



THE BEACON

@geraldtongrammarschool 

@geraldtongrammar 

geraldtongrammarschool.wa.edu.au 

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 obvious.

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.

In this issue . . .

Page	
3	Biggest Morning Tea
4	Secondary Cross Country 2022
5	Kindy Mother's Day Afternoon Tea
6	ANZAC Day Young Writer's Collective
7	Primary Spelling Bee 2022
8	Secondary Sports News
9	Outdoor Education - Coral Bay Camp
12	Staff News Student News
13	Meagan Plummer Arts Fest 2022



GERALTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Biggest Morning Tea

On Wednesday 18 May, Geraldton Grammar School held their annual Biggest Morning Tea event to raise funds for the Cancer Council. The Year 8 cohort organised and coordinated the event as a part of the Geraldton Grammar School's Service-Learning Programme. All of the Year 8 students were required to bring a plate of food to share and were involved on the day with the event. They organised and ran a variety of stalls, including the Pie Face stall which proved to be very popular!



The entertainment was provided by members of the school band:

- Ashleigh Blignaut & Emma Cruickshank – Flute Duo
- Joe George-Kennedy – Saxophone
- Elle Ryan - Trombone
- Schenay Blignaut – Clarinet & Singing

A total of \$1243.90 was raised. Thank you to all of the Year 8 parents, students and staff, particularly the Year 8 PDP teachers who made the event so successful, and all the members of our community who came along to support the event.

Secondary Cross Country 2022

The Beresford Foreshore was a glorious setting for the 2022 Secondary Cross Country with mild temperatures and a slight breeze to keep the students cool on their 3.6km run. Congratulations to all of our runners and especially to Murchison for being the overall winning House.



The following students will be representing Geraldton Grammar School in Perth at the ACC Cross Country on Thursday 2 June - Gideon Kentish, Nicole Chamberlain, Christi Bestry and Milly Kalajzich. We wish them the best of luck.

	Boys	Girls
Y7 Runner Up Y7 Champion	Nate Lane Rhys Bell	Macy Halford Pippa Lin
Y8 Runner Up Y8 Champion	Callum Sojan Riley Fong	Olivia Teakle Summer Parker
Y9 Runner Up Y9 Champion	Gideon Kentish James Tindall	Ruby Lin Nicole Chamberlain
Y10 Runner Up Y10 Champion	Joe George Kennedy Banjo McBeath	Milly Kalajzich Christi Bestry
Y11 Runner Up Y11 Champion	Angus Krinks Matthew Chamberlain	Olivia Hurst Clancy Hann
Y12 Runner Up Y12 Champion	Jimmy Hyde Benjamin Todd	Izzy Krinks Sophie Batten



**Champion House -
Murchison**

Kindy Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

On Thursday 5 May the Junior Kindy and 4 Year Old Kindy classes hosted a Mother's Day Afternoon Tea to help celebrate their special Mums and Grandmothers. The students and their family members spent the afternoon enjoying some delicious sweet treats under the shade of the Early Learning tree. It was a wonderful afternoon and the Kindy students cherished sharing some special time with their loved ones.



ANZAC Day

Despite not being able to hold our annual formal ANZAC Day assembly this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, we still marked the day.

Our School Captain Cindy Verbe delivered the Voice of Youth speech at the RSL ANZAC Day ceremony on ANZAC Day. Together with Primary Captain, Matilda Canny, and Primary Murchison Captain, Noah Brown, they laid wreathes on behalf of Geraldton Grammar School at the cenotaph.

Once school recommenced on Tuesday 26 April, the whole school attended a virtual ANZAC Day Assembly and Early Learning students got busy making ANZAC biscuits.



Young Writer's Collective

Despite the Covid-19 challenges we continue to face, we were excited to still be able to offer our Year 6 students the opportunity to learn from talented Western Australian author Heather Waugh. Via live stream video from the comfort of their own classroom, the students were immersed in 'Finding their story.' They worked together, bouncing off each other, sharing ideas as they brainstormed what they personally love to read about in books and watch in movies. They then work shopped with Heather strategies they can use to build their own story worlds, characters, and plot. Finally, they explored the 'show, don't tell' concept, helping them



describe events to their readers when writing as opposed to just 'telling.' The students came away with the beginnings of some exciting short stories which we are looking forward to seeing entered into the upcoming Randolph Stow writing competition.

