

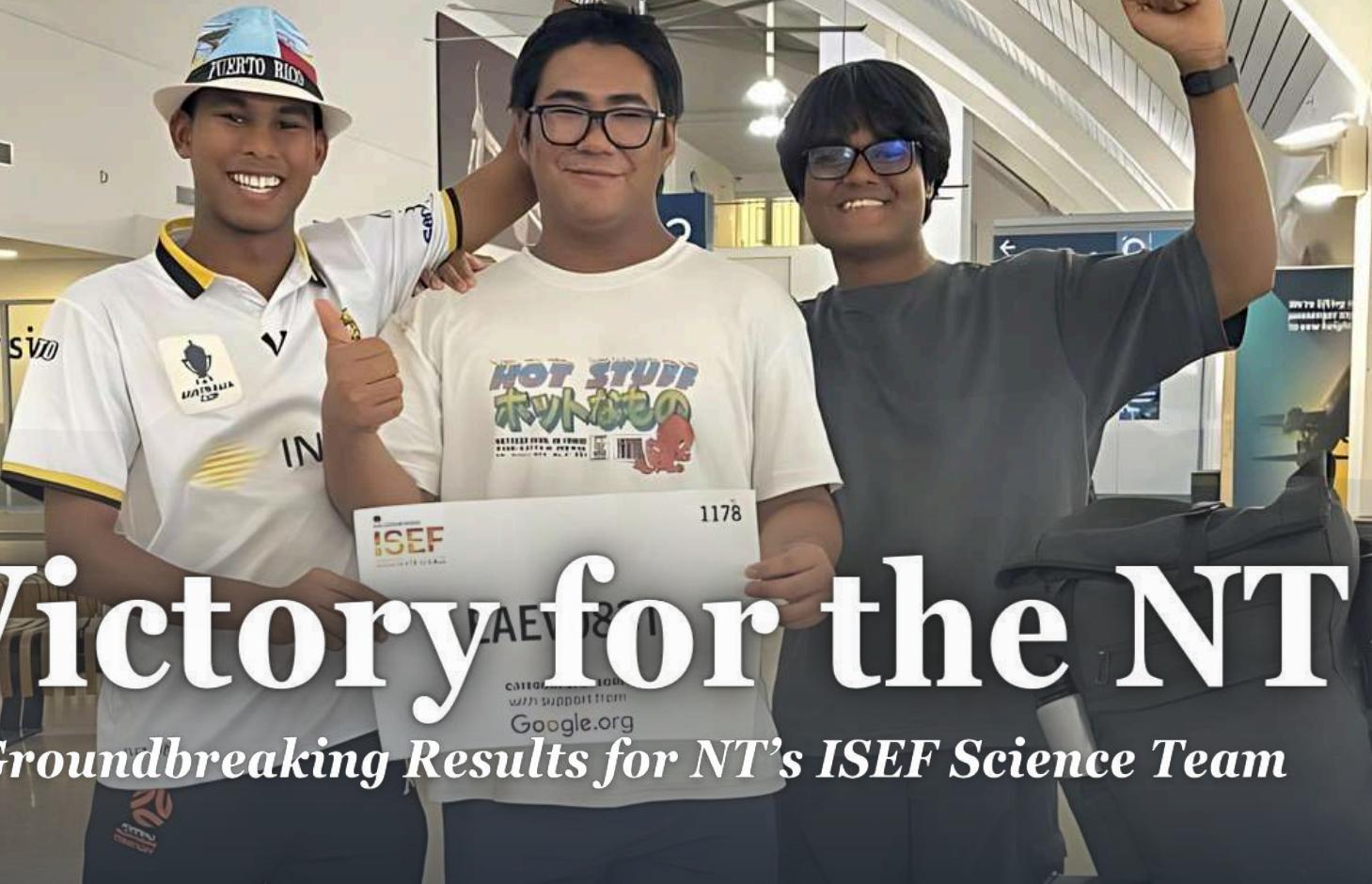
Student Spotlight

Sophie Kuswadi
Student of the Month

The Addams Family
A Darwin Middle School Production

**Debate Team
Makes History**

NT debate team snatches third
place in nationals



Victory for the NT
Groundbreaking Results for NT's ISEF Science Team

Foreword



Pak Chan
Founder and Chair
NTSS

As the organisation grows, it is exciting to see the number of submissions increasing, allowing our team to know a little more about other young people in the Northern Territory every day. Journalism is interesting because it has limitless learning opportunities. Meeting new people every day, and knowing what is important to them makes the Northern Territory Student Society and the Student Spotlight project a representation of the voices in the Darwin community.

Many national and international achievements by students from the Northern Territory can be seen in this issue, with many of them being the first time in history. It is with great pleasure that as a young person in the NT, I can witness these historical moments that will change the focus of our education development.

The Northern Territory has been long-regarded as the ‘desert for talent’, as this is how the national media would portray us through the various reports of youth crime. However, the presence of these outstanding young people are testament to the change that is being made. The Northern Territory Student Society, along with these young people, will stand firmly against the stereotype of being ‘talentless’.

Table of Contents

PAGE TITLE

Youth Community

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 5-6 | Making History: NT Debate Team Snatches Third Place in National Competition
By Pak Chan |
| 7-8 | Victory for the NT: Groundbreaking Results for NT's ISEF Science Team
By Pak Chan |
| 9 | School Legend: The Story of Vincent Mondol
By Kasfiha Tahsin |
| 10-11 | Businesses in Darwin High School
By Zafeera Jahana |
| 15-16 | Student of the Month: Sophie Kuswadi
By Pak Chan |
| 19-20 | Making Change Within the System: Students for Sustainability @ DHS
By Lucy Tinapple |
| 21-22 | 'Closing the Gap' - Celebrating National Reconciliation Week
By Sinate Tabilai |
| 23-24 | The Addams Family: A Darwin Middle School Production
By Nabeeha Qasim |
| 25-26 | Darwin High's Got Talent
By Ash Huyhn and Simran Kandal |

Opinions

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 4 | Film Reviews
By Matilda Wilton, Claudia Wyles and Erin Dejager |
| 13-14 | The Art of Doubt
By Pak Chan |

Sports

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 | Rising Star: Joshua Moussa and NT Squash
By Jethro Llewellyn |
|---|---|

Music and Arts

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 27-28 | So... Ya Like Jazz?
By Nicole Ting |
| 29 | Talent or Bust
Artwork by a Darwin High School Student |

Creative Writing

- | | |
|----|--|
| 14 | Shoots of Green
By Lucy Tinapple |
| 17 | A Walk Through Memory Lane
By Sarina Quadri |

Rising Star: Joshua Moussa and NT Squash

By Jethro Llewellyn

It all began with a stubborn boy refusing the inherited dream of his family. Joshua Moussa from Sanderson Middle School was originally brought along to keep the family tradition, however, his joy for the sport grew immensely. His rise to fame with the many National Championships has brought much skill alongside the experience.

