

# The Charter

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**Student  
Leadership**

**Co-Curricular  
Opportunities**

**Community  
Connection**



**John Wollaston**  
ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

**Winter 2021 | Edition 56**





# From the Principal . . . . .

*We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist...using technologies that haven't yet been invented...in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet - Richard Riley, Secretary of Education in President Clinton's Administration.*

Our Encounters, in place for all year levels, are important learning experiences which facilitate character development and personal growth. The students enjoy the opportunity to test themselves in contexts outside the classroom in the company of their peers and the staff. Indeed for many students, the Encounter is the highlight of their year. A snapshot of a Semester 1 Encounter experience is included in this issue of The Charter.

Also featured in this issue is a piece on the new Year 10 specialised subject Drone Pilot which has generated considerable interest. Recognising the career opportunities in this field, we are excited about the possibility of offering a Certificate III in Aviation (Remote Pilot) to senior secondary students in 2022.

I continue to be delighted by the opportunities for our students at John Wollaston.

With good wishes  
**Anne Ford**

This is the formidable, yet exciting, challenge facing educators as we look to provide a broad range of curricular and co curricular programs and experiences for students of all ages and abilities to prepare them for life beyond school. Key to this challenge is working with our young people to enhance their character strengths such as resilience, perseverance, courage and empathy; fostering a strong set of values and an ethical approach to life which will enable them to be successful.

Many of our students have a strong social conscience and strive in a host of ways to make a better world. The collaboration between our Environment Prefect and Captain has resulted in whole school initiatives in waste awareness and reduction which are likely to have a lasting legacy.

# . . . . . A Note from the Chaplain



**The Chapel is at the heart of John Wollaston Anglican Community School. It is here that students and staff gather to worship God and hear the gospel message.**

support the Chaplain and promote the Christian ethos of the School. They will also serve as 'Sacristans' – an ancient word for leaders who help the priest in the day-to-day running of services.

This is a place of reflection, prayer and singing and a focus of celebration. Almost every major event in the life of the School begins or ends in the Chapel. Occasionally, it is also a house of mourning when people come together in times of loss and sadness. The Chapel is a sacred home for every member of our community, and we should all feel welcomed and connected to this special place.

In the next twelve months the Chapel Office, Sacristy and Sanctuary will undergo refurbishment and the worship calendar will be updated to include regular services for all students and staff. We look forward to welcoming families to the Chapel for family services and other special occasions. Towards the end of the year, I will be inviting Expressions of Interest in Anglican Baptism and Confirmation. There are many exciting developments happening in the Chapel at the moment and we look forward to you visiting us soon.

It is important that students of all ages are actively involved in the life of the Chapel and its stewardship. Two student leaders, Makabongwe Mpofu, Chapel Captain, and Camellia Shwe, Chapel Prefect, take special responsibility for the Chapel and its activities. This year an additional number of students from Years 10 and 11 have been selected to form a Chapel Council which will



# Contents

## Around the School

- From the Principal .....3
- A Note from the Chaplain.....3
- Giving Students a Voice..... 4
- Making a Positive Difference ..... 5
- Reaching for the Skies ..... 6
- Making Reading Magical..... 7
- Students Have Sum Fun with Maths.....7
- Hands on Learning ..... 8
- Fresh Air and Fitness .....10
- Creative Spirit .....10
- Saddling Up For Equestrian..... 11
- Super Swimmers .....12
- Students Rise to the Challenge .....12
- Adventure Abounds.....13
- Opening Doors to the Future .....14
- Going Green.....15
- Hunting for Treasure.....16
- Limitless Possibilities ..... 17
- Driven to Success ..... 17

## Connected Community

- Community on Campus .....18
- Celebrating our Mums.....19
- Strength to Serve.....20
- Rhino Footprints .....21
- Hale House Supports the Homeless.....22

## Old Wollastonians

- Denson Baker:Hall of Fame .....23

## Editorial Team

Amanda Barrett, Manager Community Engagement and Marketing  
Evie Dodge, Community Engagement Assistant





## Giving Students a Voice

**Student leadership opportunities abound at John Wollaston, helping students to develop confidence, leadership skills and a strong voice to become the leaders of tomorrow.**

Several student leaders have recently pioneered new initiatives within the School, making a positive and lasting impact upon various aspects of school life.

In the Primary, Year 6 Sport Captain, Ryota Suzuki has used his passion for fitness to start a lunchtime sports club, helping students in Years 2 to 6 to be active, have fun and build friendships. Ryota said, *“At the beginning of the year I wanted to encourage others to try their best and experience all kinds of sports.”*

Committing to his goal, Ryota used the school holidays to develop a plan for his club, creating a token system for student participation. With the Primary Sports Club now up and running, Ryota is pleased to see that his efforts are helping students to feel included and have fun. *“My club is designed for anyone who wants to get active and make friends. I have liked watching everyone get better at a different sport each week!”*

Outside of school Ryota has a busy active schedule, playing tennis and State level baseball. As Ryota continues to Year 7 in 2022, he hopes his legacy will live on and that the Primary Sports Club will remain in action for all students to become involved.