Primary Spelling Bee 2022

Congratulations to Irwin House for winning the 2022 Primary School Spelling Bee! All students who participated in the Spelling Bee earned a point for their house. A special mention to the students below who correctly spelled more words than any other student in their year level to become the 2022 Spelling Bee Champions:

	Champion	Runner Up
Year 1	Zeke Da Silva Aarav Khanna	Quinn Wilkinson
Year 2	Grace Soe	Jake Bassett-Scarfe
Year 3	Joel Antony	Hafsa Aung
Year 4	Sophie Wung	N/A
Year 5	Jasmin Nicholson	Angus Harrop
Year 6	Aarav Dhillon	Riley Penney



Champion House - Irwin

Secondary Sports News

Freo Dockers Football Clinic

Our Year 9 and Year 11 PE students were very fortunate to meet some AFLW Fremantle Dockers players Roxanne Roux, Aine Tighe and Mim Strom. Who were accompanied by Next Generation Academy Coach and life member of the Fremantle Dockers Football club Roger Hayden. They all shared their life journey through football and were very encouraging of the students to make the most of every opportunity and have fun. The clinic involved hand balling, kicking and scoring goals.



Rugby WA

On Thursday 12 May some of our PE classes were lucky enough to dodge the rain and participate in a Rugby coaching clinic. They had the privilege of meeting, listening to and being coached by two former Wallabies, Digby Ioane and Scott Higginbotham, as well as Selena Tranter, former State Rugby player, and Development Officer, Nephi Baker. The students learned passing and tackling skills which appeared more difficult than it looked. There will be an inaugural Midwest Rugby Schools Cup on 28 October following Touch 7's rules. This carnival is open for mixed teams in Year 4-6 and Year 7/8 and Year 9/10. We look forward to providing students with this opportunity by entering a few teams and supporting Rugby WA.



Outdoor Education - Coral Bay Camp



On Sunday 8 May, the Year 11 Outdoor Education class headed off to Carnarvon for the first night of our Coral Bay camp. The bus was loaded with our tents, snorkelling gear, sleeping bags, camp chairs and all our food we'd planned prior. The bus trip flew by as we blasted tunes from our group play list and snacked on lollies.

It was nice, cool weather late in the afternoon when we arrived in Carnarvon. We got straight to setting up our tents and creating a group circle with our camp chairs so we could all hang out and listen to our briefings. It wasn't long before the sun began setting and we were cooking our first meal for the trip, most of us using the camp barbecue. We wrapped up the night by winding down watching a movie on the projector the campsite owners kindly let us use.



It was a reasonably early morning on Monday, cooking our breakfast and packing up the campsite to head off. On our trip to Coral Bay, we made a stop at the Blow Holes, north of Carnarvon for our first snorkel. The lagoon was calm and clear and we even got to see the Blow Holes in action on our walk. Overall, the first snorkel was smooth sailing and well worth our time. The marine life was much more colourful and plentiful compared to what we see in Geraldton. Some of the most memorable sightings were the stingrays, octopus and the bright blue sea star. Once we finished our snorkel, we had a lunch break then set off to Coral Bay for the rest of the week.

We were filled with excitement when we finally arrived at our camp in Coral Bay. It felt much warmer than Carnarvon. Our caravan park was also much busier. We set up as quickly as possible to help with the group work setting up our gazebo with lights and organising the cooking equipment. It was a beautiful afternoon so we headed down the beach for a swim and to play some games with the sports equipment. While we were standing in the water, we were greeted by some of the massive local snapper that always swim around the shore. Once we were done with our swim, we had some quick showers and cooked up our dinner so we could meet up with Frazer, a local who is a marine biologist, to discuss some of our trip and what we would be encountering. His talk was very informative and useful. We learnt about the currents, marine life, coral and the unfortunate coral spawning that had recently occurred. To start some of our bad luck on the trip, six weeks prior to us arriving, the coral spawned however, the ex-tropical cyclone Charlotte sat offshore of Coral Bay and blew the spawn onto the shores, taking the oxygen out of the water, killing millions of the marine life and the coral. It was upsetting to hear, but our spirits were high and we were still eager for the experience.



Tuesday was a great day of camp. We had an easy-going morning as we got ready for our local snorkel. We walked down with our gear to the beach, split into our two snorkel groups (one with Mr Greenaway and the other with Mrs Bassett-Scarfe), and headed out. The numbers of marine life were lower as Frazer had said, but the coral was show stopping. Unfortunately we didn't get to see any turtles, stingrays or sharks, but it created more excitement for the days to come. We finished off our morning by playing in the water with our skim ball and enjoying each other's company. We headed back to the campsite to relax as well as eat lunch before we had to meet up with one of the local rangers. The ranger was interesting to talk to as he has a job that's very different and he answered our questions such as what an average day in his life was like. The late afternoon was a relaxing one, filled with more beach time and socialising with each other. Unfortunately, we were hit with some more bad luck. Mr Greenaway was in discussion with Frazer and came to the conclusion that with the poor weather conditions coming up, we had to change our schedule. We moved our Exmouth trip to later in the week and moved forward our boat day to swim with the manta rays. Thanks to Frazer's help, we were able to organise for some of the group to fit on another company's boat so we would all have the opportunity to see the manta rays, instead of a few people missing out. It was a stressful night knowing that we would lose some of our trip to the poor weather, but we were appreciative of the opportunities we had and all Mr Greenaway's hard work to re-organise the schedule.