Squash is a sport that involves two players who alternately hit a hollow rubber ball in a four walled court with a racquet. Joshua says that this sport is ‘such a complex sport, but the community is really nice and encouraging.’ He explains how squash is a sport where anyone can play and come down to have a hit.



Joshua had recently competed in NT and interstate competitions
(Image: Darwin Squash Centre 2024)

As of March 2024, Joshua travelled down to Victoria to participate in the Australian Juniors Squash Open as a representative for the Northern Territory. This event saw a mass gathering of highly competitive and successful junior squash players join to compete to be number one. Josh said this event was ‘really enjoyable... as he found the experience of playing [these higher players]’ allowed him to build his own game.

Joshua’s mother, Rebecca Moussa is one of the squash coaches for the Juniors. She says that she enjoys helping out ‘because her mum and dad always did so’. This previous encouragement that stemmed meant that she has now taken on ‘learning the technical aspects of squash’. As ‘squash is not as popular as other sports’, Rebecca hopes that there will be more involvement of squash into Darwin culture, whether that be through different fitness programs or even the programs at the squash courts.

Film Reviews

By Matilda Wilton, Erin Dejager and Claudia Wyles

Opinions



Matilda

Back to Black 2024

★★½

Watched 14 Apr 2024

Back to Black is a biopic about Amy Winehouse directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson.

Whilst this film's topic is of incredible interest, you as an audience member are constantly distracted by the appalling direction. The chosen camera angles take away from the beauty that this film could be.

Marisa Abela the actress who plays Amy does a sublime job of portraying the tragedy and beauty that was Amy Winehouse.

I do believe that this is a film worth watching, just do not go in with the expectation to see a cinematic masterpiece



Erin Dejager

The Tearsmith 2024

★

Watched 14 Apr 2024

The Tearsmith directed by Alessandro Genovesi is an appalling addition to Netflix's catalogue.

The mere 30 minutes I spent watching this film made me feel overwhelmed with cringe due to the cliché romance tropes used such as dominant male who thinks he is the Alpha and a submissive woman falling in "love".

This film is definitely intended for younger audiences as it lacks depth and has unrealistic portrayals of relationships. There are an immense number of scenes within the film that are incredibly unnecessary.

Only watch this film if you feel like crying.



claudwyles

Immaculate 2024

★★★ ❤️

Watched 30 Mar 2024



Immaculate directed by Michael Mohan is a scary-but-not-that-scary horror movie starring Sydney Sweeney as Cecilia. When an American nun joins a remote convent in Italy, she is met with a 'warm welcome' that quickly becomes a living nightmare. This film is beautiful with cinematography and Sweeney's acting as the main character is incredible. There are epic jump scares, and the storyline was okay and easy to follow but it did have some confusing moments thrown in. I personally thought the film was okay, the only complaint was the ending of the film, and did it have to go for such a long time? Immaculate is a beautiful horror film and is best to watch with friends rather than alone.



Matilda

Miller's Girl 2024

★★★½

Watched 29 Mar 2024



Miller's Girl is an incredibly raunchy layered film directed by Jade Halley Bartlett.

Jenna Ortega's acting is as always, seeing as Cairo (the character she is portraying) is just an accumulation of every other character she has played in past works.

It's a particularly uncomfortable film to watch as I found myself pausing multiple times in order to subside my feeling of cringe.

Just like Cairo's writing this film holds many layers that leave you confused in the message the writers were attempting to portray.

Making History: NT Debate Team Snatches 3rd Place in National Competition

By Pak Chan

Making history earlier this month is the NT high school debate team down in Adelaide, where they got 3rd place in the National Schools Debate Championships (NSDC) after defeating the ACT team in the minor semi-finals, with an additional ‘Spirit of NSDC Award’ for the whole NT contingent.



The three main debaters of the team, Sam Ricketts (left), Darshi Pandithage (centre) and Gabriella Francis (right) (Image provided by interviewee)

“More history has been made,” said the NT Debate Union on their Facebook page.

The NT debate team was selected through a try-out earlier last year, where the public speaking and critical thinking skills of the candidates were put to the test. Ultimately, a team of 5 was born and was sent to Adelaide earlier this year to compete with the best high school debaters in Australia. After rounds of tough competition and defeat in the first few debates, the NT team managed to stabilise itself and secured a victory against the ACT team, making them eligible for the podium.

“The sheer surprise, joy, pride, and accomplishment is something that truly marked the trip,” said Olivia Wall, who is the fourth ‘silent speaker’ on the team. As the ‘silent speaker’, Olivia’s role is to participate in the discussion of arguments and rebuttals.

Although the NT team lost to the Victorian team in the semi-finals, they managed to secure 3rd place for the first time in history, with their team captain Samuel Ricketts from the Essington School qualified for the Australian team.

"I am grateful we were able to overcome these biases in our state team performance this year, and in my selection to the national team," said Sam, "The other team members are all very skilled, and we'll be debating at the highest possible level for high schoolers, so I feel a bit of pressure, but I know I've got a very supportive NT team backing me, which makes it a lot easier."

"This has been an incredible performance from this bunch of outstanding debaters. They have certainly been written into the NT debating history books," added the NT Debate Union on their social media page.

As the historical victory allowed NT students to enter the national and international stage, young students in the NT are encouraged by Olivia to 'seek out more opportunities' to participate in debate and public speaking.

"[Debating] is incredibly daunting but also incredibly worth it," said Olivia, "the people you will meet through debating are incredibly interesting young people and they are likely not that different from you."



The NT Debate Team Members (from left to right): Abigail Tonkin (Reserve), Samuel Ricketts (Captain), Darshi Pandithage, Gabriella Francis, Olivia Wall and their coach Harvie Stiller (Image provided by interviewee)

VICTORY For The NT

Groundbreaking Results for NT's First ISEF Team

by Pak Chan

A trio from Darwin High School has just placed 3rd in one of the world's most prestigious science fairs, marking a significant milestone for the Territory's STEM education development.



Vincent (left), Rangchak (centre) and Niyaz (right), had recently competed in the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) (Image: NT News 2024)

The year 12 Darwin High School trio, Rangchak Tripura, Vincent Mondol and Niyaz Hasan recently competed in the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Los Angeles, United States for their study in cooling systems. Already glad that they've made it to the international stage, the trio never expected the win.

"[We were] expecting the worst, but hoping for the best," said Rangchak.

To provide the resources for their study and their trip to Los Angeles, the boys underwent difficulties in financial resources as well as time. However, against all odds, the boys were able to win 3rd place in the category of environmental science.

