

Parnassus Awards 2022

Bronze Parnassus Awards

A Bronze Parnassus Award is given to a student who completes an original and evaluative research project, essay, creative work or invention in any discipline, which is commendable.

Zara Chan (STEM)

Zara investigated how the quantity of microplastics in water affects its ability to retain heat.

Karina Cheung (Research)

Karina's historical investigation for Ancient History critically assessed the reasons for the Roman Senate's intervention of the Bacchanalia.

Jasmine Kalantar (Innovation)

Jasmine devised a business plan for a hypothetical business called *Green n Grounded*, which seeks a sustainable solution to reducing pollution in the form of waste sent to landfill.

Paige Kalipciyan (Creativity)

Paige's English podcast and imaginative composition drew on Vladimir Nabokov's 1955 novel, *Lolita*, and reimaged it in a #MeToo context, exploring themes of racism, sexism and conformity.

Chloe Nair (Innovation)

Chloe created a for-profit business called *Blind-Spot Assist* that produces blind-spot mirrors that emit a soft light when another vehicle enters the user's blind spot.

Lael Sakalauskas (Research)

Lael's historical investigation for Modern History critically analysed the varying interpretations of the strengths and weaknesses of Gorbachev's leadership.

Sneha Shygale (Creativity)

Sneha's English podcast and imaginative composition drew on Louisa May Alcott's, *Little Women*, to compare the lives of two German sisters during WWII, interrogating the merits and flaws of the differing roles of women during wartime.

Isabelle Smith (Research)

Isabelle conducted a cross-generational investigation to examine how the globalised brand of Barbie has impacted the process of socialisation between Generation X and Generation Z.

Meredith Xu (STEM)

Meredith investigated the effectiveness of using plants to minimise the levels of fertiliser runoff in stormwater.

Shelley Zhou (Research)

Shelley's historical investigation for Ancient History critically assessed the interpretation of twentieth and twenty-first-century historians to determine if Ivan the Terrible was, in fact, deserving of his name.

Silver Parnassus Awards

A Silver Parnassus Award is given to a student whose quality of work is outstanding for the student's present level of enrolment and shows potential for distinguished performance at higher levels.

Roxanne Cheng (Research)

Roxanne's Ancient History investigation critically analysed the debate surrounding the various interpretations of the existence and location of the lost city of Atlantis.

Anneke Dykgraaff (Research)

Anneke's Modern History investigation critically assessed the value of historians' perspectives on the use of militancy by the Women's Social and Political Union.

Talia Jee and Mia St George (STEM)

Talia and Mia investigated the effects of simulated acid rain on the chlorophyll content of basil plants.

Annabelle Frederick, Rebecca Hong, Lucinda Russell and Chloe Silberman (Creativity)

Annabelle, Rebecca, Lucinda and Chloe wrote, directed and performed in a "Fakespearean" play exploring the tragedy and folly of love.

Anjali Kailasanathan and Seeya Naik Panvelkar (Innovation)

Seeya and Anjali completed an original invention designed to monitor oil levels on bodies of water to proactively prevent large oil spills.

Misri Kotecha (Research)

Misri explored the relationship between socio-economic status and carbon footprint in two different Sydney suburbs during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Olivia Lee (STEM)

Olivia investigated the effect of natural fermentation on the plasticity of gluten, hypothesising that when the time of natural fermentation was increased, the elasticity would also increase.

Sneha Shygale (Research)

Sneha's Modern History investigation critically assessed the differing historical interpretations of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Phoebe van Niekerk (Research)

Phoebe's research was on how the construction of the Western Sydney Airport affects the topography, land usage and culture of the area.

Vanessa Wu (Creativity)

Vanessa's English podcast and imaginative composition reimagined the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice in a futuristic Asian context, exploring cultural and familial values, and themes of capitalism, hubris and authoritarianism.

Miranda Xu (STEM)

Miranda investigated the friction between tennis shoes and tennis courts and thoroughly applied the principles of physics to her study.

Isabella Yaw (Creativity)

Isabella's English podcast and imaginative composition drew on Oscar Wilde's, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, to explore themes of identity, capitalism and morality in the reimagined setting of Hollywood.

Jasmine Ye (Creativity and Research)

Jasmine is the recipient of two Silver Parnassus awards. Her English podcast and imaginative composition drew on Oscar Wilde's, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, to explore the relationship between hedonism and morality in the reimagined setting of the 1997 handover of Hong Kong.

In Economics, Jasmine chose to explore economic growth in Australia and Vietnam, investigating the structure of the export base in each economy, with a focus on resources and services.

Rita Yeung (STEM)

Rita developed a creative prototype for "smart blinds" using innovative coding and engineering techniques.

Audrey Zou (Research)

Audrey explored economic growth in Australia and India, investigating the different areas impacting recent economic growth rates in the two economies.

Parnassus Gold Awards

A Gold Parnassus Award is given to a student whose work displays outstanding rigour and merit, in both the finished product and the research process behind it. The quality of the work exceeds normal expectations for outstanding work at the student's present level of enrolment.

Sienna Kim (Research)

Sienna's historical investigation for Modern History critically analyses the extent to which Mary Tudor deserves the legacy of her "Bloody Mary" moniker. Her research examines the underlying religious, political, and gendered biases which have contributed to the polarising debate on how history should treat the first Queen of England. Sienna's essay demonstrated research, critical thinking and analysis of the highest standard, incorporating both primary and secondary source material in a sophisticated manner.

Erika Lee (Creativity)

Erika composed an extensive and nuanced orchestral score for a game soundtrack. She used melodic ideas to drive her aesthetic intentions, representing the different phases of the character's life. Her portfolio recorded the development of her original ideas and showed an outstanding level of both creative and critical thinking.

Harini Luckshman (Innovation)

Harini created a hypothetical online skincare line called *Euphoria Organics*. The business' prime function is to provide customers with organic exfoliating cleaners which best suit their specific skin type. *Euphoria Organics* is a part of a niche market as it concentrates on organic substances that are animal cruelty-free, plant-based, and devoid of any harmful chemicals and toxins. The business' key focus is on sustainability and emphasises zero waste and non-plastic packaging.

Mikayla Rodger (Innovation)

Cyanobacteria is a major problem in waterways, so Mikayla designed the *SolarCyanoSlayer*, a machine capable of reducing cyanobacteria blooms by circulating, oxygenating and filtering the water source. She carried out research into products that already exist and ensured that her machine was different and original. Mikayla's logbook showed the depth of her critical analysis of the issue and an outstanding level of creative thinking.

Linda Wang (Creativity)

Linda's podcast and imaginative composition for English drew on Homer's, *The Odyssey*, to reimagine the story in a modern corporate Japanese context. Linda's original short story entitled, *Sutchō - the Business Trip*, tells the story of a Japanese businessman's emotional journey home to his pregnant wife, exploring familial duty, the value of human relationships and the integration of an alienated father back into a family unit. Linda's logbook demonstrates evidence of wide-ranging research and creative and critical thinking of the highest standard.

Vanessa Wu (Research)

Vanessa's historical investigation for Modern History analysed how changing contexts have influenced historical interpretations of the Empress Dowager Cixi. Vanessa critically assessed the extent of Cixi's responsibility in failing to reform Qing Dynasty China, comparing historians who have villainised her femininity to more modernist feminist views that have sought to acknowledge the influence of her rule in the modernisation of China. Vanessa overcame the challenge of incorporating a Chinese perspective into her research by accessing publications in Chinese and translating them in order to ensure a balanced analysis of the historiography available.

Sophia Yang (Research)

Sophia chose to explore economic growth in Australia and Nepal. As part of this task, Sophia proposed that monetary policy should be used more effectively in Nepal, justifying this stance by comparing a similar policy adjustment in Laos. Her sophisticated use of statistics allowed her to undertake a comprehensive analysis of Nepal's economy, even though public data on the nation is scarce.

Talia Yin (Creativity)

Talia's English podcast and imaginative composition takes George Orwell's classic text, *1984* and recontextualises it in a futuristic Chinese society. Her short story, *2084*, also influenced by Murakami's *1Q84*, continues to explore the impacts of an oppressive government and society on personal relationships. Talia's work also extends upon the themes in these two novels, highlighting the rising need for climate action and lamenting the separation between humanity and nature. Talia's logbook demonstrated evidence of wide-ranging research and creative and critical thinking of the highest standard.