

# THE BEACON

SEPTEMBER 2025



GERALTON  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

*Striving for Excellence*



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# A letter from the Principal



Dear Geraldton Grammar School Community,

As we move through Term 3, I am reminded of the strength, resilience, and spirit that define our school community. Each term brings new opportunities for growth, and this one has been no exception. From the classroom to the coastline (and everywhere in between), our students continue to demonstrate curiosity, compassion, and courage in all they do.

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the ongoing work on our Camps program—a whole-school commitment that connects students from Kindergarten to Year 12 with the unique natural and cultural landscapes of our region. This program is more than just an outdoor learning experience; it is a meaningful step toward embedding our local geography and histories into our curriculum and fostering a deeper sense of place and belonging for every student.

At Geraldton Grammar School, we know that strong partnerships between home and school are essential to student success. When families and educators work together, we create a powerful support network that helps every child thrive. With that in mind, we are looking to grow opportunities for parents and carers to become more actively engaged in school life and programs—especially by drawing on your professional expertise and lived experiences. Look out for updates from me soon on how you can get involved.

Our staff continue to inspire with their dedication and creativity, and I am grateful for the way they bring learning to life each day. I also want to acknowledge the unwavering support of our families and the broader Geraldton community—your partnership is vital to the success of our students.

As you read through this edition of The Beacon, I hope you enjoy the stories, achievements, and reflections that showcase the vibrant life of our school and none of which would be possible without the ongoing commitment of our dedicated staff, from classroom teachers to our ground staff and everywhere in between. Whether it's academic excellence, artistic expression, sporting success, or community service, our students continue to shine.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are lighting the way forward.

Warm regards,

**Brad Gill**

Principal



# PRIMARY INTER HOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL



The sun came out to shine for our 2025 Primary Interhouse Athletics Carnival. Students participated in a fun-filled day, all competing in sprints and team games. Congratulations to Murchison House for taking home the shield once again, you are a force at these events!

A huge thank you to the P & F for their stalls, and all their hard work leading up to the event. Also a big thank you to our maintenance staff for preparing the track and helping set up and pack away all the marquees and equipment and to all of our staff and high school helpers for their work, making the day run smoothly.

Congratulations to the individual champions for their efforts across pre-carnival events and the carnival day.



## CHAMPION HOUSE **MURCHISON**

### BOYS

	RUNNER UP	CHAMPION
PP	Charlie Wheatland	Julian Ruiz
YEAR 1	Travis Bailey	Crew Anick
YEAR 2	Sonny Dutton	Tom van der Merwe
YEAR 3	Ruben Turner	Aiden Nicholson
YEAR 4	Blair MacDonald Nolan Ndiweni	William Davies
YEAR 5	Digby Hearman	Jake Bassett-Scarfe
YEAR 6	Flynn Wilkinson	Tyde Middleton

### GIRLS

	RUNNER UP	CHAMPION
PP	Charlee Starling Elsie Stephens	Joury Manoufali
YEAR 1	Maya Banda	Ava Clarkson
YEAR 2	Sarah Antony	Aria Kennedy
YEAR 3	Eden Clarkson	Asta Falconer
YEAR 4	Faith Maisey	Violet Taylor
YEAR 5	Lwazi Ndiweni	Maya Clarkson
YEAR 6	Freya Teakle	Samara Penney







# SECONDARY INTERHOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL



What a beautiful, sunny day GGS experienced for their secondary athletics carnival, especially after the false start the week before. Our students put in exceptional efforts in competing in the 100m, 200m, 400m, shotput, discus, long jump and the baton relay events.

A big thankyou to our P&F for catering for staff and students, to our maintenance staff for preparing the track and helping set up and pack away all the marquees and equipment and to all of our staff and student helpers for their hard work in measuring, recording and ensuring all the events ran smoothly.

Congratulations to Irwin for winning the overall House Champion!!!! Phoebe Teakle your Irwin Captain speech was fantastic, and you are to be commended on your participation and sportsmanship.

Congratulations to the following students on their achievements.

