



Christ Church
Grammar School

Building good men

Principal's Report

April 2017

Attachment

- Media Clips

**Old Boys' Association
Parents' Association**

1. Current Significant Issues

Visitor to School Council

(for noting)

Following John Poynton AO's recent correspondence to the Perth Diocese, Kate Wilmot has confirmed her appointment as the Visitor to the CCGS Council.

Geelong Grammar appoints its first female principal

(for noting)

Geelong Grammar School has appointed Rebecca Cody, its first female principal. Rebecca will take up the position from Term 2, 2018, becoming the 12th principal in the school's 160-year history, and the first Australian born principal. She will succeed Principal Stephen Meek, who announced his retirement in August last year. Mr Meek will remain on at the School until Rebecca arrives.

2. Update on Strategic Plan Implementation

Strategic Plan

(for noting)

Reporting to Council will take the following format:

- Traffic light indicators of strategic projects
- Lay indicators and measures
- Lead indicators and measures

3. Risk and Compliance Update

Protective behaviours

(for noting)

Protective behaviour communications received from AISWA have increased. We regularly email all parents and encourage them to speak with their son/s regarding vigilance in public areas and most recently have included strategies to increase their level of safety.

4. Matters for Noting

Staffing

(for noting)

Appointments

- Martyn Kelly: Mathematics Teacher, Term 2, 3 and 4
- Alex Crostella: Humanities Teacher, Term 2 (Old boy)
- Alicia Hill: Prep Classroom Teacher, Term 2
- Jenny Joseph: Prep Classroom Teacher, Term 2
- Rachel Roscoe: Administrative Assistant to the Alumni Office, Ongoing
- Elizabeth Barrett: Prep Classroom Teacher, Term 2
- Susan Lomax: Prep Library Technician, Ongoing

Resignations

- Adele Swan: Prep Art Technician

Sport results

(for noting)

The School swim team proudly took out the Tregonning Cup at the PSA Inters on Thursday 9 March at HBF Stadium. Christ Church won by one point, with Hale School finishing in second place with 1047 points. In third place was Trinity College (800), followed by Wesley College (755), Scotch College (702), Aquinas College (677), and Guildford Grammar (391).

All Christ Church rowers performed well at the Head of the River on Saturday 18 March with several second and third placings. Our 9A rowers placed second while 9B and E rowers came third in the 9s Quads. 10A and B Eights put in a great effort and both finished second in their races. In tough conditions our First VIII rowers claimed fifth place ahead of Aquinas and Wesley. Guildford won the race on the day. This year Trinity won the Hamer Cup with 271 points, followed by Hale (232), Christ Church (229), Scotch College (226), Guildford (223 points), Aquinas (209) and Wesley (174).

Announcement of Cabinet and Parliamentary Secretaries (for noting)

- Mark McGowan: Premier; Minister for Public Sector Management; State Development, Jobs and Trade; Federal-State Relations
- Roger Cook: Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Mental Health
- Ben Wyatt: Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Energy; Aboriginal Affairs
- **Sue Ellery: Education and Training; Leader of the Legislative Council**
- Simone McGurk: Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services

Selective schools catering to the most advantaged (for noting)

Select entry schools are supposed to enrol students from all walks of life, however they are increasingly catering to the brightest and advantaged. New research by the University of Technology Sydney's Christina Ho, reveals an average of just 5 per cent of students at Melbourne's four selective state schools are from the most disadvantaged backgrounds. This compares to 12 per cent in 2010. As the proportion of poor students at select-entry schools dwindled, those from the most advantaged families grew from 51 to 62 per cent in 2015.

No-jabs kids face PM ban (for noting)

Children who are not vaccinated will be banned from all childcare centres and preschools across Australia under a new proposal spearheaded by the Federal Government. The new laws put to state premiers by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull would not only remove exemptions for objectors but would ensure vaccination rates at centres and preschools were publicly available.

