

THE BEACON

DECEMBER 2025



GERALDTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Striving for Excellence



In this Issue...

04

YEAR 12 VALEDICTORY

08

YEAR 12 AWARDS

09

2026 SCHOOL LEADERS

10

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

12

DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
COUNTRY WEEK

14

BATAVIA GAMES

16

GRANDPARENTS DAY

18

P&F PRIMARY DISCO

20

OUTWARD BOUND

22

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

24

RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY

26

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

29

CLASS OF '2000' – TIME CAPSULE

30

YEAR 4 TENNIS CARNIVAL
YEAR 6 CRICKET CARNIVAL

31

INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS
BADMINTON

32

SPELLING BEE

33

WISE CAMP
NEXT GENERATION EXPO

34

SKAO
CHEMISTRY COMPETITIONS

35

CURIOUS MINDS
MATHS PROBLEM SOLVING

36

INDONESIAN

37

TERM 4 – MUSIC

38

TERM 4 – IN THE LIBRARY

40

PICTURE BOOKS WITH PURPOSE

41

STUDENT NEWS

42

STUDENT & STAFF NEWS

A letter from the Principal



Dear Geraldton Grammar School Community,

As we close the chapter on 2025, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the extraordinary year we've shared at Geraldton Grammar School. This year has been a testament to the strength of our community, the dedication of our staff, and the boundless potential of our students.

From Kindergarten through to Year 12, our young people have embraced a breadth of opportunities to grow, lead, and excel. Whether through academic achievement, creative expression, sporting triumphs, or service to others, our students have demonstrated resilience, curiosity, and compassion.

As we honour our departing seniors, we celebrate not only their accomplishments but the character they've shown throughout their journey. They leave us as confident, capable, and thoughtful individuals, ready to make their mark on the world. We thank them for the legacy they leave behind and wish them every success in the exciting paths ahead.

As we turn the page to 2026, we prepare to celebrate a remarkable milestone—Geraldton Grammar School's 30th Anniversary. This special year will be a time to honour our rich history, reflect on the values that have shaped our journey, and celebrate the vibrant community that continues to grow and thrive. Throughout the year, we will mark this occasion with events, stories, and initiatives that pay tribute to the past while inspiring a bold and exciting future for our students, staff, families, and alumni. It promises to be a year of connection, pride, and celebration.

To our entire school community—students, families, staff, and supporters—thank you for making 2025 a year to remember. May the spirit of growth and connection continue to guide us into the new year.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brad Gill".

Brad Gill
Principal



YEAR 12 VALEDICTORY



With a mixture of joy and sadness we farewelled our Class of 2025 with a number of events culminating with a guard of honour as the students walked out of our front gates to three cheers from the community.

After the ATAR students completed their school examinations, we invited the General students back to join us for a short retreat camp at Back Beach where they all completed a legacy art project and enjoyed each other's company in beautiful weather.

Perhaps we should have ensured they had more opportunity to practise their football skills as the following Thursday afternoon the Year 12s were totally schooled by their more experienced teachers. To be fair to the students, however, they had organised and run the traditional Batavia Games just beforehand.

Thursday evening's Valedictory Church Service saw our graduating class don academic gowns and their sashes to highlight this momentous time in their lives.

Friday saw the student arrive early for a breakfast cooked by their teachers, a final farewell to their Homegroups and the Valedictory Assembly where we acknowledged their achievements before sending them on their way out into their post school lives.









Valedictory Awards

YEAR 12

2025 John Royce Dux Medal: Lorena Sansone

AMPOL All-Rounder: Nicole Chamberlain

Long Tan Leadership & Teamwork Award: Freya Bergen

ADF Future Innovators Award: Jack Ward

Sheila Flanagan Award: Freya Bergen

Kurt Hahn Round Square Award for Service: Millie Grazziadelli

Sportsman of the Year Award: Ben McGowan

Sportswoman of the Year Award: Nicole Chamberlain

Instrumental Music Program Award: Taylor Penney

Geraldton Grammar School Concert Band - Life Member Award:

Taylor Penney, Ruby Lin and Emma Cruickshank

ATAR Academic Endeavour Award: Roaa Elgamal

General Academic Endeavour Award: Macy Riemer

Courtesy & Cooperation Award: Jack Ward

ATAR English Award: Lorena Sansone

General English Award: Lara Mincherton

ATAR Mathematics Application Award: Sarah Price-Walkley

ATAR Mathematics Methods Award: Jack Ward

ATAR Mathematics Specialist Award: Jack Ward

General Mathematics Essentials Award: Declan Argent

ATAR Chemistry Award: Phoebe Teakle

ATAR Physics Award: Lorena Sansone

ATAR Biology Award: Taylor Penney

ATAR Human Biolgy Award: Lorena Sansone

General Science in Practice Award: Declan Argent

ATAR Health Studies Award: Millie Grazziadelli

ATAR Psychology Award: Phoebe Teakle

ATAR Philosophy and Ethics: Freya Bergen

ATAR Geography Award: Millie Grazziadelli

General Physical Education Studies Award: Ben McGowan

General Outdoor Education Award: Lorelie Dalle

General Materials Design and Technology: Arwa Ahmed



2026 YEAR 12 LEADERSHIP GROUP

Congratulations to our 2026 School Leaders! We are excited to introduce the students who will lead and represent our school community in 2026. Their dedication and enthusiasm shine through, and we know they will inspire others throughout the year.