## GIRLS

## BOYS

	RUNNER UP	CHAMPION	RUNNER UP	CHAMPION
<b>YEAR 7</b>	Hannah MacDonald	Asha Reid	Ben Schmidt	Jay Simpson
<b>YEAR 8</b>	Indi Fitzgerald	Evie Fong	Buddy Hay	Bede Halford
<b>YEAR 9</b>	Abigail Marsland	Aerin Scatena	David Stock	Noah Brown
<b>YEAR 10</b>	Pippa Lin	Imogen Teakle	Zavier Hobbs	Bodhi Fitzgerald
<b>YEAR 11</b>	Bella Jones	Indah Rankin	Riley Fong	Luke Roden
<b>YEAR 12</b>	Eva Carlberg	Ruby Lin	Owen Scatena	Angus Reynolds



## CHAMPION HOUSE IRWIN

Special mention and congratulations to the following students who broke records at our athletics pre carnival and carnival events.

- Hannah MacDonald Triple Jump 8.56m
- Jay Simpson Triple Jump 9.8m
- Bodhi Fitzgerald High Jump 1.69m
- Jay Simpson High Jump 1.48m
- James Taylor 1500m 4:49
- Riley Fong 1500m 4:55
- Nicole Chamberlain 1500m 5:46
- Asha Reid 200m 30.74 secs
- Jay Simpson 200m 28:02 secs
- Jay Simpson Shotput 10.21m
- Jay Simpson 100m 13.5 secs







# SHS COUNTRY WEEK



63 students, 6 sporting teams, 5 days of competition, 4 evening activities, 3 rainy days, 2 team captains and 1 team of CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to all the students who participated in SHS Country Week this year. Your sportsmanship, support for each other and skill on the sporting field was outstanding. Everyone's resilience and determination on finals day, lead to a clean sweep of victories for Geraldton Grammar School.

TEAM	PLACE
Girls Volley Ball	1st Place
Boys Basketball	3rd Place
Netball 1	3rd Place
Netball 2	3rd Place
Soccer	3rd Place
Hockey	5th Place

*The girls' volleyball team performed well, we cooperated smoothly and formed successful strategies to help us during the game. We needed to focus on composing ourselves during the play, so we didn't let the pressure get to us, especially in the grand final. Despite some challenges we were able to place 1st in D grade overall. We all enjoyed our free time and the evening activities which made the whole country week experience great. ~ Izzy*

*Our netball team on country week over the week showed great sportsmanship and perseverance over the week. By the end of our week our success increased as we beat teams by more and more points as the week went on. Our team built more friendships over the week and overall everyone had a really fun time. One of our main team highlights was beating Bunbury by one point, and then by 20 by the end of the week which showed our improvement. We enjoyed shopping and also supporting the boys playing basketball in B grade. ~ Amara*

*As always country week 2025 was a fun-filled week filled with highs and lows as the team persevered through challenges and celebrated wins. It allowed an opportunity to meet new people and make friends, as well as playing hockey with and against people we don't normally get to. It provided a week of learning about our teammates and the game, as well as plenty of laughs and life-long memories. ~ Nicole*

*Being the school's team captain at Country Week was a really rewarding experience. Our teams faced challenges, but everyone showed a great attitude and supported each other which made leading them easy. I'm proud of how all the teams worked together on and off the field/court. The highlights for me were seeing the teams grow closer, enjoying the evenings together from pool recovery to shopping after a big day of sport. ~ Tanna*







# PRIMARY INTERSCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY



16 students from Years 3-6 competed against other local students at GBSC Sports Park on September 12. Students had been preparing for the event throughout the term, training on Wednesday mornings before school.

We had several fantastic results, including Runner-Up Champions Freya Teakle (Senior Girls), Tate Joyce (Senior Boys) and Hardy Guirguis (Intermediate Boys).

The consistent results across all runners, meant Geraldton Grammar won the overall shield for the Greenough Division. Well done to all involved and a big thanks for your effort!





# Kindy Camping Day

The Four Year Old Kindergarten classes participated in their annual bush camping day in Week 10 of Term 2. The students enjoyed their special day by participating in activities like fishing, bush walking, storytelling, playdough, tent playing, damper making, and a sausage sizzle lunch.

The classes enjoyed their day outside, and everyone had lots of fun. The Kindergarten classes would like to thank Mr Greenaway and his students for coming to help us set up the tents and the other staff members who helped make our day a success.





# YEAR 3 SLEEPOVER BATAVIA HALL



On Thursday, 11 September, our Year 3 students enjoyed their annual sleepover in Batavia Hall. The afternoon and evening were packed with exciting activities, with a highlight being the fun rotation of games organised by our fantastic Year 12 student leaders.

