



GERALDTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

November 2020 Edition



THE BEACON

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Striving for Excellence





I would like to dedicate this edition of the Beacon to Meagan Plummer, a much loved teacher, colleague and friend who was taken from us far too young. Meagan was instrumental in helping us get our inaugural Arts Day 2019 up and running. Meagan started working for the school in 2002 and was a fabulous artist and Visual Art teacher. Rest in Peace, Meagan, you will never be forgotten by the Geraldton Grammar Community.

Neesha Flint
Principal



We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Southern Yamatji Peoples who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we stand. The Nhanhagardi, Wilunyu, Amangu. I would like to pay my respect to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the Southern Yamatji Peoples.

Inside this issue

03	Valedictory	13	2020 Midwest @ Gascoyne Netball Carnival Secondary Interschool Rugby
04	Year 12 Leadership 2021	14	Sheila Flanagan Library
05	Outward Bound	15	Student News
06	Secondary Orientation Day	17	Alumni News
07	GENESIS Geraldton Schools Art Exhibition 2020 K-12 Science		
08	Instrumental Music Program - Concert Band @ Relay for Life		
09	Kindy NAIDOC Week		
10	Year 9 Boys Wellbeing Program Mental Health Week		
11	District High School Countryweek		





Year 12 Valedictory



Congratulations to the graduating class of 2020. Valedictory day was held on Friday 23 October and was a day of many celebratory events.

The day started early with the Year 12s arriving at school for a cooked breakfast by the staff held in the staffroom. Bacon, eggs, toast, fruit, pancakes and Rose's famous corn fritters were enjoyed by all. Following the breakfast, the leavers ran through a dress rehearsal for the final assembly.

Parents, grandparents and siblings joined us for a delicious morning tea in the gardens and foyer of Batavia Hall prior to the assembly. This year we're unable to have the whole school attend due to COVID-19 and sadly only the Year 11s were able to attend the event.

At the assembly, the subject prizes, citizenship prizes and medals such as the Sheila Flanagan medal and Caltex All Rounder were presented. There was a special year as the Dux of school was renamed for the first time to *The John Royce Dux of School Prize* and we were lucky enough to have John Royce attend the event to present his prize to our highest ATAR student. The Principal, Neesha Flint then asked each graduate to stand one by one and she spoke about them individually naming not only their contributions and achievements but also their character traits, the aim being that each member of our Year 12 class leaves Geraldton Grammar School feeling valued, loved and cared for. This is only possible in a small school and shows the strength of our size.

Following the assembly, a group photo with balloons is taken and each Year 12 has a PP/1 child escort them through the Guard of Honour formed by the remaining students in the school down the school's guardian drive and culminates in three cheers and confetti. There are proud parents waiting at the end and the inevitable tears.

The graduates then return in the evening for the Valedictory Service dressed in their gowns and sashes. The leaders of the group lead us through readings and prayers. Each graduate receives their graduation folder from the Principal and a candle from the Chair of Board. The evening then concludes with supper and mocktails.

Many staff help make the day a wonderful experience for our Year 12s, especially this year where so many of them were impacted by the uncertainty brought on by COVID-19.

The motto this year was *Improvise Adapt Overcome* which could not have been more fitting. We will miss our Year 12 class of 2020 and wish them nothing but health and happiness in the coming years and thank them for their leadership and contributions to the life of the school.





Year 12 Leadership 2021

Congratulations to our 2021 Year 12 leadership group who were inducted into their new roles at the final Year 12 assembly. It is a great tradition where the outgoing leader hands the badge to the new leader and a candle is lit by the new Captains to signify a new beginning.

Position	Name
School Captain	Tallis Kentish
School Captain	Tahnee Gronow
Academic Captain	Connie Greeve
Sports Captain	Darcie Newman
Arts Captain	Dougal Watson
Service	Natasha Taylor
Chapman House	Jasmyn Johnson
Greenough House	Tanami Stewart
Irwin House	Fynn Young
Murchison House	Tess Tonkin-Sloan



Striving for Excellence

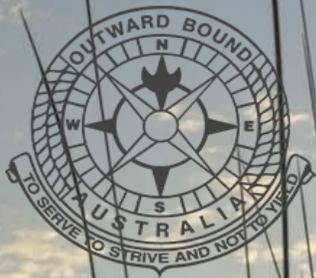


Outward Bound



Students in years 9 and 11 left bright and early on Saturday 24 October to head to the Walpole region for the annual Outward Bound camp and returned on Tuesday 3 November.

