



GERALTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

June 2021 Edition



THE BEACON

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Striving for Excellence



Enjoy reading about another action-packed few weeks at our school.

Thank you to all the parents, staff, and students for their contribution to our school. The sense of community is clearly evident.

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.

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GERALDTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



Meagan Plummer Arts Day

Whilst this was the School's third Arts Day, it was the first Meagan Plummer Arts Day with some of Meagan's family in attendance. It was so nice to see some of her paintings displayed and how very talented she was as an artist with quite the following in town.

Meagan started teaching at Geraldton Grammar School in 2002 as a Year 6 teacher and then transitioned to the role of a Visual Art and Drama teacher in Primary. Later on, she began teaching art in the Secondary school where it was not uncommon for her to remain back after school and on weekends so that she could provide her students with every opportunity to succeed.

Meagan always championed students' achievements and displayed their work in the local Geraldton Regional Art Gallery's annual school's exhibition "Genesis" and the St George's Cathedral High School Art Exhibition as well as entering work in the Round Square digital art competition. She was a much loved teacher and Greenough House Director.

Meagan was instrumental in helping get our inaugural Arts Day up and running in 2019. Her positivity in all she did was infectious and she had quiet a way of bringing others along for the journey. In the community she was well known for her beautiful paintings and was an extremely talented artist with a unique style of working with fabric.

The school is lucky enough to have two of her amazing paintings in our reception area. We decided as a school to call Arts Day, The Meagan Plummer Arts Day to honour her memory, her creativity and her contribution to the Arts at the school over 18 years.



The theme of this year's Meagan Plummer Arts Day was Environmental Sustainability and we are lucky enough to have Phil Doncon, a Geraldton Grammar School parent, famous local artist and a member of our Environmental Sustainability Committee spend the day with us creating works of art based on student's ideas around environmental sustainability.

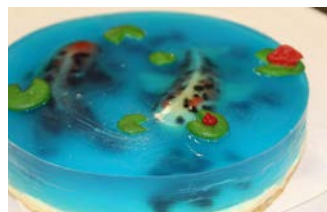


Wearable Artwork produced from Flotsam and Jetsam was also in our Hall foyer. Over the past 10 years, Flotsam and Jetsam have collected 80 tonnes of ocean debris from the Abrolhos Islands and brought it back for local artists to turn into beautiful pieces of art.

In February, Pia Boschetti, also an amazing jewellery designer and a parent of Geraldton Grammar School organised a team of 25 volunteers to go to the Abrolhos Islands to collect washed up debris. She said it is making a difference to our environment as it is taking longer to find enough debris. Meagan Plummer used to go to the Abrolhos Islands every year to help collect the debris and contribute to the work of arts produced.



The D&T rooms were full of displays of student artwork and cakes and cupcakes decorated around the theme.



By selling the supplementary cupcakes from the cake competition combined with a cake auction and generous staff donations we were able to raise \$405 for the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation.



Photography Competition Winners



Robert Holliday -
Early Steps Hub Winner



Cleo Boys -
Step In Hub Winner



Ella Batten -
Step Up Hub Winner



Amber Bestry -
Step Out Hub Winner



The day involved hearing our inaugural Junior Concert Band play as well as our Senior Concert Band and Jazz Band. The music was just brilliant. The closing ceremony finished with a school play with students from secondary school called 'How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying' which had some cameo appearances from staff which are always enjoyed by the students. The final event of the day was our very large popular primary choir which was a delight.



Year 5 Camp - Perth

On Monday 31 May the Year 5s ventured on a journey to Perth for our annual school camp. We were so excited. First stop was AQWA where we viewed spectacular marine life and experienced what it is like to be under the sea. The giant rays and sharks swimming ahead was surreal.



Tuesday was a full on day. SciTech, Parliament House, Fremantle Prison, dinner at Cicerellos and we topped the day off with 3D mini golf. At SciTech our planetarium visit was intriguing as we learned about the stars and our place in the universe. Some of us felt a bit dizzy. The highlight of the day was meeting the 'real Lara Dalton' and watching our parliamentarians work. We had our photo taken with Lara. Our Fremantle Prison tour leader told us lots of stories about prison life and the best was Moondyne Jo. We saw his wooden cell which he couldn't escape from!