Perfect weather set the scene for a memorable evening, especially as students created and launched their own rockets. This hands-on experience was made possible thanks to the wonderful Angela Teale, parent and Head of Engineering Operations for the SKA-Low telescope, part of the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) project.

Another special treat awaited the children after dark—stargazing. Students were in awe as they observed Saturn and other celestial wonders through powerful telescopes. A heartfelt thank you goes to Mr Angelatos and Ms Bruce for arranging the equipment and sharing their expertise.

The sleepover was a significant milestone for many Year 3 students, marking their very first night away from home. We are incredibly proud of their bravery, resilience, and independence in embracing this new experience.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making the sleepover such a success—your support is truly appreciated!









# YEAR 4 CAMP GERALDTON CAMP SCHOOL



On Monday 8 September, the year 4's eagerly met at the Geraldton Camp School to begin their awesome local history/arts camp.

We were all very excited as we settled into our dorms and prepared for one of the many team building activities and personal challenges we were to participate in during camp. These tasks, as well as being lots of fun, helped us to develop our teamwork skills, as we soon realised, if we didn't work together, we couldn't complete the tasks. Other highlights included rock climbing, archery, mini golf, a fun trip to the Sun City Play Centre, and a mystery movie night.

After learning all about the amazing shipwreck story of George Grey, the explorer, on Wednesday and Thursday we ventured out to visit local historical sites to learn about the European exploration and settlement of Geraldton in the early 1900s. One day we travelled north to visit the historical Lynton Settlement. We found Governor Sanford's house and the convict-hiring depot very interesting and loved walking in the steps of George Grey as we ventured across the hill. The next day we headed south to visit the Greenough Museum and Gardens, the Hundred-year Cemetery and the Greenough Historical Settlement. We are so lucky to live in an area with such a rich and fascinating history.

On Friday we met as a group in the Arts shed to complete an amazing culminating project. We created museum boxes to share our learning and had so much creative fun! Our teachers were most impressed with our collaborative skills and high level of engagement.

Camp was a great experience for us all as it helped us to step outside our comfort zones and take risks by participating in new and challenging activities. We learnt a lot and had an amazing time.

Thank you to all the wonderful staff and parents who came along to help and support us.

We appreciate it very much.







# YEAR 5 CAMP PERTH



The Year 5s enjoyed an educational and action-packed camp week in Perth this term. They visited many venues, both educational and fun, whilst also building personal resilience and cooperative skills.

On the way to Perth, we stopped at Yanchep National Park to learn about local Aboriginal culture and history from a highly informative and engaging local elder. We also toured a cave to learn about these unique ecosystems and the importance of protecting them.

Building on our learning in the classroom for Civics and Citizenship, students visited Western Australia's State Parliament, where we were welcomed by our local representatives – thank you Mrs Kirrilee Warr and Mr Rob Horstman. At the Electoral Education Centre down the road, students also learned first-hand about the electoral process through mock elections for some popular confectionary.

Throughout the week, students had further opportunities to build on their knowledge and understanding through experiential learning. This included activities and exhibitions at Scitech, Herdsman Lake Discovery Centre, The Perth Mint, the Maritime Museum of Western Australia (including a tour of HMAS Ovens, a decommissioned submarine) and Fremantle Prison (with a bonus extended tour). There was also a surprise visit to Perth Stadium!

Many thanks to the support of parents in preparing students so well for their week away from home, and to the accompanying staff and parents who enabled this camp to be so successful. It was an amazing week!







# YEAR 6 CAMP CANBERRA



We were impressed with the students' deep engagement, enquiring questions and curiosity of the many new experiences encountered. There was plenty of positive behaviour, care for each other and respect for public people and places. We also observed new social-emotional learning too, as children needed to manage themselves away from home, in new environments and with many other people. There were a few tears initially, but we were proud to see this being overcome.

Our beautiful 'bush capital' provided an exploration of governance, culture, history and science on a grand scale.

Student questions posed to our various site guides really sum up the richness of experiences and here's some examples :

Q: Why is the ceiling so high (in the High Court)?

A: The architects took the design literally.

Q: When will we see more King Charles coins (Australian Mint)?

A: There's 60 years of the Queen still in circulation so some time yet.

Q: What's that white stuff on that mountain over there? (Mt Ainslie Lookout).

A: Snow!

Q: What do the black swans represent (Australian War Memorial's Tomb of an Unknown Soldier)?

A: They are symbols of a particular animal that returns to its place of birth to die (very moving)

Q: Are we the only living things in the universe? (Deep Space Observatory)?