## Making a Positive Difference

**In 2021 a new student leadership role, Prefect of Wellbeing was added to the Secondary School.**

Prefect of Wellbeing, Emily Myles is creating her own pathway and establishing the role from the roots up with the help of other passionate students. Emily commented, *“I started the Student Wellbeing Group to help improve morale around the School. Our group aims to help form stronger social networks and collaboration amongst year levels. I truly believe that it is important to support each other and ourselves in a mindful way to improve our quality of life both inside and outside of school.”*

A new Wellbeing Program led by Dean of Pastoral Care, Kylie Virgo is teaching students the importance of taking care of emotional and physical wellness by

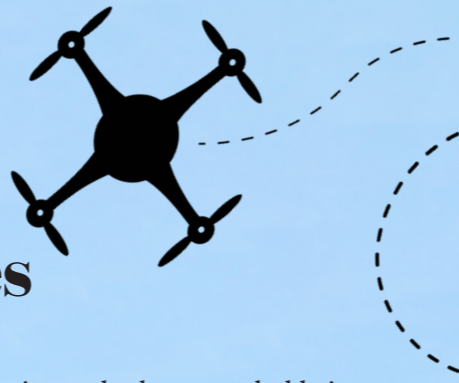
participating in engaging activities and creating safe spaces for conversation. *“We are focusing on a Trinity of Wellbeing which comprises learning, connecting and belonging,”* Ms Virgo explained.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, wellbeing and mental health awareness have become an even greater focus in society with many people feeling the effects of isolation. Emily has identified the needs of students and is working towards several goals with the support of the Wellbeing Group and Ms Virgo. *“At the end of the day, it’s about being able to lift each other up when we need it. Social connectedness is one of the most important aspects of life. If we can enhance that culture within John Wollaston, just imagine the difference we can create out in the world!”*





## Reaching for the Skies



A new Drone Pilot program introduced to John Wollaston in 2021 has our students reaching for the skies as they contemplate high flying careers utilising drone technology.

Offered as a specialist subject in Year 10, students learn about the physics of flying, the components of a drone and the CASA safety regulations.

For many, the highlight of the program has been the weekly flying lessons with Head of Science and Technology, Stephen Fox. Students are given a Brushless Tiny Whoop drone to build and fly which has proven fun and challenging at times. Dean of Teaching and Learning, Kathy Paul said, "Students are making excellent progress and are now able to hover and perform basic manoeuvres. They have even managed to combat some challenging wind conditions on the John Wollaston oval."

Flying a drone is challenging, whether as a hobbyist enjoying the views around Perth and Western Australia from above, or as a professional capturing footage in the industries of aerial surveying, photography, videography, search and rescue, and data capture. Importantly, the Drone Pilot program is giving students a taste of careers utilising drones within industry sectors such as mining, utilities, agriculture, media and aviation which all embrace the technology.

In 2022 the School will be offering the SCSA Endorsed Program, Remote Pilot Licence (REPL). This is a 12 month course for Year 11 and 12 students which will qualify them to fly drones on a commercial basis. Students are then a step from completing a Certificate III in Aviation (Remote Pilot).

The Science and Technology staff are committed to offering innovative opportunities for our students. There are more exciting initiatives to come...



## Making Reading Magical

When Erik the Story Dog visits the Year 2s for some one-on-one reading, the atmosphere in the classroom is electric with students keen to share a story or two with him.

As a certified Story Dog, Erik is helping students build confidence, improve literacy skills and develop a love of reading. Once a week, Erik visits with his handler and John Wollaston parent, Sam Pilgrim-Byrne, sitting patiently with the Year 2s as they read aloud to him. Dogs are ideal reading companions, never judging, laughing or criticising, allowing students to proceed at their own pace and improve their reading skills.

Ms Pilgrim-Byrne said, "I have the privilege of seeing many positive changes in children through the Story Dogs Program, such as an increase in confidence, less apprehension and more enthusiasm to begin reading a new book."

"Not only that, it is wonderful to see children reduce their fear around dogs. Some students haven't had much experience around animals, which can make them

nervous. Erik is the perfect dog to show them that they don't need to be afraid if they treat dogs with respect and behave responsibly around them."

Erik has been involved for many years at John Wollaston, however last year's restrictions made it difficult for the friendly pooch to visit. We are grateful that our students can once again reap the benefits of the Story Dogs Program and access additional support through the foundational reading and literacy development years.



## Students Have Sum Fun with Maths

Solving complex maths problems in the Have Sum Fun Mathematics Competition is no walk in the park, but for a group of John Wollaston students it was an opportunity to put their math skills to the test.