Their research focused on school cooling systems, and the utilisation of fans and air conditioning to reach the optimal temperature for the human body while saving the most money and energy. Through this project, they entered the International Science Fair in Brisbane in early 2024 and were awarded, qualifying them to join the Australian team and represent Australia as a team from the Northern Territory for the first time in the history of ISEF.

"When we walked into the convention centre for the first time with our projects and posters, it was a bittersweet moment, knowing that we're competing with the best of the best," said Vincent, "It was pretty nerve-racking."

Through their groundbreaking achievement, the boys would like to inspire more students in the NT to enter national and international STEM competitions, like how their teachers and loved ones inspired them.

“We want to paint a path for future NT students to enter ISEF or AUSSEF (Australian Science and Engineering Fair)” said Vincent.

In addition to inspiring the young students of the Northern Territory to participate in STEM competitions and programs, the boys are also concerned about the somewhat limited development of STEM programs in the Northern Territory. Through their success, the boys attempt to make a difference in changing the NT’s lack of involvement in national STEM programs.

“I think our success is more of an individual effort,” said Niyaz, “the NT is still a bit behind on STEM education. If we can inspire more future students to participate in these STEM programs, [the situation] would hopefully change.”

“There’s a lot more to be done,” said Vincent, “but I think [our success] has made a start in making a difference. We start to get approached by senior schools in the NT and SA, wanting to talk to us about how they can get their school involved.”

To encourage STEM education, the boys emphasised that supporting talent and providing more opportunities is the key to succeeding in STEM education.

“We see a lot of students getting support from other universities,” said Rangchak, “and we would love to see local universities such as CDU (Charles Darwin University) to get behind and support NT students.”

“A lot of the students [in ISEF] do their research under universities,” said Vincent, “the next endeavour is to get CDU on board and offer these opportunities to their local talent.”



Rangchak and Vincent believe that the NT can encourage STEM involvement by actively supporting talents (Image: NT news 2024)

And to all students who are interested in STEM education and science, the message from the boys is simply “go for it” and don’t hesitate. Through their game-changing achievement, the boys encourage young students to innovate and explore the limitless possibilities in science and show the students of NT that despite they may be the ‘underdogs’, they can still succeed in their endeavours.

“If anyone with dedication is willing to continue on our project, go for it,” said Rangchak, “you have a lot of time to make it into ISEF.”

School Legend: The Story of Vincent Mondol

By Kasfiha Tahsin

Meet Vincent Mondol, a year 12 senior at Darwin High School whose passion for science has led to transformative change.

Over the past two years, Vincent co-founded an international organisation facilitating STEM conferences for high school students worldwide and has participated in multiple large-scale projects nationally and internationally. He has also studied at the New York Academy of Sciences and has honourably been selected as team leader for a research project, placing him as a world finalist in a research innovative competition. Alongside the other awards, he was also awarded a Charles Darwin University advanced standing notice for his sports psychology project, *The NorZone Penalty Trials*, which gained the university's recognition alongside an international journal.

Balancing year 12 schoolwork alongside all these other projects and elite sporting commitments is a big ask, and yet practising these strategies allowed him to allocate time to do all his work to a high standard.

"The biggest lesson I have learnt is to trust yourself and your ideas," said Vincent "There are pathways out there, and even though there is a lot of hard work at the end of the day, the benefits of fancy galas and flying to different places to compete definitely make the work worthwhile!"



Vincent had participated in multiple national and international science programs
(Image: Darwin High School 2022)

Darwin High School Commerce Businesses

By Zafeera Jahana and Elora Pizanias

The Year 10 Commerce classes of Semester 1 2024 have been preparing since Term 1 to open their own stalls during the upcoming Dry Season. This is a common occurrence for the students of the bi-annual Commerce classes at Darwin High. Every year these students, fresh out of middle school, display true ingenuity and passion for their businesses. They run their businesses for 3-4 weeks, recording their successes, failures and improvements.

"It's a very difficult line to balance on. [Customers] want something unique ... but if it's too unique no-one will buy it" said the owner of *Henna, Smoothie and Snacks*.



Item	Price
NIMKIN	\$3
SMOOTHIES	\$5
HENNA	Starting Price \$5

The businesses have been known to sell a range of products and services, and this semester's lineup includes food items such as Nepali street food, smoothies, ice-cream, chocolate-covered strawberries, slushies, and coffee.

Wash Wizards, a much-needed, popular service, has been washing cars for students and teachers alike.



The Wash Wizards (Image: Darwin High School 2024)

While it was their assignment and therefore obligation to conduct a business, that far from discredits the ingenuity of the students (though a large motivator was getting to keep the money they made!), who both learnt many important business skills and had fun while doing so. “[We] made a lot of money [and] made customers happy,” said the representative of Choc Shock.

The next semester is quickly gaining on us, and with that comes another batch of Year 10 Commerce students with new ideas and new motivations (though the money-making motivation stays the same), who will no doubt come up with some equally ingenious stalls.

“I wanted to make the Car Wash attractive for people to come to so, as entertainment, I wore a dinosaur suit.” said the representative of *Wash Wizards*.

Affordable *henna* designs, a type of temporary hand art, and the ability to preserve memories through polaroid photos were also available.

The representative at Smile Box shared that they found “Polaroids [to be] super aesthetic,” leading them to sell the individual polaroid pictures.



