



Christ Church Grammar School's Year 9 team – Kenny Hao, Aidan Lim, Oscar Narvaez and Will Kempson – won the Jack Bana Award for most outstanding team at the Maths Olympiad held at UWA. RIGHT: Perth Modern School's Year 8 Maths Olympiad team – Dharmik Thummala, Jayden Yip, Caiyan Yu, Rayden Oliveiro – won the David McDougall Award for best Year 8 team.



## Local students show maths counts

Students from Christ Church Grammar School and Perth Modern School have taken out the top individual and teams prizes in WA's Maths Olympiad hosted by The University of Western Australia.

The prizes were awarded last weekend following a competition organised at UWA, which involved almost 500 individual competitors and 116 teams from 25 schools.

The top individual winners were Aidan Lim from Year 9 and Haoyang Jin from Year 8 at Christ Church Grammar School along with Perth Modern School

Year 8 student Rayden Oliveiro. The competition, where calculators are banned and the emphasis is on "brains only", aims to identify the top young maths students in the state in years 7, 8 and 9.

Associate Professor Alice Devillers from UWA's School of Physics, Maths and Computing and the WA Junior Maths Olympiad chairperson, said the event helped promote an interest in maths in young teenagers.

"Every year, the Olympiad offers an opportunity for students to solve fun mathematical problems, different from what they do at school, in a competitive but

friendly atmosphere," she said. "We are very happy with the increasing success of this event and in particular with the number of girls who won individual prizes this year, which is significantly higher than in recent years."

The Jack Bana Award for the most outstanding Year 9 team was won by Kenny Hao, Aidan Lim, Oscar Narvaez and Will Kempson from Christ Church Grammar School.

The David McDougall Award for best Year 8 team was won by Dharmik Thummala, Caiyan Yu, Rayden Oliveiro and Jayden Yip from Perth Modern School.

## Evan's above at WASO

Hear about the West Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO) at the Perth Western Suburbs branch of National Seniors Australia next Thursday, November 10.

The speaker will be Evan Kennea, who has been WASO's executive manager, artistic planning, since 2011, responsible for planning the orchestra's annual season of concerts and events.

He will give behind-the-scenes insights into what it takes to turn artistic visions into uplifting live performances.

Highlights of Evan's time at WASO include planning its first Beethoven Symphony Cycle, a major Brahms Festival, and critically acclaimed concert performances of Wagner's

Tristan und Isolde. He has helped develop the orchestra's assistant and emerging conductors' programs, appointed two composers in residence, and initiated major recording projects in collaboration with the ABC, including a Brahms symphony cycle and Tristan und Isolde, both conducted by Asher Fisch.

Members and visitors are invited from 9.30 for a 10am start at Mt Claremont Community Centre, 105 Montgomery Avenue.

Entry fee is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members, payable at the door.

Bring your own mug to drink from and take away unwashed if you wish.

Call Marion Laws on 0437 115751 if you would like more information about the meeting.



Evan Kennea



# THE OUTPOST

BY NIKI PEINKE

## Are We Giving Away Our Freedom?



The joys of being in your latter years, is that you can actually remember what it was like to be free. The days when you could SAY what you liked and nobody took offence, DO what you liked within the law, and THINK what you liked. They might not have quite got control of the third one yet, but they're working on it.....

The days when you could tell a joke, and make fun of people, and everyone laughed at the joke, the people and themselves, and nobody ended up in therapy because of it. Wow! How things have changed! Now we are taught from an early age to be offended, and reactive and sensitive, basically to suffer and be fearful, whereas if you had been taught resilience, and confidence and self-esteem, you would laugh it off and think that the perpetrator was a dick.... which he/ she probably was.....

I remember the days when you could have a round table discussion over dinner, and there would be differences of opinions and you would argue your points furiously, and it was entertaining, interesting, often funny, and you were all still friends at the

end of the night. Ahh...those were the days, when you would have to send people home around 3 am by putting Leonard Cohen on the stereo, cause otherwise they would have stayed until dawn. Gee, I miss those times.

It was a time when emotions were all about love, and romance and peace, and less about anger, and hatred, resentment and jealousy, and there was that fantastic 'she'll be right mate' attitude that made Australia so amazing. Where did that go...? Doesn't it seem like so much has changed?

Doesn't it feel like we humans are being stirred up and set against each other? And manipulated, and schooled to be reactive and resentful? I come across a lot of confused people these days and nobody seems to trust their own judgement anymore. There is a lot of conflicting information, nonsensical directions and misleading statistics thrown at us, so everyone is in a daze, and gives up trying to decipher what it means...and I believe that's the whole point.

The disappointing thing to me is that everyone just seems to suck it up..... and follow the pack. It seems these days that even doctors, lawyers and politicians are being told what to do, or not to do, and even if they don't agree, they go along with the programme for fear of reprisal. No- one seems to have the guts to stand up for what is fair or right anymore. There appears to be no loyalty, no support, no understanding. Look at the UK. Vote in a Prime Minister one day....turn on her the next, like a pack of wolves. Like her or not, she was voted in, so....give her a go! But no.....one mistake and the guillotine comes down...thump!

And who is making all these new rules, and even laws.....? No one could even tell you, but they still obey them, even if they don't make any sense. What's the latest....? Oh yes....they want to make a law to stop you smacking your kids? Really? Isn't this overstepping the mark when it comes to Governance? I was once a child psychologist and never saw any child with mental problems as a result of being smacked.....Locked in a cupboard under

the stairs...? maybe a different story, but there's no law against that....is there? There is no rhyme or reason for a lot of what we are being told to do these days..... no consistency and no common sense. It appears to me to be a programme of compliance, where the Government is establishing itself as the 'ruler' rather than the 'servant' of the people. It's where democracy can slide into dictatorship quite seamlessly without anyone noticing, if we are not very careful. All this 'digital stuff' might get sold to you as a convenience, but to me smells of control. You might notice that cash is slowly disappearing.....some businesses are already refusing to take cash, and try withdrawing a substantial sum of money from your bank these days.....

So....moral of the story....be aware of what's going on around you, and remember that Government is there to serve YOU..... not the other way around, because, in my view, they're pushing it...especially here in the West, but also globally, and if we don't take note and stand up for ourselves, we could be not only being compliant with, but actually facilitating our own demise.