



Teacher Allan Alipio with award-winning CAPS science student Cassiopeia Middleton.

# Science is popular in Coolgardie

**S**EARCHING for solutions through science has become highly popular with Aboriginal students at the Christian Aboriginal Parent-directed School (CAPS) in Coolgardie, Western Australia.

The school recently held the CAPS Science Fair, with the goal of stimulating excitement in the community by showing what can be achieved through science and encouraging guests to see the world around them in new and different ways.

Alan Alipio, the teacher who turned on the 'science light', said it was great to see the "enthusiasm, courage and a fearless exploration" for science at CAPS.

### Recognition

School principal Kurtis Leslie said recognition at last year's statewide science talent search competition, sponsored by Science Teachers Association of WA (STAWA), had increased CAPS students' enthusiasm in science, with many more keen to be part of this year's talent search. "Last year our science students from

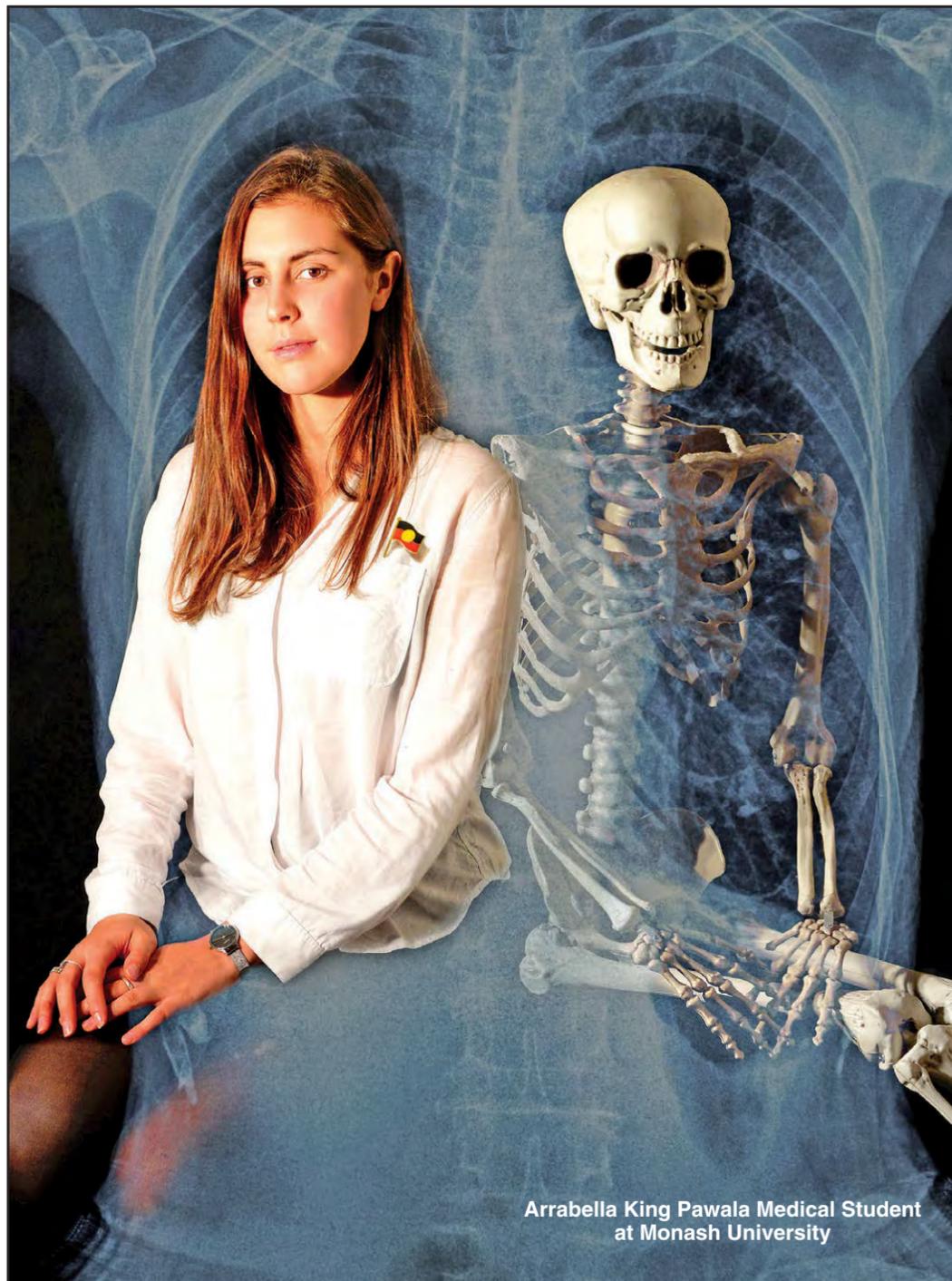
Years 9 and 11 focused on the natural environment and how our world could be protected," he said. "They looked at how waste produced from the slaughter of animals for human consumption might be used as a bio-diesel alternative.

"It was an experiment that saw them recognised as winners in the 58th National Science Talent Search competition."

CAPS Coolgardie was established in 1981 by parents seeking to create a strong Christian education for Aboriginal students to enable them to be workplace-ready or keen and prepared for tertiary education.

The school has Aboriginal and other students from the local area and outside of the region, and Australian and International teachers who live and work in the Coolgardie area, many who have moved to the area bringing their own children to become students at the school.

Former CAPS students include lawyers, educators, business operators and internationally recognised dancers, actors and creative directors.



Arrabella King Pawala Medical Student at Monash University

## Study for a Health Career at Monash University

**Monash University has many health science courses. These include Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedics, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Radiography and Medical Imaging, Nutrition Science and Biomedicine.**

**Arabella King** is a Palawa student in her third year of Medicine and says

"Living on campus has been pretty useful because lots of people who do my course also live there and it's a nice environment where we study together, do questions together and motivate each other which is really good. Also the Indigenous VESPA (vertical peer program) I found really helpful, it's a really nice way for us to improve our clinical skills, it's a safe environment".

**Storm Henry** who graduated this year in Nursing and Midwifery, Storm says

"The university staff were really supportive, especially the Midwifery staff they kept in contact and asked how I was going. The Indigenous Unit is helpful for textbooks and tutoring. What really helped me succeed was taking a pathway because it was a year for me to figure out how uni timetables worked, how to do assignments, how to reference, it was sort of a practice year in a sense. You get to meet other Indigenous students too".

There are scholarships for Indigenous students studying health sciences at Monash. Students can apply to have costs of accommodation and course related expenses covered. There are regular gatherings of Indigenous health science students to discuss patient case studies and practice clinical skills. You can also take a six or 12-month preparation pathway to courses. For more information contact the Gukwonderuk Indigenous Engagement Unit, Indigenous Engagement Coordinator Peggy Swindle on 03 9905 3828 or med.indigenoushealth@monash.edu

 **MONASH University**  
Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Photography by Joel Birnie 'The ancestors are looking after you'