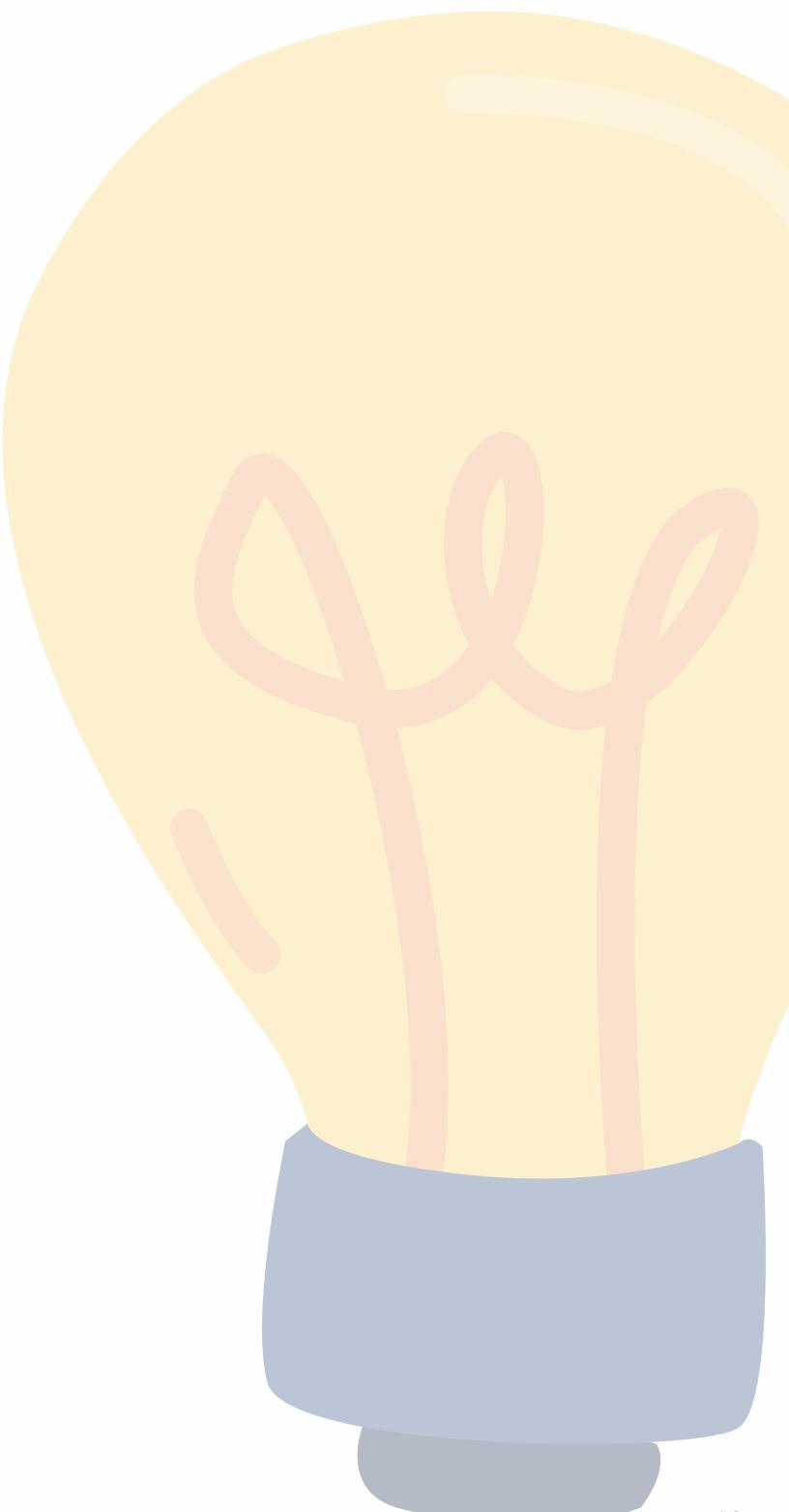
The Art of Doubt

By Pak Chan

Doubt is a key element in our daily lives. It is even possible to say that humanity would not have developed into the shape we see today if it wasn't for doubt. We doubt people and concepts all the time. It occurs in our social interactions, education, and most importantly, our legal system. Doubting is the pursuit of the truth by asking questions that counter a concept or a person. Doubting is art.

In our legal system, doubting plays the most important role based on the 'burden of proof', which is the responsibility to provide proof to an extent where the defendant can be determined guilty. In criminal law, it is 'beyond reasonable doubt'. In Australia, every person is presumed innocent before proven guilty. Hence, the burden of proof always belongs to the prosecution in criminal cases. 'Beyond reasonable doubt' means that the defence is only required to provide evidence to raise enough doubt to prove that the defendant is not guilty of the charge. Although some may argue that such a principle would lead to criminals escaping justice, the presumption of innocence has already been considered that factor since its establishment, as the well-known quote by William Blackstone states 'It is better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer'.

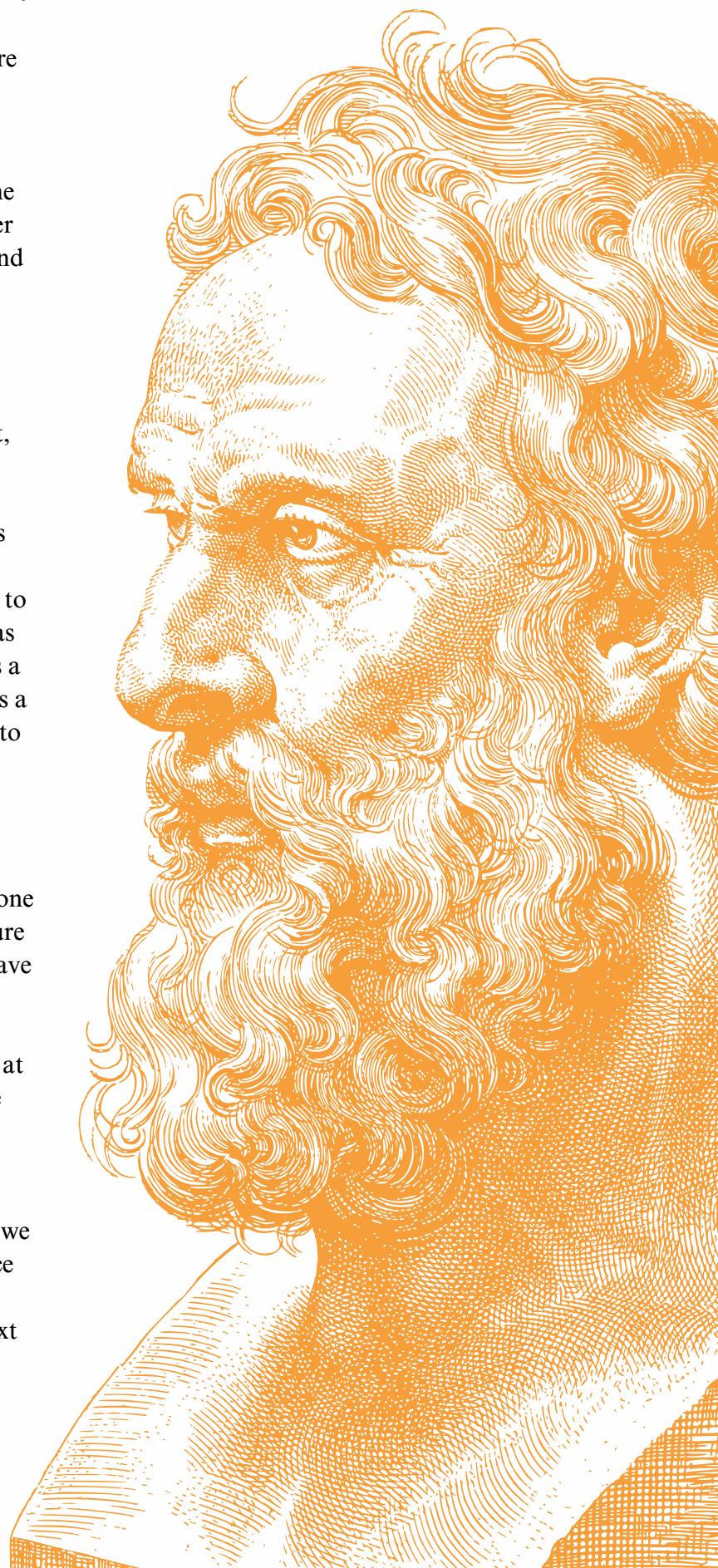
Taking this back into our daily lives, how can doubt make us better people? According to the great Greek philosopher Socrates, 'True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing'.