A group of 12 students from Years 7 and 8 were selected to participate in the Have Sum Fun Maths Competition as part of a Mathematics extension opportunity. The online competition, held over three sessions, stretched students academically as they raced against the clock to solve challenging problems. Students worked collaboratively and creatively, pulling together different ideas, similar to the real-life environment in which Mathematicians work.

Secondary Mathematics teacher, Fiona Morrison said, "We have a number of children who really enjoy the Have Sum Fun Competition as it is a way for them to

feel stretched and work with like-minded peers. I think the challenge takes them out of their comfort zone and allows them to work on concepts that are applicable to daily life."

As students reach Years 11 and 12, there are a number of Mathematics courses on offer for both General and ATAR pathways including Mathematics Applications, Mathematics Methods and Mathematics Specialist to accommodate individual needs, and academically enrich those who wish to pursue a pathway in Mathematics in the future.





# Hands on Learning

Excitement awaits younger members of the School as they attend an extensive range of Specialist Programs, exposing them to a range of new concepts and skills. From Pre-Primary, students attend classes in Japanese, Music, Art, Physical Education and Digital Technologies, discovering new skills in each lesson. Taking a leap into a wide range of learning areas from a young age has countless benefits, from enhanced academic development, increased confidence and being open-minded to new experiences.



## Cultural Connections with Mrs Crawford

Captivating curious minds, the Year 5s and Year 10s organised interactive Japanese lessons to share their knowledge with ELC students last term.

Pre-Primary students were full of smiles as the Year 5s, with the assistance of Primary Japanese Specialist, Heidi Crawford led origami-making lessons, played Japanese counting games and dressed up in kimonos. "I was so proud to see the initiative of our Year 5s in helping the younger students take part in the games they organised," said Mrs Crawford.

Reading with confidence, Year 10 Pegasus Japanese students presented story-telling presentations to the Year 2s, bringing the topics of colours and animals to life. "Primary students become so enthusiastic when we have special visitors in class!" said Mrs Crawford.

## Musical Melodies with Miss Burbage

Pre-Primary students enjoy an exciting first year of learning Music with Primary Music Specialist, Hollie Burbage as they are introduced to the fundamentals of rhythm and sound.

Designed to develop their 'musical muscles' and prepare them for later years, Pre-Primary students take part in creative movement games, rhymes and learning percussion instruments including maracas, hand drums and claves.

"The big focus at the beginning of the year is learning how to keep a beat, which is easier said than done," said Miss Burbage.

There are immeasurable benefits to studying music from an early age, including improvement of memory, increased creativity and patience. Pre-Primary student Mykal said, "I love it when we swap our instruments and try new things like paying soft (piano) and loud (forte)."

## Digitech Fundamentals with Mrs Godfrey

Every corner of the new Digitech classroom is bursting with extensive resources allowing students to discover technology.

Whether it is using the iPads for typing and coding, sparking their imagination in the digital play corner or building creations with the STEAM Lego set, students eagerly await their Digitech lesson each week.

"As part of the Year 1 Unit of Inquiry, 'Where We Are in Time and Place', we focused on equipping students with essential cyber safety skills so they can become confident digital citizens," said Primary Digital Technology Specialist Haylee Godfrey.

Year 1 student Imani said, "I feel much safer because I have learnt about keeping my information private and telling an adult if there is a stranger online."





# Fresh Air and Fitness

Members of the John Wollaston Run Club have found an energizing way to kickstart their day, working hard to improve their strength, running stamina and form.

Promoting a healthy lifestyle through fun and fitness, the Run Club is building a sense of community, inviting students, staff and parents to participate.

Twice a week, Run Club members gather to run laps of the oval or participate in HIIT workouts and strength training. A QR code system linked to one of the four School Houses, registers each participant's completed lap to allocate House points for their efforts.

For some, the hard work and commitment to Run Club has paid dividends with students performing well in the Primary Inter-House Cross Country Carnival and achieving personal bests. Violet Heather worked hard in training and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Year 4 Girls Cross Country. "Even when it's a freezing cold morning I still go along to Run Club. I love it!" Violet said.



# Saddling Up for Equestrian

The thrill and excitement that comes with participating in Equestrian pursuits, courses through the veins of John Wollaston students who have a long-standing tradition of competing in Equestrian at both a State and National level.

For more than 24 years students have represented the School, displaying their passion for the sport they love. Recently, two Equestrian students put on a stunning performance at the 2021 Saddles Plus Interschool Equestrian Festival at the State Equestrian Centre, Brigadoon.

At just nine years old, Year 4 student, Matilda March was the youngest rider in her classes, competing in Showjumping and Combined Training on her two horses, Judaroo Espionage (Jasper) and Redgum Little Miss Giggles (Giggles). Matilda was in outstanding form achieving 1st place in the Primary 60cm Showjumping Championship class, the Primary 70cm Showjumping Championship class and the Primary 70cm Showjumping Participant class. She also achieved 2nd place in the Primary 60cm Showjumping Participant class and 3rd place in the Primary 60cm Combined Training Championship class.