Wednesday was the day for the Maritime Museum where we learned about the immigrants who came to Australia. Herdsman Lake was next, this time we explored what mini creatures lived in the lake and bigger creatures around the lake. Lazer Tag was voted the most popular activity on camp.



Thursday it was off to Boola Bardip our new museum. Wow how impressive is this place? We visited different areas in our groups and learned about lots of cool things. While we were there the Reconciliation march was about to happen so we joined in to listen to the speeches.

Friday it was time to pack up and head home. First, we stopped at the Gravity Discovery Centre. This was educational as we learned about Einstein's gravity and the solar system.

Camp was fantastic! A big thank you to Mrs Beermier, Mrs Carroll, Ms Martin, Mr Brown, Mr Patience and Mrs Lodge for taking us on camp.

National Reconciliation Week

In Week 7 Geraldton Grammar School embraced National Reconciliation Week – promoting the 2021 theme - More than a word. Reconciliation takes action.



As part of this we welcomed special guests at the Secondary Reconciliation Assembly, the Bugarr Malyu Indigenous Dance Group who performed a dance 'that embodied the movement of culture, wildlife and spirit' and Chontarle Bellottie, proud aboriginal woman and parent of the school who gave an informative and powerful presentation on the importance of Reconciliation through the key areas of Acknowledgement, Restoration of Relations, Understanding, Truth and Action.



On Thursday May 27 our Early Learning classes observed Reconciliation Week. Priscilla Rodd joined us out in the Kindy playground for the 'opening' of our chalkboard animal wall. She led us in an Acknowledgement of Country and taught the students the Wajarri words for each animal:

Turtle - Gandarra

Snake - Warlu

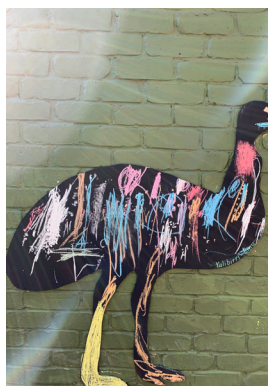
Echidna - Gunduwa

Kangaroo - Marlu

Emu - Yalibirri

Goanna - Barnga

Cockatoos - Buli





We would like to thank our special visitor Priscilla, everyone who contributed to the construction of the animals and those who helped us put the event together.

Kindy CGG Library Excursion

On Tuesday 15 June the Kindergarten class went on an excursion to the Geraldton Regional Library, to participate in the Better Beginnings program. This program is designed to support children so that they can build the early literacy skills they need to become good readers and succeed at school. The students were all very excited about the trip as most of them had never been on a bus before. Whilst at the library; the students were read a story, sang songs and had the opportunity to explore all the different books available there. Our excursion concluded with a walk to the foreshore park to enjoy some morning tea and a play in the playground. We would like to warmly thank Joanne from the Library for welcoming us into her space and the parents who volunteered to help us on the day.



Primary Cross Country

Friday started off like a normal day - except rainy, making it a beautiful day for running in nice cold weather to keep everyone cool. Though some students were questioning if this year's Cross Country would really go as planned on the intended day. It was rainy, and the track was wet. The day did go forward, and the first race was the Kindy kids, everyone loved watching them run. Everybody from Kindy to Year 6 participated to the best of their ability. However, once again Murchison house proved too strong coming out on top.

