

# INSIDE NEWS



SCHOOL OF ISOLATED & DISTANCE EDUCATION





## IN THIS ISSUE

A Message from the Principal	4
English	5
The Arts	8
Online Teaching Learning	9
Career & Vet	10
Design & Technology	16
Humanities & Social Sciences	18
Health & Physical Education	20
Languages	22
Library Resource Centre	26
Maths	30
Curriculum Support	31
Primary School K-6	32
RTO	38
Science	40
Student Services	42
2024 Leavers	44

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

SIDE is honoured to serve community on the ancestral lands of our first Australians. We pay respect to Elders past and present.

We recognise the unique and incomparable contribution the Aboriginal people have made, and continue to make, to our culture, our workplace, and community.

### SCHOOL OF ISOLATED & DISTANCE EDUCATION

Office: 164-194 Oxford Street, Leederville WA 6007  
Postal Address: PO Box 455 Leederville WA 6903

[side.wa.edu.au](https://side.wa.edu.au)

[facebook.com/DistEdWA](https://facebook.com/DistEdWA)

[@sideschoolwa](https://instagram.com/sideschoolwa)

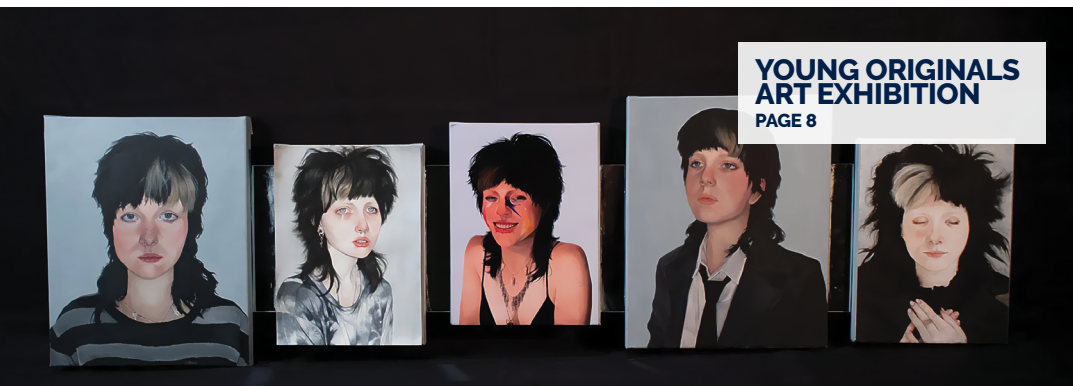




**2025 ABC  
HEYWIRE  
WINNERS**  
PAGE 5



**TOM  
MEETS  
HIS HERO**  
PAGE 31



**YOUNG ORIGINALS  
ART EXHIBITION**  
PAGE 8



**SLAZENGER CUP  
CHAMPIONS**  
PAGE 20



**MINI  
INDUSTRY  
ROADSHOW**  
PAGE 14



**CONGRATULATIONS 2024 LEAVERS**  
PAGE 44



**YOUTH  
PARLIAMENT**  
PAGE 19



**PREMIER'S  
READING  
CHALLENGE**  
PAGE 26





## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

---

**Hello members of our school community and welcome to the final newsletter for 2024.**

In the blink of an eye I have been at this fantastic school for 4 years! It seems almost surreal to be writing another end of year Principal's Welcome for our newsletter!

As is usual at one of the largest schools in WA that reaches across 180 partner schools and 4000 students, there is so much occurring. A very recent significant and appreciated moment was the commitment of the Premier of WA, The Honourable Roger Cook, MLA, to miss some of the final sitting day of Parliament to attend our Year 12 Class of 2024 Leaver's Event. In my time in education, I have not heard of the Premier attending as an invited guest, a school Leaver's event. The Premier's choice to join us provides an idea of the esteem in which SIDE is regarded.

Semester 2 saw our school continue to provide students with opportunities and pathways to success and this newsletter captures some of these moments to be proud of. Of course there are many other occasions that may not have made this newsletter but are equally important.

One of our school's greatest strengths is the care we show for our students. Feedback from our diverse student body suggests it's time to reconsider the name of our school to better reflect our inclusivity. It is important all students feel included and our current name is not a true representation of our diversity. Approval to commence a wide consultation process is underway, with more information to be provided in 2025.

I would like to acknowledge the teachers that are heading into retirement or taking up different opportunities at the end of the year and I thank them for their contribution to our students and school community.

I thank all our community for the trust you have given SIDE and your ongoing commitment to support us in our vision to enhance and expand learning opportunities for WA students through high quality inclusive and culturally responsive learning programs in a blended learning environment.


I hope you all has a relaxing and connected holiday period and a merry Christmas to those in our community who celebrate.

Remember, your feedback is important and please reach out via [paul.mathews@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:paul.mathews@education.wa.edu.au) to share your student's experience with me.

Warm regards

**Paul Mathews**  
Principal





**“I WENT FROM A CROWDED CITY IN THE PHILIPPINES TO A TINY TOWN ON THE EDGE OF THE NULLARBOR”**



## **HEYWIRE**

### **2025 ABC HEYWIRE WINNERS!**

We are delighted to share the exciting news that current Year 12 SIDE student, Jillian, from Norseman in Ngadju Country, and former Year 11 Pannawonica-based SIDE student, Sammy, from Ardyaloon (also known as One Arm Point) in Bawa Jawi Country, have just been announced as 2025 ABC Heywire Winners!

Jillian and Sammy are the recipients of an all-expenses paid trip to the ABC Heywire Summit in Canberra in March 2025 to represent their communities and the state of Western Australia.

In 2025, the 38 ABC Heywire National Storytelling Winners will spend a very busy week working together, as emerging youth leaders, to workshop and develop solutions for the challenges facing our youth in rural, regional and remote Australia.

Listen to their stories at:  
[abc.net.au/heywire](https://abc.net.au/heywire)

**“WHEN I THINK OF ARDYALOOON I THINK OF MY GRANDMOTHER”**





## YEAR 12 JOURNEYS

**Literature is the perfect example of how stories, poems and any form of writing, can take one on a journey.**

Year 12 students were immersed in the consequences of an Elizabethan shipwreck on an almost deserted island in the Mediterranean (Shakespeare's *The Tempest*), examined the social fabric of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century England's industrial and political turmoil (the poems of William Blake, and Dickens' novel *Great Expectations*), and contemplated the beautifully evocative and poignant "What If's?" of Kim Scott's moving novel about first encounter set in the south-west of WA (*That Deadman Dance*). Gwen Harwood's poetry about the experience of mid-century Australia made a good anchor point of reference for these diverse texts.

These students were from all around Western Australia, from Midlands to Morawa and Christmas Island but they all shared philosophical insight as they broadened their horizons.

Teacher Anne was fortunate to visit Morawa District High School, where she connected with students Aimee M and Sophie S in the library.

Congratulations to all the students in Literature, and every other English subject, for their persistence and adaptability. Hopefully their love of stories continues into adulthood.

Explore culture over the holidays by completing this English Bingo Board.

### ENGLISH BINGO BOARD

Read a book	See a play	Produce a comic
Watch a movie	Speak in front of an audience	Write a poem
Answer a journal prompt	Design a poster	Create a short film

# Student stories

## Lucia Richardson

Year 11 Lucia Richardson has been learning about media representation in her English classes. Now, she is experiencing it from the other side. Within the span of a week, she has appeared in The National Indigenous Times and The Canberra Times. Lucia is a talented Yamatji acrobat and dancer who is showcasing her skills all around Australia.

Being in the newspaper is not a new experience for Lucia. The story of her being offered a position at the prestigious national youth circus 'Flying Fruit Fly' appeared in The Geraldton Times. Since then, she has moved her training to New South Wales, where she trains and performs. Her representation, both on stage and in the media is very important to her.

*"I think of all the times my cousins and I would do back walkovers and handstands in the backyard. I want other Indigenous kids to see me and know that these opportunities are out there for them too,"*

she told The National Indigenous Times.

Lucia's travels have allowed her many opportunities to pursue her dream. A highlight for her was visiting King Charles III during his trip to Australia from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. The future is bright for Lucia, and she has an understanding of how she is being represented.

## Jim

Year 8 Jim from Jubilee Down Stations has impressed his English teachers for his overall enthusiasm, and for completing a strong response to the class's viewing of the Disney film Wall-E. While this 2008 film was not Jim's favourite, he was still able to analyse the message of the theme and create a brilliant response to it.

When asked what he learnt during his viewing of this subject, Jim replied,

*"That we need to be more careful with how much rubbish we throw away to landfill, look at more ways to recycle and use less package items".*

This is a valuable message that Jim is sure to keep with him, otherwise Earth might turn into the planet depicted in the film.

Jim joins SIDE from a station in the Kimberley, a place free from litter and pollution. His experience with Kimberly School of the Air meant he was comfortable with an online education. He loves learning new things and seeing if he can get a good grade.