Matilda said, "I was so happy and excited to compete in the Interschool Equestrian Festival. My Dad used to compete in Equestrian events and I want to follow in his footsteps."

For Year 7 student, Eva Anning this was her first taste of competing at an inter-school event. Riding The Brass Bear (Teddy), Eva achieved amazing results placing 4th in the Secondary 45cm Showjumping Participant class and 10th in the Secondary 60cm Showjumping Participant class.

"I like riding because it creates a connection with an animal stronger than any other and I forget about everything else that's going on in the world. It's one moment of my life where it's just me and Teddy," said Eva.

Competing in Equestrian events demands dedication with the students training several times a week and a strong support network. Equestrian coach and Science teacher, Rebecca Phillips said "I was incredibly proud of the sportsmanship, skill and presentation of our riders at this event. Matilda and Eva are dedicated riders who have a bright future in the sport."

### SIGN UP FOR EQUESTRIAN

If you are interested in joining the friendly and supportive John Wollaston Equestrian Team please contact Rebecca Phillips via email [mail@jwacs.wa.edu.au](mailto:mail@jwacs.wa.edu.au).

# Creative Spirit

This year for Arts Week we held a number of creative and engaging activities around the School to celebrate the wide range of artistic talents our students possess.

Both Primary and Secondary students worked on some fantastic artworks that took the form of temporary installations around the campus. There were miniature bottle top artworks on the walls, chalk portraits on the pavement and large cane sculptures in the Technology building. Students from Years 2 to 6 created ephemeral art pieces with natural materials, allowing them to think outside of the box and use their imagination.

It was a privilege to watch some fantastic acts at the Secondary Talent Show to conclude the week, including

a lyrical dance and solo electric guitar performance. The theatre is a performance space in which students are safely supported to share their gifts with their peers.

Arts Week is an opportunity for all students to immerse themselves in creativity. I believe everyone can be artistic if they are open-minded. At John Wollaston it is special that we can highlight both the Visual and Performing Arts with the support of Primary and Secondary teaching staff not only during our celebratory week, but all year round.

Isabelle Pearce  
**ARTS PREFECT**





## Super Swimmers

Early morning starts and wet hair don't stop the John Wollaston Swim Club members from getting their laps in! A newly formed squad of students meet twice a week at the Armadale Fitness and Aquatic Centre.



Primary Physical Education Specialist, Mel Fowler is very proud of how far the squad have progressed in a short amount of time. *"Their strokes, position in the water, speed and stamina have come on in leaps and bounds!"*, said Ms Fowler.

The Club aims to build a strong swimming culture at John Wollaston, improving technique and racing skills. Students selected for the squad are required to apply, demonstrating strong swimming ability and water confidence. Many students have represented John Wollaston at Inter-School Swimming events.

Year 8 Swim Club member, Addison Brewer said, *"I joined the Swim Club because I saw it as an opportunity to build up my strength and improve on my swim skills. Being a part of the squad has given me much more than that. It is such a supportive and friendly culture which has ultimately increased my sense of wellbeing."*

## Students Rise to the Challenge

A nervous excitement could be sensed in the air at the annual IPSHA Speakers' Challenge in June with three Year 6 students confidently taking to the stage to represent John Wollaston.

Lilia McCabe, Lachlan Bydder and James Biddulph were chosen as finalists, from more than 300 Upper Primary students, to deliver an entertaining, engaging and thought-provoking speech on a topic of their own choosing.

Inspired by his lumberjack relatives, James' speech titled *'Trees Can Be Sustainable'*, discussed how trees can be a sustainable resource if used in a responsible way. *"It's something I have been really interested in, ever since I started talking to family members about their jobs, which is why I wanted to share this in my speech,"* said James.

Lachlan's humorous speech, titled *'The Terrifying Ocean'* delved into the mystery and danger lurking beneath the ocean's surface. *"Did you know we have only discovered 5% of the ocean and its species? Just imagine what could be hiding! took something I fear, the ocean, and turned it into something more light-hearted and fun."*

The experience was a highlight for Lilia, who wrote an entertaining speech titled *'Ants Are Evil.'* Lilia said, *"I learnt so much about expression and speaking clearly. Taking part in the Speakers' Challenge was something that I didn't know I would be able to do, so I really surprised myself when I became a finalist. The experience helped me become a more confident speaker and to try something new."*

The Speakers' Challenge is an opportunity for students to take on a powerful voice, providing an avenue for them to share ideas and grow in confidence. Head of Primary, Tracey Rogers said, *"It is wonderful to see students blossom throughout the speechwriting process. Some of our students are quite shy, so it is particularly special watching them come out of their shell and speak in front of a very large crowd."*



## Adventure Abounds



The Encounter Program is always a highlight for John Wollaston students. The adventure, challenge and excitement of the experiences create fond memories for past and present students.