Poor discipline bad for student results (for noting)

Discipline levels in Australian schools are below the OECD average, based on responses from students who took part in international tests. About one-third of Australian students in affluent schools and about half of those in disadvantaged schools who responded to surveys as part of the Program for Student Assessment reported that they experienced noise and disorder in most or every class. They said students did not listen to what the teacher said and that students found it difficult to learn.

My School 2017 (for noting)

Responding to the launch of My School 2017, the National Chair of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA), Mrs Karen Spiller, urged parents to look beyond NAPLAN averages when evaluating and choosing schools for their children. 'The My School website presents a wealth of data about schools and how their students perform in NAPLAN tests,' said Mrs Spiller, who is Principal of St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School in Brisbane. 'But, by any stretch of the imagination, the My School numbers do not add up to create the whole story of a school community. A visit to the My School site is no substitute for a personal visit to a school, where parents have the opportunity to talk with the principal, teachers and students to help determine whether the school is the best choice to meet the unique needs and interests of their child.' Mrs Spiller also warned against making value-for-money comparisons by attempting to align financial data published on the My School site with NAPLAN results.

Perth Modern (for noting)

Top public school Perth Modern has more pupils from wealthy backgrounds than many of the State's priciest private colleges, prompting questions about how accessible it is to disadvantaged students. Figures on the Federal Government's My School website show the proportion of students in the top quarter for socio-educational advantage at WA's only fully academically selective school has increased significantly in recent years — up from 67 per cent in 2012 to 87 per cent last year.

Depression in young**(for noting)**

The West Australian recently ran an article about the increase in depression in children and teenagers. The statistics showed many of the children and teenagers were living in households affected by the post boom environment of job losses and financial stress. Donna Lawrence, Executive Manager of 360 Health and Community, said that while depression in young people was not unique to Perth, the problem had increased dramatically in the past decade. "Kids are under pressure from all areas including performing well at school, maintaining friendships and coping with the many challenges associated with social media including cyberbullying," she said.



Feb 28/2017
Community Newspaper Group

QUEENSLEA DRIVE, CLAREMONT WA 6010

CHRIST CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL



DEUS DUX DOCTRINA LUX
GOD IS OUR LEADER, LEARNING IS OUR LIGHT

GENDER BOYS ONLY
DENOMINATION ANGLICAN

ENROLMENT 1650
YEARS PRE-PRIMARY TO YEAR 12

BOARDING
FOR UP TO 110 STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN YEARS 7 TO 12

FEES

\$17,460 per year for Pre-Primary, \$20,540 for Years 1 to 2, \$21,020 for Years 3 to 4, \$21,940 for Year 5, \$24,600 for Year 6, \$26,960 for Years 7 to 12 for tuition. \$50,580 for Years 7 to 12 for combined tuition and boarding, \$69,560 for overseas students for Years 7 to 12 for combined tuition and boarding.

WWW.CCGS.WA.EDU.AU

IT'S NOT ALL ACADEMIC

CHRIST Church Grammar School is influencing and inspiring a new generation of boys to make informed decisions regarding good health and wellbeing.

Established in 2015, The Wynne Centre for Boys' Health and Wellbeing, located on the Claremont campus, provides boys from Pre-Primary to Year 12 with opportunities to hear from internationally recognised speakers, learn through participation in the Personal Spiritual Development (PSD) program and enjoy the benefits of yoga and mindfulness.

"Typically, the education system prepares students for academic outcomes, however when it comes to real life issues such as relationships, depression or decision making, many of today's youth lack the tools to deal with these situations in a responsible and appropriate manner," director of planning and co-curricular Mark Morrissy said.

PSD, offered from Years 7 to 10, is a key program for developing the social and emotional wellbeing of boys along with PATHS (Pre-Primary to Year 4) and Aussie



Optimism (Years 5 and 6).

Positive Education teaches boys how to regulate their emotional responses and develop a positive outlook.

These approaches can help improve social competence, happiness and learning in students.

