



# NEW TOWN HIGH SCHOOL

WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

## Performers praised

RHYS PRESTEDGE

A 1960s classic took a 21st century turn as New Town High students recreated playwright Alex Buzo's *Norm and Ahmed* last month.

Grade 10 students Jesse Bowden and Bryce Parker performed the play twice, without fault, in front of audiences of about 100 students and staff.

The play explores various troubling issues in Australian society such as racism, xenophobia and cultural differences, which remain relevant and contemporary despite the play being written about 40 years ago.

Setting a classic scene, the play proceeds into a wacky conversation which tugs at the very heart of stereotypical Australian society's troubles.

Australian Norm awkwardly meets the nervous and uneasy Indian immigrant Ahmed.

Norm tries to engage in conversation, being friendly and casual toward Ahmed whilst trying to sound as non-racist as he can.

Directed by drama teacher Bill Jarvis, the performers rehearsed for 15 weeks and the end result gained them positive feedback and responses from their audiences.

Everyone enjoyed it and respected the effort that was put in to staging the play.



ON STAGE: Jesse Bowden and Bryce Parker in the play *Norm and Ahmed*.

"When we started rehearsing, we sort of knew who our characters were and as rehearsals went on, they started to become more serious," Bryce said.

"Our goal was so at the end of the play when he [Jesse] punched me, nobody laughed; and even in an all-boys school, the audience was silent. It was a great response," he said.

"It's a meaty piece of drama

with a lot of subtext," said Jesse, "but I loved it, Bryce loved it, it was great."

Each of the characters was clearly distinguished and authentic, with fantastic performances from both Jesse and Bryce.

The entire play felt like the events were unfolding right in front of you, with great work from the set painters and the lighting crew.

Families were given a five minute "teaser" at the recent New Town High Arts Night, setting a good example for the high calibre of the school's drama students.

Students and teachers all enjoyed the performances and are looking forward to seeing more great work from the New Town High drama department in the future.

## Old scholars do New Town proud

GAVIN DUHIG

AS a school with a history dating to 1919, New Town High has a proud tradition of achievements.

"New Town has a very proud record of producing excellent sportsmen and successful people," said former student Paul Clifford, who has been teaching at the school for 24 years.

One of New Town's current "big name" state representatives is basketballer Tanner Krebs

who holds Australian and Tasmanian institutes of sport scholarships and is also a member of the Hobart Chargers SEABL team.

The school has also produced six Rhodes Scholars, numerous AFL players, a test cricketer and many state hockey players.

In the AFL, Melbourne's Colin Garland, Brisbane's Ryan Harwood, Gold Coast's Aaron Hall, recently drafted Jimmy Webster of St Kilda and newly qualified

umpire Nick Foot are all former New Town students.

On the hockey field, Will Lawler and Mr Clifford's son and *Mercury* hockey writer, Adam, are members of the Tasmanian Tigers hockey team.

Tasmanian magistrates Chris Webster and Robert Pearce, recently retired Labor Senator Nick Sherry and heart surgeon Nigel Jepson are also "old boys" of the school.

Andre Dutiot is a renowned

cellist and Constantine Koukias is the theatre director of IHOS, a Tasmanian theatre company.

New Town High acknowledges its history in many ways, including regularly inviting its wide range of former students to return to the school as guest speakers in classes and assemblies.

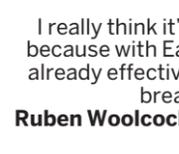
New Town's long tradition of success shows that the school proudly lives up to its motto: "We Build for the Future."

## School talk

What do you think about schools moving to four terms in 2013?



It's all right, because it means our holidays line up with the mainland, so it's easier to hang out with my mates in Melbourne.  
**Chris Delpero, Grade 9**



I really think it's pointless, because with Easter, we've already effectively got four breaks anyway.  
**Ruben Woolcock, Grade 10**



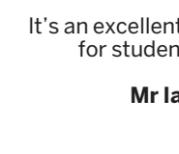
I like it because the terms are shorter and it doesn't change the overall length of the holidays.  
**Ms Hayley Noonan**



I don't like the earlier start, because now I have to go to school on my birthday.  
**Alex Muir, Grade 9**



I don't really like it. It makes the summer holidays shorter and I just think four terms is confusing.  
**Angus Metcalf, Grade 8**



It's an excellent idea. Good for students, good for teachers.  
**Mr Ian Cordwell**

## Mercury page's team effort

THIS page was created by Isaac Beswick, Gavin Duhig, Adam Kershaw, Brodie Moore, Bryce Parker and Rhys Prestedge

from Mr Howard's 9/10 Writers' Workshop class, with special thanks to Mr Cox, Mrs Donnelly, Mrs Gayton and Harry Lavell.

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