With all of Jim's history with online education, he welcomes everyone who is starting it for the first time. His advice to all new students, and even to some experienced students is to, 'be enthusiastic and join in at class time.'

## Lance S

Lance S's life changed when he moved from the Philippines to Hall's Creek in 2023. His father's work led to this shift, and Lance has embraced the change in lifestyle. He currently completes three subjects through SIDE, including English as an Additional Language – General. During this subject, he has been taught how to write emails. Lance was asked a few questions and wrote the following email to share his experiences in Australia.

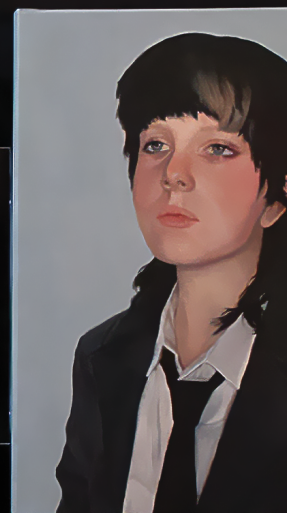
*"When I first arrived in Western Australia, Halls Creek. Is different than the Philippines. I was captivated by the relaxed vibe and the friendly smiles of locals, making me feel welcomed in this new environment."*

*Starting school in Western Australia was a significant change. Back home, the education system was more traditional, with a focus on learning. I noticed more learning. Classes encouraged thinking and creativity, which felt refreshing. The sports were also a pleasant surprise. I quickly realize hard learning style, finding it both exciting and dedicated to learning new things."*

*One unique aspect of my education was the SIDE (School of Isolated and Distance Education) lessons. At first, I was unsure about online learning, but I soon found it to be a valuable resource. The flexibility allowed me to learn, and the interactive lessons made complex topics more accessible. I appreciated how the teachers were supportive, making sure we felt connected even though we were physically apart. This experience taught me self-discipline and to work hard to study skills that I know will be beneficial in my future studies."*

*As I navigate my schooling in Western Australia, at Halls Creek my aspirations for the future are becoming a marine pilot. After when I finish schooling in high school, and I dream of learning a degree in oceanography and communication efforts. And volunteering in a pool as a pool lifeguard like work experiences. Here have inspired me to learn new things. I hope to work with organisations focused on marine pilots, bringing my experiences from the Philippines and Australia."*





## Visual Arts

# YOUNG ORIGINALS EXHIBITION



UNCHARTED BY JOEY S

Ella B from Manjimup Senior High School and Joey S from Wongan Hills District High School were proud to have their artwork on display at the [Young Original Exhibition](#).

As stated in her Artist Statement, Ella's piece 'What could I, Should I be?' encapsulates a pervasive feeling of overwhelming uncertainty as she moves into her future as a graduate.

Joey's piece 'Uncharted' was about feeling comfort. She goes on to explain:

*"I was disoriented and homesick at the time, so I just wanted to escape from reality; thus, I created a special place in my mind that gave me security and comfort in times when I felt the anxiety of uncertainty creep in."*

This is an amazing accomplishment, of which the two should be proud.

*"It felt nerve-wracking—just the thought of having the honour of my artwork displayed as an aspiring artist—but I was also filled with pride because my artwork was personally recognised by a distinguished art exhibition,"*

Joey says.



WHAT COULD I, SHOULD I BE? BY ELLA NYX B



## ONLINE TEACHING LEARNING

### WEBEX

The OTL team has been busy behind the scenes for all of the special Webex sessions offered to students. In August, Australia's first astronaut to train under the Australian flag, Katherine Bennel-Pegg, presented a session to all Western Australian students where she answered questions about her career and becoming a space-ready astronaut. The OTL team made sure the message went to SIDE students. Outside of this stellar event, they have also been behind every author online, every special Webex session and every graduation.

### FAKE NEWS

ABC presenters Kirra Hampson, Isaac Muller and Joshua Watson presented a media literacy workshop in Semester 2. It is becoming more important to question what is presented online, and they went over tools that will be essential both in school and within daily life. Keep an eye out for fake news, and question what is being stated. There can be misinformation, which is false information that is spread regardless of intent and the deliberate disinformation.

### STAYING SAFE ONLINE

**SIDE students have a lot more experience in the online world than others, but they still need the reminder on how to stay safe online.**

The eSafety Commissioner ([eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au)) has released resources to help parents and carers from all backgrounds protect their families online. The Online Safety for Every Family resources cover how to:

- get started with social media
- enjoy safer online gaming
- help your child if they are bullied online.

To ensure more families can start a conversation with their children about online safety, the resources are available in English, Simplified Chinese, Arabic, Burmese, Dari, Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Sinhalese, Swahili, Tamil, Tigrinya, Uyghur and Vietnamese.



# CAREER & VET







## WORKPLACE AT LOOMA

The community of Looma may have seen a few familiar faces around town as they completed their Workplace learning (ADWPL) as part of their school studies. Initial placements focused on entry level skills as well as employer and employee responsibilities. Some gained experience as education assistants or mechanics, while others worked in maintenance and horticulture.

Students made the 253km track to Broome to try something new and gain more practical experiences, with a variety of options. For example, Year 11 Cassius W was placed at Tropical Motors and Year 12 Shonterah B at Pearl Shed Framing and Printing. They gained valuable knowledge and workplace understandings and were very appreciative of the employers' support and training.

While Cassius enjoyed his mechanics experience, he is keen to try plumbing in 2025.

Shonterah was confident in applying her artistic skills in the framing industry and was proud to receive a Certificate of Thanks from the employer.





## MICHAEL JOINS DFES

**Michael W. not only won SIDE's Year 12 Endeavour Award, but he has also secured full-time employment in his dream job with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).**

When he started at SIDE, Michael was disconnected from the traditional classroom setting. Since his enrolment in Year 10, he found new opportunities to re-engage with learning and pursued areas of interest, all of which have led to a bright future.

He earned credits for his completed Community Service with Marine and Rescue, demonstrating his commitment to giving back to the community. He gained valuable experience through work placements at the Truck Centre, DFES, and SPOL, where he developed practical skills and a better understanding of different industries. In Year 12 he completed a Certificate II in Automotive Vocational preparation skill set through South Metropolitan TAFE. On top of all of this, Michael also completed Keys for Life and was successful in the OLNA numeracy assessment.



Throughout his journey, Michael's parent provided unwavering support, encouraging him to pursue his goals and stay focused on his future; her strong involvement played a key role in his success. His teachers were impressed by his attitude and always enjoyed his humour. Michael's hard work has paid off. This successful career path is the result of his passion, perseverance and ability to take opportunities when they arise.

## THE SHIRES

**Working at the shires is an amazing way to gain experience and give back to the community. Several students have completed work placement at their shires, including Year 11s Brandon S from Wongan Hills and John H from Quairading.**

Brandon S has been seen around the school garden and he was excited to bring his skills to the Shire of Wongan Ballidu. He has taken on responsibilities such as mowing, planting, mulching, reticulation systems, minor repairs on tools and even more.'

*"Since I had significantly gained more experience with working for the Shire, which is a Agricultural industry, I have a wide range of skills to use for my desired job in the future."*

John H already had a connection with the Shire of Quairading as his father is a Councillor. He has been busy as he rotates between three main shire services. When working at the depot, he installs signs or accessories around town, gardening and fixing systems like retic on shire properties.

At the Community Resource Centre, he looks for grants and quotes for shire projects and makes up spreadsheets. During his third service in the shire building, he served customers over the phone, finished jobs from the CRC and completed tasks for the CEO, Natalie Ness, which included writing reports using Word and Excel.

*"My favourite thing about working for the Shire being a part of and working with the team as they are all very kind to me and amazing people to work with. Another thing is simply doing tasks assigned to me, as it helps the community, and I am hopefully lightening the workload of my seniors since they are all very busy."*





IMAGE COURTESY OF VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF WA

## FIRE BRIGADES

Two students are learning how to keep their homes safe from fires and other disasters. Year 11s Charlotte F and Levi G were enrolled in Certificate II in Active Volunteering at SIDE and are a part of their local Junior Fire Brigade.

Charlotte is a member at Dalwallinu Volunteer Fire and Rescue. She dedicates about two hours every fortnight to this role, participating in training for ladder work, handling hoses, and in blindfold exercises to simulate house fire conditions with breathing apparatus. Due to her experience, Charlotte sometimes leads the group of Juniors in their training.

Levi volunteers with the Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service. He often spends time building skills with hands-on simulations, including removing doors from cars and how to support cars that were flipped.

Levi shared his excitement;

*"For the upside down one I actually got to use the jaws of life to cut the hinges off the door."*

## EXMOUTH DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION NIGHT

The Presentation Night at Exmouth District High School was a celebration of all the work that the Year 12s have done in their lives. Program Coordinator Leonie Francis was proud to be invited to this event as she had the privilege of being a part of many students' journey in their last two years.