Mateship is highly valued at Christ Church and the boys are able to develop strong bonds throughout the school's various outdoor experiences.

Mateship is highly valued at Christ Church and the boys are able to develop strong bonds throughout the school's various outdoor experiences.

The school's outdoor offering includes visits to Kooringal, its outdoor education venue near Dwellingup, a 10-day challenge set in the rugged and exposed south coast national parks of Western Australia and a tall ship sailing experience in the pristine waters of World Heritage-listed, Shark Bay.

The partnership between Christ Church and the Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation, now in its seventh year, provides boys with a six-day adventure where they become amongst the youngest to set sail on the training ship.

Christ Church is the only WA school to include sailing as part of its compulsory Outdoor Education program.



a word from the principal

ALAN JONES

CHRIST Church Grammar School is an academically inclusive school welcoming boys from Pre-Primary to Year 12.

As an Anglican day and boarding school, we cater for every boy's needs by delivering specifically designed learning and co-curricular programs that blend rigour and experience through doing.

Our committed teachers are passionate about building good men.

Through their teaching and learning, they motivate and aim to ignite a spark of genius in every boy.

The Christ Church pedagogy or teaching methodology is at the forefront of all that we do.

Research shows boys learn multi-dimensionally and our teachers support this through a range of teaching methods designed to encourage every boy to achieve individual and collective excellence.

I am delighted to be able to bring my experience to the school having

held leadership positions at The Hutchins School in Hobart, Mentone Girls' Grammar School, Haileybury School and Huntingtower School in Melbourne.

My skills are in developing, communicating and implementing strategic plans and I have an excellent understanding of creating and delivering a rigorous age and stage education based on the advantages of boys' schooling.

As a parent, I truly understand the importance of choosing the right school for your son.

The beautiful and expansive campus is situated on the Swan River in Claremont, overlooking Freshwater Bay in one of Australia's oldest and premier suburbs.

Parents interested in their son attending the school are invited to enjoy a tour and learn more about the excellent education and experiences on offer at Christ Church.

Community news

Midnite's 30th to cast a spell

The 30th anniversary season for the Midnite Youth Theatre Company opens with the US musical, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, at the Subiaco Arts Centre.

This quirky show spotlights six adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime.

Directed by Midnite's artistic director, Gregory Jones, and with musical direction by Jackson Griggs, the production brings together an ensemble of emerging young performers aged from 18 to 25.

"This fantastic musical teaches us that winning isn't everything and losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser," Gregory said.

"This show requires outstanding performers who are fearless, as they interact with audience members who have volunteered to compete in the bee.

"It is an unforgettable experience for all!"

The short season runs from March 15 to 18 at the Subiaco Arts Centre. Book through ticketek.com.au.

Midnite was established in 1987 under the direction of Anthony Howes and is WA's longest running youth theatre company.

Some of the stars who have risen through the ranks of Midnite include Tim Minchin, Emma Pearson, Toby Schmitz, Stuart Halusz and Rebecca Davies.

The company has undertaken 13 international tours, including to Asia, Canada, the UK and US.

For more information, go to midnite.cgs.wa.edu.au.

POST Community new

Swimmers hit water for autism

A chat on a pool deck in 2006 saw the start of one of Perth's most successful autism fundraising events.

At that time, Olympic gold medallist Bill Kirby had a squad of adults he trained and among his swimmers was businessman Karl Paganin, of Peppermint Grove.

Karl and his family were struggling to cope with a young son diagnosed with severe autism, and lamenting the lack of family-based support for autistic children and their families.

The pool deck chat between Karl and Bill led to a meeting which led to the development of a huge event.

Bill brought his swimming event experience and contacts while Karl gathered businessmen for a fun swimming event that has now been running for over 10 years.

The Autism West Team Sprint Cup has raised more than \$1million for Autism West and has changed the lives of children and their families.

Over the years, the event has changed, now focusing on being a fun children's school relay event.