Harrison Bergen
School Captain



Emily Canny
School Captain



Luke Roden
Academic Captain



Gus Chadbourne
Arts Captain



Chloe Cruickshank
Service Captain



Finn Preston
Sport Captain



Charlotte McCabe
Chapman Captain



Max Creasy
Greenough Captain



Wil Burgess
Irwin Captain



Eve Broad
Murchison Captain

2026 YEAR 6 LEADERSHIP GROUP



Jonathan Leigh-Firbank
School Captain



Ava Wilson
School Captain



Digby Hearman
Chapman Captain
Semester 1



Luke Ibbotson
Greenough Captain
Semester 1



Odin Falconer
Irwin Captain
Semester 1



Maya Clarkson
Murchison Captain
Semester 1

YEAR 6 GRADUATION



On Thursday, 20 November, our Year 6 students celebrated their Graduation in a heartfelt and memorable service attended by proud families, friends, and staff. The ceremony provided a special opportunity to reflect on their primary school journey — a journey filled with growth, resilience, and countless achievements.

Students were acknowledged for their academic, and sporting contributions, as well as the leadership, kindness, and character they have shown throughout their time in Primary School. The occasion also allowed them to express gratitude to the teachers, support staff, and peers who have guided, encouraged, and inspired them along the way.

Following the formalities, the celebrations continued with a beautiful Graduation Dinner at the Lavender Farm. Surrounded by a relaxed and festive atmosphere, the students enjoyed an afternoon of shared stories, laughter, and the joy of simply being together. It was a wonderful chance to celebrate friendships, reflect on the year that has been, and create lasting memories before stepping into the next chapter.

We extend our warmest congratulations to the Year 6 Class of 2025. We are so proud of all you have achieved and look forward to watching you continue to grow, thrive, and shine as you begin your exciting journey into Secondary School!





DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL COUNTRY WEEK



In late September, 79 students and 11 staff travelled to Perth for the District High School Country Week, braving a hot week filled with competition, camaraderie, and fun. Led by our dedicated School Team Captains, Abi Marsland and James Taylor, the teams displayed exceptional sportsmanship and determination. A special congratulations to Luella Mackin, recipient of the Active Achiever Award!

Our students competed across basketball, netball, badminton, and hockey, achieving great results:

Boys Basketball:

- Team 1 A Division – 4th place and Sportsmanship Award
- Year 9 Team (C Division) – 4th place
- Year 8 Team (D Division) – 3rd place

Girls Basketball:

- Champions and Sportsmanship Award

Netball:

- Team 1 (A/B Division) – 5th place and Sportsmanship Award
- Team 2 (D Division) – 3rd place
- Team 3 (E Division) – 5th place

Badminton:

- Mixed Team – 3rd place and Sportsmanship Award

Hockey:

- Team 1 – 3rd place
- Team 2 – 2nd place

Beyond the courts and fields, students enjoyed memorable activities: Ten-pin bowling on Monday, a movie night watching *The Bad Guys* on Tuesday at the cinema, a relaxing swim and rest night at Point Walter on Wednesday, and late-night shopping at Garden City on Thursday.

Country Week is more than sport, it's about building friendships and creating lifelong memories. Congratulations to all for representing Geraldton Grammar School with pride and sportsmanship!



BATAVIA GAMES



The Batavia Games are a much-loved Grammar tradition — a vibrant celebration of teamwork, laughter, and House spirit, proudly organised and led each year by our graduating class. Established in 2007, the inaugural Games marked 382 years since the rescue of survivors from the infamous Batavia shipwreck off the Abrolhos Islands, giving the event its fitting name and sense of history.

This year's Games were no exception, as our swashbuckling Year 12 students embraced their roles as spirited captains, leading the younger crews through a series of legendary, water-based challenges. From daring relays to mischievous splashes, the day was filled with energy, camaraderie, and plenty of good-natured chaos — all in the name of fun, teamwork, and celebrating the enduring Grammar spirit.





GRANDPARENTS DAY



Grandparents & "Grandfriends" Day

The end of Term 3 saw a wonderful turn-out for our annual Grandparents Day. We welcomed Grandparents, parents, family and friends from far and wide, with many taking the opportunity to travel to Geraldton especially for the event.

Classrooms were open for visitors, with students eagerly sharing their learning and engaging in activities with family members. Grandparents enjoyed swapping stories about what school was like for them as children and many new memories were created.

The concert in Batavia Hall showcased our talented students, including performances from the Junior Concert Band, 3/4 Luk on recorder and the Primary Choir, led by Mrs McGrath. We also enjoyed hearing a selection of entertaining poetry recitals from some of our Pre Primary to Year 6 students.