Wednesday morning didn't have the best conditions out on the boat. The first snorkel was hard work with the waves, but was worth it when we finally got to see some turtles. To our surprise, the weather calmed down and it turned out to be an amazing day. Swimming with the manta rays was a highlight of the trip. We were lucky to have such a friendly one, who even pulled out some tricks for the group. The burgers cooked by the decky's on the boat were absolutely amazing, especially as we were eating them while following a massive tiger shark. We even got to see a dolphin with its calf. In the afternoon, we were taken out to the final snorkel spot where we would see the reef sharks in their cleaning station. There were so many of them and it was amazing to have the opportunity to swim with them. Frazer was kind enough to let us jump off his boat and have some fun in the water where we got some awesome underwater group shots taken. Due to the weather, after the big day on the boat, we also crammed in a sea scooter tour so we could visit "Ayers Rock", a 1000 year old coral. It was an amazing experience, but a big day for us all.

Wednesday night brought the news none of us wanted to hear. We were informed that the rain and wind was now forecast to be heavy enough to flood the roads, risking the group being stuck very far north of home. As a group, we had a big decision to make and a lot of organising for Mr Greenaway to see if the smartest choice was to head home two days early. Thursday morning, after much thought, the safest choice was for us all to head home early. It was disappointing but we all supported the decision.

By Sydney Williams

Staff News

It's a girl! - Nigel Da Silva

At the end of April, Nigel became a dad again and most importantly Zeke was promoted to big brother when mum Jess gave birth to a healthy baby girl - Evita. Congratulations to the whole Da Silva Family on your beautiful new addition.



New Staff - Victor Ware

In May, Victor joined the Grounds and Maintenance Team. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and years of experience including a qualification in cabinet making. He has settled in well to life at Geraldton Grammar School and in time will be a great member of the school community.



Student News

SSWA Interschool Cross Country Championships

Christi Bestry, Nicole Chamberlain and Matthew Chamberlain represented Geraldton Grammar School at the SSWA Interschool Cross Country Championships in Perth. In a field with 110 competitors, Christi came first and is the new U15 Girls 4000m State Cross Country Champion. Last year she silver medalled, the year before she bronzed, so a gold this year was a dream come true. Hopefully the Australian Cross Country Championships will run this year in Adelaide on 24 August.

Nicole ran very well in the U15 Girls 4000m coming in 7th and just missing out on State team selection.

Matthew ran 6000m in the U17 Boys and came 31st from a field of 66 runners. Super effort.



SSWA Interschool Cross Country Championships

On Friday 6 May the Geraldton Surf Life Saving Club held its annual Senior & Youth Awards with a number of Geraldton Grammar School students acknowledged:

- Emily MacPherson: Senior Ironman, Senior Boards, Senior 1km Swim
- Matthew Chamberlain: Senior Ironman
- Nicole Chamberlain: Swim, Boards, Tube Race, Surf Sport Award, Youth Club Award
- Hamish Sojan: Youth Patrol Award



Meagan Plummer Arts Fest

In 2019 Geraldton Grammar School held its very first Arts Day, a celebration of production and performing arts in its many forms with students participating in a range of activities. In 2021 the event was renamed in memory of much-loved staff member Meagan Plummer, who embodied the philosophy that The Arts is for everyone and that we should never define ourselves by an interest or aptitude in just one area.

In 2022, the event evolves and grows to become the Meagan Plummer Arts Fest, a week-long celebration of The Arts, with participation once again brought to the fore.

Running across Week 9 of Term 2, June 20-24, students are invited to prepare and present entries across a number of arts-related competitions open to all students.

This year's competitions include:

- Colouring in
- Still-life visual arts
- Photography
- Cake decorating
- Karaoke
- Drama
- Cosplay



The week will be launched on Monday 20 June with an opening assembly and will culminate with a special full-school assembly, featuring performances from our various musical groups and choirs, poetry performances and the announcement of winners for individual events and the overall competition. Family members are more than welcome to attend this special event, with more details to be announced in the coming weeks.