The Somers Autism West Team Sprint Cup is from 11am to 4pm on Sunday, April 2, at the Christ Church Grammar School pool and schools are invited to enter teams.

There will be a DJ, baked goods, slip and slide and spot prizes.

The closing date for entries is this Sunday, March 26.

Old Boy

Creepy drivers

• From page 1

been issued regarding students being followed to and from school," he said.

Mr Jones said good advice for boys included walking with other students or friends, and to walk facing oncoming traffic.

"Use your mobile phone to take a photo of the car, number plate, person if it is safe to do so," he said.

"Yell very loudly if they are followed or approached; fight back and make a lot of noise to draw attention."

Last Friday morning, a CCGS boy was followed by two men in a white Toyota sedan in Claremont.

"The men are believed to be in their 40s; the driver had stubble," the school told parents.

On March 2, Christ Church reported a boy had been followed the day before by a white Holden sedan twice in Claremont, in Shenton Road

and Leura Avenue.

"The vehicle was a medium-sized white Holden sedan with two male occupants. One had longish blond hair," the school said.

On the same day an 11-year-old Methodist Ladies' College girl told her teacher she had been followed in Victoria Avenue by two men in a white Toyota sedan.

Ms Kiepe told parents two girls had been stopped at 5.25pm on Friday, March 3, by a man in a blue car near Jasper Green Park in Cottesloe.

"The man tried to engage the girls in conversation, asked them for their names and asked them to get in the car and come for a ride," she said.

"The man is described as being of small build, of Middle Eastern appearance, with an accent.

"The car was described as a blue Mercedes, possibly a soft-top. "The registration number was provided and the police were notified."

Creepy drivers worry parents

By DAVID COHEN

Stranger danger alerts have local school parents worried about their children's safety.

Three schools issued alerts to parents and the police this week.

Several alerts concern two men in a white Holden sedan.

On Thursday, Woodlands Primary School told parents a student had been followed that morning.

"A parent reported that her daughter was followed along Hancock Street [Doubleview] by a white van," principal Gavin Power wrote.

"The person in the van was described by the student as dark-skinned with short cropped hair."

Another mother said that because of the alerts, there was now no question of not driving her children to school.

"It looks like [the men in the alerts] are looking for an opportunity to grab someone," she said.

St Hilda's principal Kim Kiepe alerted parents at 4pm on Tuesday.

"At 7.45am, a man approached a Year 7 student on Rokeby Road, Subiaco," she said.

"He was smoking and sitting on a seat. He approached the student and told her he had money in his car and to come and get it with him.

"The man is described as having grey stubble, wearing an orange shirt and ripped jeans."

That morning, Christ Church principal Alan Jones emailed parents urging them to remind their sons to be vigilant.

"In February and March, numerous communications have

Post March 25

Hewitt brothers team up for weekend swim challenge



Brothers Ben and Tim Hewitt are training for Saturday's Port to Pub swim challenge. Picture: Andrew Ritchie www.communitypix.com.au d466034

WS Weekly March 21

IT will be a family affair for Dalkeith surgeons Ben and Tim Hewitt on Saturday, as the brothers join forces to take part in the second annual Port to Pub swim to Rottnest Island.

Ben, an orthopaedic surgeon, reluctantly replaced his former high-profile swimming partner Jaime Bowler with his brother, a plastic surgeon, in a bid to reclaim last year's title.

Ben won the duo category in its inaugural year with Bowler, who is known as one of the best open-water swimmers in Perth.

He said he was now determined to out-do Bowler in a friendly race to the finish line, adding that the only way the duo could lose was if his brother did not perform.

"If we lose, Tim will try and make

out that I am responsible," Ben said.

"But the fact is I do have a 100 per cent success rate in this swim, and if I don't maintain that success rate the blame is on Tim – after all, the only thing that has changed is my partner."

Team Hewitt's overt competitiveness is not limited to their swimming rivals.

"Our jobs are a good reflection of our roles within the team," Ben said.