Encounters create opportunities beyond the walls of a classroom, offering age appropriate learning experiences which facilitate character development, resilience building and personal growth.

Students in Years 8 and 9 recently undertook their Encounter in partnership with Adventure Out WA. The Program focuses upon a 'rites of passage' theme, recognising the arguably most significant life transition of a child becoming an adult and the unique challenges this can present. Students were immersed within the beauty of nature whilst being pushed out of their comfort zone, encouraging them to dig deep within themselves. The Year 8s travelled to Dwellingup, participating in an array of adventurous activities, while the Year 9s completed a rigorous rafting expedition

along the Blackwood River in the Margaret River region.

Dean of Pastoral Care, Kylie Virgo said, *"Whether students were building a raft, speeding across mountain bike tracks, kayaking or taking part in trust exercises, the aim was to build upon communication skills and develop resilience."*

As students continue to work their way through the Encounter Program, the results of each experience can be seen in the blossoming self-confidence and the ability to tackle life's challenges.

Year 8 student, Sienna Macri said, *"Throughout the Encounter we had to use a lot of skills, such as navigation for hiking and teamwork when cooking. Although the teachers and instructors were there to supervise, we did most of the work and were given many responsibilities. The Encounter was a great opportunity to work together with my peers and challenge myself. I learnt so much about myself and others."*



## Opening Doors to the Future

Through the Learning Enrichment Centre (LEC) and the Vocational Education and Training Office, two senior students are taking stock of their futures, and opening doors to exciting career opportunities.

Year 12 student, Mia Caruso, is completing a Certificate II in Animal Studies through the South Metropolitan TAFE. Mia, who has a lifelong passion for animals, has been able to develop her interpersonal skills, leading group meetings at TAFE. *"I absolutely love the learning environment at TAFE and I'm very grateful for the support and knowledge I receive from staff in the LEC, especially Mrs Legg who comes with me,"* said Mia.

Year 11 student, James Pou is undertaking a Skill Set course in Automotive through South Metropolitan TAFE. James is hoping to become an automotive mechanic when he finishes school, with the Skill Set course giving him a competitive edge upon entering the automotive industry as a young adult.

Education Assistant, Lana Lu said, *"These opportunities are a chance for students to be taken outside of their comfort zone and build upon their confidence. It's fantastic to give them space to learn in different environments and really excel in their areas of interest. I have seen James become so engaged in what he is studying."*

The LEC is a well-resourced and thriving hub, where students are nurtured to help them reach their full potential. With the support of LEC staff, students are guided towards independence and responsibility for their own learning.

LEC support coupled with industry placements, are giving students a boost for future employment in careers they are passionate about.



## Going Green

Championing new ways for the School to become more environmentally conscious, several students are leading by example and helping to shape a more sustainable future for John Wollaston.

Environment Prefect, Kate Colley along with her student 'Green Team' and Year 6 Environment Captain, Alexis Hennett have activated a growing culture of passion for recycling and waste reduction. This year, the students have advocated for new sustainable initiatives around the School, including the introduction of the Containers for Change bins and paper recycling bins for every classroom. With financial assistance from the Parents and Friends Association, the bins have already seen a dramatic impact on the way waste is being managed within the School.

*"Students are definitely becoming aware of the impact they can personally have on the*

*environment and are making more considered choices about how they can create a positive difference,"* said Kate.

During Environment Week students celebrated by participating in an array of interactive and creative activities using materials that would have been deemed as 'waste'. Kate said, *"We had the idea to use old containers from the School Café and shredded paper to make ocean creatures and recycled paper craft, which especially excited Primary students."*

*"My next goal is to write a draft Environmental Policy for John Wollaston creating a lasting impact for years to come. We only get one Earth for all to share and enjoy. I am grateful that I have been given opportunities to share my passions and create initiatives through my experience as a Prefect."*







## Hunting for Treasure

**A lively crew of pirates went on the hunt for golden treasure, taking aspects of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) Curriculum to creative new heights.**

Year 1 students took part in Pirate Day, a fun and interactive way to practise their learning through the PYP Unit of Inquiry, 'Where We Are in Place and Time.' Students explored concepts of location, direction, order and time in inventive ways, deepening their understanding of this idea.

Students had an exciting day seeking hidden treasure around the ELC using clues and maps, giving them the understanding to apply their knowledge outside of the classroom. Primary Dean of Teaching and Learning, Fiona Currey said, "Orientating ourselves in place and time is

*a basic everyday concept that we as adults don't need to actively think about in everyday life. That's why it is key we teach our children these skills from an early age."*

The Year 1s begin to make connections and are able to solve problems in real-life context through imaginative play on Pirate Day, making it a memorable day for all involved.