by Charlotte Hillbrick and Jaxon Tindall

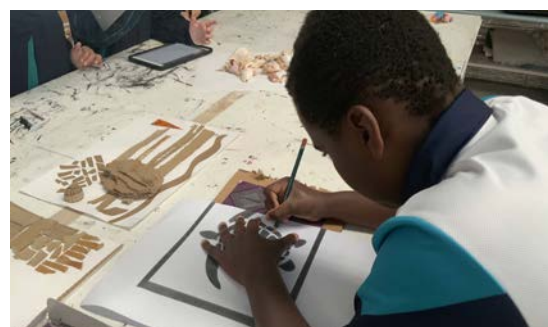


Year	Runner Up Champion	Champion
Pre Primary Boy	Tristan Taylor	Hudson Kennedy
Pre Primary Girl	Kelsee Thomas	Zara Nanninga
Year 1 Boy	Digby Hearman	Jake Bassett-Scarfe
Year 1 Girl	Scout Bailey	Sadie Barnes
Year 2 Boy	Gareth Taylor	Flynn Wilkinson
Year 2 Girl	Freya Teakle	Samara Penney
Year 3 Boy	Kai Bassett-Scarfe	Charlie Fong
Year 3 Girl	Isla Quirke	Lia Frick
Year 4 Boy	Seth Leech	Bede Halford
Year 4 Girl	Aisha Jones	Evie Fong
Year 5 Boy	Spencer Sojan	Henry Burton
Year 5 Girl	Esta Penberthy	Isla Dawson
Year 6 Boy	Rhys Bell	Leon Plummer
Year 6 Girl	Imogen Teakle	Macy Halford



The Champion House - Murchison!!

STEPIN DAY



On Thursday 18 June students in Year 7 took part in their second STEPIN day of the year. The theme of the day was sustainability. The students worked in gender and mixed gender groups giving them the opportunity to work with people outside of their class groupings. They made musical instruments from plastic bottles, designed posters and made videos to remind the school community to recycle, made lava lamps, heard stories about supporting sustainability and designed book covers, made some great art out of recycled cardboard, and learnt how to use a bow and arrow in archery. The students also had a session with Mrs Watson who explained to them about the caveman mind and how the idea of safety first can affect our everyday thoughts and actions.

Thank you to all the staff who were involved and to the students who made it such an enjoyable day.



Year 12 Biology Camp - Perth



About an hour after the final Year 12 semester 1 exam, 18 Year 12 students piled into a bus and headed to Perth for the Biological Sciences camp, where they would call the School of Isolated and Distance Education in Leederville home for the next 2 nights. The 11 Biology, 5 Human Biology, and 2 students studying both subjects, did not miss a beat in the freezing night air to observe a lunar eclipse in progress on the trip down. After a few minor AV glitches on arrival, the crew watched an old 90s flick called GATTACA to get them thinking about the ethical issues surrounding the manipulation of human genes.

The following morning saw the campers battle the peak hour traffic to get to the Harry Perkins Institute, where their competitive spirits were called into play with an interactive polymerase chain reaction activity, followed by gel electrophoresis using real human DNA in a PC2 rated laboratory. A tour of the facilities got the students thinking and learning about real world applications of the biotechniques that they had been learning about. Our School Leader, Tallis, took a time out to represent the school at ACC Cross Country event, where a close encounter with a 6-legged entity did not impact on his efforts in the final 500m.



The evening festivities included a brief shop at Galleria followed by a movie, although it was difficult to get our intrepid bus driver, Mr Angelatos, out of the massage chair while he hurriedly tried to catch up on the storyline of A Quiet Place, before viewing the sequel. Too scary for Ms Kelly, who took in Cruella, although it still inspired a nightmare or two.



The final full day of the camp began at the Perth Zoo, where light showers were not going to dampen the spirits of the Year 12's as they took in the educational workshops and toured the grounds. Biology students got up close and personal with some critters and learned how they regulated their body temperature, while the Human Biology students looked at trends in physical features seen in the Great Apes.



UWA was the next destination, where Biology students were treated to a 'skull-apoloosa' of teeth counting, to make links between teeth and their adaptations to diet, and the Human Biology students learned about the adaptations of ancient ancestors to walking erect. We were extremely grateful to the incredibly experienced university staff for giving up their valuable time to share their knowledge and incredible resources with us. The final night of the camp turned very competitive, with teams donning their laser tag equipment and setting off into the darkness to see who could come out on top. What was your secret, Jake?

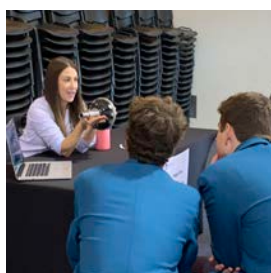
Once back at camp, the 3 different units of students were given a cooking challenge, which they tackled with relish. No official winner was declared but the veggie burger the boys dished up, Daisy's gourmet delight, and the supremely elegant presentation of the strawberry and chocolate crepe by Tash and Jacob, were worthy of a mention. The weather held out for as long as it could and it bucketed down on the final night and our return to Geraldton. A big thank you to the Biological Sciences students for their keen enthusiasm, respect, humour and wonder, as well as the fearless Mr Angelatos, whose courage under fire in traffic and car parks was second to none. A survey of the students declared the camp a roaring success and sealed its fate in the history books of the Science Department at Geraldton Grammar School.