"As an orthopaedic surgeon I am the backbone of this team, while Tim being the plastic surgeon is flashier and less vital. He will start and finish the race, but I'll be doing the hard yards – just you watch."

Port to Pub event organiser Ceinwen Roberts believes this kind of friendly rivalry makes the event a

one-of-a-kind. "The response to last year's event was phenomenal and we have been overwhelmed by feedback about how encouraging and empowering the whole process was," she said.

"Many of the swimmers are returning this year and we are also welcoming a whole new contingent of people of all ages and from all backgrounds.

"It is truly living up to its name as the 'Swim for All'."

The Port to Pub leaves from Leighton Beach on a 19.75km swim route to Rottnest Island.

Participants can swim as a solo, duo or team of four or six, with the addition of a 25km solo ultra-marathon option providing a platform for the advanced swimmer.

Montana Ardon

Boy hero saves life

• From page 1

Church's surf life saving cadets, taught by maths teacher and North Cottesloe member Alison Gould.

"CPR is something that you train for and never really think you will perform, but knowing how to do it was amazing," Stanley said.

"I am grateful for the training I received at Christ Church.

"This taught me how to stay calm and respond to the situation.

"It is great knowing that this training helped me save a life, and I encourage everyone to learn CPR as it could mean the difference between the life and death of someone you know or love."

The training involved 32 one-and-a-half-hour sessions.

"It came back very quickly," Stanley said.

"What you need to remember, you remember."

Stanley has been at the Claremont school since Year 8 after moving from Queensland.

In Australia, around 30,000 people had sudden cardiac arrests each year.

Only 10% survive.

This year, Year 11 and 12 Christ Church boys can do first aid cadetship programs offered through St John Ambulance, thanks to former student Thomas Drake-Brockman (2011), who introduced the program to the school.

Additionally, all Year 10 students participate in the Bronze Medallion Royal Life Saving Award, which is part of the school's physical education program and focuses on water safety and rescue techniques as well as CPR.

Boy hero saves life

By DAVID COHEN

Stanley McFarlane didn't think he'd have to put his school-taught lifesaving skills to work.

But the Christ Church Grammar School student swung into action when he saw a woman lying on the road outside his school.

It was 7.20pm on February 27 when Stanley (15) and his father finished a parent/teacher interview at the school.

"We were in the car and Dad saw her in the school drop-off zone," Stanley said.

"I dialled 000 and gave my phone to Dad once he'd parked."

A friend of the woman was with her but did not know how to perform CPR.

"She had fallen into the recovery position, wasn't breathing, but had a pulse," Stanley said.

"I tried rolling her, but she had a bag around her.

"Once I got the bag off I started CPR."

After Stanley performed 20 compressions, the woman took a gasp of air.

"She started foaming at the mouth, but wasn't breathing enough," Stanley said.

"The person on the phone said



Stanley McFarlane

to do another 20 compressions.

"She gave a louder gasp, regained consciousness, and complained of a head wound."

Stanley said an ambulance arrived quickly.

"Dad made it clear on the phone she was unconscious and not breathing," Stanley said.

He said the woman was about 55 to 60 and had just visited her husband in palliative care at Bethesda Hospital.

He wondered if she was alright but hadn't heard anything about her from St John.

It had been five months since Stanley had learnt CPR in Christ

• Please turn to page 28

Post Newspaper, 18 March 2017

Post Newspaper, 18 March 2017

Family tradition rolls on

THE Lisle brothers are ready to don the lycra and ride for a good cause this week, as they take part in the 15th annual Ride for Youth.

With a combined 12 rides under their belt, Ryan, Trent and Ben have extended their riding crew to include Trent's wife Oonagh, who will join the boys for the gruelling 700km journey for the first time.

"Twelve months ago, Oonagh hadn't ever ridden a road bike," her husband Trent said.

"So the opportunity to do something different for a great cause is exciting."

Along with 180 other riders, the Claremont and Shenton Park residents will leave Albany today, separating into four different routes and stopping in towns along the way before arriving in Perth on Saturday.