The International Baccalaureate PYP explores the idea that children grasp concepts best when their learning is engaging, challenging and relevant to the world they live in. John Wollaston is among a small number of independent schools in Western Australia which are World Schools delivering the Primary Years Program alongside the National Curriculum, helping children become active learners and well-rounded individuals.



## Limitless Possibilities

**A group of inquisitive STEM Club students are taking proactive strides towards technological needs of the future, rather than waiting for tomorrow to come to them.**

An International competition, The Microsoft Imagine Cup Challenge gives students an opportunity to explore and learn about the principles of artificial intelligence (AI) development. Students discuss the ethical debate behind AI and look at how it is currently being used to responsibly address world problems.

Seven Secondary STEM Club students recently participated in the challenge. Forming two groups, students addressed a social need, developing their own concept with the aid of artificial intelligence.

Students looked at various disability access needs within the community to develop their ideas. Team Thoughtful Trio designed an AI called Amyloid-Beta Brain, which would operate through a smart device to help Alzheimer's patients better manage their condition in everyday living. The aim of their concept was to help those with Alzheimer's to organize their day, recall

family and friends and report any symptoms to a healthcare provider.

Team Tricycle Club designed a tricycle that could be fitted with smart sensors, allowing blind or vision impaired people to get around safely while exercising.

Secondary Science teacher, David Longman said, "The Imagine Cup Challenge was a practical exercise in which students could develop their knowledge of STEM-based practices while building upon social awareness. While artificial intelligence may seem a futuristic concept, it is exactly the kind of technology that students will be dealing with in their prospective careers."

The STEM Club at John Wollaston provides opportunities for members to enrich their learning and stretch their imagination. Our students are pioneering the way for positive social change.



## Driven to Success

**Completing five nationally recognised training certificates and a WACE Certificate may seem an ambitious feat, but for Year 12 student, Chloe Cashman this is only the beginning of her pathway to becoming a qualified Motorcycle Mechanic.**

Through the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Program, Chloe will have completed a Certificate II in Automotive Servicing Technologies, Certificate II in Automotive Vocation Preparation, Certificate II and III in Business and Certificate II in Visual Arts by the time she graduates at the end of 2021.

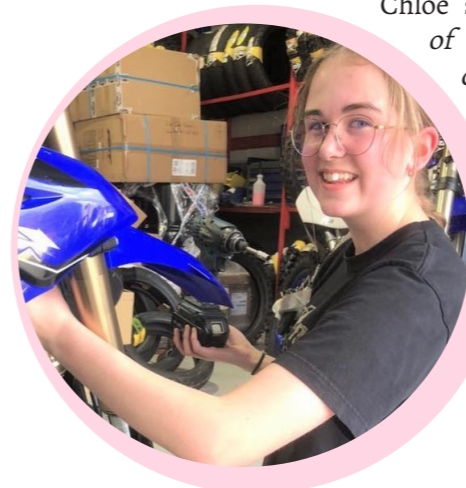
Chloe said, "I hope that two of the certificates I am completing, Certificate II in Automotive Servicing Technologies and another in Visual Art, will help me explore a dream avenue of vehicle painting where I can

*tie my two passions for motorcycles and art together."*

Chloe is completing an apprenticeship with Five Star Yamaha, working alongside the Head Mechanic on motorcycle repairs, servicing and engine rebuilds.

Navigating a male-dominated industry, Chloe is pioneering the way and letting nothing stop her from reaching her goals. "I just decided to tell myself that I wasn't going to let anybody or anything hold me back. Some people were doubtful of my resilience, but this has only fuelled my passion. I love what I do and am excited for my future career," said Chloe.

The VET Program at John Wollaston is igniting the passions of Secondary students as they discover new workplace environments. Chloe said her experiences inspired her to pursue a career in the automotive industry. "I have met people from diverse backgrounds including colleagues, lecturers and friends who are spurring me on to do great things. I would recommend anybody looking for a rewarding challenge to apply for the VET Program," said Chloe.







## Community on Campus



The well-established Chalk Café has once again become a hub for the wider community, where students gain practical Hospitality experience and visitors enjoy a delicious meal in the welcoming atmosphere that is the essence of John Wollaston.

On Friday 18 June, residents of the Astley Care Day Club visited the School for a special luncheon, something that has not been possible for 12 months due to COVID-19 restrictions during 2020. Hospitality students hosted the Astley Care residents in the Chalk Café serving a freshly prepared two-course meal consisting of chicken and leek pie with sweet potato mash and decadent chocolate brownie for dessert.

Astley Care resident, Joyce spoke about her experience. *“Not only are the meals and student service incredible, but being a part of a community event is very special. It can get very lonely living on your own and even more so when we were in lockdown, so it is a privilege to be able to visit John Wollaston.”*

The Hospitality Certificates and Café Culture courses provide many benefits to students wishing to pursue a job or further study in these fields. Year 10 Hospitality student, Emily Bailey said, *“It’s a great feeling to know you are making someone’s day. I have gained a lot of confidence in my communication skills and now feel equipped to seek part-time work or further study in the Hospitality industry.”*

A John Wollaston education isn’t just about content, but putting into practice knowledge and skills that can be used to serve others.



