.alumni@education.wa.edu.au) and we'll be happy to post it on our alumni Facebook page.