The program is designed to build resilience, communication and collaboration skills, interpersonal skills, a sense of respect and responsibility to themselves and others and an adventurous spirit. Both groups complete courses that involve an expedition, rafting, ropes courses, service and solo time in an environment that is both stunning and challenging. There are quite big differences in the experiential learnings in each group and the feedback from both students and parents has been very positive.



OUTWARD BOUND Inspiring Australians



There are plenty of photos of the activities on the school website should you be interested. A big thank you to the school staff who attended; Mark Wilkinson, Damon Angelatos, Lara Watson, Katie Clarkson and Derek Lange and a special thanks to the 2 parents Fiona Stewart and Lisa Farnell who gave up their time to support the program.





Secondary Orientation Day

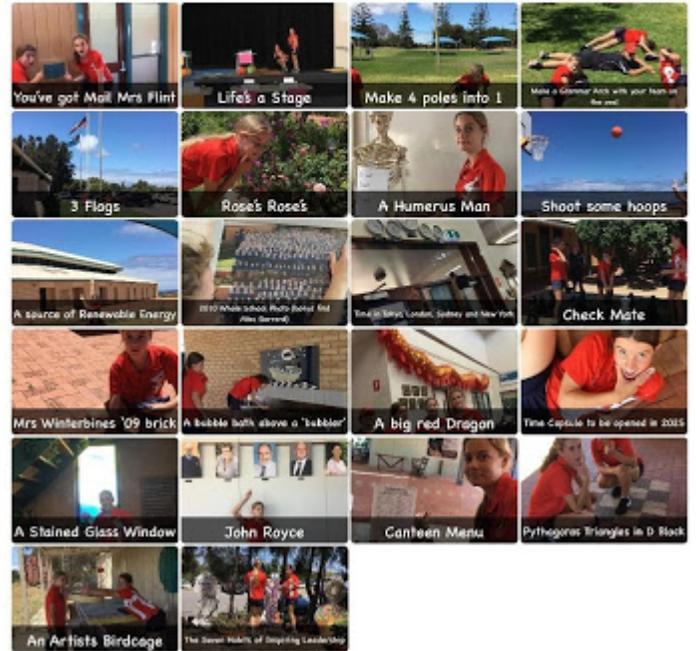
The Orientation Day at Geraldton Grammar School provides an opportunity for students to become familiar with the school environment and is designed for students to participate in a group with current and new students from across the Year 7 / 8 Hub School. The day evolved as a series of mental and physical challenges based around the future-ready skills of collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and communication.



PHOTO Scavenger Hunt

Orientation Day 2020

Red Dust



Collected 22/22 words





GENESIS Geraldton Schools Art Exhibition 2020

On Friday 20 November students, teachers, and parents from Geraldton schools celebrated their talented art students at the opening of GENESIS at the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery. The exhibition was smaller than in previous years due to COVID-19 and hence a ticketed event. Nevertheless, dozens of young local artists shared their best work in the form of sculpture, painting, printmaking, illustration, and more. Thirteen artists were selected from Geraldton Grammar School to participate including Georgia Harding (Yr 12) Connie Greeve (Yr 11), Scarlett Singleton, Amber Vanags, Jaime-Lee Carter, and Tiana Lewis (Yr 10), Emily Ramasamy, Sydney Williams, Layne Gillingham and Lissi Taylor (Yr 9), Evie Curnow, Zoe Dawson and Jenna Butson (Yr 8), Izzy Barlett, Thomas Sorgiovanni, Hamish Sojan and Lily Scrimgeour (Yr 7). A winner from each year group between 7 and 12 was chosen. Evie Curnow won the Year 8 prize for Geraldton Grammar School for her quirky dragon teapot. The exhibition continues until December 12 and the gallery is open Saturday and Sunday 9:30am – 1:30pm, and Tuesday to Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm. We congratulate all students who were selected and hope you can visit the exhibition.

Thanks so much for participating in Genesis 2020.



Emily Ramasamy



#1

Evie Curnow
Year 8 Winner



K-12 Science

It was with great excitement that our pre-primary, Year 1 and Year 2 students walked up to the Secondary School science building. After learning about materials and mixtures as part of a Chemical Science unit of work, students were looking forward to seeing just what a science laboratory looks like and what happens in one. Waiting for our young students was Ms Bruce in a bright pink lab coat and a class full of enthusiastic Year 8 scientists. The Year 8 students worked in small groups to present and explain a range of Science experiments. There was water, foam, bright red food colouring and explosions. The interaction between the different age groups was a delight for all involved. What a fantastic benefit of a K-12 school!