Following the concert, guests enjoyed a morning tea in the foyer of Batavia Hall. Some lucky students were then "signed out" for the day to enjoy time with their special visitors.

Thanks to everyone who joined us to celebrate Grandparents (& "Grandfriends") Day this year.





P&F PRIMARY DISCO



‘YOUR CELEBRATION’

Our recent school disco was a fantastic night of fun and dancing. The theme “Your Celebration” inspired an amazing variety of dress-ups – our students really embraced the spirit of the night.

The teachers with the help of some year 6 students ran games and activities for the junior primary session which was enjoyed by students and parents alike. The younger students also enjoyed some lively circle dancing led by our music teacher, Maree McGrath, adding even more fun to the evening.

The sausage sizzle, lolly bar, activites and raffles were a big hit with everyone, and we’d like to send a huge thank you to our sponsors, Localworks, Taylor Mechanical, Pharmacy 194, Qube, Kidz Corner and Intersport. Our year 3/4 parents generously supplied the delicious cupcakes which disappeared in no time.

Thank you to all the families and staff who helped make the disco such a wonderful success — it was a true celebration of our school community! The money raised will go towards creating activity areas for Primary and High School students.





OUTWARD BOUND



Students in years 9 and 11 left bright and early on 13 October to head to the Walpole region for the annual Outward Bound camp returning on Thursday 23 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 the year 9 and 11 students 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.

We are incredibly lucky to have such supportive parents and broader community with volunteers making up the bulk of the accompanying adults. A huge thanks to Paul Patience, Jade Pope, Claire Tutton, Tim Milnes, Nic Chadbourne and Laurie Dines who gave up their time to support us. Big shout out to staff Grace Higgs and Ewan Stevens who attended.

Outward Bound Australia are celebrating their 70th birthday in Australia next year and as a school we are proud to partner with them to help ensure our students are ready for the challenges that they face both at school and through life.

Derek Lange



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



Mental Health Week – The Power of Sleep

Each year, our Primary School recognises Western Australia's Mental Health Week with activities that promote social and emotional wellbeing. This year, our focus was on sleep and its vital role in supporting mental health.

"Sleep is the single most effective thing we can do to reset our brain and body health each day." – Matthew Walker

Despite its importance, up to 42% of Australian children aged 5–17 experience sleep problems, and our own wellbeing data shows around 25% of students report lack of sleep as a personal concern.

To address this, our Sleepy Summer Project encouraged students to explore healthy sleep habits. In the lead-up, classes took part in lessons about the importance of sleep, while our Inspire leaders ran fun lunchtime activities promoting good routines.

On Thursday, 30 November, students embraced the theme by wearing their favourite pyjamas for the project launch. The day included House activities, the creation of sleep masks, and a lively "Sleep is our Superpower" assembly by classes 3/4KL and TL.

Students then completed a two-week sleep diary, tracking their sleep patterns and reflecting on ways to improve their sleep health.

A heartfelt thank you to all staff, students, and parents for your enthusiastic support and participation throughout the project. Your involvement helped make Sleepy Summer a meaningful and memorable celebration of wellbeing.



RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY



Ride to School Breakfast for WA Bike Month

We had glorious weather for our Ride to School Breakfast to celebrate WA Bike Month. It was a wonderful community event, with over one hundred staff, students and families from across the whole school riding their bikes or scooters.

Everyone gathered on the lawn outside Batavia Hall, with our fantastic Parents & Friends volunteers serving a healthy breakfast from the Food Technology Room to refresh everyone after their commute to school. Our Deputy Principal, Mr Lange, was also kept busy serving coffees for the adults!

All students who pre-registered for the breakfast went in the draw for a spot prize – congratulations to the students whose names were drawn. For the best-decorated bike, it was a close competition between two, with Ainslie Pope taking out the prize. Thanks to Revolutions for their generous donation of prizes for the greatest distance ridden – a huge well done to the Gould and Nelson families, who rode from White Peak! This is an amazing effort!

Many thanks to the Department of Transport & Major Infrastructure, the RAC and WA Bike Month for funding and supporting our event – we were the lucky recipients of a \$750 school grant (promotional package and funding) for our breakfast.

We look forward to seeing our school community choose active travel options on a more regular basis to get around Geraldton.



CELEBRATING THE ARTS



Celebrating Arts and Student Work 2025

Participating in the Arts helps students become more confident, creative, and empathetic individuals. Celebrating their work shows them that their ideas and efforts have value and that their unique contributions matter. The Arts have always played a vital role in human culture, communication, and expression. When students engage in the Arts and their work is celebrated, it nurtures creativity, confidence, community, and a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Through artistic expression, students learn more about who they are and what matters to them. Additionally, the Arts foster important life skills such as creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking — skills that extend far beyond the classroom and are highly valuable in any career path. Students are challenged to take risks, explore different perspectives, and think outside the box.