A: Probably not!









# YEAR 7 CAMP NUKARA FARM

In week 3 we went on a year 7 camp trip. We stayed for 3 days, had such a fun time, and learnt a lot from the experience. We followed a survivor tribe throughout the time we stayed and did many things together.

Following the survivor theme, we did lots of group challenges including racing boats in the river, group rotations, and immunity challenges. We also got together and played spotlight, had movie nights, went to a museum, hiked and helped around the Nukara farm.

During camp we were spoiled by the owners and cooks with delicious meals. On the first night when we arrived, we had spaghetti and apple crumble for dessert. The next day we woke to an endless choice of cereal and toast, then hamburgers for lunch and wood fire pizza for dinner, not to mention the dessert pizzas that awed us all.

On camp we faced many challenges. Rain and wind were some of them as our tents blew around the camp became flooded, so we had to sleep in the barn. Getting tents set up was also a big challenge as to the reduced number of hammers and lost pegs. But overall, it was a fun and enjoyable experience to be part of.

There were lots of highlights on the trip too like hanging out with our friend and getting to know new people around the barn. Playing spotlight was a fun running around and not getting spot. The playground was also a highlight, getting to swing around and go down the slides and things.

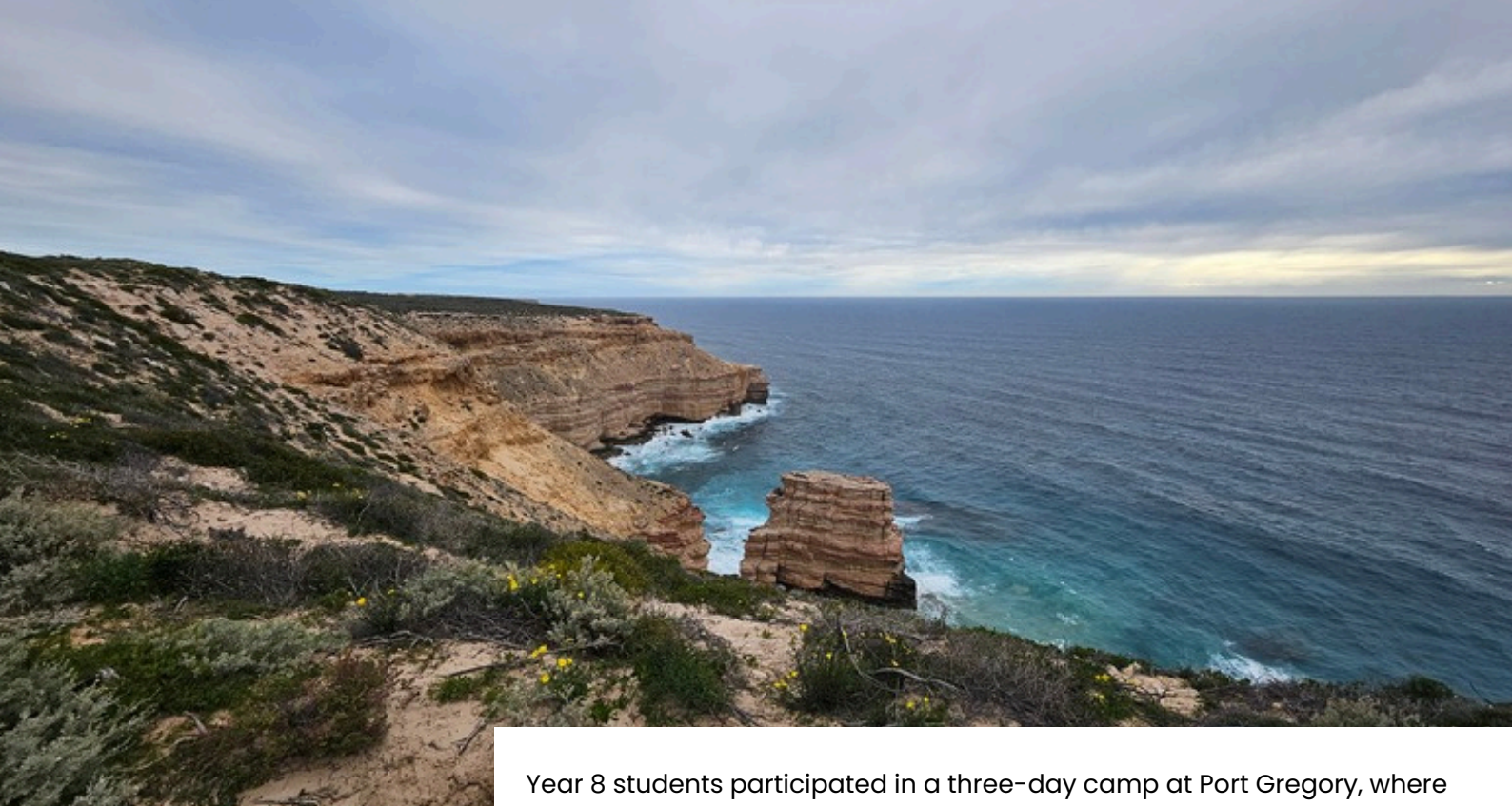
***Isabelle Taylor – Year 7 Hub Captain***