Instrumental Music Program

Concert Band @ Relay for Life



On Saturday 17 October, the Geraldton Grammar School Concert Band had the opportunity to perform for a live audience at the GBSC Oval for the large crowd of people attending the Relay for Life outdoor concert. The music students were excellent ambassadors for our School, they performed in very cold and windy conditions as they entertained the crowd who were very supportive of the performances.

The 'Barking Gecko's Sax Ensemble' opened the entertainment which was well received and a popular act. The Gecko's were followed on the main stage by our Concert Band who received rousing applause after each item in the repertoire. The students performed impeccably under the conditions and they represented our School with pride and outstanding musicianship.

Once darkness set in, a traditional candle lighting ceremony took place in honour of family members who had sadly passed away. During this beautiful and moving ceremony, the Barking Gecko's performed Pachelbel's Canon as a moving tribute song to accompany the slide show.

The Rock Band closed out the GGS entertainment segment which got the audience on their feet and really did our School community proud.

We would like to thank the Relay for Life committee for the opportunity they provided for us to perform as all band members really enjoyed the experience.





Kindy NAIDOC Week

During NAIDOC Week our kindergarten classes participated in different activities as they celebrated the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal people. We had a visit from local Aboriginal owned and operated Landcare company Western Mulga. The kindy students planted seeds that will one day be placed in our playground and around the local community. We also received a visit from proud, local Aboriginal storyteller Priscilla who joined our kindy children for some stories and a yarn. The kindergarten classes would like to thank Mrs Jefferies for helping us to organise these events, as well as our lovely visitors for taking time to come and work with us. Our school and the kindergarten team look forward to continuing these partnerships in the future.



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**

8 - 15 NOV 2020

#NAIDOC2020



Year 9 Boys Wellbeing Program

On Wednesday 18 November, Geraldton Grammar School in partnership with Headspace commenced its Year 9 Boys Wellbeing Program.

The program focuses on increasing awareness about factors that impact on health and wellbeing, about the support available to young people and most importantly trying to reduce the stigma associated with seeking support.

The following topics are being discussed across the program.

Understanding Headspace, masculinity, mateship, the importance of having people to talk with, impacts of bullying and the importance of peer group for adolescents.



Mental Health Week

On Friday 30 October, students and staff in the Primary School acknowledged Mental Health Week with a special assembly followed by a morning of wellbeing activities.

Mental Health Week is held in October each year to raise community awareness about mental health issues.

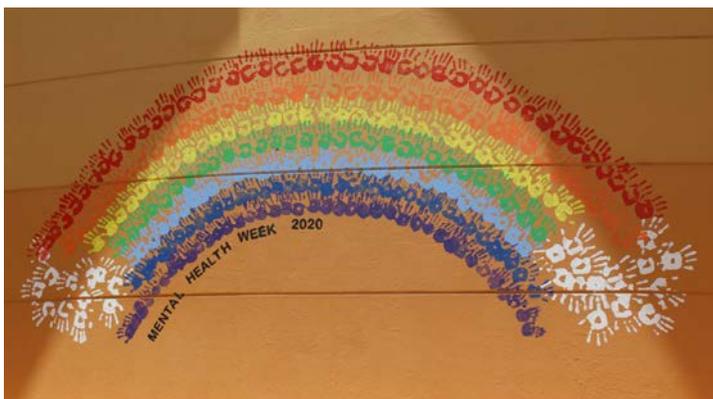
The aim of Mental Health Week is to promote social and emotional wellbeing within the community and to encourage people to maximise their health potential. Similarly, our school celebrations aim to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of our students and to raise awareness within the school community. The Mental Health Week theme for this year was “Strengthening Our Community – Live, Learn, Work, Play” as we aim at increasing mental wellbeing in WA communities.

In primary school each year, we also place the overall Mental Health Week theme into a student-focused, related and relevant context. This year our school theme was “Happy Minds, Healthy Minds”.