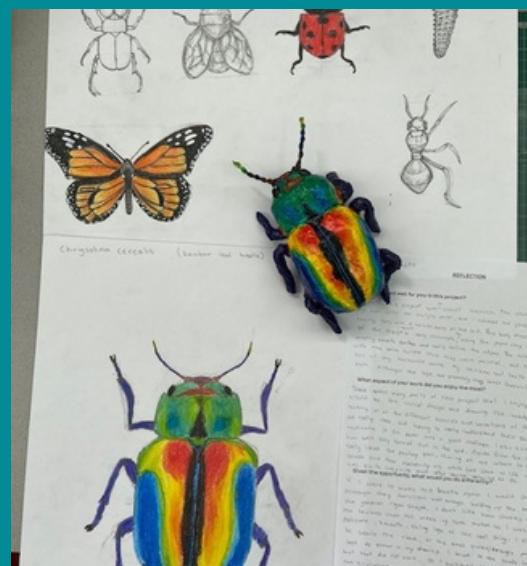
When we recognise student work through exhibitions, performances, or publications, it sends a powerful message: their voices matter. Publicly acknowledging student creativity boosts self-esteem and validates their efforts. It also creates a sense of pride and accomplishment, encouraging students to continue developing their talents.

Celebrating student work brings people together — families, teachers, and peers — creating a shared appreciation for the diversity of thought and expression among young people. At Grammar, as we honour student voices, we build a richer, more inclusive, and more inspired future for everyone.

GENESIS is an exhibition that celebrates the artwork of students from Midwest secondary schools. Organised by the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery, this event allows students to showcase their work in a professional setting and provides the community with access to view their creativity.

This exhibition featured a selection of artworks from Years 7–12, showcasing our students' skills and perspectives of the world around them. Nineteen artworks were selected from our school for display, and we would like to congratulate the following students:

- Year 9 – Overall & Highly Commended Bella Pumpa
- Year 10 – Overall & Highly Commended Camille Atkinson de Garis
- Year 12 – Overall & Highly Commended Robyn Sluka



GRAMMAR JEWELLERS SHINE

This year, Geraldton Grammar School was invited for the first time to take part in the Latitude Gallery Young Jewellers Awards on Marine Terrace. Parents, students, teachers, and Principal Mr Brad Gill attended the event on Friday, 28 November to view student-made jewellery from GGS and Geraldton Senior College.

As the inaugural year of the Jewellery program at GGS, students showcased their developing skills through a pendant project guided by Art Teacher Nicki Biggins and Design & Technology Teacher Russell Jones. Throughout the project, students learned foundational techniques including sawing, filing, sanding, texturing, polishing, drilling, and soldering a setting to hold a cubic zirconia.

Two students who worked ahead—Pippa Lin and Xavier Shiosaki—were also given the opportunity to select a Latitude Gallery pearl and design an additional pendant.

Geraldton Grammar School collected four prizes on the night.

- **Xavier Shiosaki** won Young Jeweller of the Year 2025 and the Craftsmanship Award for his piece Guardian of the Egg, praised for its originality and clever design.
- **Pippa Lin** received the Principal's Choice Award for Raindrop on Koru, with Mr Gill noting her creativity, dedication, and patience.
- **Eva Mellow** earned the Encouragement Award for Zendaya Swings, which judges said captured the circus theme beautifully.

All students received Latitude Gallery gift vouchers, and Xavier has been invited to spend a day on the jewellery bench with a Latitude Gallery jeweller.

The People's Choice Award will be announced on Friday, 5 December.

We are incredibly proud of our students and look forward to the Jewellery program expanding next year to include Years 9, 10 and 11. Stay tuned for more exciting work from our talented young jewellers.



Xavier Shiosaki
"Guardians of the Egg"



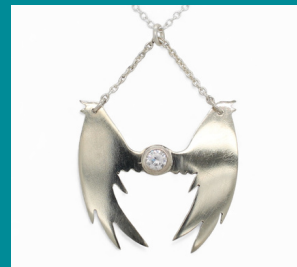
Pippa Lin
"Raindrop on Koru"



Eva Mellow
"Zendaya Swings"



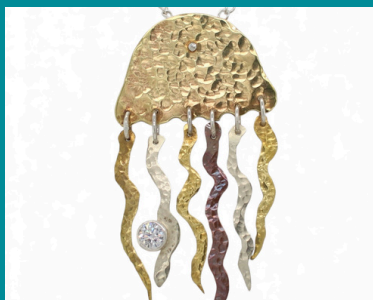
Kyla Lewis
"Star of the Show"



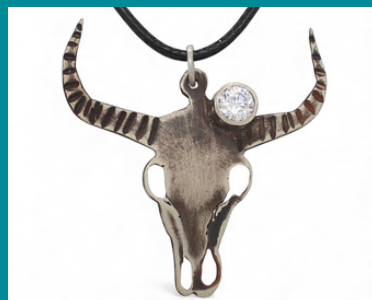
Matilda Canny
"Wings"



Jessica Holden
"Stargazer"



Pippa Lin
"Where the current takes me"



Abbie Cook
"Skull Treasure"