# YEAR 8 CAMP PORT GREGORY AND KALBARRI



Year 8 students participated in a three-day camp at Port Gregory, where they explored local landmarks such as Pink Lake, the Kalbarri coastal cliffs, and Kaju Yakta within Kalbarri National Park. The program provided students with meaningful opportunities to engage with the environment and enhance their understanding of the area.

This year, students benefited from a guided tour of Pink Lake, gaining deeper insight into the region's natural processes. Additionally, they had the privilege of learning from Nanda elder Colleen Drage, who shared knowledge about this Country and led an exploration of the Skywalk, incorporating perspectives through her art.

At a recent assembly, Rawley Duperouzel and Grace Jolly reflected on their experiences at the camp. Below is Grace's account of the trip.

*Our Year 8 Camp to Port Gregory and Kalbarri was an amazing and unforgettable adventure. One of the highlights of the trip was visiting the stunning Pink Lake at Port Gregory. The water was a bright, vibrant pink, and it was incredible to see in person. While we were there, we had a tour and Sam Hay spoke to us about the history of the lake and explained why it's pink – it turns out the colour comes from tiny algae that produce a red pigment when the water is really salty. It was really interesting to learn about the science behind it and how the lake has become such a popular tourist attraction.*

*We also got to explore Kalbarri, where we visited the famous Natural Bridge. The views from the cliffs were breathtaking, and we were lucky enough to spot whales jumping out of the water in the distance. It was such an amazing sight and something we'll never forget. The whole camp was filled with fun activities, beautiful scenery, and great memories with friends. If you're in Year 7 now, get excited – you're going to have so much fun next year when it's your turn to go!*

Grace Jolly







# YEAR 9 CAMP NEWMARRACARRA



To avoid the weather and access issues that have plagued the Year 9 Galena Camp for a few years, we sent the Year 9s on an expedition that saw them traverse through Newmarracarra and on to Yanget, alongside the spy base (Australian Defence Satellite Communications Station), to ultimately set up camp in Echidna Park.

Students' hiking shoes were well tested in preparation for Outward Bound later in the year as they covered a total of 13km over the journey in. That said, it was wonderful scenery that included a mix of rolling hills with granite outcrops, golden canola fields, the old Newmarracarra Homestead, and of course, the white golf balls of the spy base.

Students' abilities to pitch and secure bivvies were well tested as they were hit by a decent squally cold front on the second night. Smiles persisted, however, and all students enjoyed the shorter return walk in fair weather, stopping by the Homestead to lend a helping hand with some much valued cleanup.









# YEAR 10 CAMP PERTH



Every year the year 10 students head to Perth to tour the 5 Universities, South Metro TAFE and Central TAFE. It provides students with a snapshot as to what study at tertiary institutions may look like, pathways available, opportunities and vocational pathways thereafter. It coincides with students choosing their subjects for year 11. Whilst it is a very busy week visiting all the institutions, there is plenty of time for fun with mini golf, the city experience, late night shopping and downtime for the group to bond.

The year 10s had a great week and deserved to be commended for their behaviour. They had fun and represented our school fantastically well. A big shout out to our bus drivers Ralph and Brigitte and especially to teachers that joined us; Amber Gerrard and Ted Yan. Without such great staff these camps can't happen.