People all have different sets of beliefs, but how do we know, in the most objective way, which one is closer to the truth? It is this question that developed the Socratic method, a dialogue where one doubts another's set of beliefs by asking a series of questions regarding its reliability and reasonableness by simply asking 'why'. It is important that when doubting we don't twist the words of others. Instead, listen to what the other has to say, then restate their line of reasoning and 'poke holes' by asking questions.

Society divides when we stop listening to what each other has to say. We often carry prejudice when listening to the other side of the argument, we look for keywords that allow us to attack instead of comprehending, much like a judge walking into court presuming that the suspect is guilty. It seems that in a world where 'time is money', we seek to oversimplify complex issues to incite conflict among ourselves. This is known as the strawman fallacy, where one side constructs a false argument from the other side and uses it as a target. Although some may be reasonably easy to detect, we often lose ourselves as our world becomes more polarised. Due to the need for speed and simplicity, we stopped doubting and will consume anything that is being fed to us through the media. As young people, we are prone to social media manipulation due to our exposure to it, and the faster we scroll, the less time we have to stop and think.

A debate does not consist of one person yelling at another, 'silencing' the other or 'destroying' the other side. If we debate with the opposition to 'silence' them, the debate has no purpose. True knowledge exists in knowing nothing, and the least intelligent thing we can do is to think that we know everything about the other side. Ignorance leads to division, and to combat ignorance as young people, scroll slower through TikTok next time and ask 'why?'.



Shoots of Green (Part III)

By Lucy Tinapple

Suddenly, I feel as though she is right here with me.

Inside of me.
In my memory, in my mind.
In my blood.

The knife falls from my hand, clattering to the filthy floor. Drained, I too sink to my knees with a shudder.

I close my eyes.
Finally at peace, I begin to sing.

My voice comes in uneven rasps, barely a whisper, and yet it is enough.

The silver tendrils slowly loosen their grip on my mind, and then begin to wither and then shrivel and finally decompose into dust.

I keep singing.
I am delirious with hunger and cold.
I keep singing.

I fall down down down, too deep for the hand of Death to reach me, and I know this is a better way to end it.

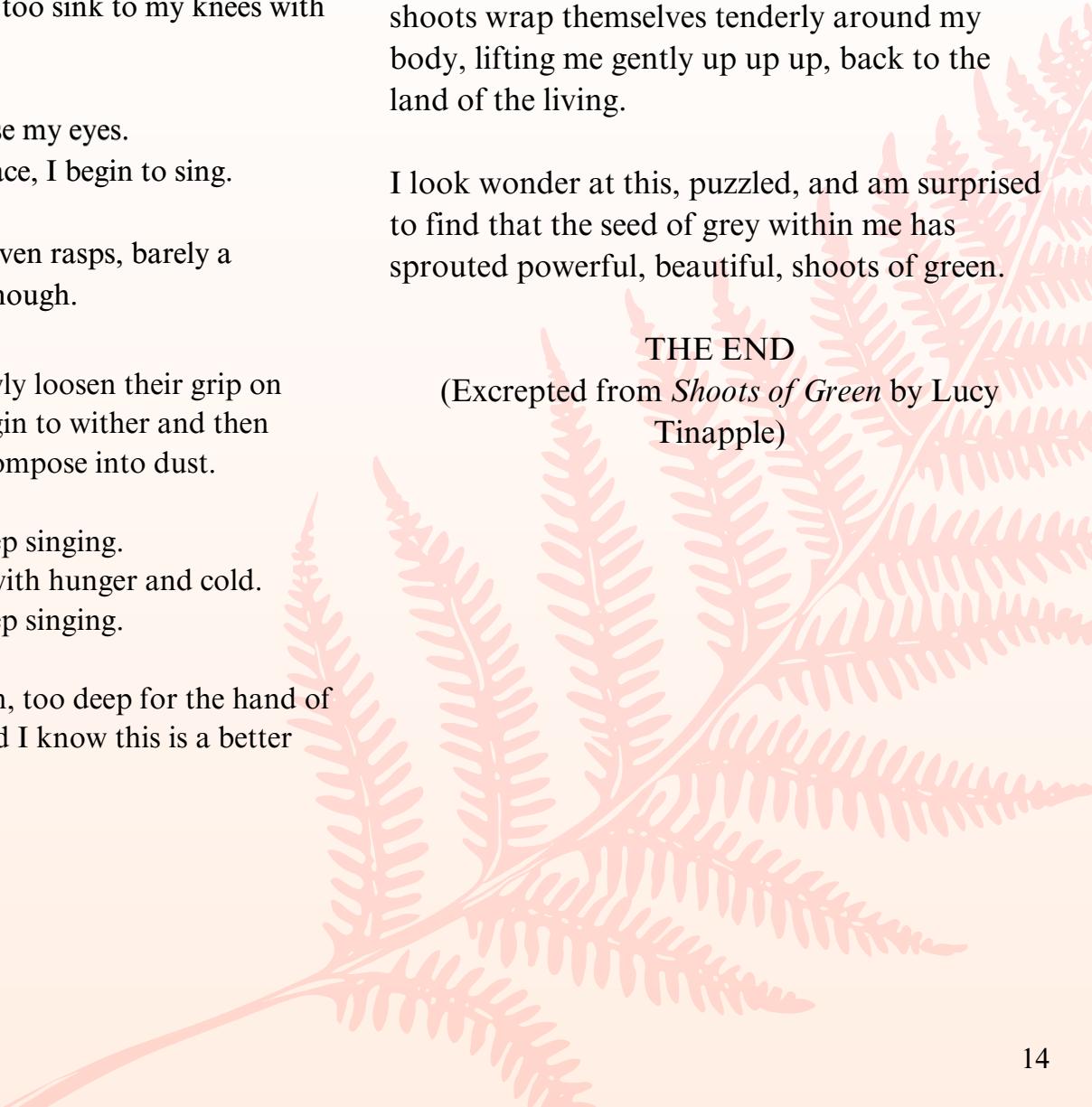
I keep singing.

But then something lifts me up again. Curling shoots wrap themselves tenderly around my body, lifting me gently up up up, back to the land of the living.

I look wonder at this, puzzled, and am surprised to find that the seed of grey within me has sprouted powerful, beautiful, shoots of green.

THE END

(Excerpted from *Shoots of Green* by Lucy Tinapple)





Sophie Kuswadi

A Dance of Dreams and Community Service

By Pak Chan

This is a story about a girl who dreams to bring smiles to people's faces and make the world a better place. Learning to dance and perform at the age of two, Sophie Kuswadi inspired many young girls as she showcased her talents on a national stage and became a leading figure in her surrounding community.