Award winners included Imogen G, who was presented the top award for Authority Developed Workplace Learning. Imogen's dedication to her workplace and enthusiasm for learning has been remarkable.

Leonie also presented the SIDE Photography Award to Cameron S, and SIDE's Phys Ed Studies Award to Charlotte C. These awards are a testament to their skills and dedication. It was a memorable night for everyone involved.



# MINI INDUSTRY ROADSHOWS

“Over 40 schools welcomed the Mini Industry Roadshow throughout Semester 2. From the Kimberley to the Southwest, to Tjuntjuntjara, and many other locations, trainers have been fortunate to connect with so many communities. It has been a pleasure to work with the schools to introduce new opportunities to the students and hopefully introduce some to what could potentially be their future careers.”

*—Crystle Challengier*



## HOSPITALITY

Working in hospitality can be an amazing career, and it is a popular first job for many young people. Bonnie Blewitt introduced students to what they might expect working in cafes, restaurants and other food service industries. Students roleplayed and learnt the professional methods used to greet customers, deliver multiple types of service, take orders, and work in a high-pressure workplace.

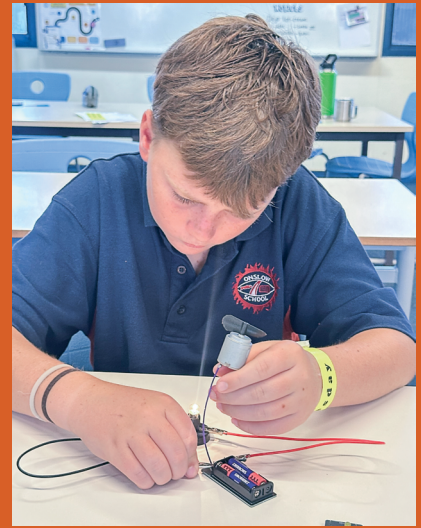




## LOOKING AFTER HOUSE

Many students may be able to look after a house based on what they learnt at during the Mini Industry Roadshows. Some were introduced to the basics of plumbing with Ella Norton, who taught them how to handle common issues they may encounter in their daily lives. They may have walked away with a deeper

understanding of woodwork as well as a small take home project from sessions taught by Cabinetry-in-Schools Nathan Kell. If their trainer was Blake Chase, they also worked on their electrical engineering skills by connecting and correcting circuit boards and powering their own mini devices.



## MAKEUP

Whether creating a natural look or an extravagant piece of art, some students have developed impressive skills in makeup artistry. They learnt how to mix colors, explore how makeup can transform appearances, and were encouraged to express their creativity. The importance of effective hygiene practices was emphasised, along with understanding how makeup application varies for each individual. Using products and brushes also strengthens fine motor skills, which are transferable to other industries





## Food

### MOVE OVER, MASTERCHEF

Food Technologies now offers live cooking tutorials during lessons, enhancing students' understanding of culinary techniques. Cameras provide bird's-eye and close-up views of food preparation.

Year 9 student Tyson K., passionate about cooking, has overcome challenges while traveling with his family. Despite limited space and difficulty sourcing ingredients, he has adapted creatively in pursuit of the perfect dish.

He loves creating both savoury and sweet dishes, which he shares with his family.

*"The best thing that I have made so far would be a jam turn over or French apple tart as the pastry was crispy and the jam sweetened it up and the crunch of the apple to go on to makes it perfect,"*

Tyson said.

Year 9 student Kobe H received hands-on instructions with teacher Mel Shariat when he visited the Leederville campus.



YEAR 9 STUDENT KOBE H.

## Specialist



YEAR 9 STUDENT, AALYAH R.

Three students from Dalwallinu District High School have impressed teacher Peter Jones with their continued work effort. Year 9s Aalyah R, Kamilla D and Alyzah M have worked independently and accurately while being an inspiration to others at their school. It is no surprise that they have this effect on others as Aalyah is the school captain while Kamilla is a student counsellor.

SIDE Supervisor Samantha Dickins is also impressed by her students' efforts.

She said,

*"They believe in mentoring others, helping others and being there to show others what girls can do."*

Aalyah's knack for woodwork may have come from her grandfather, who used to be the Woodwork teacher at Dalwallinu Senior High School. He would be impressed by all of Aalyah's creations this semester.

It will be exciting to find out what the students can make next.



# Technical Graphics

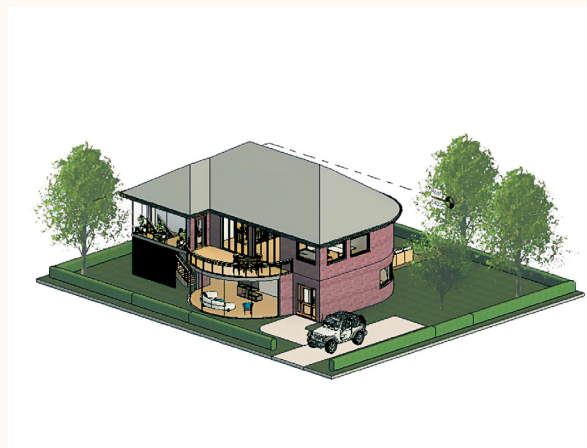
From Year 9 to Year 12, Technical Graphics students learnt how to use the industry level software Autodesk Fusion and architectural software Revit to create technical drawings, design products and even house designs.



YUSUF'S JEWELLERY BOX

Yusuf who is in the Year 9 Technical Graphics class has used his design and Fusion skills to create this fantastic jewellery box.

Technical Graphics is a computer aided design subject, where students learn how to use the industry level software Autodesk Fusion and architectural software Revit, to create technical drawings and design products.



ELISE' HOUSE DESIGN

Elise, who has completed the Year 12 Design Technical Graphics course has used her Revit Architectural skills to design and draw this amazing house.

## Wangkatungka Pendants

**A new look is in at Wangkatjungka District High School.**

Students from Year 7 to Year 9 have designed and created their own pendants in the Specialist Material classes. While teacher Rohan Hutchinson was there to give advice and training, the girls were able to put their own personality into the deadly pendants. They can showcase their work in their daily lives.



DELINAH H



MARY H

## Jewellery



## HISTORY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA SEMINARS

Revision seminars may be a great way to prepare for exams, but it is also gives classmates to meet each other in real life. Year 12 Modern History students attended the History Teachers' Association of Western Australia (HTAWA) revision seminar. They went over details about Chinese History and Cold War Europe while drilling skills which would help them in their WACE exams.

Whether they are from a metro school like Perth Modern or from Exmouth District High School, students received a confidence boost and were able to meet with their teacher Roslyn Keron. It was an engaging day where they were able to support each other in person.



L - R: AYESHA C. – PERTH MODERN, TONI G. – NORTHLAKE SENIOR COLLEGE, JASON M.: HISTORY PRESENTER: UNIT 4: EUROPE POST 1945, LUKE D. – EXMOUTH DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

## EGYPTIAN WATER SCARCITY

**With students based all around the world, HaSS is the perfect opportunity to learn more about their homes. The Year 7s learnt about water scarcity in Term 4 while studying geography, and Kaden A. researched Egypt.**



KADEN A. AND HIS DOG

Water scarcity is important for Kaden as he lives in an olive farm with an assortment of animals, ranging from chickens and rabbits to water buffalo. He was able to combine what he had experienced in his everyday life with the technical aspects he had to learn for school. Kaden shares his research.

*"Egypt faces both physical and economic water scarcity. On our farm, for example, we use groundwater to irrigate the olive trees, but it's salty, and we cannot drink it, so we have to drive at least 10km to fill jerry cans with fresh water for drinking and cooking. There are many villages across Egypt where poor people don't have access to freshwater in their homes, so they often have people donate money to get them connected."*

*Most of the freshwater comes from the Nile, but that is shared with other countries, and this can often cause conflicts, and the government have to cooperate with other countries. Egypt has created many desalination plants to increase water supply."*

Kaden's incredible work with the water scarcity assignment gave him a stronger understanding of the land he calls home.



## YOUTH PARLIAMENT

During the July school holidays, students experienced political life by participating in Youth Parliament, connecting with peers and learning to impact their communities. SIDE students from Gosnells, Wiluna, and Morawa proudly represented their school.

Morawa student Peta H has a strong passion for Politics and Law. She received this year's Certificate of Excellence from the Law Society of Western Australia and was selected to be the Leader of the Opposition during her time at Youth Parliament.

*"Youth Parliament is an amazing experience that enables young people to voice the issues most important to them and their electorates. The program immerses participants in the world of politics, legislation, lawmaking and debate, actively enhancing their knowledge and leadership skills. Being elected as the 2024 Youth Leader of the Opposition was an immense honour and opportunity to play a key role in the program."*

Wiluna student Salina L has a strong passion for caring about her community. Alongside her mother, Salina is organising the KindiLink in the Wiluna Remote Community School, a play-and-learn initiative for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. She attended Youth Parliament with the support of Principal Emily Vandenberg.