## Celebrating our Mums

There were smiles and cuddles all-round as ELC mums and children shared in a special Mother’s Day picnic this year.

Given the uncertainty amid government health restrictions earlier in the year, it was extra special to invite parents onto campus once again. We appreciate and value the hard work mothers and mother-figures put into the children they care for.

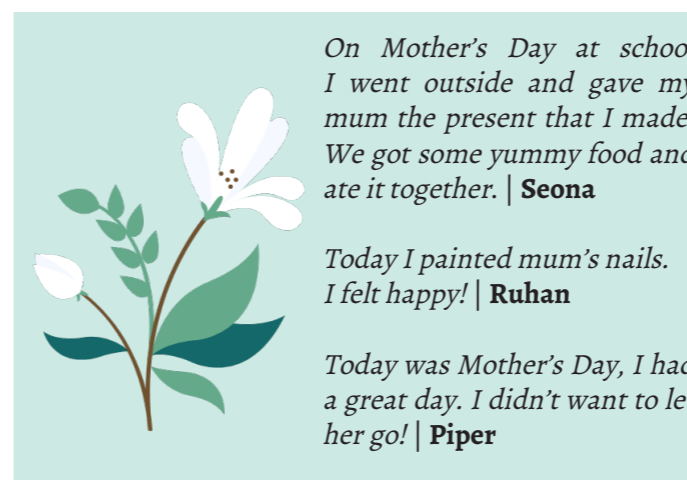
Kindergarten, Pre-Primary and Year 1 students treated their mums to a special morning tea, painting their nails and pampering them before a special singing performance. Celebrating community is an important aspect of life at John Wollaston as we recognise the contribution each family makes to the life of our school.



*My mum is the best because she always kisses me.* | Heidi

*I love my mum because every night after dinner she pushes me on the red swing.* | Caleb

*My mum is the best because she ate the pink heart biscuit I made her.* | Navtegh



*On Mother’s Day at school I went outside and gave my mum the present that I made. We got some yummy food and ate it together.* | Seona

*Today I painted mum’s nails. I felt happy!* | Ruhan

*Today was Mother’s Day, I had a great day. I didn’t want to let her go!* | Piper





## Strength to Serve

Ever since Primary Physical Education Specialist, Mel Fowler began serving as a State Emergency Services (SES) volunteer five years ago, the role has taken her across Western Australia providing relief and support to communities in need.

Discovering the strong sense of comradery within the SES, Ms Fowler said she has felt the benefits of being involved in something 'bigger'. *"There is something really special about assisting people in their unexpected time of need. The joy and relief you see in others when you can help them in some way, is like no other feeling,"* said Ms Fowler.

During the Christmas holidays, while most of us were enjoying the festive celebrations, Ms Fowler selflessly gave her time between the SES and Oakford Bush Fire Brigade. *"It was a particularly busy period where I attended the Gingin and Kwinana fires as a firefighter as well as monitoring burn-offs. I was also involved in a search and rescue operation over the New Year,"* said Ms Fowler.

The recent devastation of Cyclone Seroja within the Kalbarri community was devastating for many, which she witnessed first-hand during her five-day deployment along with 500 volunteers. Ms Fowler said, *"We worked to repair buildings, clear debris and offer support to the locals. It was as much of a mental challenge as it was physical to see the destruction caused to peoples' lives*

*and homes. However, it has been amazing to see the resilience of humanity and how we can come together to help each other out during the toughest of situations."*

Over the last two years, Ms Fowler has taken a step up to the SES Vertical Service which has seen her undertake some serious operational training including roping from 50-metre-high rock faces in preparation to rescue people trapped at heights or depths. *"I have grown so much as a person though my involvement within the organisation,"* she said.

*"The feeling of helping others is such a great reward, therefore I would recommend anybody seeking a challenge to consider serving in the SES. To give back to the community is something I will always advocate for."*

In her role as a teacher at John Wollaston, it is evident that Ms Fowler has qualities of strength, passion and dedication. The children she teaches are encouraged to try their best and show kindness towards their peers through their Physical Education lessons, being offered leadership opportunities and becoming stronger team players. We thank Ms Fowler for her hard work and commitment to not only her students and our school, but also within the wider community, making a difference to those who need it most.



## Rhino Footprints



**Over the last century, the five remaining species of rhino have been devastatingly pushed to near extinction due to poaching, trophy hunting and illegal medicinal industry. One staff member determined to do his part to protect the African Rhinoceros is Year 5 teacher, Luke Basson, a member of the SAVE Africa Rhino Foundation, which actively dedicates people and resources to saving the species from extinction.**

Speaking to Mr Basson, you can sense the pride and passion for the work the charity does. *"I have seen first-hand the amazing work being done through the Foundation on my many trips to Zimbabwe. It was when I saw a mother rhino and her calf during one of my trips that I realized the sheer importance of creating a safe future for these animals,"* said Mr Basson.

