

Ninth Edition

Welcome to the ninth edition of our *Alumni News*, a publication keeping students connected with Margaret River Independent School, formerly Nyindamurra Family School.

Inspired by our 30th (2012) and 40th anniversaries (2022,) we are reconnecting with former students via an Alumni List and this quarterly newsletter, featuring updates from past students and contemporary school news.

We want to share your news & memories of the school and maintain strong links with you for the future. We invite you to visit the Alumni section on the school's website @ www.mris.wa.edu.au and see all our news on Facebook.

Please join our Alumni List, share some memories with us for future editions and perhaps include a current photo of yourself at work or play or with your family.

For information contact Melissa White (melissa.white@mrisk.wa.edu.au) or the school on 08 9757 7515.

Rio: A Jazz Juggernaut!



At work: Rio Haigh aka Alex Belman belts one out!

Former MRIS student, Rio Haigh aka Alex Belman has been nominated in the WAM Song of the Year competition for his self-written jazz song 'Slowly Burning.' "I have fond memories of MRIS (2010-2016)... of band with Manfred, music with Pam, and the end-of-year concerts." Rio said. "Performing in the 2016 Eisteddfod in Bunbury with Sara, while not in the musical capacity that now characterises most of my performances, stands out to me as a particularly fun and rewarding experience." Rio said surfing with Sean was another standout memory. "Although I haven't continued since moving to the city, surfing became a hobby of mine after catching my first wave at Gnarabup with MRIS."

"I have retrospectively found the Virtues Project to have had a monumental positive influence on my character and values, and affirm the benefit of a school that implements the Virtues Project such as MRIS."



Stars in his eyes: Rio Haigh at MRIS in 2016

Rio is in his final year of high school at John Curtin College of the Arts (JCCA). He records and releases his own music.

When we caught up with Rio at MRIS back in 2016 to discuss his admission to the Gifted and Talented Music Program at JCCA he said he looked forward to the challenge and meeting "like-minded, creative" people and relished the idea of living in the city.

"My goal is to become a pop star like Justin Bieber or Katy Perry but I realise I will need to be unique if I'm to be successful—it's a hard road and only a few make it." Embarking on the road to success back then, Rio once again credited MRIS music teachers, Pam Tuffin and Manfred Bruggler for inspiring his love of music. "They taught me everything I know about music. I owe them a lot!"

FutureFives Project

You are invited to contribute a multiple of 5 (\$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$500) each term.

This project follows the school's Bush School motto— *From little things, big things grow* — demonstrating that small ongoing contributions can assist with big developments.

See the website www.mris.wa.edu.au for further information