*"I had never thought of learning about it in such a powerful and respectful way. My favourite part is hearing about every other young strong person and the problems they deal with in their communities,"*

Salina she said about Youth Parliament.



KATIE R AND PETA H

Salina is planning to go to Curtin University and become a primary teacher. Her caring spirit is reassurance that future generations will be in good hands. With her inspirational quote, **'Fuel your dreams with action—every step forward brings you closer to greatness'**, there is little doubt that she will reach greatness.

This was an incredible experience for SIDE students, and they have represented their schools and community in a positive way.

## Does Australia need a Bill of Rights?

This was the topic Year 11 Politics discussed at the WA Schools Constitutional Convention on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September. Students Aariah C and Matilda T were a part of this excursion, where they were able to share their opinions on the introduction of a Bill of Rights into Australia.

Aariah from Dale Christian School attended the session in person.

*"The day consisted of interactive activities at the tables, with sessions focused on, 'How rights are protected in Australia's democracy', 'Human Rights', 'Plebiscites', and a comparison of the 'protection of rights', where my table looked at Canada. This excursion encouraged me to view things differently,"*

Aariah said.

Matilda from Hedland Senior High School currently works as a youth engagement officer. She attended the convention to broaden her understanding of the constitution and its role in Australia's political and legal system.

*"I am studying Politics and Law because I am passionate about making a change and advocating for those who don't have a voice, and I hope to one day be doing that as a lawyer,"*

Matilda reflected.

When asked whether Australia needs a Bill of Rights, Matilda replied with an emphatic 'yes.'

*"I believe Australia does need a Bill of Rights to further enforce rights, as we are a democracy. However, I think it's incredible that we are one of the only democracies that doesn't have one, yet still function so well."*



*Champions!*



## SLAZENGER CUP CHAMPIONS

Four SIDE students Peyton Duckett (Year 12 Academic Dux), Tara Aleksic (Year 11), Amy Findlay (Year 11) and Claudia Shearwood (Year 9) recently competed in the WA Champion Schools Slazenger Cup Girls Premier division at the State Tennis Centre. They won the final against Applecross Senior High School. SIDE has now qualified for the Gallipoli Youth Cup – Australia's National High School Championships in November.

Congratulations to Peyton, Tara, Amy and Claudia.

## KEYS4LIFE



Getting a driver's licence can be a major accomplishment, and it all starts with receiving the Learner's Permit. Year 10 Riarn from Leinster Community School learnt how to be a safe driver though the Keys4Life program in Term 3.

In these lessons, she spent time dedicated to understanding all the road rules that will be needed for the rest of her life.

*"I really like the Keys4Life program because not only does it benefit individual students, but it also contributes positively to community safety by promoting safer driving behaviours among young people. The Keys4Life program is a valuable source for young drivers as it prepares them for the real-world challenges behind the wheel,"*

she said.

Apart from creating safe drivers, this program also exempts students from taking the online theoretical test, creating a straight path to their Learner's Permit.

Riarn has advice for future participants of the program, who may include her younger sister Lexi, a current Year 9 student.

*"Starting the Keys for Life program can be a intimidating experience and it's important to approach it with an open mind and the intention and attitude to learn, doing the programme can increase your chances of success and can create a brighter future for themselves by becoming more confident. If it gets overwhelming at some point that's ok! Its normal to be a bit nervous because well you probably haven't driven before but give it some time and keep persisting and you will get there!"*

If you're in Leinster, you may start seeing Riarn drive around as she recently turned 16 and is excited to get behind the wheel.



# Mental Health

The Year 10 Health students focused on mental health disorders and produced infographics to help explain a topic that is commonly misunderstood.

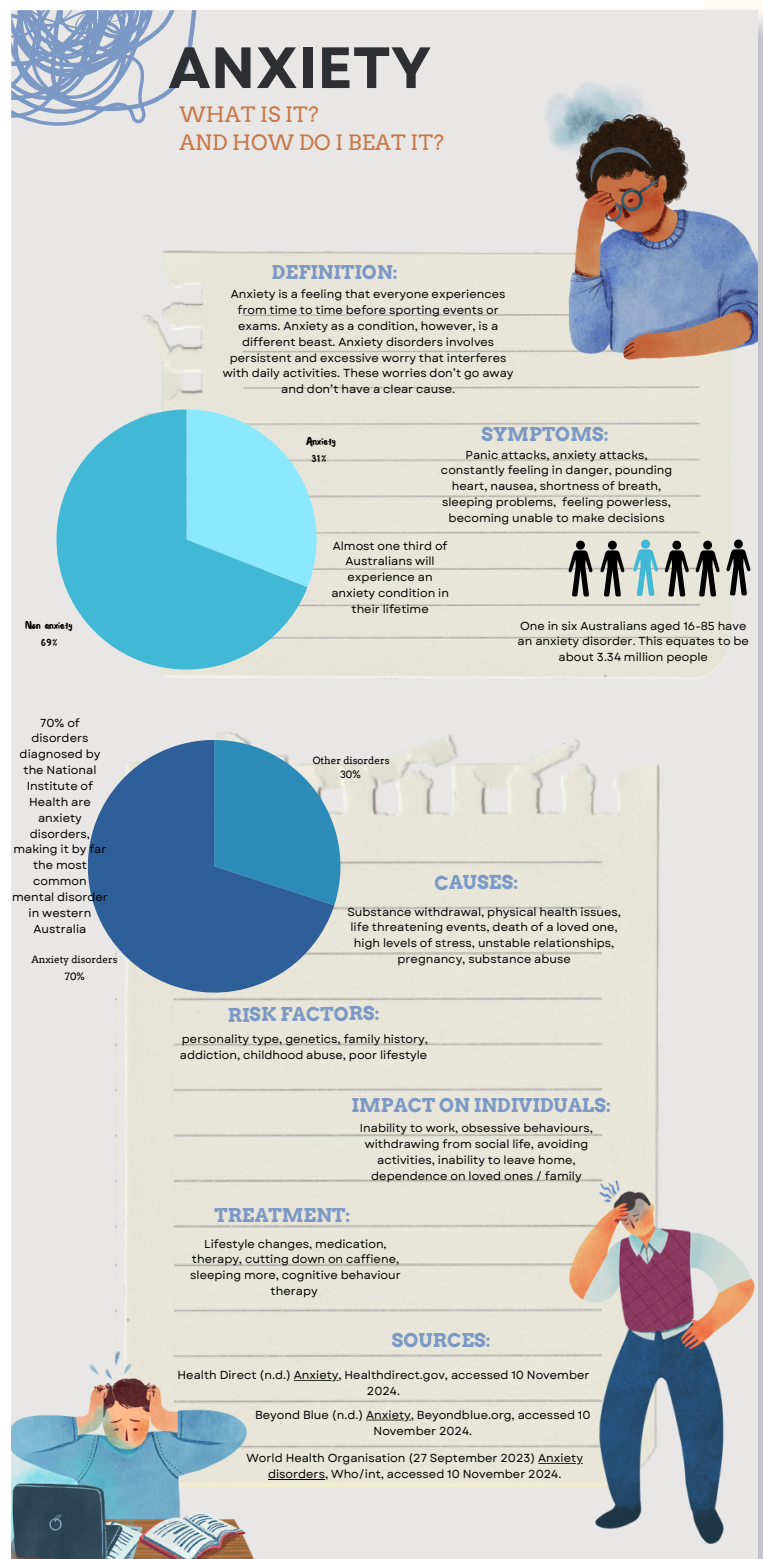
Monica's approach to the assignment was beautiful refection of her empathy;

*"I enjoyed learning about the many different mental health disorders, specifically the one I studied - Bipolar Disorder. I chose it because I know people with the disorder, and wanted to better understand what they're going through. I really enjoyed researching and creating my infographic for the task, and found that I remembered most of the information I wrote. It has helped me to better understand people with Bipolar Disorder."*

It was a beneficial task that many students, including Keelie, found valuable in changing their perception of their chosen disorder. Keelie chose to focus on anxiety and explains;

*"I found this task very enlightening. Through the process of completing this task I learnt about how common anxiety disorders truly are in Australia and how they affect peoples day to day lives. Whilst I always heard the term anxiety I never truly understood what it was or the variation within the severity, this task informed of the differences and ways to support and treat these disorders."*

This assignment not only educates, it also helps students develop compassion, as proven by Monica and Keelie.



KEELIE'S ASSIGNMENT ON ANXIETY





## ITALIAN CONVERSATION CLASSES

**Every Thursday, Year 11 students Ashley and Franz from Governor Stirling High school attend private conversation classes with Italian: Second Language Assistant Giorgia Guidi.**

“During our 1:1 conversation classes, each of them of 40 minutes duration, we focus on their Oral Communication Questions they have to prepare about specific topics related to the SCSA Italian: Second Language syllabus, such as ‘Viaggiare oggi’ (Travel in a modern world) – in which students consider how technology is changing world travel, influencing how people plan their holidays and communicate while they are away – the last of all topics we have been working on for this school year.