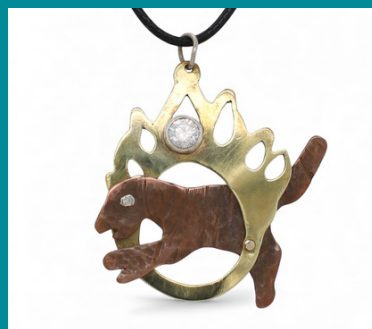
Angelique Bairamus
"Circus Horse"



Colby Murdoch
"Living Shell"



Camille Atkinson de Garis
"Dragon"



Xavier Shiosaki
"Through the Fire"



Cordelia Oldroyd
"Dancer"

CLASS OF 2000 TIME CAPSULE OPENING

On 23 October, Geraldton Grammar School welcomed staff and graduating students from the Class of 2000 to retrieve and open the time capsule they buried 25 years ago.

Four past students — Jason Seppala, Katie Sluka, Melissa Ayling and Sarah McKay — returned to assist with the unveiling. Inside, they rediscovered a range of memorabilia from their final year, including:

- A student diary
- The 2000 Archway
- Copies of The Beacon 2000
- A blue GGS cap
- A GGS prospectus and statement of fees
- A School Captain pin
- A Year 12 School Ball invitation
- A Year 12 Graduation sash
- A CD-ROM containing photo presentations from the Class of 2000

The morning concluded with a morning tea, where past students and staff enjoyed reminiscing and sharing memories.

Special thanks to our Grounds team for excavating the capsule — with a particular mention to Mr Royce for carrying out the digging — and to Mrs Jefferies and Mrs Nanninga for the historical display in the Batavia Hall foyer.



YEAR 4 TENNIS CARNIVAL

On Thursday the 27 of November, all Year 4 students attended Geraldton Tennis Club to compete in the 'Red Ball' Tennis Carnival. Geraldton Grammar entered 6 teams into the carnival, winning both divisions.

Year 4 students completed a tennis unit of learning in Term 4, demonstrating strong skills and a sound understanding of the rules of tennis. A big thank you to Year 10 students Macy Halford and Pippa Lin for each managing a team for the day, along with Mrs Opalinski assisting primary staff.



YEAR 6 CRICKET CARNIVAL

On Friday 31 of October, all year 6 students attended the Woolworths Cricket Blast School Cup. Geraldton Grammar entered 2 teams in the boy's division and 3 in the girl's division. All teams won games across the day and began to enjoy the sport despite many students being hesitant in the beginning.

The format of games meant all players were able to bat and bowl, receiving equal opportunity. Thanks to Tegan King for volunteering her time as a parent helper, as well as Year 9 students Henry Burton and Spencer Sojan for coaching a team.



INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS

Geraldton Grammar School was proudly represented by our Year 1–6 students across two days of Term 3 athletics.

On Wednesday, 17 September, students competed in the jumps and throws, with many achieving impressive results and multiple podium finishes.

On Friday, 19 September, 60 students headed to Little Athletics to take part in sprints and team events.

After two days of strong competition, our school finished 2nd overall—just a small margin behind the winners.

A huge congratulations to Tom van der Merwe and Freya Teakle, who were both awarded individual medals for their outstanding performances.



BADMINTON

A small group of our secondary students proudly represented the school at the recent Interschool Badminton Tournament. They demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, teamwork, and determination throughout the day, competing against strong opponents from schools across the Midwest.

It was fantastic to see their skills and enthusiasm on display. The students showed resilience, supported one another, and represented our school with pride.




Congratulations to all participants for their effort and sportsmanship!



SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to Greenough House for winning the 2025 Primary School Spelling Bee! Every student who took part contributed a point to their House, making the competition even more exciting.

A special recognition goes to the students listed below, who correctly spelled more words than any other student in their year level to earn the title of **2025 Spelling Bee Champion**:

YEAR	R/U CHAMPION	CHAMPION		HOUSE
1	Mayamiko Banda	Noah Chinnock		Greenough
2	Kora Anick	Orire Idowu		Murchison
3	Asta Falconer	Eden Clarkson		Irwin
4	Liam Dyson	Zeke Da Silva		Chapman
5	Grace Soe	Daniel Idowu		
6	Hafsa Aung	Diana Kamer		



WISE CAMP

Women in STEM Regional Expo – Murdoch University's Women in STEM (WISE) Regional Expo is an outreach initiative aimed at inspiring female students from regional Western Australia to explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The event features keynote speakers, interactive displays, and hands-on activities showcasing diverse STEM pathways. A group of our Year 9 girls attended the expo where they participated in activities from forensic biology, monitoring whales using drones, entomology and prison design. It was highly inspiring with role models sharing personal career journeys, breaking stereotypes and highlighting opportunities in STEM.