SAVE Africa Rhino Foundation is entirely run by volunteers across the globe with projects in Zimbabwe and other parts of Africa.

Devastatingly, the rhino has long been poached and hunted for its horn, which is sold illegally on the black market worldwide. Mr Basson said, *"It may seem like a distant issue here in Western Australia, but we are all global citizens responsible for our planet. In fact, the more people around the world who care about rhinos, the more we can save."*

Last term, Mr Basson delivered an engaging presentation to the Year 2s about rhino poaching and more importantly, conservation. The students listened eagerly as he spoke about his close encounters with wild leopards and tackling the harsh African landscape. *"I feel privileged to be in this position as a teacher, because*

*it's an opportunity to show the younger generation how they can make an impact both now and in the future,"* Mr Basson explained.

In 1972, there were 65,000 black rhinos roaming the plains of Africa. By 1993 due to remorseful poaching, numbers plummeted to just 2,300. Today, with the work of organisations like SAVE Africa Rhino Foundation and the growing international interest, the numbers of wild black rhinos have climbed to approximately 5,600.

Mr Basson hopes to travel on another safari in the near future, to see more of the work the foundation is doing to protect endangered species like the rhino. Mr Basson said, *"My hope is to not only make a personal difference to this cause, but create a growing awareness within my community, including at John Wollaston. I remind my students that they can seek their own passion and make a difference as a global citizen. Nobody is too young to create positive change."*





## Hale House Support the Homeless



From toasters and pillows to food and cleaning products, students at John Wollaston Anglican Community School have collected hundreds of items in support of Anglicare WA's Yes! Housing initiative.

Each year, staff and students participate in a giving program for Hale House Day. This year the School joined forces with Anglicare to help provide essential household items to people living in emergency or transitional housing.

The donations were given to Anglicare WA's Schools and Faith Officer, Kelly Keall who will be delivering them to the Youth Externally Supported Housing program, a not-for-profit helping young people aged 15 to 25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, access and maintain stable, longer-term housing.

Principal Anne Ford said, "We've had an overwhelming response from staff, students and their families to the Hale Day Appeal this year. As a school community we hope these donated items will help provide young people with the basics they need to get started in their new homes."

This term, we will continue our support for Anglicare through the 2021 Anglicare WA School Sleep Out, an initiative shedding light on youth homelessness in Western Australia. Students in Years 10 to 12 will spend the night sleeping rough at Optus Stadium, experiencing the challenges that homeless youth face every day and seeking ways in which they can become hope-sharing advocates for social justice. Service Prefect, Lucy Butterfield-Cole said, "We can all do our part to make a difference. Our privilege at John Wollaston can be used to ignite a path that creates positive change for the homeless."



## Denson Baker: Hall of Fame

An international name amongst the film-making scene, Old Wollastonian, Denson Baker (Class of 1993) is continually expanding his list of prestigious awards and achievements in Cinematography.

Recently announced as the 2021 Australian Cinematographer of the Year and recipient of a Gold Tripod at the Australian Cinematographers Society Awards, Mr Baker has been working on several television series and feature films that are set to hit millions of screens across the globe.

Currently located in the United Kingdom, Mr Baker's latest project has seen him involved in the production of a feature film titled 'The Colour Room', with a star-studded cast including Phoebe Dyvenor who is well-known from the television series Bridgerton. "This film was directed by my wife Claire McCarthy. We work together on many projects, travelling around the world to shoot," said Mr Baker.

From humble beginnings as a Foundation student at John Wollaston, Denson had big dreams to reach an international audience and pursue a career in film from the age of 12. "I recall once during an English class where my teacher, Yvonne Wilcox allowed me to direct and produce a documentary for an assignment, rather

than doing a verbal presentation. It was experiences like these that truly demonstrated the dedication and understanding teachers at John Wollaston had for my education," Mr Baker stated.

Being adaptable to changing environments is in Mr Baker's nature as he travels across the world for work. However, the limitations upon borders has dramatically altered the way he has been able to carry out his work as a cinematographer. "In the last few years I have filmed projects in Italy, New Zealand and the United States. Since border closures, I've been unable to travel and have been based in the UK. Working on a film set is very challenging with the introduction of daily COVID testing, wearing masks or visors and the general sense of unpredictability. However, it has also given me the impetus to further develop projects with my wife rather than waiting for projects to come to us," he said.

Mr Baker is grateful for the opportunity that John Wollaston gave him to develop skills in numerous learning areas to prepare for future study in film. "I came to realise over time that so much of what I was learning in school became relevant in ways I didn't think possible." We look forward to following Denson Baker's career and learning of his accomplishments in the future.







**John Wollaston**  
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