Careers Uncovered Expo

Thank you to our wonderful community who supported the Careers Uncovered Expo.

Over 30 different occupations were represented, which provided students with the opportunity to learn from industry experts who shared their career journey, day to day job requirements and advice needed to succeed in the future.

A special thank you to the people who made this event possible.



Grow Your Mind Day

Our very first Grow Your Mind Day was held throughout the primary school on Thursday 17 June. The purpose of the day was to highlight and further build the concept of a Growth Mindset.

A growth mindset refers to the understanding that learning occurs through hard work, persistence, and a willingness to learn from mistakes. People who display a growth mindset persevere when things are tough, know that mistakes are part of learning and have a can-do attitude.

Each primary school class participated in a series of growth mindset learning experiences aimed at defining the concept, recognising associated attributes and completing challenges requiring the application of a growth mindset. A particular emphasis was placed on developing the notion of GRIT; a combination of perseverance and resilience.

In addition to the classroom activities, the children also participated in a whole class GRIT challenge coordinated by the INSPIRE Student Leadership Team. Students in PP – Year 2 embraced the Turtle Drawing competition, whilst students in Years 3 - 6 plunged into the learning pit as they took on the Great Origami Challenge.

We would like to thank all teachers and students for their support and participation.



Striving for Excellence

PP/1 Northampton Excursion

On Thursday 17 June, our Pre Primary and Year 1 students travelled to Northampton for a day of History inquiry. The Western Australian curriculum requires that students explore the differences and similarities between students' daily lives and life during their parents and grandparents' childhoods, including family traditions, forms of communication and leisure time. Walking through the Northampton town site students looked at a public phone booth, a mail box, the old convent wall and construction and the historical photos in IGA before stopping off at the Northampton Family Store. Here students looked at a cash register, telephones, shop layout and sewing machines from the past, making comparisons to their own shopping experiences. The Old Railway Precinct provided the opportunity to explore how transport has changed over time. Thank you to the lovely volunteers at both places and the families that assisted to make this a great day of learning for our students.



Year 2 Museum Excursion

On Thursday 17 June the Year 2's walked down to Geraldton Museum to find out more about a significant event that happened just off Geraldton's coast, the shipwreck of the Batavia. The students started off viewing the replica of the longboat that is tied up outside the Museum, and thought about those that sailed back to Indonesia to get help in that small boat. They walked up to the statue of Wiebbe Hayes that sits in the middle of Geraldton, and viewed the replica fort that they made out at the Abrolhos Islands. They also went inside the museum to look at some of the treasure that was onboard, salvaged years later, and the real sandstone portico that is replicated at our school hall.

The students had a marvellous day finding out facts that have close symbolic connections with our school.



Sheila Flanagan Library

Term 2 - Creating a Library with great heart that inspires great minds

Our library is dedicated to fostering a love of reading and learning. We strive to provide activities and resources that will support students and staff to become effective and discriminating life-long users of information. Our focus is on reading both for pleasure and information. We encourage all students to borrow from our School Library every week.

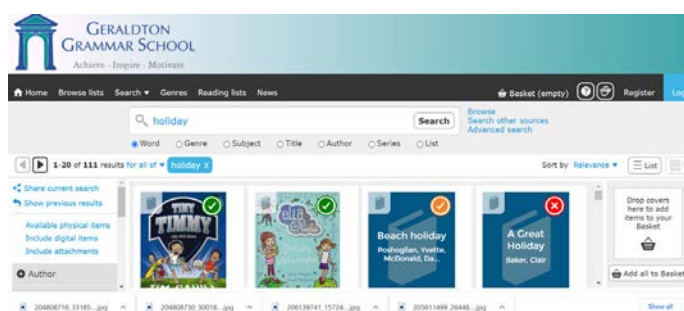


Our collection

We maintain a balanced and current collection with a diverse range of materials which meet the learning needs of our staff and students. Our books are carefully selected to meet students' reading interests and abilities. The curriculum is supported through the purchase of materials in a variety of formats and a selection of book's have a Lexile measure.