"I always like to bring smiles on people's faces," said Sophie, "that's why I got into performing." Through active participation in dance programs locally and nationally, Sophie has met many talented dancers and received multiple awards as a young performer.

For Sophie, dancing is all about being open and adapting to new things. Since her first encounter with the art form, she has been a dancer in and outside of school in dance troops and companies, which allowed her to meet new friends and teachers and inspired her to become a better dancer.

“Dance is one of the things I am very proud of,” said Sophie “It taught me how to be versatile through learning different dance genres. It’s all about being open to accepting new things.”

Throughout Sophie’s journey, challenges are inevitable. For her, it is the difficulties in balancing the many aspects of life while dealing with self-induced pressure.

“I tend to compare myself to others, and I had wonderful teachers who I want to do my best for, which [creates] a lot of pressure for me and the detriment of not recognising myself. I think it’s all about balancing dance, school and the many aspects of my life.”

As a young achiever in the Northern Territory, Sophie enjoyed the opportunities presented to her and extended that appreciation to her surrounding community.

“There are so many opportunities in Darwin, and it is great that I have the time to take hold of these opportunities since it is easier to manage my academics in Darwin than the stressful [learning environment] Down South. I love Darwin and the opportunities I was presented with because all my work with the church and dance may not be possible Down South.”

For young dancers in the NT, her advice is to ‘seek support from others to achieve goals’.

“[Professional dancing] is a very competitive field and it is not an environment I want to be in. However, I do think that it is doable,” said Sophie, “It’s important to find a support system that helps you find [your goals].”

As an extension of her appreciation to the surrounding community in Darwin, Sophie had recently started teaching dance to children, which she described as the most memorable moment in her journey and a future career she aspires to.

“I love kids, and my ideal job would be working with children’s ministry or primary education. It is amazing to have teachers to look up to, and then be that person for others, it is always a rewarding experience.”



Sophie was involved in multiple dance performances within the Territory and interstate (image provided by interviewee)

Making Change Within The System: Students for Sustainability@DHS

By Lucy Tinapple

The Sustainability Committee at Darwin High School (DHS) has been “focusing on the small picture to improve the big picture” when developing sustainable initiatives within the school community to help the widespread climate action issue.



Tree planting at Darwin High School hosted by the sustainability committee (image provided by interviewee)

The committee is made up of year 12 students; Amelia Aberasturi, Lana Ismail, Ruby Joswig, Amy Tinsley, Hayley Willis as well as supporting staff Ms Madeline Evans and former parent and board member Anja Zimmermann.

After facilitating a workshop with students in the community, the committee identified 5 key areas to focus on – traffic, energy, water, recycling and waste – and then developed an action plan to address these issues. The committee has now implemented recycling bin skips and are working on installing recycling bins in classrooms.

Additionally, the committee completed heat mapping around the school in collaboration with CSIRO and the science classes at DHS. Amelia Aberasturi explained that the committee “went around the school with different scientific measuring equipment...[like] a heat gun [to] scan the heat of different surfaces...to create a map of the hot spots in the school.” Then they used the pinpointed hotspots to identify where to plant trees.

This year, the committee won the Northern Territory Landcare Award for their Tiny Forest initiative. A tiny forest is an area of densely packed vegetation; the idea is to plant one at DHS. The committee explained that a “Tiny Forest has 30 times more atmospheric benefit than lawn grass would have” and “grows 10 times faster than a traditional forest would.”

If you would like to be involved contact Amelia Aberasturi at amelia.aberasturi@ntschools.net

The area that they have designated for a tiny forest got flagged during the heat mapping as one of the hottest places in the school. Trees and areas of densely packed vegetation are one of the best ways to cool a place down.

Looking to the future, the committees seeking to conduct an energy audit. An energy audit is the monitoring and analysis of energy within an organisation. “You have to check the energy that is being used” said Anja Zimmermann, “because the school has a massive, massive, energy bill with all the air conditioning and all that sort of thing. And the idea is that we have a audit done professionally...and then come out with a report on where we can save energy in the school.”

When asked why she joined the committee, Amelia Aberasturi said that she appreciated the Sustainability Committee as a group that could “make change within the school...[where] there is actual action while working within the system. It’s a lot easier than fighting the system.”

The sustainability committee had just won the landcare awards in 2024 (image provided by interviewee)



Reconciliation Week is important for all First Nations peoples Especially youth here in Australia. Preserving culture and passing down to generations to come is so important and is an enormous aspect in Reconciliation Week. Reconciliation Week is from the 27th of May – 3rd of June. Knowing the history, the owners of the land and many other aspects are huge as it builds towards and creates reconciliation.

Celebrating this very important week in Australia's national calendar, the youth are a pinpoint of passing down the culture, traditions and storytelling. Not only in Public Events, we are celebrating Reconciliation Week but we are celebrating it in schools across Australia, particularly in the Northern Territory, where over 26% of the population are Indigenous.

“National Reconciliation Week is very symbolic in closing the gap,” said Mr Timothy Eldridge, the Aboriginal Education coordinator at Darwin High School, “It is about healing the traumas from the last generation and for the younger generations to move on.”

Closing the Gap: National Reconciliation Week 2024

By Sinate Tabilai



Mr Timothy Eldridge is the Aboriginal Education Coordinator at Darwin High School
(Image: Arkana Triwidodo: NTSS 2024)



“National Reconciliation Week is just another week for a lot of my students,” said Mr Eldridge, “Schools need to do more to raise awareness for this week other than making a few announcements through the P.A. system,”

Aside from celebrating the preservation of culture, National Reconciliation Week is also a reminder to all non-Indigenous Australians of the problems faced by First Nations people.

“Our progress towards Reconciliation had been slowing down in the recent years [as] the cost of living and housing increases,” added Mr Eldridge. “It is harder for Indigenous students to connect with their background and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at school.”

Celebrating Reconciliation Week will not only build towards reconciliation but help our youth both non Indigenous and Indigenous have healthy relationships towards one another and assist in passing that on to many generations to help us thrive together not apart. The theme for Reconciliation Week 2024 is ‘*Now more than ever*’.

The Addams Family: A Darwin Middle School Production

by Nabeeha Qasim

Each year, Darwin Middle School (DMS), holds a theatrical school production during the 9th week of the second term. This production has been going on for the last 8 years and showcases the talent and dedication of many young individuals in year 8 and 9 through both on-stage and backstage roles including acting, creating costumes and props, and managing all other backstage elements with minimal aid from teachers.

While engaging students with the production, Ms Kemp also incorporated education into it through the drama curriculum and by teaching students how to creatively think, problem solve, collaborate and communicate with others, among other things.