We usually check their written responses together, going through the grammatical contents and structures, spelling and pronunciation and we practice them orally so that they become more confident for their oral assessments and exam, during which they will be asked about those questions and topics.

For some of the topics like “Destinazione Italia” (Destination Italy) – in which students explore travelling in a particular Italian region or city and explore tourist attractions and cultural experiences – I made use of videos or ad hoc resources I created for the students, such as Power Point presentations about Italian regions that they can easily study to address specific questions.

Throughout the school year, Ashley and Franz have been seriously working on their Italian and I could really notice their progress. I am very content to have had the privilege to meet them and support them in their Italian oral practice!”

**—Giorgia Guidi**

*Italian Language Assistant at SIDE and Perth Modern School*



## INDONESIAN IN THE REAL WORLD

**Year 6 student Fletcher T. is taking what he is learning in his Indonesian class into the real world. As his father is Indonesian, Fletcher's family planned to visit Bali for six months in early 2023, but quickly fell in love with the culture and ended up staying. This is his second year learning Indonesian at SIDE and he can already notice the difference it has made.**

*"It's made it a lot easier for me to understand and talk to the locals. Also helping my mum when we go places without my dad."*

Fletcher explained.

During the September school holidays, Fletcher welcomed his Indonesian teacher, Michelle Jones, to Bali. Michelle visited Indonesia as part of the 2024 Educator Explorer Award. While she had many experiences during this time, such as visiting Yogyakarta, Nglanggeran and Megalang, the highlight was connecting with Fletcher and his family.

Fletcher and his family acted as a tour guide, taking Michelle shopping and for something to eat. It was an amazing opportunity for Fletcher to showcase what he has learnt in class and share his world with a teacher who is so passionate about Indonesia.



YEAR 6 STUDENT FLETCHER

They saw a traditional Balinese Kecak fire dance (Monkey Chant Dance), which combines mesmerising chants and dynamic movements. Fletcher, like many of his classmates, may have heard Michelle speak about this cultural experience many times.

This performance vividly portrays the epic battle from the story of the Ramayana, one of the avatars of Hindu deity Vishnu.

*"It was amazing to watch with Michelle. The monkey came up to us and we had a photo with it. It was such a great show."*

Fletcher recalled.

## ISABELLE G FROM JOHN XXIII COLLEGE AWARDED



She may be a Year 10 student, but Isabelle G from John XXIII College was awarded first place in the Year 11 French Alliance Française High School Exam. She started studying Year 11 French at SIDE in 2024.

Languages HoLA and French teacher Simone Menager was proud to be a part of the award ceremony, where all of Isabelle's efforts were rewarded. It will be exciting to see what the future holds for Isabelle.



# NATIONAL LANGUAGES WEEK

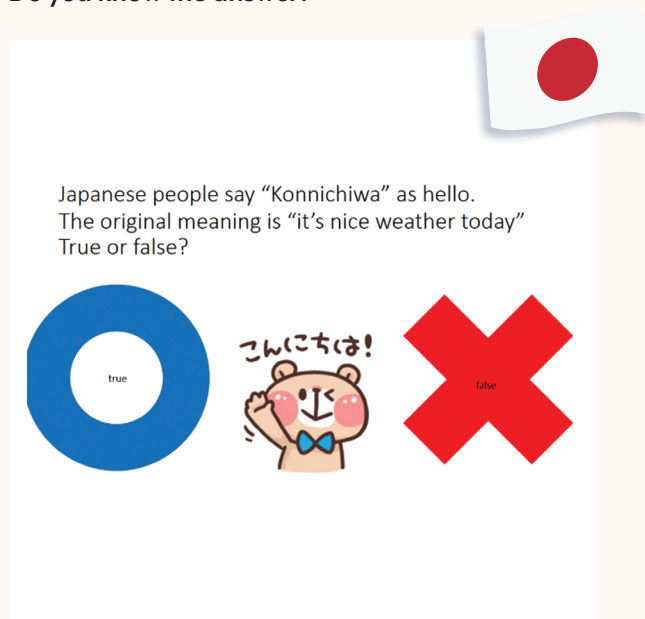
**National Languages Week, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of August, was an amazing opportunity to embrace all the languages of the world and those within Australia.**

With over 1,000 students studying one of the five languages SIDE offers, it was a time to reflect on why it is so important for students to learn a second, or in some cases, third or fourth language.

There was a change in atmosphere during Webex lessons. It was a chance to relax and engage in activities that were fun.

**Those in Giselle Fabling's Japanese class completed a quiz about Japanese culture. Below is one of the questions.**

**Do you know the answer?**



Japanese people say "Konnichiwa" as hello.  
The original meaning is "it's nice weather today"  
True or false?

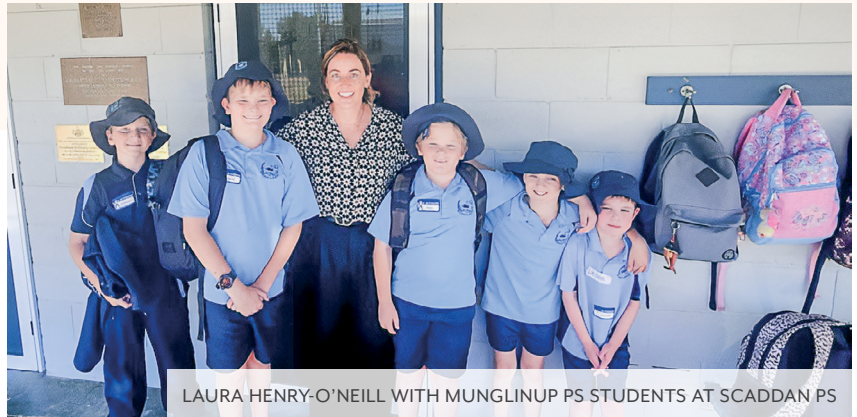
## FRENCH CLASSES COME TOGETHER

**French classes in the Esperance region came together for a day of activities and connection. The Primary French team spent two wonderful days working with students. On Day One, Salmon Gums Primary School, Cascade Primary School and Munglinup Primary School travelled to Scaddan Primary School to work together for the day. Day Two involved the teachers visiting Condingup Primary School.**

The students enjoyed singing, dancing, cooking and playing Olympic inspired games. There were three rotating stations setup for students to experience all of the activities comprising a full day of fun. Included with singing and dancing, students learnt about the French island of La Réunion, located near Madagascar, and its unique culture. For cooking, students made and ate crêpes and madeleines while learning French words for cooking.

As the summer Olympics were held in Paris in July and August this year, one of the stations included Olympic themed games. Students played the game Jeu de Sept Famille with the mascot La Phryge and played a trivia game about the Paris Olympics. The younger students made their own Olympic crafts including an Olympic paper torch and paper hot-air balloon. It was a day of games, music, treats and fun for all.





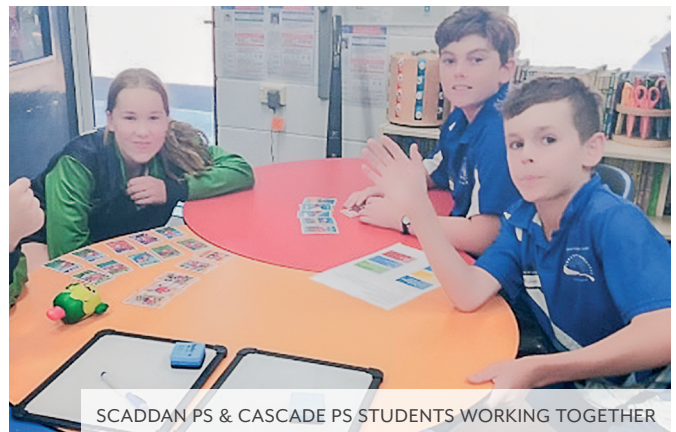
LAURA HENRY-O'NEILL WITH MUNGLINUP PS STUDENTS AT SCADDAN PS



LAURA HENRY-O'NEILL WITH MUNGLINUP PS STUDENTS AT SCADDAN PS



MADELEINE TEA CAKES



SCADDAN PS & CASCADE PS STUDENTS WORKING TOGETHER



SETTING UP FOR MAKING CRÊPES AT SCADDAN PS



# Reading Challenge

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Premier's Reading Challenge from the 6<sup>th</sup> of May to the 6<sup>th</sup> of September. Year 5 student Archer Kidd, was one of the eager participants and his love of reading led to him completing twelve books in the span of four months.

Archer's accomplishment let him enter a raffle and his name was drawn. Apart from the joy of reading many new stories, Archer also received a certificate and a \$60 voucher to the shoe store Platypus.

Throughout 2024, Archer's family explored Australia and beyond, embodying the Premier's Reading Challenge motto, "Reading can take you anywhere."

Out of all the books he read during these four months, Archer's favourite was *The Shadow Moth* (A Clock of Stars) by Francesca Gibbons.