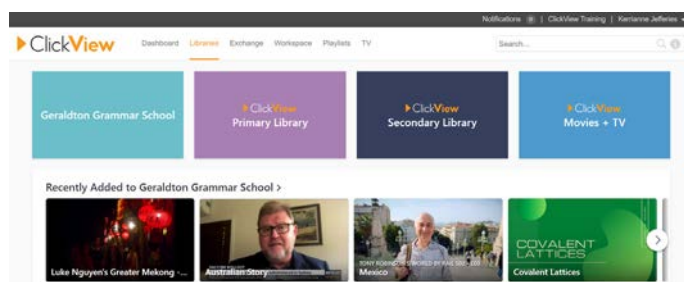
Our Catalogue

Students can access our full catalogue via their SEQTA Portal by clicking on the School Library link.



Borrowing

All students can visit our school library for borrowing, literature enrichment and research. Our emphasis with the youngest students this term was on the enjoyment of literature. The goal for Year 3-6 students was to extend their skills with research. We also provided opportunities to incorporate technology. Primary research was carefully matched with class learning intentions and follows the ERP Process. Secondary students were encouraged to borrow books that interest them and use our study and research spaces.



ClickView is a Video Learning application that allows teachers and students to access Curriculum Related Video Material to assist with their teaching and learning. This term Students from Years 3 - 12 have used ClickView as an interactive resource. They can edit, annotate, share and upload videos and related learning materials. ClickView is available at school and home and provides a safe resource for student revision and self-directed learning.

Celebrations

Celebrations in our library included Mothers Day, ANZAC Day, International Nurses Day, National Reconciliation Week, and Sustainability. Next term we will be celebrating Book Week, Australian Authors and Illustrators. For more information about the short listed titles take a look at the Children's Book Council of Australia website: <https://cbca.org.au>



Work Experience Students

Thank you to Students from Holland Street and Geraldton Grammar School for all the hard work you put in! Know that it is recognised and greatly appreciated. Students have developed their skills and become the best student assistants they could be. They worked through a list of common tasks that are done daily to keep operations running smoothly, maintaining a professional atmosphere in the Circulation area (and elsewhere).



Randolph Stow Young Writers Award

The 2021 Randolph Stow Young Writers Awards (RSYWA) competition has officially opened. The award aims to encourage the creative talents of students in the Midwest in the art of poetry and prose. It is a writing competition organised by the Geraldton Regional Library that is open to all students from year three to year twelve who study within the Midwest region. Cash prizes are offered as an added incentive and last year the Geraldton Library received 800 entries from twenty four schools.

Please note the closing date for entries this year is Saturday 3 July 2021.

Circus Disco



The Primary Circus Disco was a great success. We had clowns and all sorts of carnival like people dancing and playing games. The games were popular with everyone

We raised \$1193.55 for the Cyclone Seroja appeal.



We thank everyone for helping us to get to this total. A big thank you to Mr Brown for helping us and all the staff.

National Spelling Bee

Students in Years 7 - 9 have competed in the National Education Perfect Online Spelling Bee in week 10. As a school we performed really well:

- 9th overall out of 150 schools
- 5th in WA out of 42 schools

Individually we had over 60 students receive a credit award or higher.



Outstanding results from Cameron Stokes (Year 7) who came 33rd out of 5978 students - he received an Elite Award and Blair Haultain (Year 7) who came 157th and received an Emerald Award.



Staff News

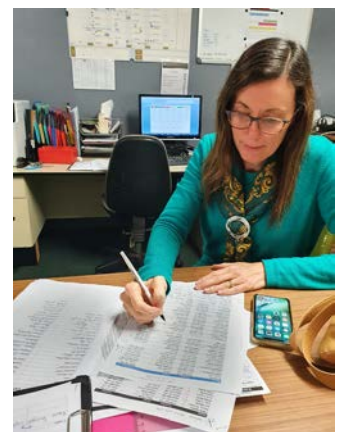
Julie Carroll - Volunteer of the Year

As part of the Badminton WA country week tradition - The Geraldton Badminton Association nominates a member that they recognise as our Volunteer of the Year. This year Julie Carroll received their Volunteer of the Year award for 2021.