# YEAR 11 OUTDOOR EDUCATION

## Kalbarri Abseiling Trip

*The abseiling trip to Kalbarri was the best experience, being able to face our fears and do it all together was so fun. We got there, walking for a few minutes admiring the views and preparing ourselves for what we were about to do. Everyone had a nervous face as we hiked up the stairs to where we would be abseiling. This experience was scary, thrilling and one of the best things to do. We put trust in each other when we went over the edge, I felt lucky to be doing this activity outside with my peers in such a unique and beautiful environment. Being outside and doing this new activity was a highlight of my school year and I hope others get to experience it and never forget it.*

**Matilda Mc**

*Abseiling in Kalbarri helped me push myself to do new things, build trust and stronger relationships with the other students in my class and enjoy the natural beauty in the gorges. Everyone encouraged each other to have a go at abseiling and made lots of fun out of it.*

**Maia**

*The abseiling trip to Kalbarri was a thriller.*

**Cam**

*I was nervous at first, but I overcame my fear, and decided to have a go. Helping others made the experience more fun and brought us closer as a team. I learned new skills, gained confidence, and felt proud of myself for trying something different.*

**Hannah**

*The abseiling trip was a challenge yet an unforgettable experience that pushed me out of my comfort zone. Standing at the edge made me feel a mix of fear and excitement. When going down the taller of the abseiling cliffs I felt a surge of adrenaline and it was a really fun experience and relying on your classmates as well as the instructor. The environment was also stunning and seeing the rock wallabies was quite exciting as well.*

**Brooke**

*I really enjoyed the Kalbarri abseiling trip, I think it pushed me out of my comfort zone but for the better. Great trip and totally worth the drive.*

**Alby**





# Year 11 Outdoor Education

## LITTLE BAY ADVENTURE

In Week 7, the Year 11 Outdoor Education students took part in an overnight adventure to Little Bay. Their journey began with a 4 km hike from Horrocks Beach to the campsite, where they set up camp and settled in for the night.

The day was filled with challenges and rewards, including a steep dune climb that tested their endurance but offered breathtaking views and a spectacular sunset at the summit. As the evening drew in, the group gathered around the campfire to share stories, laughter, and freshly cooked damper — a fitting way to end a memorable day of outdoor exploration and teamwork.





# Year 12 OED Camp

## KALBARRI

Hiking through the Kalbarri Gorges was an unforgettable mix of challenge and wonder from the thrill of bouldering and conquering fears to the calm joy of floating through the river's cool bends. The sweeping views at Natures Window and Mushroom Rock reminded me how small we are in nature's landscape yet how powerful we can be with the support of our peers. Every step, splash and laugh made the experience a true adventure worth holding onto. ~ Tanna

Going through the Kalbarri Gorges was so cool, you get to go rock climbing and when you go for a swim through the gorges there was an opportunity to jump from a ledge into the river. The views were amazing! ~ Tom

Hiking through the Kalbarri Gorges was an incredible experience. From climbing over massive boulders to floating down the river in tubes, it was both challenging and fun. The amazing views and support from my friends made the whole trip something I'll never forget. ~ Jake D

The camp was fun, I liked hiking on all the trails, especially through the Kalbarri Gorges with Col. While swimming down the river, I found jumping off the rock into the water fun. Overall, an unforgettable experience. ~ Jameson







Exploring the Kalbarri Gorges was an amazing experience, from climbing over rocks to swimming in the river. The views were stunning, and with the support of friends, the challenges became highlights of the trip.

~ Hamish



I enjoyed the ocean view on the first hike we did when we arrived in Kalbarri at Mushroom Rock, the cool waves and blue water was beautiful. ~ Remy

During our hike through the gorges we could see all the layers of the sedimentary rocks that were formed over the millions of years and we could see some of the lushest and greenest vegetation around. ~ Jake S



Our trip to Kalbarri was by far the perfect way to wrap up our last school camp. It may have been quite challenging at times, but we all had so much fun bushwalking, climbing, and admiring the stunning views. The positivity shown throughout by all the campers made it such an enjoyable experience, and I am so grateful for a fantastic final OED camp. ~ Macy

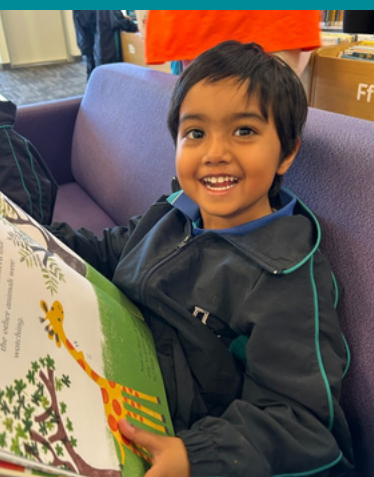




# Kindy Excursion- Geraldton Regional Library

On Tuesday 16 September, the Kindy 4 classes went on an excursion to Geraldton Regional Library to participate in the Better Beginnings Program. This program supports children to build the early literacy skills they need to become good readers and succeed at school.

