

## Good News Story



From left to right Alexia Rigoni, Josh Herridge, Noah Rancan, Jared Atherton and Kathy Melky (Principal)

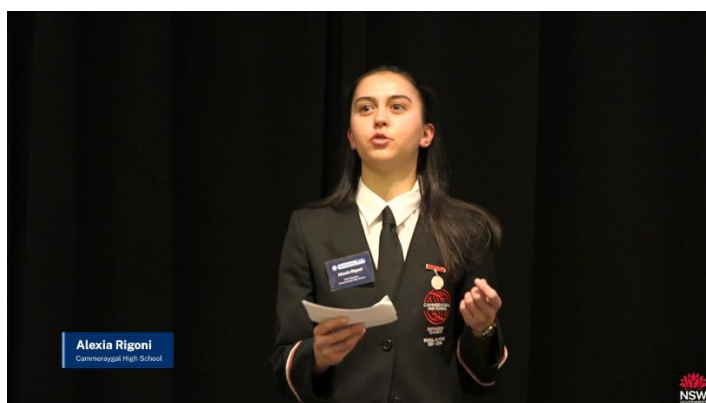
Cammeraygal High School Students Alexia Rigoni, Josh Herridge, Noah Rancan, and Jared Atherton were successful in making it to the final of the NSW Premier's Debating Challenge. They were the only team to make it through to the knockout rounds and, subsequently, the Semi-Finals and Final undefeated. On their way to the Hume Barbour Trophy Final the team defeated 9 other schools, including several selective schools, to book their place in the final, which was held in the Great Hall at the University of Sydney. In the end they were runners up to the reigning champions, Sydney Girls High, debating a complex topic about facial recognition software.

In addition to this remarkable achievement, each of these students has also demonstrated exceptional success in additional areas across the school and beyond. Some of these are outlined below:

### **Alexia Rigoni**

School Captain, Alexia Rigoni was also successful in reaching the State Final of the Plain English Speaking Award, placing her in the Top 6 public speakers in NSW. Her speech was titled 'The Politics of Memory,' and detailed the danger of the growing prevalence of Holocaust distortion in the Western world, and proposed strategies that can be employed to combat it.

Additionally, Alexia was a reserve on the NSW State Debating Team this year that competed at the National Schools Debating Championships in Melbourne and was selected to represent NSW Public Schools as part of the Combined High Schools Debating Team.



### **Josh Herridge**

School Captain, Josh Herridge was successful in gaining an offer for a 2024 Tuckwell Scholarship at The Australian National University (ANU). With a total scholarship package valued at up to \$140,000, it offers funding to students for five Years of full-time study; allowing them to take full advantage of their time at university, including the many academic, social, cultural, sporting and leadership opportunities that come with life on campus. This Year, ANU received over 1200 applications for Tuckwell Scholarships. Joshua was one of only 49 invited to interview in Canberra in early July, where he impressed the selection panel and was offered one of 25 Tuckwell Scholarships for next Year. Joshua was also invited to trial for the NSW Combined High Schools Debating Teams and was successful in making it into the representative team.

### **Noah Rancan**

Prefect, Noah Rancan, is an exceptional young economist who retained his crown as one of five National Champions in the Australian Economics Olympiad 2023. Noah sat a 2 hour exam and then competed with a randomly selected group of 5 students from other schools to present economic solutions to a set problem to a panel of experts and was chosen as one of the five most impressive and passionate young economists in Australia. Noah went on to represent Australia against other winners from New Zealand and Singapore in the Australasian Economics Competition over the winter holidays where his team finished first.

### **Jared Atherton**

Vice-Captain, Jared Atherton was selected as the concertmaster for the SSO Young Musicians Workshop Orchestra. His role included leading the orchestra and mentoring younger musicians in the rehearsals alongside the SSO fellows. He also featured as a soloist in the final performance, with over 90 musicians. Jared has also completed his AMEB Certificate of Performance examination on Violin and was awarded an A+ (High Distinction). In addition, he has also completed his AMEB Grade 8 piano examination and was awarded an A+ (High Distinction).