Hopefully Archer keeps up his reading even though the challenge is over, and continues to try new books and travel to even more lands.



# LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTRE



# Author Online

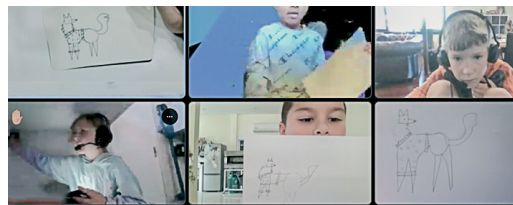
## PETER CHEONG TERM 4

Term 4's Author Online was Peter Cheong, who gave three sessions for SIDE students on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October. In each session, he provided a story time with his children's book 'Every Night at Midnight' and discussed the realities of being an author.

Peter shared the creative process by having the students collaborate to create a story, allowing them to improve their abilities. With the suggestions of an animal, occupation and emotion, Peter turned their ideas to life with his distinct drawing style.

Students followed a tutorial in real time, learning how to draw a wolf in a sweater. It was an interesting workshop where they were shown how to break the character down to various shapes, which they can use to create any animal they desire.

Every Night at Midnight  
by Peter Cheong



## ANNA CIDDOR TERM 3

Live from Melbourne, author and illustrator Anna Ciddor presented an Author Online session to students in Term 3. She joined the students' world as she delivered the Webex to a Year 2-5 and Year 6-8 group.

Anna shared her passion for researching history and writing stories based on her research in light, entertaining ways. The Year 7 students had recently learnt about Ancient Rome in their HASS classes – an era Anna adores and explored in her books 'A Message Through Time' and 'The Boy Who Stepped Through Time.' They were able to discuss what they have learnt, and Anna provided more information that may help the students in the future.

The skills and resources that Anna used in her stories will help the students through their study and might even be used as they create their own stories – maybe even one that is also set in Ancient Rome.

*"It was a joy to chat with so many enthusiastic kids from a host of interesting locations,"*

Anna shared to the [SIDE\\_libraryrc](https://www.instagram.com/SIDE_libraryrc) Instagram page.

Students from all around the world were a part of these sessions, and Anna encouraged them to explore the part of the world they call home. It was a brilliant session for everyone involved, from all around Australia to the global students.



IMAGES COURTESY OF  
ANNACIDDOR.COM





# BOOKWEEK

## BOOK WEEK 2024

**National Children's Book Week 2024 was a resounding success and sums up this year's theme of 'Reading is Magical'. From the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, SIDE's community celebrated the literary world by dressing up and sharing our favourite stories.**

Several on-site students wore their best costumes to school or had fun with the dress-ups donated by staff. The Leederville Campus was home to witches, creatures straight from a Dr. Seuss story and multitudes of animals.

Students from Wongan Hills District High School and Dalwallinu District High School were on-site for a camp, allowing them to join in on the festivities. They dressed up, joined in the all-school photo and even met their teachers who looked a little different than usual. Their Regional Coordinator Dylan Reid was replaced by Nurse Barbie for the day.

Leederville was not the only place filled with literary love. Many partner schools participated, as well as home-based students. Australia's National Children's Book Week was celebrated all over the world, including Indonesia, Wales, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.







## MATHEMATICAL MUGS

While there is nothing as satisfying as gaining mathematical knowledge, receiving a tangible gift does come close. As Year 10 students completed Moodle tasks this semester, they earned coins, and once a student received 25 coins, they could 'purchase' a personalised mug based on their own design.

Luka S is one of the students who has been rewarded for his efforts. This is Luka's first year at SIDE as a geographically isolated student. Not only has he just finished learning how to solve equations graphically, but he has also earned a present for his grandmother.

*"I wasn't sure what design to do so I thought I'd make one for my Baba (Grandma). She loves her grandkids, so I thought I'd find their birth flower and get that made,"*

he said.



The mug also represents all of his grandmother's grandchildren. Luka's baba will treasure the mug nearly as much as she treasures him.

It was exciting for Luka to receive this gift in real life, and he was already planning what to do with his next accumulation of coins, which he aimed to give to another family member. Luka isn't just a maths wizz, but the decisions he made for the mugs shows his kindness and love of family. The next mug may be for his sister in Year 7, who will have to wait until next year as the initiative will extend to years 7-10.





## Meeting a hero



TOM M. &amp; LACHY REED

## BUDDING SPORTS JOURNALIST

Meeting a hero can play a significant role in preparing for your future. This is what Year 11 student Tom M learnt when meeting Lachy Reed at the 10 News First Studio in Perth.

Tom is currently pursuing another passion in his ASDAN course: Animal Care. During a topic on potential careers, Tom shared his desire to be a sports journalist. Ever since he was a child, he has loved learning about all sports, even staying up late to watch stories on his favourite sport: baseball.

Fortunately for Tom, teacher Amy-Jo Hamilton had a connection to the sports world. With her help, Tom managed to see a live taping and get a glimpse of what might be his future.

*"It was really interesting seeing the way it works, having the director and producer right there, or on the other side of the country,"* Tom explains.

In a school with elite sports athletes, Tom is already planning how to start his career.

## VISIT TO ROTTNEST

**Students at Pia Wadjarri connected with teacher Michelle Calwell on the beautiful island of Wadjemup/Rottnest. While they were at Rottnest for camp, they were able to learn the history of the island and embrace all the beautiful scenery.**

*"My favourite part was going on the bike ride. If we went to Rottnest again, I would want to go on them. I was surprised by the big guns; it was like a war gun that shoots bullets, and I thought it would be small. I didn't know that there were only a couple hundred quokkas left on the island so that was something I learned. If we went to Rottnest again, like next year maybe, I would want to go on the other side of the island and swim in the ocean. I enjoyed seeing my teachers on Rottnest a little bit, my favourite part was getting to spend the day with Miss Michelle."*

- Year 10 student Jahlile M.

*"My favourite part was going on the train and seeing the Quokkas. It was very high up on the mountains and plus it was very cool. I see all of them quokkas. No, actually I seen the water. Like a lake, ocean and that. The quokkas were cute, a bit feral. Some bit me on my arm. They were very cheeky, but you aren't supposed to touch them. The gun was surprising. It's a big gun that used to shoot. I think it used to shoot missiles, but I don't know. It's a big gun that used to shoot in the wars and stuff. My favourite part was getting to see the tunnels because we got to see where they slept."*

Year 9 student Florrenza M.



YEAR 11 STUDENT TANYA D.

## Halloween at Dowerin

Things got spooky at Dowerin District High School as they hosted a Halloween party. Year 11 student Tanya D and Olive G extended an invitation to teacher Susan Taylor, who was excited to frock up and meet her students in a relaxing environment. Students researched Halloween food and decorations, putting together an enjoyable celebration.





JACK M. PARTICIPATING IN MAGS



COOPER M. PARTICIPATING IN MAGS



IDA W. PARTICIPATING IN MAGS

## ELECTRIFYING MAGS

**Term 4 saw the introduction of the Multi Aged Groups (MAGs) Program. This program provided support to Year 5 and Year 6 students in nearly a dozen schools as they were a part of online maths and science lessons, provided by SIDE. Lake King Primary School already has experience with SIDE as they study Italian with SIDE and jumped into the opportunity to complete more education online.**

Cooper M and Ida W from Lake King Primary School took on the roles of journalists, where they interviewed students and staff members to find out what everyone thought about the MAGs program.

Year 5 student Jack M was interviewed about this program. While he has learnt various topic over the term, his favourite part has been learning about Snoop Dogg's role in the Olympics, and would love this to be taught in the class more. Even though he doesn't always learn about Snoop Dogg, Jack still believes the lessons are valuable.

*"It's a very enjoyable online program which most people will enjoy because it includes everyone and includes some fun activities and at times it is also a better way and easier way to learn,"*

said Jack.

Principal Jack Daly has also witnessed the impact the classes have had on his students.

*"I think everyone has been more passionate and engaged in doing their work. I also think everyone is really enjoying it from the positive comments I've heard from students, and it's really effected the way they learn."*

Thank you to Cooper and Ida for their report and thank you to all the schools who were a part of the pilot program.



## SMILING MIND

Looking after mental health is a priority of everyone and it is important to start working on it at a primary school level. Weekly sessions where students and staff use the app Smiling Mind makes a difference to those who may be remote, are travelling, or may want some help with their mental health.

Kenzo S is in Year 2 and is one of the students who regularly attends Smiling Mind. He travels with his family and enjoys video games as well as traditional food.

During the sessions for Smiling Mind, Kenzo receives meditational training and learns how to teach mediation to others. It is a chance to connect with students outside of the regular school classes while working on mental health.

ARTWORK COURTESY OF SMILING MIND

While there is a small number of regular attendees, Kenzo is eager to have more people in the sessions.

*"You should join it. It will be fun and teaches you how to be calm,"*

says Kenzo.

These sessions will continue into 2025.

Contact your teacher to learn how students can be a part of them.



## UNLEASH YOUR PASSION

WA Olympic athlete and basketball player Natalie Burton hosted a Webex lesson for students on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November as a part of #OlympicsUnleashed. Natalie shared how she set goals, overcame challenges and demonstrated resilience throughout her athletic career.

Students were given the opportunity to consider their own dreams, whether it was being an F1 driver or owning their own restaurant. It also gave the chance for basketball enthusiasts to see what is possible if they wish to continue their sport, as they may find themselves in the Olympics in the future. Students asked their own questions, learning about how to best motivate themselves, and the more glamorous life of being an Olympian and meeting celebrities.

It was a pleasure to have Natalie speak to the students. Her background was inspirational and she prompted thought about how hard work can achieve dreams.

## CHOIR 4 KIDS

**Choir 4 Kids allowed students to bring their inner popstars out in November.**

Whether they were solos, in a band with their siblings or with their schools, they were taught techniques that helped their vocal abilities. The two sessions included one for K-2 and one for Year 3-6, allowing everyone to create confidence through the power of singing.

Within their own walls, everyone was able to rock out, even bringing out air guitars if they desired. All their work came together as students performed a brilliant rendition of Owl City's Fireflies to Principal Paul Mathews. Every child's unique voice was celebrated and it was a chance to connect, and share their passion for singing.



# REGIONAL REMOTE TEACHING TEAM

In 2024, the Regional Remote Teaching Team has had the opportunity to create close relationships with a core group of schools in the Kimberley and Goldfields regions, working with community and tailoring responsive cultural programs for the students. Being out and about regularly to key locations has driven a deeper understanding and link to community, while supporting the development of two-way learning ideas which are interest-based and regionally relatable.

School camps and visits with students coming onsite to SIDE have also contributed to the strong relationship building between teachers and students.

## CREATIVE MUG PROJECT

**The various regions are home to so many talented artists who now have their artwork in their homes in the form of mugs.**

Collaborating with a range of RRTT schools, staff worked closely with students and their teachers to engage them in a creative project – designing personalised artwork. There was a variety of design, from traditional artwork to their favourite football team, and even individualised mugs for loved family members.

While some mugs were sent to their communities, others designed and received their mugs while they were at Leederville on camps. It was an amazing way for the students to express themselves and receive something for their efforts.





# Keep the fire burning!



SHAMEKA AT NAIDOC MARCH IN LAVERTON

## NAIDOC WEEK IN LAVERTON

NAIDOC Week is important in recognising the traditional owners of the land, and it was an honour for two staff members to spend this time in Laverton.

RRTT teacher Karen Wauhop and Languages teacher Pearl Morrow connected with students and families. The community came together in various activities, including:

- Prepping kangaroo tails.
- Participating in the NAIDOC March and Opening Ceremony.
- Competing in the night-time Community Basketball Tournament.
- Participating in the Cultural Bush Night and Community Bush Day.
- Competing against Leonora District High School in the NAIDOC footy carnival against .

It was a pleasure to see the students during the second week of the July Holidays without the stress of school and they were able to just connect and celebrate Wangkatja culture. Karen and Pearl were also able to build their relationships with staff members, the Paakanu Aboriginal Corporation, and the Stephen Michael Foundation.

It was a great way to commemorate this year's NAIDOC theme:

*Keep the fire burning! Blak, loud and proud.*



STUDENTS MAKING DAMPER



COMMUNITY BUSH DAY ANTS



CULTURAL BUSH NIGHT - STORYTELLING



### Micro:bit & Microcar with Grok

Students dove into hands-on learning with Grok's Micro:bit and Microcar projects, sparking creativity and boosting engagement through coding and problem-solving in a fun, interactive way.

### Leonora Parachute Experiment

The Leonora students were tasked with building their own parachutes. Using resources from around the classroom, they created many interesting designs. After a bit of fine tuning all of their parachutes successfully landed back down to earth safely.

### Menzies Bridge

Using legos, students were tasked with building the longest bridge possible that can hold weight. Their first attempt was not able to support itself, let alone any loads. With a bit of tweaking students worked together to reinforce each connection increasing the length of their bridge, and it was able to stand under its own weight.

## Tasks



## A SNAPSHOT OF YILKA

The regional communities are an amazing place, and it is no surprise that the students are proud of where they lived. Year 8 student Orlando M attends the Cosmo Newbery Campus of Laverton. For an assignment, he shared his history and expressed his desires to care for his Country in the future.

Teacher Caroline Hillcoat was fortunate to meet Orlando and his family in person. She saw where Orlando got his good nature from, and is sure that he has a bright future ahead of him.

## My History in Cosmo Newberry

- I have lived in Cosmo for my whole life 14 years I've used the resources this country provides I have to take care of this country for the rest of my life because it is the Yilka peoples country I'm a Yilka person so it is my job to take care of it I have made memories with this country and its people.





## ON COUNTRY TWO-WAY CAMP

Teacher Judith Williams and Regional Coordinator Serena Davie attended an incredible three-day on-country camp in Wiluna, guided by local Elders who shared their deep cultural knowledge and connection to the land.

The experience blended traditional Indigenous perspectives with Western science, offering hands-on learning through exploring the environment and hearing stories. It was a powerful journey that deepened respect for Country and the value of Two-Way Science.

Judith is excited to use what she has learnt on this trip as the students of Wiluna increase their understanding of Country.

## WANGKATJUNKA REMOTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Wangkatjungka Remote Community School had lessons that went beyond equations and formulas. They created bangles and sherbert while having good conversations, bonding with each other and their teacher.

Regional visits to Wangkatjungka allowed students to show their community to their teachers. One visit coincided with a community and sports day, where the SIDE staff were keen to join in on the fun.

Deputy Principal Rachael MacFarlane joined “Desert Eagles”, “Bulldogs” were joined by Ron Evans, and “Roadrunners” were joined by Shavaurn Hanson. Staff helped with the long jump and throwing activities, but were more than happy to cheer on their teams.



STUDENT MARY H. WITH BANGLE





## HILLSIDE FARM'S AMAZING RACE

On Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, RTO students gaining experience at Hillside Farms gathered for an incredible day showcasing the skills they've honed throughout the year.

Themed "The Amazing Race," the event was set across various farm locations, with riddles leading each group to their next challenge. Students were divided into five groups of five, taking on tasks specifically designed to align with their learning outcomes. Activities included:

### 1. Chicken Egg and Spoon Race

Students collected eggs from the chicken pen without letting the chickens escape. They then navigated an egg-and-spoon course around the horticulture area, returning the egg safely to the basket.

### 2. Driving Competition

Groups demonstrated precision and teamwork by competing to reverse a trailer into a parked position.

### 3. Cattle Classification

Students mustered cattle and guided them into a crush for measurement and classification and answered questions to demonstrate their understanding.

### 4. Sheep Muster and Count

Tasked with moving sheep from a paddock to a holding area, students practiced stock control by counting the sheep. In a fun twist, they learnt and used Welsh counting during this task.

### 5. Sheep Drafting

For the final challenge, students drafted sheep by ear tag colour, separating blue from red.

It was rewarding to witness the students' growth and accomplishments throughout the year. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and application of skills have been remarkable, making this day a true highlight.



IMAGE COURTESY OF DEADLY JOBS  
FACEBOOK

From the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, Fitzroy Valley was home to the Deadly Jobs Expo.

Jobseekers, including students who are starting to think about their careers, connected with over 50 exhibitors, such as SIDE. Current and potential students were greeted by Regional Coordinator Craig Campbell and RTO Manager Shannon Laidler who provided information about what SIDE has to offer.

Students from as close as Fitzroy Valley and as far away as Kandiwal came together to consider what their lives would be like after school.

It was also a perfect opportunity for staff to connect with other industries in the area, which could help students gain experience on country as a part of their schooling.



# Kalumburu Ranger

**Year 11 Delena U. has worked hard to turn her goal of becoming a ranger into a reality. Delena started her Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management with SIDE in 2023. After months of showing her dedication and passion caring for the environment, she obtained a school-based traineeship with Wunambal Gaambera Rangers. With over 2.5 million hectares to care for, Delena is eager to do her part for her Uunguu.**

While SIDE RTO is not on the list of RTOs who can support the training for a School-Based Traineeship, the school and Delena's preference was for her to continue with the Certificate II in Kalumburu with SIDE RTO, rather than Delena having to travel to Broome to complete her traineeship. SIDE RTO and Kalumburu negotiated an effective partnership with North Regional TAFE that meant that Delena could remain on country with her classmates at Kalumburu, and continue her studies as well as her traineeship.

Delena continues to make excellent progress and hopes to achieve her goal of becoming a local ranger at the completion of her School-Based Traineeship. With the skills she has learnt during her training she is well equipped to do so. The animals and plant life in Kulamburu will be safe under Delena's protection.

## A STRONG PARTNERSHIP FOR SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

**Congratulations to all who progressed or completed their qualifications. This year marked the first for students from Midland Learning Academy and WCSESC participating in SIDE RTO courses, with outstanding efforts all around.**

At Midland Learning Academy, students enrolled in a number of Certificates, including the BSBB20120 Certificate II in Workplace Skills, FSK20119 Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways and AHC21020 Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

*"It's been a really good experience so far, I've learnt a lot from it - particularly how to identify the flora and fauna and how they reproduce,"*

said Year 11 student George G, who studied conservation and ecosystem management.

Four students from WCSESC enrolled in the ICT20120 Certificate II in Applied Digital Technologies and all four have now completed their qualifications. These students have shown great commitment as they learnt a range of skills, such as operating software applications as well as digital media technology packages. The students have a strong start if they want to pursue a career in IT.

Thanks to the exceptional support from Midland Learning Academy and WCSECS, students have successfully achieved qualifications in a safe and flexible environment.







## Creating Crystals

**Year 8 Students learnt all about the formation of crystals and were able to make their own while investigating the effect cooling rates had on a saturated sugar solution.**

Axel B. worked hard to complete this experiment while becoming a budding scientist.

*"It was a fun experiment. I liked growing things I could eat! It was fun to watch the crystals grow. We got ants in the kitchen trying to get into the sugar. I wanted to grow a really big, perfect shaped crystals but it didn't work out, I mostly got smaller ones."*

Axel's eagerness is demonstrated throughout the rest of his coursework, enjoying the practical effects of everything that he is learning.

While there is still the difficulty of waking up early to do Webex lessons, Axel's positivity and strong effort is to be commended.

## WOMEN IN PHYSICS

**Professor Susan Coppersmith**

**Year 9 and 10 dance students had a break from choreography and pointe to learn about the exciting world of quantum computing.**

In August, they had the pleasure of being the audience of the Women in Physics lecture hosted by Professor Susan Coppersmith. Susan is a Theoretical Condensed Matter Physicist who is known for her range of experience in topics such as nanotechnology, nanoscience and quantum physics. She is also the representative for the Australian Institute of Physics - Woman in Physics Tour.

Susan broke down quantum computing while inspiring the future generation of physicists. This year, the Year 9 students have been studying electricity, sound, and light while the Year 10 students learnt about forces and motion. By attending this lecture, they received insight into what is possible if they continued studying physics in senior school and beyond.



IMAGE COURTESY OF UNSW SYDNEY CREDIT: THOMAS B. ECKHOFF

Susan's session engaged a live audience and a virtual audience statewide. Broadcast online, it reached home-based students and partner schools. SIDE emphasises the importance of pursuing passions like physics, ensuring access for all students.

Contact your Regional Coordinator for more information.



## YEAR 8 STEM AT ONSLOW

**The Year 8 students became physicists and engineers in Term 3 as they created Rube-Goldberg machines. Through the use of everyday materials and different energy transformations, they created machines that carry out simple task such as watering a plant or pressing a button on a remote.**

It was a challenge, giving students a chance to test their innovation and perseverance skills. While some students worked together in their school to create the machine, others worked independently using what they could find around their home. Whether it be tennis balls, scraps of metal, or cement blocks.

*"My favourite experiment was the Rube-Goldberg project. It took weeks of work and so many tries to make it all work,"*

said Year 8 student, Rex.

Caydence and Jordyn from Onslow District High School used a tennis ball, piece of wood, stapler, and dominoes to turn on the kettle.

While their efforts may have rewarded them a strong mark in science, it also allowed them to use their imagination and develop their understanding of kinetic energy.



From the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of August, science students enjoyed National Science Week. This year's theme 'Species Survival – More than just sustainability' allowed them to discuss the importance of ensuring the existence of all the animals that may be taken for granted.

Marine biologist and host of Discovery Channel's Shark Soup presented a Webex session on sharks – an interest for many of the students. This session was open to all year groups. While they could already list various types of sharks and share the trivia, they learnt many new facts. All of their questions were answered throughout the session. Whether they become future shark biologists or just become aware of the creatures that roam our waters, it was a valuable lesson for all.

While some students were independent participants of the class, school groups also came together and joined in on the session. They were able to learn about the marine creature and share their passion for the subject with other students – some of whom may not have been in the same classes as them.

Throughout their lessons during Week 5 of Term 3, science students completed extra activities that showcased the importance of this subject.







## INDUCTION AND ORIENTATION

**It is hard to believe that 2025 is nearly upon us. With many students joining SIDE in February, December was the perfect time to introduce them to what their education may look like in the upcoming year.**

Inductions were held with our Partner Schools in Weeks 7 and 8. Over 400 students from over different schools attended online lessons with SIDE teachers and Regional Coordinators. Several groups consisted of a collection of schools, potentially allowing students to meet their future classmates. Other groups consisted of large amounts of students from one school, with the record being the 33 students from Albany Senior High School.

Home-based students visited Leederville for their Orientation Day on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. Over 30 students were given a tour of the SIDE Leederville Campus. While some met their Regional Coordinator in person for the first time, others caught up with the people who will help make the transition as smooth as possible.

Throughout the introductions and inductions, students were taught how to use the online platforms Webex and Moodle, tools they will use to succeed. By February of 2025, these students will become masters of these platforms, so all they need to focus on will be their schoolwork.



### 2025 Leavers' Jackets



The second (and final) round to order a Leaver's Jacket for next year is open! Orders close on the 15<sup>th</sup> February.

#### PLACING YOUR ORDER:

1. Go to [westwear.com.au](https://westwear.com.au)
2. Select 'MY SCHOOL' or use the search bar to find your school.
3. Select your school and leavers year.
4. Enter your PASSWORD.
5. Place your order.

DELIVERY: 164-194 Oxford Street LEEDERVILLE WA 6007

**VERY IMPORTANT: If you put your home address, you will not get your jacket**

**SCHOOL NAME: SIDE**

**PASSWORD: SIDELEAVERS2024**

(This is not an error, the supplier is unable to change to password to 2025.)

PLEASE NOTE: Select your product, size, and nickname carefully. To make any changes you will need to cancel the current order and place a new order with the correct details. Your original order will be refunded and will take 7-10 business days to process.



## SPECIAL AWARDS

SIDE is proud to recognise the 2024 Award Winners. These awards represent students who have achieved the highest mark in one or more subjects or the students who have shown persistence and positivity in their studies.

The full list of award winners is now available on the [SIDE website](#).



### PEYTON DUCKETT

#### ACADEMIC DUX

Awarded to the highest achieving student in ATAR courses.

Peyton completed her Year 11 & 12 studies with SIDE and consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic. She completed 5 ATAR courses whilst also juggling the demands of playing tennis at an elite level both nationally and internationally.

Peyton impressed her teachers with her friendly nature, contributions in classes and her natural leadership skills. Peyton organised and captained the SIDE Tennis team in the winning the State Slazenger Cup Premier Girls tennis Competition, the first time that SIDE has won this prestigious event. In 2024 Peyton plans to study at a US College after successfully being awarded a sporting scholarship.

Peyton has worked hard to achieve outstanding results and leaves SIDE with our congratulations and very best wishes.



### MELODY INKOOM

#### VOCATIONAL DUX

Awarded to the highest achieving student in a vocational pathway.

Melody's journey at Mukinbudin has been truly inspiring. Arriving from Ghana in 2022, she quickly overcame language barriers, completing her Year 11 and 12 courses through SIDE. She also undertook a traineeship at REED, gaining hands-on childcare experience and earning a Certificate II at Mukinbudin Early Learning Centre. Melody's ability to connect with children, her calm demeanor, and her dedication to learning set her apart.

She's become a valued member of the school community, with a strong work ethic and problem-solving skills. As she plans to pursue further studies in nursing, we're confident she will continue to excel and make an impact. Her success is a testament to her resilience and commitment.

#### ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award

Award Winner:

**MUHAMMAD USAYD LAKHANI**

#### Curtin Principal's Recommendation

Award Winner:

**MORGAN KEIG**

#### Law Society of Western Australia Certificate of Excellence

Award Winner:

**PETA HUMPHREYS**

#### Certificate of Merit

Award Winners:

**PAARVEEN WARAN**  
**PEYTON DUCKETT**

#### Student Leadership Award Patrick Gorman: Federal Member for Perth

Award Winner:

**HENRY LACEY**

#### NMERO Commitment to Excellence Award

Award Winner:

**ISABELLE LOO**



# CLASS OF 2024

We were proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our 2024 Year 12 students on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. The event was made even more memorable with the presence of The Honourable Roger Cook MLA, Premier of Western Australia, who graciously attended the ceremony.

Premier Cook addressed our Year 12 leavers and presented the prestigious awards for Academic Dux and Vocational Education Dux. Leavers were also addressed by Year 12 SIDE student and elite athlete, Harry Joyner, and Paris Paralympian, Jackson Hamilton. Congratulations to all students for their dedication and hard work.

