Dressed in rainbow coloured attire, the children and staff came to school ready for an exciting day of fun community activities. The day began with a special assembly hosted by 3/4L. This served to set the scene by highlighting the key theme and messages with music, dance, a miniplay and much more. Following assembly, students returned to their classes to reflect on the key messages and to prepare to participate in pro-social games and other wellbeing related activities. There certainly was a happy buzz around primary school.

Throughout the week all students contributed to the wellbeing rainbow wall and also spent some relaxing time during their art lessons weaving for wellbeing. Thank you Mrs Elliot-Lockhart for facilitating these wonderful activities.

Thank you also to all staff and students involved in coordinating the day and for participating in the activities. It was a truly INSPIRE- ational day.





District High School Countryweek

Countryweek Captains – Sophie Batten and Jimmy Hyde



Opening and Closing Ceremony National Anthem – Rosie Perham

Netball Team 1

Kristy Orr, Sophie Batten, Sabine Angelatos, Georgia Burrows, Abby Green, Scarlett Singleton, Amii See, Ella Murray, Emma Simmons.

Coach – Jenni Winterbine

Result – Runner up in A Division

Netball Team 2

Sydney Williams, Olivia Hurst, Clancy Hann, Rosie Perham, Milla Penberthy, Emily Ramasamy, Hanah Chapman, Milly Kalajzich, Layne Gillingham.

Coach – Rachel Opalinski

Result – Third place in A Division



Netball Team 3

Ella Batten, Ava Chesson, Olivia Painter, Essie Harris, Madi Sorgiovanni, Evie Curnow, Bella Teakle, Stella Finlay, Lissi Taylor.

Coach – Mel Finlay

Result – Runner up in B Division



Netball Team 4

Charlotte Barber, Shanaya Gronow, Stevie Fraser, Georgie Boys, Shelby Clarke, Elyssa Johnson, Elise Burges, Zoe Dawson, Elena Davidson.

Coach – Annie Messina

Result – Runner up in C Division



Striving for Excellence

Boys Basketball Team 1

Jimmy Hyde, Cullyn Kentish, Xander Pieterse, Jarrod Purcher, Seth Dewar, Angus Krinks.

Coach - Chad Greenaway

Result - 4th in A Division



Mixed Volleyball

Asher Milnes, Sky Loy, Jett Butson, Hannah Curnow, Ethan Rankin, Ben Walsh, Lewin Herring, April Pusey.

Coach - Katie Clarkson

Result - 4th in B Division



Boys Basketball Team 2

Daniel Stickney, Cory Brown, Joe George-Kennedy, Rowan Jermyn, Ryan Jermyn, Banjo McBeth

Coach - Natalie Sloper

Result - 3rd in C Division



Mixed Badminton

Lachlan Church, Tom McBeth, Harry Clarke, Ethan Andrews.

Coach- Neesha Flint

Result - Runner up in A Division



Mixed Hockey

Lachlan Norris, Alice Tonkin, Matilda Fitzgerald, Maggie Rutter, Harrison Millns-Sizer, Lailah Bellottie, Sandy Hann, Jenna Butson, Christie Bestry, Matthew Chamberlain, Oscar Lin.

Coach - Meg Cinanni

Result - Champions

2020 Active Achiever Award Winners:
Matthew Chamberlain, Joe George-Kennedy,
Amber Bestry, Olivia Hurst



2020 Midwest & Gascoyne Netball Carnival

Friday 6 November, Geraldton Grammar School had five teams compete in the Netball WA - Midwest Gascoyne High School Carnival - UWA and Fever Cup. The girls competed with excellent sportsmanship, determination and skill in very warm and windy conditions. Other schools participating were Strathalbyn Christian College, Kalbarri District Senior High School, Geraldton Senior High School and Nagle Catholic College. The teams were as follows:

Yr 7 Coach Sharon Cole and Meg Cinanni

Amara Starling, Ruby Lin, Abbie Hagan, Stella Taylor, Nicole Chamberlin, Drew Murdoch, Molly Keach, Sophia Kalajzich and Katie Blair.

Yr 7 Coach Amii See and Emma Simmons

Holly Green, Phoebe Teakle, Violette Krizanek, Ishika Santosh, Sophia Burrows, Elle Ryan, Indi Fraser, Lily Scrimgeour and Jessica Marsland.

Yr 8 Coach Chontarle Bellottie

Elise Burges, Elyssa Johnson, Matilda Fitzgerald, Bella Teakle, Anna-Rose Frater, Elena Davidson, Shelby Clarke and Georgie Boys.

Yr 8 Coach Rachel Opalinski

Ella Batton, Stella Finlay, Hannah Chapman, Milly Kalajzich, Christi Bestry, Lailah Bellotti, Essie Harris and Milla Penberthy.

Yr 10 Coach Kerri Jefferies

Kristy Orr, Scarlett Singleton, Sophie Batten, Georgia Burrows, Hannah Curnow, Tiana Lewis, Allysha Norton - Scott and Sabine Angelatos.



A huge thank you to parents Chontarle Bellottie and Nicole Batten who helped out coaching and umpiring throughout the day. Thanks also to all of the current students who helped umpire and score Caitlyn Mann, Indi Smith, Emma Simmons, Tanna Parker, Tess Tonkin - Sloan and Maggie Rutter.



Secondary Interschool Rugby

Whilst Geraldton Grammar School recently played Strathalbyn Christian College in their annual rugby match the result didn't quite go our way this year, the students involved were a real credit to the school, playing with pride and determination throughout!

The school would like to thank Geraldton Rugby Club for hosting the fixture and in particular Tom Gorman for his time and effort in the lead up to the event.

Best on ground: Callan Hill





Sheila Flanagan Library

Book Fair

Wow! In just five days we sold an incredible \$5518 worth of books and stationery. The funds raised through Book Fair commissions will be dedicated to resources for the Library. Thanks are given to everyone who shared promotional emails / Facebook posts, purchased and dropped in to say hello. Extra special thanks are given to Mrs Mundy and Mrs Place for the time you gave to help Mrs Jefferies, students and parents during the Book Fair.

Thank You

The end of Term 4 is approaching fast and Week 6 was the last week for students to borrow. I am pleased to report that over 11000 + books have been loaned to the Geraldton Grammar School community this year. They are a keen group of readers!

Thank you for welcoming me into the Geraldton Grammar School Library. I feel blessed to be part of this wonderful school and community. Thank you, students, for being a fantastic group of young people. I have enjoyed my involvement with you. I have observed how much you have evolved this year and how you are particularly passionate about helping and looking after one another.

A massive THANK YOU to the many fantastic people who generously gave of their time to assist in our Library this year. I really needed your help at different times in the year and am truly grateful for your generous response. Anita Mann and Emma Taylor MUCH VALUED volunteers, I THANK YOU for your many hours of help throughout the year. I hope that lots of new keen parents next year will also volunteer an hour or two of their time. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year for 2021.





Student News

Caleb Sewell - Wins D'arcy Slater Cup

Attracting more than 80 young players from across the State, the longstanding regional tournaments saw players from 7 different zones, including the Midwest, Upper Great Southern, Lower Great Southern, Great Southern, South West, Central Districts, Pilbara and Eastern Districts, hit the Busselton Tennis Club to contest the 14/U junior singles competition over 4 days. Caleb Sewell competed in the D'Arcy Slater Tennis cup and won the tournament.

"We are just very proud of the sportsmanship that was demonstrated by the Midwest Zone teams of boys and girls that travelled to Busselton to play. It was a very close match to win the grand final and both boys did very well, very pleased with Caleb's results."

Rea & Tim Sewell



Christi Bestry, Ella Batten & Sophie Batten - WA All Schools Athletics Championship Medalists



On Saturday 31 October Christi won bronze in the All Schools Girls U16 3000m (no U14 division for 3000m) in 10.51mins, beating a field of 15-year-olds! Even more amazing, she has qualified for the State Team to run the U15 3000m at the Nationals for Athletics in Sydney in April next year. Christi also ran the U14 1500m for the first time ever on a track and she surprised all the Perth athletics club kids with a brilliant run finishing with silver in 5.02mins.

The WA All Schools Championships is the premier event for school athletics competition in the State. All school-aged participants (born 2003-2008) can compete against their peers from all schools.



The event is also the selection trial for the Australian All Schools Championships, which were to be held in Hobart (TAS), from the 4-6 December 2020, which unfortunately has been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Athletics West, however, has announced the State Team, in recognition of the outstanding accomplishments of WA's top school-aged athletes, and Christi has been selected in the State Athletics Team for the Girls U14 1500m.

During the WA All Schools event Christi also time qualified to compete at the Australian Track and Field Championships 2021 in the Girls U15 3000m, to be held in Sydney in April 2021. She now wants to reduce her 1500m time by 13 seconds to reach the qualifying time of 4.50:00 for the Girls U15 1500m to compete at the Nationals in this event too.