NEXT GENERATION EXPO

The Next Generation Schools Project, led by Energy Club WA, connects Year 8–10 students with careers in the energy industry through interactive learning and mentorship. Its Midwest Regional Expo, held at the Irwin Recreation Centre in Dongara, brought together over 140 students from schools across the region, including Geraldton, Carnamah, Jurien Bay, and Morawa. Exhibitors from the energy and education sectors showcased renewable energy, project lifecycles, and career pathways. Our Year 10 students engaged in hands-on activities, networking, and competitions, making the event a dynamic platform for inspiring the future workforce in Western Australia's energy sector.



SKAO

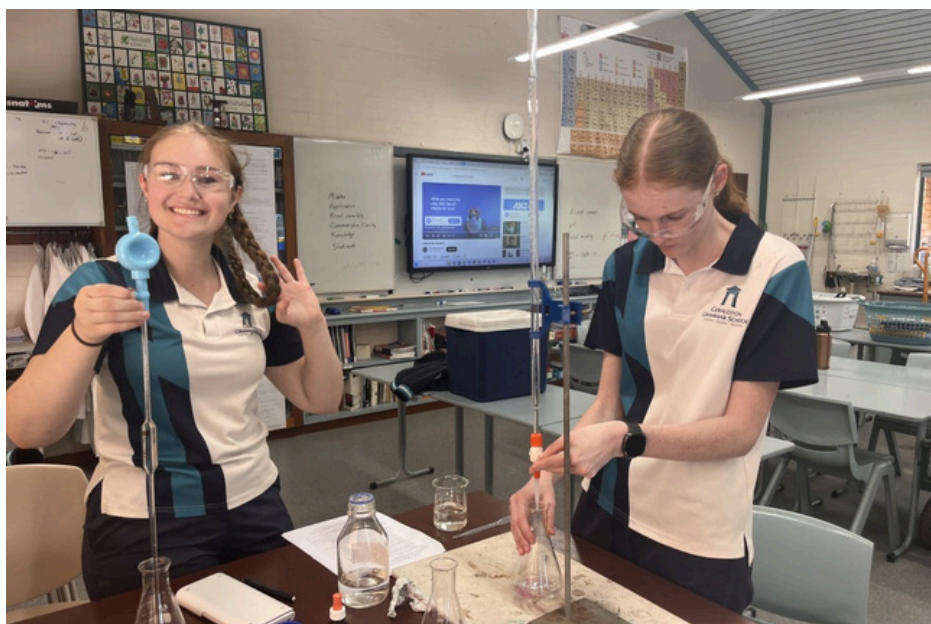
Square Kilometre Array Observatory Chief Scientist Visit

The Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) is an international project building the world's largest radio telescope arrays in Australia and South Africa. Designed to probe cosmic origins, dark matter, and the possibility of life beyond Earth, SKAO will transform astronomy and data science and it is right here on our doorstep in the Murchison. In a recent talk hosted by Geraldton Grammar School, Professor Naomi McClure, SKAO's Chief Scientist, emphasized how the observatory will not only answer fundamental questions about the universe but also drive innovation in computing and sustainability and the exciting prospects this brings to our region and young people. Following this talk we are hoping to have some students participate in some ongoing scientific research alongside SKAO scientists.



CHEMISTRY COMPETITIONS

At the end of each year our senior Chemistry students put their skills to the test. The Year 12 Chemistry students participate in the annual titration challenge where they have to use all of their accumulated practical skills, accuracy, precision and calculations skills. The winners of our prestigious trophy this year were Nicole Chamberlain and Phoebe Teakle. The Year 11 Chemistry students participate in a forensic chemistry challenge where they have 1 hour to use their chemistry knowledge to identify 3 unknown white powders. Students work individually and have different test substance to their classmates putting not only their chemistry skills to the test but their resilience and problem solving. This year's winner was Caleb Richardson. Well done to our future chemists!



MATHS PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM

Maths Problem Solving Program

The Mathematical Association of WA's Problem Solving Program (PSP) is a long-running initiative designed for mathematically talented students aged 10–15. PSP aims to nurture a passion for mathematics and prepare students for higher-level competitions and STEM pathways.

The program challenges participants to develop advanced problem-solving skills, logical reasoning, and clear solution presentation. Each year, over 400 students engage in this very rigorous and challenging program. This year James Taylor (Y9) and Levi Beckett (Y10) have been participating remotely with the help of Mr Da Silva, along with a number of other students who have tackled a number of the challenges during Dalton fostering complex problem solving skills as well as a love for mathematics.

CURIOUS MINDS – GIRLS IN STEM

Curious Minds is an eight-month program designed to inspire and empower high-achieving girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. It combines hands-on learning, mentoring, and two camps: an in-person Summer Camp (8–13 December 2025) and an online Winter Camp (6–10 July 2026). Miriam Beckett in Year 9 has been invited to participate in this program as a top performer in national science and mathematics competitions. Congratulations Miriam, we can't wait to hear all about it!



INDONESIAN

Selamat berlibur! (Happy Holidays!)

It has been a very busy year for students and for me! Your children have come a long way in quite a short time. I am in the process of finalising reports, and I am very pleased with the general standard of achievement. There are some exceptional students at Geraldton Grammar, and on occasion, I have been taken aback by what some can produce from the limited input they have had.

