

# Climate, violence and prejudice top students' concern list

BY GERALDINE ALPHONSE

Earlier this year local students raised their concerns at the Burt Youth Leaders Forum and decided the government's top priorities for the youth community.

Climate change, family and domestic violence, stereotypes and prejudice and mental illness and wellness were the top four priorities that students determined during the event.

Member for Burt Matt Keogh, who has been hosting the event for three consecutive years, put together a report to present these issues to the WA premier, the prime minister and the opposition leader. Last week Mr Keogh met with the opposition leader Anthony Albanese and handed over the report to contribute some of the student's efforts to prioritise their main concerns.

"Labor Leader Anthony Albanese was very interested to receive the report and hear what our young people see as priority issues, as well as the innovation

of holding our forum," he said.

"I'd like to thank all the students who were involved in this year's youth forum. "As one of the last 'normal' activities we were able to do before the COVID-19 lockdown, I think the importance of approaching situations differently and thinking about the change we can all inspire in the world was a really important learning opportunity ahead of the crisis we have all just experienced. "This forum has been an annual event since 2017 and I spend a lot of time visiting schools across the electorate so if any students, or schools for that matter would like to undertake more opportunities like the Burt Youth Forum I very much encourage them to get in touch." Some of this year's participants included schools like Canning Vale College, Lumen Christi College, Southern River College, Armadale Senior High School and many more. Anyone interested in participating in a coming forum can contact matt.keogh.mp@aph.gov.au.



Local students from the South Metropolitan region and member for Burt Matt Keogh at the youth forum earlier this year.

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"About 10.30pm on Monday night there were kids, not even 10-years-old, throwing bottles on the street, as soon as police patrols appeared in the area, they left.

"I also witnessed an incident last week when I saw a man on the floor that had just been assaulted by some kids, they stomped on his head and the only thing that stopped these kids from having a second go at him was me who stood in front of the guy.

"I called the ambulance and someone who witnessed the whole

event was called to give a statement. "There is no supervision of these kids, they all seem to live in the same house that's causing chaos in the local area."

Member for Cannington Bill Johnston said he was concerned knowing local residents were not quietly enjoying living in the community.

"When these issues are raised with me, I will always work with local residents to have authorities take whatever action is necessary," he said.



Year seven student Jack Mallabone ran the most kilometres at a virtual cross-country carnival.

# Students' virtual run takes them to Brisbane

BY GERALDINE ALPHONSE

More than 200 St Norbert College staff and students participated in a virtual cross-country carnival collectively running 4,785.6 kilometres.

Each participant was entitled to record their kilometres through an online application, that allows you track your running and riding with a GPS.

The distance they covered was equivalent to running from the school in Queens Park all the way to Brisbane, Queensland.

With all sports banned at the school, the physical education department created a virtual version of the school's annual cross-country competition – with the winner being a year seven student who ran 476.5km in isolation over a five-week period. Canning

Vale resident Jack Mallabone recorded both the highest individual total of 476.5kms (only 1.9kms ahead of year nine student Ethan Powe) and the most individual runs with 92. "The cross-country competition was a great way for me to maintain my fitness during isolation," he said.

"I feel really fortunate to be able to run, I have a young brother who is disabled and is unable to run.

"I wish he was able to run and experience how good running makes you feel, even after a bad day. It was rewarding seeing my activity on the app and I was continually challenged by my fellow Xanten team member Ethan Powe, who was always on my heels."

However, Jack who set himself a goal of eight kilometres per day, said it was

never about winning for him. "The longest distance I have run at one time is 15km, I also walked 31.2km with my granddad," he said.

"We walked from my grandparents' house into the city, along the river, turned around at Elizabeth Quay and walked home.

"I was motivated with the support and encouragement from my family."

During the five-week period Jack walked around the Windan and Narrows bridges, and on other days he would also take his dog for long walks around his neighbourhood.

Although the virtual cross-country competition was fun, Jack, who is also junior football player during the winter time, said he really can't wait to step foot once again in the footy fields this year.

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