The students were all very excited about our trip, as many of them had never been on a bus before. While at the library, the students read a story, sang songs, and had the opportunity to explore all the different books available there. Our excursion concluded with a park trip to enjoy morning tea and play in the playground. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parent helpers who accompanied us on our excursion!





# Philosophy & Ethics Camp

This year, students from Year 11 and Year 12 participated together in the 2025 Philosophy and Ethics Camp held in Fremantle. The camp featured a dynamic program of workshops, guest speakers, and opportunities to engage with complex philosophical ideas.

The University of Notre Dame hosted a variety of engaging sessions. Dr Richard Hamilton presented an insightful discussion about the role of philosophy in exploring life's meaning. Dr Heath Williams led a thought-provoking session on beauty and objectivity, helping students connect these themes to their course studies. To enhance the experience, live musicians performed during the sessions, bringing Aristotle's concepts of symmetry and proportion to life in an enjoyable and interactive way.

The camp also included a walking tour around Fremantle, where students examined philosophical ideas in real-world contexts. A highlight of the tour was a stop at the Round House, where discussions connected Jeremy Bentham's panopticon theory to practical examples.

The camp concluded with a visit to Fremantle Prison and an adventurous tunnel tour.

Overall, the camp provided a full schedule of learning, exploration, and enjoyment, making it a memorable experience for all participants.





# Philosophy & Ethics Excursion

## *Imagination and Art*

This term, Year 11 students participated in an off-campus activity aimed at applying their understanding of Unit 2 topics related to the concepts of culture, beauty, imagination, wonder, and art. The group examined art as a reflection of historical events, a means of expressing beliefs, and a tool for persuasion. In addition, students used knowledge gained from the Philosophy and Ethics camp when considering judgments about beauty and art.

The itinerary included visits to the foreshore to observe the Wiebbe Hayes monument and stone fort, the Yamaji Art Emu Egg sculptures, and a walk through Marine Terrace to view street art. The excursion concluded at the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery, where students viewed the GENESIS exhibition and Maria Fernanda Cardoso's Spiders of Paradise.





# Fathers Day Dinner

On Thursday, September 4, the Junior Kindy and 4-Year-Old Kindy classes hosted a Father's Day Dinner to help celebrate their special Dads and Grandfathers. The students and their family members spent the evening enjoying some delicious pizza together.

It was a wonderful evening, and the Kindy students cherished sharing some special time with their loved ones.





# Eagles Cup

The Eagles Cup is a local interschool football competition for Years 5 & 6, held during Term 3.

Using modified rules to maximise participation, enjoyment, and skill development, this year's competition ran from 4 August to 8 September, with games played every Monday afternoon.

Our Year 5/6 boys showed great determination, skill, and sportsmanship throughout the competition. Congratulations to all players, and a big thank you to parents for their support in making the season a success!



# WA Cricket

Our primary students had an exciting opportunity to participate in a cricket workshop run by WA Cricket! The session provided fun, hands-on experiences that inspired students to get involved in cricket within their community.

WA Cricket also shared guidance and quality resources to support teachers in delivering engaging cricket programs at school.





# Numero Tournament

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to participate in the Interschool Numero Competition.

- Joel Antony
- Samara Penney
- Freya Teakle
- Kevin Wang
- Mirja Schwering
- Wen Rui Wong
- Storm Wolf
- Ivana Gohel

While neither of the two teams finished on the podium, it was a fun and exciting day of maths challenges. A highlight of the day was the Year 5 all-girls team finishing first place in the Scramble round with a super 9-card take.

Thank you to not only the students listed above but also to all students who have been attending the Numero Club on Thursday mornings. It has been amazing to see you develop your Numero and math skills.