In Week 5, I had a meeting with Sophie Howlett and Ibu Fahra from the Asia Education Department at the University of Melbourne, and Ibu Utami and Ibu Irma from Bantul Primary School 1 in the region of Jogjakarta. As a result, we now have a BRIDGE partner school in an area rich in culture, history, and art. Hopefully in the future, we can take students for a tour, and some families will holiday in the area. The BRIDGE program is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In Pre-Primary, we have started playing some games using the language we have learnt and continued with the ELLA program. In Year 1 and 2, students have created and described a creature, made and flown a layang-layang (kite), and played some games in Indonesian.

Years 3 and 4 have learnt all about school places and subjects, created a PowerPoint, and given a presentation about themselves in Indonesian.

Years 5 and 6 learnt about food and eating in Indonesia and also created a PowerPoint and gave a presentation about themselves using the content they had learnt, elaborating with descriptions and reasons for their choices. Some students also participated in a Global Friendship Exchange with the Sequia School in Bandung, which was unfortunately affected by some technical problems.

Lastly, we will be joined by Pak Andi from Makassar in Sulawesi as we move Indonesian into the high school.

The year has been FULL ON and FRUITFUL.

I am looking forward to another fruitful year next year.

Pak John





Secondary Music

Term 4 saw the first annual IMP Recital Day where all students in the Instrumental Music Program prepared and performed a piece to their peers. The Recitals featured a huge number of acts ranging from solo performers, all the way up to every Year 5/6 woodwind student on stage at once. Our first session involved all of our Year 5s and 6s, who performed a wide selection of pop, classical, and Christmas songs. Next the Year 7s and 8s took to the stage. A much louder session thanks to the guitarists and drummers showing off their rock skills. Finally, our Year 9s, 10s, and 11s arrived to impress their friends, mostly consisting of songs from films, video games, and musical theatre. There were a few nerves, the occasional wrong note, and many laughs across the sessions. A great time was had by all.

These recital sessions were designed to give our students the opportunity to play for and with their friends and get some performance experience in a low stakes environment. Great preparation for 2026 when we will host a Recital Evening so family and friends can join the audience.

Primary Music

Music in the Primary School has been as vibrant and energetic as ever this term, with students eagerly embracing weekly Singstars Choir rehearsals, Windstars Band sessions and the ongoing preparation of songs for assemblies. The Music Room has been buzzing with activity as both groups refine their pieces and build confidence ahead of their performances at Primary Presentation Night, where they are sure to be a highlight.

A popular new initiative this term was the introduction of a family folk dance at the recent school disco. Students, siblings and parents all joined in, filling the dance floor with smiles, laughter and plenty of enthusiastic moves. It was wonderful to see families connecting through music, and we hope to continue this idea at future events.



TERM 4 – IN THE LIBRARY

It's been another wonderful year of reading adventures here at the Sheila Flanagan Library – and can you believe it? We've had over 14,000 books borrowed in 2025. That's a lot of stories travelling home in school bags, getting comfy under pillows, and hiding in all sorts of secret reading spots.

As we wrap up Term 4, the library shelves are getting ready for their summer rest – but first, they'd love to welcome all their books home. So if you happen to spot a library book on your bookshelf, under the bed, in the car, or even hanging out in the toy box... send it back our way so it can join its friends for the holidays.

Book Fair Success

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Scholastic Book Fair this term. Your purchases help us fill the library with brand-new books ready for next year's readers – and what a buzz of excitement it was all week long.

A special shout-out to our amazing volunteers, especially our Year 5/6 students who gave their time to help. Your energy and smiles made the fair a real highlight of the term.

A Big Thank You to Ms Chui Lin Ng

An extra-special thank you goes to Ms Chui Lin Ng, who generously volunteered every day at the Book Fair – and also gives her time each week, spending two half-days in the library reshelving and helping students. Lin, you've been incredible – from assisting students in choosing their books, setting up displays, to helping keep the library running smoothly. Your kindness, organisation, and enthusiasm made a world of difference, and we're so grateful to have you as part of our library team.

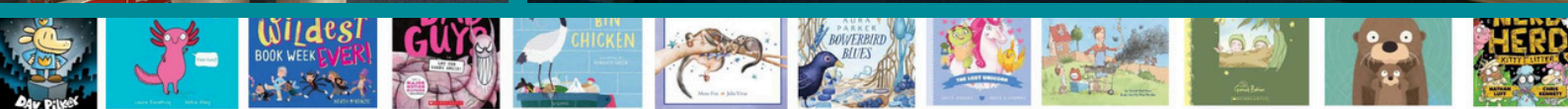
Celebrations in the Library

This term our library has been shining with displays about how different cultures celebrate around the world – from Christmas to Diwali, Hanukkah, and many more. Students have explored both fiction and non-fiction books that share the joy, colour, and traditions of celebrations across cultures.

Thank you for another year of curiosity, laughter, and reading adventures! Wishing everyone a happy, restful, and story-filled holiday.