Emily (right), Ramneet (centre) (ancestors) and Lina (Wednesday Adams) (left) participated in the Darwin Middle School Production this year (Image: Ramneet Gill: Student Spotlight)

This year, the DMS production was the widely known Addams Family Musical. It was directed by the school's current dance and drama teacher, Maddison Kemp, who was, "...very passionate about providing a musical experience," and engaged students with the production process both in class and after class. She stated that students spent, "...the first couple of weeks [of term 1] getting to know the script and seeing who the characters were... [and then] chose whether they wanted to audition as a dancer, chorus member, or for a main role."

Many of the students chose to be a part of the school production for various reasons including to meet new friends or because of influence by friends or family who had past roles in the production. Justin Dela Vega Dela Pena, who played the role of Pugsley Addams, said that he had, "...been a fan of musicals and Broadway for a long time and now had the opportunity to [be a part of one]..." so chose to have a main acting role in production. He learnt a lot from his role including, "...how to deal with breathing during singing, controlling vocals, and learning choreography of dances." Other students, like Emily Ting, who played the role of an ancestor from the 1940s, "...made a lot of new friends and learnt how to sing better [because of production]," as well as improved their confidence.

For Justin and Emily, their favourite memories were acting with their friends and for Lina, it was performing in front of everyone, including her family who came and watched the show. For Ms Kemp, her favourite memory was the Bunnings fundraiser as she, "...got to meet parents as well as students...[and because] it was a positive experience [for her] that was about raising money for a project that everyone cared about."

For two terms, the work and effort students put in, helps create an amazing experience for others. Ms Kemp loved watching the production and said that she cries when she sits in the audience and watches it each year. For others, watching the production is a comical and pleasant experience that shows them how talented students in DMS are. They get to acknowledge the hard work of students by showing up and watching their production, while also enjoying the show and all its on-stage and backstage elements.

Article by Nabeeha Qasim
Interviews by Ramneet Gill



“Exceeding Expectations”: Darwin High School Talent Show Presents Surprises

by Ash Huỳnh and Simran Kandal

Student talent and individuality are highly valued across Northern Territory schools. At Darwin High School, a meeting between the house leaders was held. With an emphasis on how to encourage and showcase students' talents, after hours of brainstorming and careful consideration, a spark of idea arose: A talent show. *“It’s an exciting opportunity for us to kick start the house system while showcasing the wide range of talent that everyone can enjoy,”* said Ms. Lauren Adsett. Hosted with nine promising acts in the last week of school, the talent show marked the end of the semester.



Held in the school hall, the evening was filled with excitement and anticipation. While most performers appeared effortless in their performance, it creates a bad stigma, popularising the idea that talent comes naturally. However, this is far from the truth; to be standing on stage, one must have gone through lots of practice and mustered significant courage.

“I was incredibly nervous before going on stage,” confessed Latifah, who performed Session 32 by Summer Walker. “It was my first time singing in front of the whole school. I kept thinking about what if I messed up or forgot the lyrics.” Latifah shared that practice played a large role in helping her overcome stage fright alongside knowing her family is always cheering her on. “I told myself to be more confident and although the performance did not exceed my expectations, I’m very proud of myself for overcoming my fears and performing on stage.”



Latifa performed Session 32 at the Darwin High School Talent Show

Juliana on the other hand, who performed *Valentine* by Laufey, has always loved singing since she was young. "My family and friends have always been there when I perform, and I think they would've been proud." Although being a keen participant in multiple talent shows, Juliana still felt the weight of nerves. To combat this, she utilised every minute given before her session to rehearse over and over and often practise her act months before the event. "Even if you are scared to perform, I think you should face your fear", said Juliana. "The more you do it, the more you'll get used to it, the better you'll get!" Although the performance was a bit late, it had "exceeded her expectations" and with feedback from her teacher and practice, she wishes to sing once again on stage at the next year's talent show.



Lily, the winner of the Darwin High School Talent Show performed *Defying Gravity* by Stephen Schwartz



Juliana, who received an honourable mention, performed *Valentine* at the Darwin High School Talent Show

The winner of the talent show went to Lilly Downs with an outstanding performance of *Defying Gravity* by Stephen Schwartz. With honourable mentions to all the participants who had mustered up the courage and confidence to join the talent show. "We are so proud and impressed with all the performances we had seen today," said Ms. Erin Jovanovich. "And we are so thankful because without you we won't be able to have this talent show, it is great to see students showing initiative and putting lots of effort in perfecting their act".

A Walk Through Memory Lane (Part II)

By Sarina Quadri

Jane was growing more confused by the passing second; she couldn't unravel her mind- as if it wasn't even hers. "Okay, describe your parents then."

Isabelle described them as blonde, with curly hair and hazel eyes. But her parents were black - she was wrong. "Anything else you remember?"

"N-no, but they gave me something the day before I fainted..." She dug into her pocket and retrieved an antique, gold watch. "They told me to keep it safe..."

With visible confusion, Jane took the watch and examined it. She immediately noticed the initials engraved

There was something after it but was faded. And that's it. Nothing else to provide information. Exhausted, and without answers, Jane bid goodbye and went home to investigate the matter.

Nothing made sense: The odd memories, her parents, and now this weird watch with initials that didn't even match her parents? What is going on..?

As she was going to bed, a memory struck her...

Her grandmother used to tell her stories of people being reborn into someone else's body as the original soul had died. She thought hard; the fire, watch, alive parents. She repeated the three bits rapidly, grabbed the watch again and stared at it.

When nothing came to mind, she opened her laptop, took a picture of the watch and uploaded it to Google to find clues. Surprisingly, about 40 articles popped up at once- all in the time span of 3-4 days.

She clicked on the first one: "The museum of Ajaccio's Antique watch from 1759 found missing on the 7th of December."

Intrigued, she clicked on it and read more. "Today, the special antique watch which belonged to Heather Brighton and Jude Brighton of the Royal family during the 18th century. Surprisingly, it went missing just a day before the death anniversary of them with the terrible fire."

Her heart dropped to her stomach as she saw the same watch on the webpage. So the myth was true. The watch was given to their daughter, Judith the same day they died. And that's exactly what Isabelle was narrating: a fire, a watch and parents.

It all made sense! It wasn't Isabelle's soul in her body, somehow her connection to the royal family meant that when Isabelle passed away, someone else in the bloodline could stay in her body - it was Judith! And that's why all she could remember were these three things, because Isabelle didn't faint that day, she died.

Rehearsing every Wednesday lunch time, the Darwin High School Stage Band (also known as the Jazz Band), is a co curricular ensemble comprised of a small, select group of students in years 10, 11 and 12. Conducted by Ms Alana Bryett, the Jazz Band has existed as an ensemble for a number of years but continuously for the last 3 to 4 years. It was created for young musicians who are interested in jazz and have a high level of performance skills.

“My favourite part about the Jazz Band is that the musicians that are there have great senses of humour, we have a lot of fun together and sometimes we are a little silly together, but we make great music together” said Ms Bryett, the leading teacher of the Band.

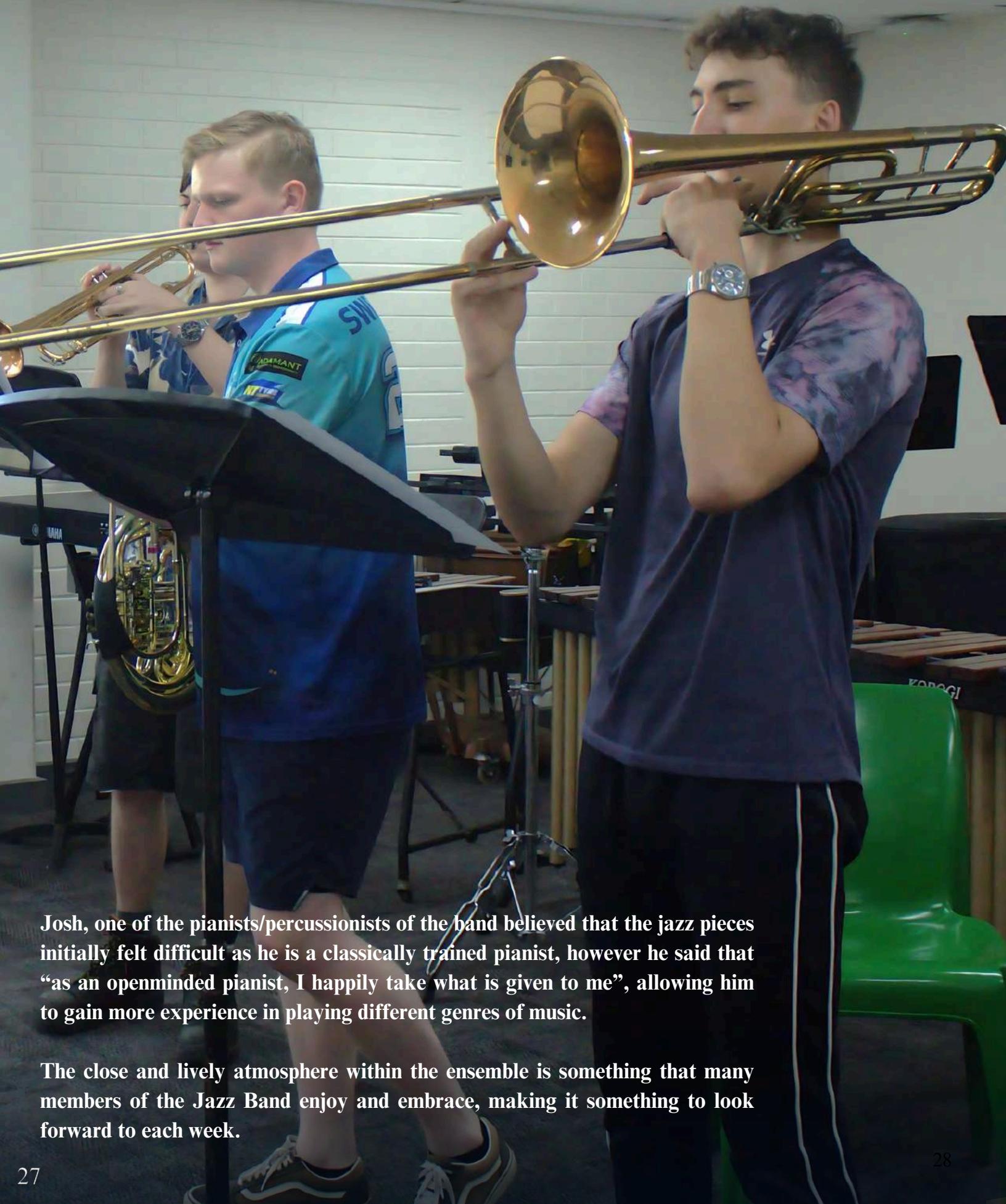
The Jazz Band consists of piano, percussion, brass, woodwind and bass guitar players, playing through charts which are then presented at performance opportunities throughout the year. Despite being known as the “Jazz Band” and the pieces being centred around jazz, there is still a great diversity between pieces which allow the different musicians their own opportunities to shine. There are many challenges presented, whether it be a new style of playing or a difficult piece, encouraging the musicians to further develop their musical abilities.

My sightreading has improved since being in Jazz Band along with my ability to improvise” said Gracia, the bass guitarist of the band.

So... Ya Like Jazz? By Nicole Ting

The Darwin High School Jazz band rehearses once a week
(Image: Arkana Triwidodo, Student Spotlight 2024)





Josh, one of the pianists/percussionists of the band believed that the jazz pieces initially felt difficult as he is a classically trained pianist, however he said that “as an openminded pianist, I happily take what is given to me”, allowing him to gain more experience in playing different genres of music.

The close and lively atmosphere within the ensemble is something that many members of the Jazz Band enjoy and embrace, making it something to look forward to each week.

Talent or Bust?

Artwork by a DHS student

Music and Arts



DO YOU KNOW A Student of the Month?

Fill in the form and nominate now!

<https://forms.gle/EbJzEs5sh7eriGNQ7>



Student Spotlight



A magazine for NT students, by NT students



Promote young
Territory talents



Free space for student
voice



Art and literature
exchange

Learn More:



About Us.



We are a student-led group focusing on recognising achievement and promoting a positive youth culture within the NT. Established by dedicated students in 2023, we have a mission on focusing on student well-being and achievements.

Northern Territory Students' Society.

email: ntstudentsociety.inquiries@gmail.com



Our reason.

Due to information bombardment regarding problematic youths in the NT, public perception has always been negatively viewed. With this, young people that strive for excellence are overlooked and have fewer resources and opportunities. We hope to obtain a greater positive media attention for the young students in the NT, and to change the negative perception whilst creating more opportunities for students.



Why join NTSS?

Students will be able to play a role in making positive community change and to take in leadership roles. We also provide an outlet for young people to voice out on issues. To join, simply fill out the online registration form and become a member!

The Student Spotlight project.

In 2024, the NTSS is currently working on publishing a free online magazine known as "Student Spotlight", a magazine that covers young talents in the NT, showcasing students' original works. "Student Spotlight" is currently looking for freelance writers and voluntary journalists. If interested, please fill out the online volunteering form.



Schools in the Northern Territory.



The NTSS is looking for support from all schools in the NT. By spreading positive influence across schools, we aim to create more united and positive school cultures. To learn more about getting your school involved in our initiative, please contact us via email.

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**We would love to
hear from you.
Fill in the feedback form to help us improve**



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