Ella Batten qualified for the WA All Schools team with a silver medal in the girls U16 2000m Steeple Chase event.

Sophie Batten also qualified for the WA State All School team in the girls U18 400m hurdles.



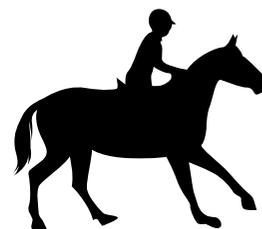
Abby Green & Ryleigh Conway - Interschool Equestrian Festival

Abby Green and Ryleigh Conway competed at the State Equestrian Festival during the September school holidays and enjoyed a great competition. Abby and her horse Barrabadeen Mystique competed in Show Hunter, unfortunately she had to retire from the 1m show jumping due to injury (to the horse). The overall results found Abby place: 5th Secondary Working Hunter, with a 1st in the Led section, 3rd in the Hunter, 4th in the Rider and 4th in the Dressage. Primary school rider Ryleigh Conway achieved placing in the following events; CT1a Primary 45cm - 1B - 3rd Place, Show Hunter Primary - 5th Place and Dressage 1B Primary - 8th Place. A huge thank you to Jo Green for managing the team.



Ryleigh Conway - Champion Junior Rider

At the 2020 GCEC Finale Ryleigh Conway won the Champion Junior Rider class. Congratulations!



Finn Preston, Gideon Kentish & James Tindall - U13 Grand Final Soccer Winners

Finn Preston, Gideon Kentish and James Tindall represented Geraldton in September's Football West Country Week Soccer competition in Perth in the Boys Under 13s division and their team were gold medal Grand Final champion winners. They were undefeated for the whole competition and played against teams from all over WA such as Karratha, Hedland, Goldfields, Albany, Leeuwin, & Peel.

Finn was also awarded the Country Championship U13 Fairest and Best. A huge honour to gain this award as so many talented players from across the state completed.



Finn has continued his soccer success by being part of the Country Camp State Training Squad and is up for state selection. As there was no overseas trip this year he attended the Perth training camp and received the benefit of the coaching and training with other similar skilled kids from across the state. He has also been selected for the Football West Midwest TSP Program that supports identified junior players and a member of the Geraldton U13 Team who came top of the ladder at Country Week 2020. This year he played up an age division and achieved on points, the Chapman U14 Runner up Fairest and Best for the club. Watch out for Finn, we have a soccer star in the making.

Amber Bestry - Ocean Adventure Aboard the STS Leeuwin II

Earlier this month Amber embarked on an adventure completing a 6-day voyage on STS Leeuwin II. Her favourite experience onboard was being on the highest yard on the foremast and watching a mother and baby whale frolicking in the ocean. While she was onboard she demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication and an excellent understanding of the activities onboard, earning herself the ratings of:

Cook's Mate

The Cook's Mate job is to work with the Chef with all galley operations.

Bosun's Mate

The Bosun's Mate job is to work with the Bosun doing general maintenance on deck, in the rigging, deck equipment, and lifeboats, taking charge of working parties and performing seamanship tasks.

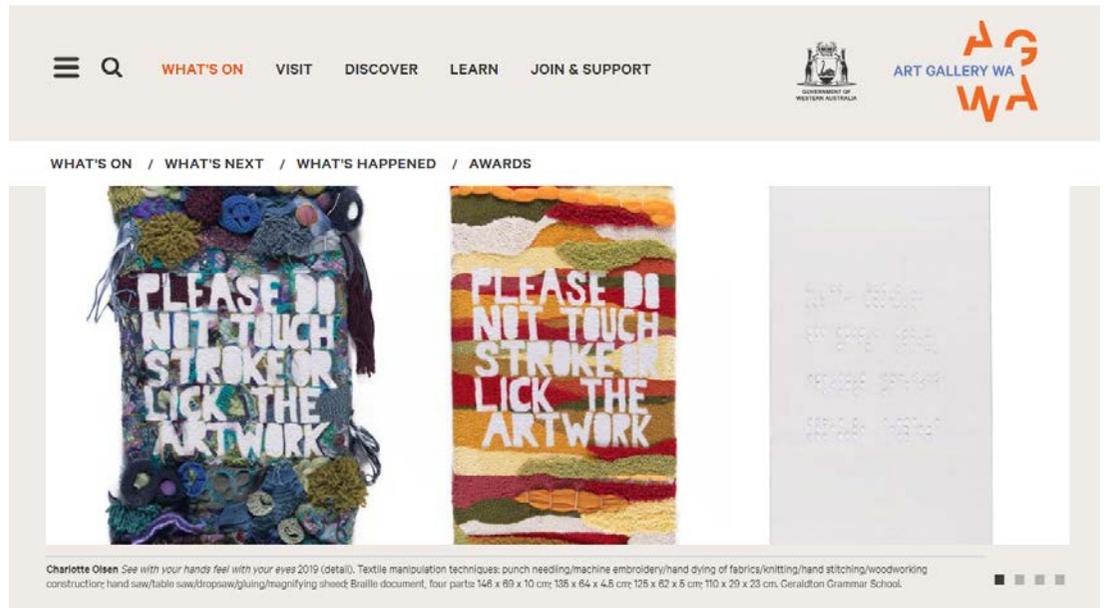
Having been selected for an award rating, it now allows her to return on future voyages as part of the incredible Leeuwin Volunteer Crew.



Alumni News

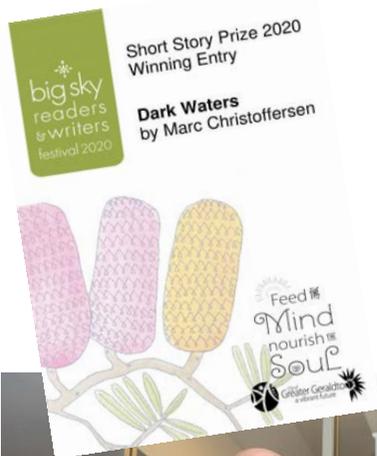
Charlotte Olsen (2019) - Inaugural Peer Prize at Pulse Perspectives 2019

Congratulations to Charlotte Olson for winning the Inaugural Peer Prize at the Art Gallery WA Pulse Perspectives 2019 exhibition. Check out their Facebook page or website for virtual tours of some of the 44 pieces displayed.



WA's talented young artists are celebrated in this yearly showcase, gauging the pulse of young people who will influence, empower and shape the world we live in. The selected works provide a window into young people's private, social and artistic concerns. It is in turns an inspiring, rewarding and insightful look at the world through the minds of our most talented young artists. This year's exhibition features 44 works by 2019 Year 12 Visual Arts graduates from 29 schools across Western Australia.

Marc Christoffersen (2015) - Big Sky Short Story Prize 2020 Winner



Congratulations to Big Sky Short Story Prize 2020 Winner Marc Christoffersen. His story Dark Waters, has now been published online via the CGG Library Catalogue.



An extract from Marc's story Dark Waters:

A cloud of dust billowed behind the ute as it thundered down the gravel track. Sparse bushland on either side extended for miles, spreading across the country like moss on a damp rock.

Ahead, nearly indistinguishable from the pale blue sky, was the ocean.

Stonehead Point sat an hour's drive from Carnarvon, in the middle of nowhere. The rock formations which gave the location its name were visible across the horizon, beneath the ocean. A trick of perspective. Red earth compacted over millennia into rough stone, eaten at by wind and wave until it had taken on a smooth and weathered appearance.

Shae tapped his fingers against the steering wheel in time with the song blaring from the radio, his elbow resting upon the open window. His sun bleached hair flowed in the wind, invisible fingers catching and playing with his locks.

Beside him, sitting silently, was Dave. Dark skinned like he'd been burnt to charcoal by the sun. Long, thick hair which rarely saw the razor. One hand rested on his thigh, the other on the door.

Warm air hit the pair as it rose from the earth, which had been baking in the sun for hours. It was a dry warmth which drew the sweat from their pores and left their mouths and throats parched, screaming for the comfort provided by water.

Class of 2010 - 10 Year Reunion

On Saturday 21 November Geraldton Grammar School hosted a reunion for alumni from the Class of 2010.

School Founder Sheila Flanagan and Past Principals Susan Shaw and John Royce joined students for mocktails and nibbles.

It was great to hear about past students life journeys and give them an opportunity to catch up. Thanks for making the effort to come up and we hope you enjoyed this event.

Hopefully, this will be the first of many reunions, watch out Class of 2001 and 2011 we will be looking for willing volunteers to round up your classmates for next year.