Since the event's inception in 2003, more than \$15

million has been raised for Youth Focus, which provides free mental health services for 12-18 year olds.

"It's really a great way to raise money for adolescent mental health issues," Oonagh said.

"It wasn't something I was aware of. I didn't know there was such an epidemic of suicide, depression and self harm among young people, so it's really about raising awareness and destigmatising."

Trent, in his seventh ride, said the riders stopped at schools along the way to give presentations to students.

"The school stops really are eye-opening," he said.

"Along the route, you stop at seven or eight schools, and when you hear kids talking, you realise there's a genuine need for counselling services in schools, and that's what Youth Focus are all about."



Ryan, Trent, Oonagh and Ben Lisle are all set for the Ride for Youth. Picture: Andrew Ritchie

d466709

W.S. Weekly March 01

'Old Boys'



Andrew Calderwood (9) inspects the Westpac helicopter's cockpit after pilot Brendon Cleaver landed it on the Christ Church Grammar School oval. Photo: Paul McGovern

A life in the day of a rescue chopper

By BEN DICKINSON

A single bolt in the Westpac surf lifesaving rescue helicopter cost \$17, air crewman Cameron Coulson told Christ Church Grammar students last Friday.

The million-dollar chopper touched down on the school's oval early in the afternoon, on its way back to its base at Rous Head after responding to a call in Alkimos.

A diver at Alkimos beach had been reported overdue by a family member, but was found alive and well.

"You never know what you're going to get in search and rescue," Mr Coulson

told students, most of whom take part in the school's surf lifesaving cadet program run through North Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club.

Students grilled Mr Coulson, pilot Brendon Cleaver and lifesaver Nick Wagstaff about the chopper and their jobs inside it.

Asked what would happen in the event of an engine failure, Mr Cleaver explained that a helicopter did not just drop like a stone when the power cut out.

A properly trained pilot could even bring one down safely without power, by switching the blades to neutral and entering a steep dive to force them to spin, he said.

The pilot must then pull up at the last second, using the built-up energy in the blades to slow the descent.

Mr Cleaver gave Year 4 student Andrew Calderwood (9) a tour of the cockpit.

"How do you start it?" Andrew asked.

"With this," said Mr Cleaver, pointing to a switch.

"Don't turn that!"

Mr Coulson said the helicopter crew spent about two hours a day looking for sharks, from September to April.

The chopper services an area from Mandurah to Yanchep, while a second helicopter based in Busselton covers the South-West.



Captains Cooper Reeves (Aquinas), Ben Boulton (Christ Church), Timothy Sander (Guildford), Flynn Peacock (Hale), David MacKinnon (Scotch), James Marthins (Trinity), Matthew Sarich (Wesley). Picture: Bridget Lacy

Guildford fancied in Head of the River

■ Bridget Lacy

Guildford Grammar School's first eight are on the verge of a drought-breaking victory in tomorrow's Head of the River at Champion Lakes.

The Guildford crew have dominated the lead-in regattas and, if form holds, they will claim their first win in the prestigious Public Schools Association event since 1993.

But the key players warn it is always hard to predict a winner in the storied 2000m race.

Trinity College and Christ Church Grammar will again be strong contenders and take second and third choice in the lane draw.

Guildford director of rowing Tony Lovrich said the only pressure on his crew was what they put on themselves to perform on the day.

After uncertain weather forecasts in the lead-up, Lovrich said they would have to be ready for any conditions.

"They're a very well-balanced crew," Lovrich said. "They are a

fun crew to work with, but they are also a very professional crew in how they go about their preparation and their racing. They are absolutely united. Within all that, there's time to have fun and they know how to have fun."

Trinity rowing master Phil Jurjevich said Guildford were deserving favourites.

Jurjevich said there was no hangover after his school's win last year, with four of the winning crew returning to try to go back-to-back.

The school had an emotional ceremony to name a new boat after Rio de Janeiro Olympian and former student Rhys Grant this week.

"The boys have moved ahead in all our measures," Jurjevich said. "So they're a bit fitter and they're making the boat go a bit quicker."

"These kids are really hungry so there's no complacency."

Christ Church master of rowing Stephen Saunders was happy with preparations and believed the lane draw might not have as big a say as usual.

stage

Western Subs March 14/2017

On stage for a spell

WHEN audition day arrived for Midnite's latest theatre production, artistic director Gregory Jones had specific criteria in mind.

He needed six adult cast members who could keep the wonder of youth alive.

With a sense of abandonment and innocence at the fore, they would throw off the shackles of adulthood and transform into 12-year-old outsiders in the Tony Award-winning musical comedy, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

"It's about being fearless," Jones said.

"As adults we tend to want to always get things right.

"We needed people who could connect with that energy of having the world at their feet."

The Midnite Youth Theatre Company, housed at Christ Church Grammar School and open to anyone aged 10-25, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

Jones, who performed with the group in 1994 aged 18, has experienced plenty of highs in his four years at the helm.

"Midnight has always been very well known throughout Perth and I've been director of drama at Guildford Grammar School and Camberwell Grammar School in Melbourne, and when this job



Kieran Lynch, Clare Martis, James Pinneri, Phil Lynch and artistic director Gregory Jones from *Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Picture: Andrew Ritchie

www.communitypix.com.au d466233

THE ESSENTIALS

WHAT: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

WHEN: March 15-18

Where: Subiaco Arts Centre

TICKETS:

www.ticketek.com.au

came up it felt like the right fit for me," he said.

"We've been selling out a lot of shows, which is one of our biggest achievements so far, and we've got a really great fan base now.

"Also, we've done productions at the State Theatre Centre of WA, so we've had the opportunity to

take young people over there and this year will be a big milestone when we do *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Heath Ledger Theatre in August."

The upcoming musical incorporates audience interaction, resulting in a different show every night.

"We sign up four volunteers beforehand and they compete as a speller on stage against the six 12-year-olds," Jones said.

"The show is incredibly funny and teaches us that winning isn't everything and losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser."

Sara Fitzpatrick

stage

Monster of a role

MUSIC theatre performer James Millar felt claustrophobic during his first costume fitting for Miss Agatha Trunchbull in Australian production *Matilda the Musical*.

"I was a little panicked by it; it's extremely heavy and hot, but once you start to get used to a new body like that it's like a second skin," Millar said.

"I learned ways of managing to cool myself down with an ice vest, but to start with it was very confronting to put on.

"I also worried that it would swallow up the performance, but it's not that at all now. I'm James until all that gets put on (suit, costume, wig, moles and makeup) and then I'm her; it's a lovely way to escape into a role."

Millar, who graduated from WAAPA in 2004 and has since returned to direct, joined an elite male-only list of actors who have played Miss Trunchbull since the musical opened in Stratford-upon-Avon in 2009 before moving to London's West End.

He said performing as Trunchbull was about finding the quality inside the monster rather than sending her up for laughs.

"It wasn't about putting on a funny walk or doing a funny voice, it was about finding those qualities of jealousy and resentment and bitterness and treating her as



THE ESSENTIALS

WHAT: Matilda the Musical

WHERE: Crown Theatre Perth

WHEN: showing until May 7

TICKETS: www.ticketmaster.com.au

a character who had dramatic purpose," he said.

"So that you weren't going out there and being a pantomime ham, instead you take it back to the qualities that are evident in the story."

Millar said he remembered

being scared of Miss Trunchbull when he read Road Dahl's *Matilda* as a child and Dahl's "dark, wonderful" books were on par with the Harry Potter's and Lemony Snicket's of today.

"There was always something so scary, wonderful, magical and empowering about a kid standing up to a bully," he said.

"So, if I get to be the bully in order to get to tell the story about a kid standing up to a one, then so be it. It's more about the whole story rather than a desire to be mean to children."

Tanya MacNaughton