Merry Christmas From,

Mrs Kerri Jefferies – Library Manager
Mrs Anita Mann – Library Technician



SCHOLASTIC Book Fairs

This certificate is presented
to

GERALDTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Best Book Fair Ever!

Your recent Book Fair was a **huge** success!—around **753** books found their way into the hands of excited kids!

Date 19/11/2025



PICTURE BOOKS WITH PURPOSE

Our Year 8 students have been refining their English skills through a series of creative tasks, culminating in the production of their own original picture books. Each student carefully crafted their story to suit a specific audience, selecting particular primary year groups to write for. As a special conclusion to the project, the Year 8s visited primary classes and proudly shared their stories, delighting numerous students across the school.



STUDENT NEWS



GGS represents Batavia Coast in WA Junior Gymnastics Championships

Following the success of many gymnastic competitions in Perth throughout the year and qualifying to compete against WA's top clubs many students from GGS travelled to Perth on 8 and 9 November to compete in the WA Junior Gymnastics Championships.

Year 4 student Zara Nanninga and Year 5 students Bailee Thomas and Wen Rui Wong achieved outstanding success to work together to come 1st out of 24 teams in their State Level 4 division. Individually the students completed against 121 competitors and achieved the following results:

- Zara – 3rd overall in her division with an overall score of 35.85
- Wen Rui – 4th overall in her division with an overall score of 35.65
- Bailee Thomas – 7th overall in her division with an overall score of 35.00

Congratulations on all your hard work and determination girls.

Sailing into leadership: Congratulations to Ainslie Pope, our 2025/2026 Junior Sailing Captain!

Ainslie Pope was voted in by her peers as the Geraldton Junior Sailing Captain for the 2025/2026 sailing season, alongside fellow classmate mate Freddie Boys.

Ainslie showed Geraldton Mayor, Jerry Clune, the fleet as part of the Opening Day Ceremony on 12 October of this year. Following the ceremony, Ainslie and fellow junior sailors took 40 keen newbies for a sail as part of "Come Try Sailing Day."

Currently there are 30 Juniors who regularly sail each week. Ainslie will partake in the Junior Pelican State Titles, January 2026, in Perth.



STUDENT NEWS



Congratulations, Grace!

Geraldton Grammar School is incredibly proud of Grace Butcher, who graduated this year and was recently recognised at the TAFE VETDSS Awards as the Student of the Year.

Grace completed a Certificate II in Business through her TAFE studies while finishing Year 12—an outstanding achievement that reflects her dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence.

We would also like to acknowledge our other nominated students for their hard work and success throughout their VETDSS programs. Their efforts highlight the value of diverse learning pathways and the many opportunities available to students at Geraldton Grammar School.

Leilani's Success at the 2025 State Dressage Championships

Leilani delivered an outstanding performance at the 2025 State Dressage Championships, earning Reserve Champion in Pony Elementary and placing across multiple Young Rider events, including 1st in Pony Novice 2.2, 1st in Pony Novice 2.3, and 2nd in both Pony Elementary 3.2 and 3.3.

Following the Championships, Leilani stayed on at the State Equestrian Centre to attend the final Junior State Equestrian Development Squad Training Clinic for the year.

This year, Leilani and her horse will also be awarded the Equestrian Australia Silver Dressage Performance Medal for excellence in Novice — a remarkable achievement.



STAFF NEWS

MACA Cancer 200 Ride for Research



The MACA Cancer 200 Ride for Research is Australia's largest charity bike ride, held annually in Perth to support the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research. This year, nearly 2,000 riders cycled 200 km over two days from Optus Stadium to Mandurah and back, raising a record-breaking \$10.3 million for vital cancer research.

We are incredibly proud of our own Russell Jones, Secondary Design and Technology Teacher, who joined a team riding in honour of friends and family affected by cancer. Their team raised more than \$45,000, contributing to lifesaving research and demonstrating true community spirit.

Congratulations to Russell Jones and all who took part in this inspiring event.

JOIN US FOR

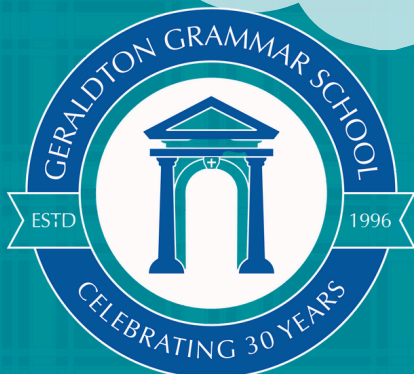
30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

FOUNDATION DAY

SATURDAY
31 JANUARY
3:00PM TO 6:00PM

**FAMILY
FRIENDLY**

WHERE:
**BATAVIA HALL
GARDENS**



KIDS ACTIVITIES



LIVE MUSIC



FOOD STALLS



PACK BATHERS - BYO PICNIC BLANKET

ALL WELCOME - PAST & PRESENT STUDENTS, FAMILIES, STAFF & ALUMNI



GERALDTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL