Australian Brain bee Challenge
Western Australian Finals

July 20th 2010
The University of Western Australia

WA Coordinator: Jenny Rodger
Quizzes and activities: Lindy Fitzgerald, Lee Fletcher, Natalie Morellini, Eleanor Drummond
Quizmasters: Kristyn Bates, Lindy Fitzgerald, Lee Fletcher, Sophie Payne, Jenny Rodger, Vivian Tang, Nathanael Yates
Sponsorship: Kristyn Bates
Catering: Natalie Morellini, Sophie Payne
Media: Lindy Fitzgerald
Admin assistance: Stephanie Grehl, Marissa Penrose
Arrival and welcome

60 students from across WA participated in the finals of the WA Brain Bee. Participating schools were:

GEORGIANA MOLLOY ANGLICAN SCHOOL
GOLDFIELDS BAPTIST COLLEGE
KALAMUNDA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
KINGSWAY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
METHODIST LADIES' COLLEGE
PERTH MODERN SCHOOL
ROLEYSTONE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
SANTA MARIA COLLEGE
SHENTON COLLEGE
ST HILDA'S ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
ST MARY'S ANGLICAN GIRLS' SCHOOL
Australian Brain Bee: WA Finals
Tuesday July 20th, 2010
MCS Lecture theatre, UWA

8.30-8.55 Registration – collection of name tags, info packs

9.00-9.30 Welcome & Official Launch & Opening of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge. Professor Lyn Beazley, Chief Scientist WA

9.30-10.00 Round one of individual competition

10.00-10.30 Pauline Charman, SPICE UWA
Careers in Science

10.30-11.00 Morning tea

11.00-12.30 Tour of Neuroscience and Anatomy labs

12.30-1.00 Heat of team competitions

1.00-1.45 Lunch

1.45-2.15 Zak Millar, Centre for Clinical Research in Neuropsychiatry: Drugs and the Brain

2.15-3.15 Finals of Team competition

3.15–3.45 Individual semifinals and finals

3.45-4.00 What comes next? Presentation by 2009 WA and National Brain Bee winner Uma Jha (Shenton College)

4.00 Final awards and presentations: Winthrop Professor Tony O'Donell, Dean of Faculties of Science.

4.15 – 4.45 Afternoon tea
Students visited the Neuroscience Laboratories of Experimental and Regenerative Neurosciences and in the School of Animal Biology and the School of Anatomy and Human Biology. They also viewed human brain specimens in the Anatomy Museum.
Students played Neuroscience games and listened to Neuroscience presentations

Brains and Bums competition run by Dr Natalie Morellini

From left : Professor Lyn Beazley and two “waggle dance” volunteers; Mr Zak Millar, Centre for Clinical Research in Neuropsychiatry; Ms Uma Jha, winner of the 2009 Brain Bee WA finals, and the 2010 Brain Bee National Finals.
Individual Winners
1. Ashkan Zaniani, Shenton College (Perth)
2. Rikki Thorne, St Mary's Anglican Girls School (Perth)
3. Kahli Fraser, Georgiana Molloy Anglican School (Busselton)

From Left: Rikki Thorne, Ashkan Zaniani and Kahli Fraser compete in the final round. Award of prizes: winner Ashkan Zaniani with W/Prof Tony O'Donnell Dean of Science Faculties, UWA

Winning Teams:
1. Georgiana Molloy Anglican School
2. St Mary's Anglican Girls School
3. Shenton College

Awards presented by Winthrop Professor Tony O'Donnell
List of Prizes

Individual winners:
1st place: $150 voucher and Essential Neuroscience textbook
2nd place: $100 voucher
3rd place: $50 voucher

Teams:
1st place: Zeiss Microscope, Brain Bee T-shirts
2nd place: Neuroscience book, Brain Bee T-shirts
3rd place: Neuroscience book, Brain Bee T-shirts

Acknowledgements
National Brain Bee Coordinator: A.Prof Linda Richards, Rhonda Lyons and team at the Queensland Brain Institute, University of Queensland.
Brain Bee WA Final, event supported by UWA.
Microscope provided at cost price by Zeiss, Australia.
Vouchers donated by the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Science, UWA.
Essential Neuroscience textbook donated by the Queensland Brain Institute.
Bags and contents donated by:
Jomar Diagnostics- Monetary prize
Interpath Services- Goodie bags, pens, ruler
Fisher Biotech- pens
Able Scientific- wine, pens, notepads
Merck- envirobags
Blackwoods- pens, keyrings, hats, notepads
Dana Alliance – Neuroscience educational materials
Brain bee students

NEUROSCIENCE is something most high school students do not learn about, even after they reach university. However, four very smart students at Goldfield's Baptist College are studying the subject as part of a major national competition called Brain Bee. Rebekah Newmeyer, Rebekah Rowntree and Gabrielle Russo are taking part in the prestigious competition along with more than 12,000 other students from WA and New Zealand. The students participated in round one this year and have made it through to round two which will be held in Perth at the University of Western Australia. Sandie Brink, the teacher who runs the competition at the college, says it gives the students great extra-curricular activity. "I feel it is good to expose the students to a hobby of learning," she said. "This is why we do it." The students will leave for Perth on July 18 to compete in the second round of the competition the following day.

THOMAS NELSON

Busselton’s winning scientists

by Jacinta Bolenbrook

AFTER school holidays, you would think students’ brains would be a bit foggy, but this wasn’t the case for four local Year 10s who competed at a university level in a science competition on the first day back to school.

Georgiana Molloy Anglican School competed in the University of Queensland Brain Bee Competition, run through the University of Western Australia, and took out the competition for their school.

About 280 schools and 7600 odd students (all top academic students) participate in this Australia-wide competition – so it’s no pushover.

Four GMAS students; Tay Abers, Alex Disley, Kahl Fraser and Danan Frost all qualified for the state round two competition at UWA on Tuesday, July 20.

GMAS won the team challenge over N Mary’s AGS, winning individual prizes and an expenses-paid trip to the National Science Week for the school.

In the individual challenge, the 52 state qualifiers were narrowed down to a top 10, after several rounds of questions.

GMAS represented three of the top 10, Alex Disley was fourth, Kahl Fraser fifth and Tay Abers was sixth, and made their school proud as they were the only school with three students in the final qualifiers.

At the end of several more rounds of questions, Kahl Fraser narrowly finished third, winning further prizes and a certificate and Alex Disley came fourth.

Head of science, Steve Trebil, said the information the Year 10 students were tested on was first year, even second year level university neurophysiology course work.

"It was a superb performance by all involved, with most of the work being done in their own personal study time," he said.

"These students had access to a UWA PhD student through another program we are running through CSIRO called the Scientists in Schools Program that has just started."

"The competition required Year 10 students to learn the brain function test, in round one, and complete a set of questions based on this to qualify for round two where they had to learn a second level university text book, even the organisers had to check some answers – as they weren’t sure, competing individually and as a team, over several gruelling rounds."

They were up against students from 40 schools, including N Mary’s AGS, MLA, St Hilda’s and Skilton College – last year’s state and national winners.

"Some schools even fielded four teams, and we were one of only two country schools represented," Mr Trebil said.