

WA Youth Ambassador Award Recipient

Murdoch College student Alasdair Penman has been named the Western Australian Research Australia Youth Ambassador for Health Research.



Alasdair identified the importance of environmental factors in moulding the shape and function of the brain in his winning entry to the national schools competition.

"Stress and worry have a major impact on the well-being of people" says Alasdair. "Long term exposure to stress... reduces the brain's immunity against ageing, potentially increasing the probability of strokes."

The Youth Ambassador Program is an outstanding avenue toward a career in medical science and Alasdair's submission has put him in the running to become National Youth Ambassador for Health Research, with the winner to be announced in October.

Murdoch College congratulates Alasdair on this outstanding achievement and wishes him well in the national award.

National Science Week

Murdoch College, the CSIRO and ABC Science want you to become an astronomer during National Science Week 2009 (15 - 23 August). The CSIRO is investigating the level of light pollution around the country as part of National Science Week's theme on Astronomy. Details can be found at www.starhunt.net.au/home and prizes are on offer.

National Science Week commenced a week early for Murdoch College students who visited the University of Western Australia to hear NASA astronaut, Dr Megan McArthur, speak about her experiences as part of the last shuttle crew to service the 19 year old Hubble Space Telescope.

Astronaut McArthur was in charge of the 40 foot robot arm as it caught Hubble travelling at a mere 17,000 kilometres per hour! Students were able to ask Astronaut McArthur questions about her experiences in space, how she became an astronaut and how astronauts live in space.

The talk included a tour of UWA and a presentation on the Square Kilometre Array - the world's largest radio telescope, which is proposed for WA.



Middle School students were also treated to a talk at Murdoch University for Science Week. Titled "The climate is changing but are you ready for the change?", the theme of the talk tied into the Middle School's studies of Energy and Resource use. These talks challenged students to become active parts of investigating and participating in developing the solutions posed by climate change.

Robocup Success

On Saturday 8 August, Year 8 students Jacques Lehembre and Lewis Tolonen were declared State Champions of the Robocup Senior Dance Section.



The entries were judged on both the robots performance and also a technical interview, where the students presented a journal and explained the design, construction and programming of their robots.

Peta! The Musical

Peta! - Murdoch College's whole-school production for 2009 - was a resounding success!

Performed at Murdoch University's Nexus Theatre, the students and staff involved in this year's musical worked hard to present four sparkling shows to over 500 delighted audience members from 5th - 8th August.

Set in Western Australia, 1969 and written by the Director of the Murdoch College Drama Company, Scott Robertson, the show featured a cast of 41 actors, singers and dancers who told the story of a young girl named Peta who is destined to be a soul singer in a Perth nightclub, The Junction.



Jacques and Lewis impressed the judges with the complex build of their robots, as well as the use of advanced technologies such as bluetooth communication between the robots to synchronise them.

The students received many positive comments over the two day competition and there was the opportunity for plenty of networking with students from other schools.

This was an excellent experience for Jacques and Lewis and they represented Murdoch College very well.

Jacques and Lewis will now travel to Sydney in September to represent Western Australia in the National competition.

Murdoch College congratulates Jacques and Lehembre on an outstanding effort and wishes them well for the Nationals in September!



Seventeen Motown songs (and a couple of folk tunes for good measure) were performed by the dynamic cast and Mr Fisher made his anticipated appearance at the start of Act Two with a rousing version of Good Golly Miss Molly.



Murdoch College Open Day

Murdoch College Open Day is a great opportunity to find out more about our school, tour the campus, listen to the Principal's presentation and meet our teachers.

The program will include:

- 10.15 - 11.00 College Tour
- 11.00 - 11.30 Music performance by students
- 11.30 - 12.15 Principal's Presentation & Question Time
- 12.15 - 1.00 College Tour

We encourage visitors to attend the Murdoch University Open Day afterwards, which is open until 4pm and has the following activities!

- * a buzzing Bush Court. This is the cultural and functional heart of Murdoch. It will be alive with course information, bands, competitions, food stalls and fun hands-on activities.
- * Talks on courses
- * General information talks on uni life, study help etc
- * Information and guided campus tours
- * "Hot Spots" for each course to try a range of activities and demonstrations
- * Giveaways, competitions, live entertainment

What's Coming Up at Murdoch College!

MONTH	DAY	ACTIVITY/EVENT
AUGUST		
26th August	Wednesday	PISA Testing (selected students)
		Year 12 PE WA Sport Interschool Touch Tournament 9.00am - 3.00pm
27th August	Thursday	Cross Country (Middle School & selected Senior School students), North Lake Reserve 8.30am - 10.40am
28th August	Friday	"The Importance of Being Earnest" Literature Excursion, Subiaco Arts Centre (7.40pm)
30th August	Sunday	Murdoch College & Murdoch University Open Day (College open from 10am - 1.00pm, University open until 4pm)
31st August	Monday	Murdoch Idol Heat 1, YDC (1.00pm)
SEPTEMBER		
1, 2, 4 September	Tue, Wed, Fri	Murdoch Idol Heats 2 - 4, YDC (1.00pm)
2nd September	Wednesday	National Reading Day (All English & Literature students will take part in activities on the day)
3rd September	Thursday	Fun Athletics Day, Murdoch University Grounds (9.30am - 3.40pm)
7 - 10 September	Mon - Thurs	Battle of the Bands Heats 1 - 4, YDC (1.00pm)
7th September	Monday	Parent Partnership Organisation Meeting, Staff Lounge (6.30pm)
16th September	Wednesday	Murdoch Idol & Battle of the Bands Finals, Nexus Theatre (7.15pm)
18th September	Friday	Year 12 OSP Evening, Nexus Theatre (7.30pm)
22nd September	Tuesday	PPO Family Sundowner & Picnic, Murdoch College (5.00pm)
24th September	Thursday	Year 10 Music & Studio Orchestra Excursion, Perth Concert Hall (10am - 1.00pm)
25th September	Friday	End of Term 3 Full School Assembly, YDC (9.25am)

Term Two Principal's Honour Roll Breakfast

Term Two was an extremely successful term for Murdoch College as 54 students were awarded with Principal's Honour Roll status. Students who achieved a GPA of 3.5 and above and their families were invited by Mr Fisher to attend breakfast. Due to the large number of students, it was necessary to have two breakfasts.

The Middle School Breakfast was held on Thursday, 30 July and the Senior School Breakfast on Friday, 31 July.

Mr Fisher congratulated students on their success in the first semester of 2009 and encouraged students to continue to work hard to achieve high grades.



Principal's Honour Roll recipient Karina Khiu, enjoys Mr MacKay's speech with Mr Britza and Mr Fisher



Special guest speaker Mr Stuart MacKay

Guest speaker and retired Murdoch College teacher, Mr Stuart McKay gave an inspiring speech to everyone present about the ten things he feels we should all carry with us throughout our lives. These included to continually learn and be kind to others but they most important thing to remember is to always keep your sense of humour. Students and parents were all able to relate to and take their own little piece of advice from Mr McKay's words.

Students on the Merit, Honour and Principal's Honour Rolls were recognised later in the morning at a Full School Assembly.

Congratulations to these students on their outstanding efforts and we look forward to welcoming more students to the Academic Rolls in Term Three.

Murdoch Community Counselling Centre

Caladenia Counselling is located on Murdoch University's South St campus.

Psychology lecturer Robyn Bett recently visited Murdoch College and spoke to all academic staff about the service that Caladenia offers to individuals, couples, families and groups.

Postgraduate students work in the centre under the supervision and guidance of qualified psychotherapists.

Parents can contact Dean of Students, Mr Anthony Britza, for further information regarding this service.

Update from the Music Department

On Tuesday, 15th September, Murdoch College band Fat Jackal will represent the College in the first heat of MY BIG GIG 09. The band is made of students Joel Martin, Jackson Hawdon and Harley Barnaby. Last year the band received a wild card entry into the finals and won second place overall.

The final will once again be held at Fly By Night Musician's Club in Fremantle on Friday, 25th September. We wish the band all the best!!

The heats for Murdoch Idol begin on Monday, 31st August. Battle of the Band heats commence the following week, Monday, 7th September. The heats for both will be held at lunch time in the YDC.

The Murdoch Idol and Battle of the Bands finals will be held at Murdoch University's Nexus Theatre on Wednesday 16 September and tickets are available for purchase: www.trybooking.com/BRZ. Please note tickets are now sold exclusively online.

Update from Studies of Society & Environment

This term in Middle School Studies of Society and Environment students are looking at the sustainable use of energy. Students are examining the impact of energy use on the planet and, in association with Science, looking at current and renewable methods of energy generation.

As part of this program, Murdoch College is one of a handful of schools participating in a pilot program from the Department of Environment and Conservation which enables students to examine the energy use of the College.

Pairs of students are taking readings from the College's electricity meter five times a day with a view to analysing that data. Classes will then be part of brainstorming ways that the College could use energy more efficiently.

The students' major assessment for this term involves the same process for their own homes, with them taking readings from their home meters two or three times a day. A major part of this lies in students recognising how much energy a home uses, especially with equipment they take for granted such as the fridge.

By the end of the term, students will be able to suggest strategies for reducing their energy consumption and should be able to state whether that involves major lifestyle changes or minor alterations to established routines. Students will also be visiting the Environmental Technology Centre at Murdoch University in order to see the research that is being applied to this field of sustainability.



Middle School students Alma Jovanovic and Miles Trivedi take the 12pm reading of the school's meter on Wednesday 12 August

Staff Updates

Introducing the new Library Staff

Hi, I am Leanne Thorpe. I have just relocated from Darwin to Perth and have taken up the position of Library Manager here at Murdoch College.

I come from a background of Library and Information Management and have worked in a variety of different library environments. I look forward to the new and exciting challenges of the Murdoch College Library.



Hi, I'm Kelly Reed and have taken up the position of Library Technician. I previously worked in various Central TAFE libraries throughout Perth and look forward to working at Murdoch College.



Introducing Rebecca Psanoudakis - Student Reception

Rebecca joins us from St Hilda's Anglican Girls School and has a very good understanding of the needs of young adolescents. Rebecca will work with Mr Anthony Britza, Dean of Students.

We welcome Rebecca to Murdoch College and would also like to thank Andrea Zhuang for her work in the Student Reception role over the past year. Andrea will be undertaking other Administrative roles at the College.

Parents are reminded that all attendance matters should be directed to Rebecca at studentreception@murdochcollege.wa.edu.au

Academic Staff Changes

Murdoch College welcomes the following academic staff to the team.

Mr Larson Lee will be working as a 0.6 Mathematics teacher and Ms Lisa Lee has reduced her workload to 0.4. Lisa will be at the College on Monday and Tuesdays and Larson will work the remainder of the week.

Dr Mary Ellen MacDonald rejoins Murdoch College to undertake the position of ESL teacher during Mr Chris Morgan's Long Service Leave this term. Mary Ellen replaces Sandra Ruthven in this long service leave position.