Julie has really stepped up and helped the association on pennants nights and collects the money and makes sure all players are there ready to play.

She is also a member of the board and takes the minutes for our meetings as well. At Junior tournaments Julie is there for the whole 2 days lining and umpiring for the kids even though she no longer has juniors playing at home.

Julie also fills in anywhere when needed whether it be on the court or off the court. Congratulations Julie - you are a very deserving winner of this award!



Student News

Christi Bestry & Nicole Chamberlain - Make State Team



On Thursday 21 May 2021 SSWA Interschool Cross Country Championships were held at McGilivray Oval in Perth.

Christi, Nicole and Matthew Chamberlain made the trip to Perth to compete and represented Geraldton Grammar School.

203 girls lined up for the Girls 14 Yrs 4000m, and finishing with a silver medal was Christi (15.41mins) and Nicole came 4th (16.06mins), an incredible result!

The girls received a letter congratulating them on making it into the State Cross Country Team based on their finishing placement.

Matthew finished his Boys 16/17 Yrs 6000m in 30th position, in 21.52mins, a fantastic effort and a great run.

Christi Bestry & Nicole Chamberlain - More Running Success



On Thursday 27 May a large contingent of Secondary students headed to Perth to take part in the ACC Cross Country.

The day started off well with Nicole taking home the bronze medal in the Year 8 Girls race.

Later in the day Christi and Milly competed in the Year 9 Girls race finishing 2nd and 4th receptively. Congratulations to all the competitors.

Lexie & Jaxon Mortley - Taekwon-Do Medallists

The All Australian International Taekwon-Do State Championships 2021 were held in Geraldton on Sunday 27 June. For Lexie and Jaxon who both started Taekwon-Do only last year this was their first competition. They were both the lowest grade belt there, but both kicked and performed way above their belt, outperforming competitors in patterns, sparring, speciality techniques and Taekwon Warrior.



Lexie was over the moon, taking home 2 silvers and a bronze, while Jaxon who was equally as happy came home with 3 bronze medals. Their teacher Master Bradley from Oceanic Taekwon-Do Academy was very proud of them both, saying all the extra hours they had both put into training had definitely paid off!

Ryleigh, Amelia & Abby - Interschool Equestrian Trials



Here are the results of the Interschool Equestrian Competition which was held at the International Arena in May.

Ryleigh Conway on mount Brayside Bewitched (Samantha) placed:

- 1st Primary 60cm Combined Training
- 9th Champion Dressage 1B/1C
- 4th Primary 60cm Show Jumping
- 3rd Primary 70cm Show Jumping

Amelia Elliott and her mount Sonny James came 1st in the 60cm Secondary Show Jumping in a large field of 30 riders. They also had some great dressage and Show Hunter workouts.



Abby Green – Barrabadeen Mystique and EBL illuminate placed:

- 2nd combined training 60cm EBL
- 2nd combined training 95cm BM
- 1st secondary show horse BM
- 6th Show jumping 60cm EBL
- 4th show jumping 90cm BM
- 4th jumping 1m BM

Alumni News

Rosie Bogumil (2016) - Published Author



After years of dreaming she would one day be a writer, Rosie Bogumil has released her first collection of poetry. 'Decorating Pain' captures the raw reality of a life lived alongside mental illness. Whilst confronting at times, the collection is ultimately a celebration of healing.

Together with her entourage of neuroses, Rosie Bogumil writes unapologetically about mental illness. Since discovering the healing power of poetry, Rosie has struggled to keep her story contained, and frequently features at spoken word and slam events in and around Sydney. Performing as Rosie Bee, she doodles a bee beside her name in the vague hope that she will one day require a unique autograph.

About the Book - Isn't it strange, how we decorate pain? Decorating Pain is dedicated to those who helped me survive, as well as all the people who told me I would never amount to anything - least of all a poet. The collection is a series of poems in two parts, each illustrating a different facet of my diagnoses. I carry my pain in and on my body, as scars and tattoos and tattoos covering scars. Pain made visceral, then decorated.

Order your copy at - <https://icoe.com.au/2021003.html>

Decorating
Pain



poems by

Rosie Bogumil