**Mr Matthews**

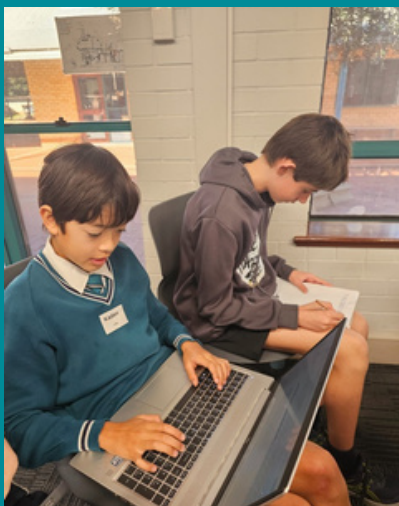


# Young Writers

## Young Writers Program Term 3

Our budding young writers enjoyed a day of creating in a genre that we have not really seen too much of before in our learning – Micro-memoirs and Flash Fiction.

The visiting author, Mabel Gibson engaged the students with some reflective writing activities and encouraged them to write succinct, but moving messages from their own lives and experiences. The students found the writing challenging but enjoyable and some of the readings were insightful and heartfelt.





# Randolph Stow Awards

We are very pleased to announce another very successful year of Randolph Stow Award winners. Geraldton Grammar put in over 60 entries this year which is a record amount.

**Congratulations to the following award winners:**

STUDENT	YEAR	CATEGORY	AWARD
Abigail Luscombe	3	Lower Primary Prose	Highly Commended
Emma Simpson	4	Lower Primary Prose	Highly Commended
Scout Bailey	5	Upper Primary Poetry	Second Prize
Wen Rui Wong	5	Upper Primary Prose	First Prize
Coden Spencer	7	Lower Secondary Poetry	Second Prize
Rawley Duperouzel	8	Lower Secondary Prose	Third Prize
Emily Weightman	8	Lower Secondary Prose	Highly Commended
Aisha Jones	8	Lower Secondary Prose	Highly Commended
Eva Nguyen	8	Lower Secondary Prose	Highly Commended
Pippa Lin	10	Middle Secondary Prose	First Prize
Kent Bristow	10	Middle Secondary Prose	Second Prize
Jasmine Cobbs	10	Middle Secondary Prose	Highly Commended
Angus Chadbourne	11	Upper Secondary Poetry	Highly Commended
Declan Argent	12	Upper Secondary Prose	Third Prize





# Maths and Science – Secondary

## Junior Science Olympiad Success

Based on his success in the Big Science Competition last year, Issac Gamble in Year 10 was invited to participate in the Junior Science Olympiad Training squad. This comprised of 54 of the top science students from around Australia who were invited to join in online classes and workshops delivered by ex-Science Olympiad tutors.

This term he took part in the Junior Science Olympiad exam achieving a High Distinction meaning he was amongst a small number of elite students who achieved in the top 10% of participants in this highly competitive competition exam. Based on this outstanding achievement he was then invited to participate in the 2025 Junior Science Olympiad Talent Development program.

Isaac completed the first part of this program but has declined the offer to continue in the program as he focuses on his Year 11 and 12 studies. Well done, Isaac!



## International Chemistry Quiz

Also this term a small number of secondary students participated in the International Chemistry Quiz. This international competition involves more than 100 000 students from more than 21 countries.

Congratulations go to the following students for their participation and excellent achievement



YEAR 8	YEAR 10
Mattheya Hasnain – Credit	Isaac Gamble – Distinction Xavier Shiosaki – Credit Pippa Lin – Participation Leilani Witt – Participation

## Square Kilometre Array Public Talk – Term 4

On the evening of Thursday 16 October Geraldton Grammar School is proud to be hosting the Chief Scientist of the SKAO (Square Kilometre Array Observatory), Dr Naomi McClure, as she presents a free public talk about the Square Kilometre Array and how we are studying the universe right here on our door step in the Midwest.

Keep an eye out for more details via social media.



## Australian Mathematics Competition

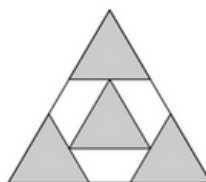
Early this term, a number of our talented mathematicians put their problem solving to the test in the Australian Mathematics Competition. This is an extremely challenging competition for even the top mathematics students. Many of these students have been participating in Maths problem solving sessions during Dalton where their creativity, critical thinking and mathematics skills have been honed and challenged.

Below is an example from a Year 7/8 competition paper.

### 2014 J15

Four equilateral triangles of the same size are arranged with horizontal bases inside a larger equilateral triangle, as shown. What fraction of the area of the larger triangle is covered by the smaller triangles?

- (A)  $\frac{2}{3}$                       (B)  $\frac{1}{2}$                       (C)  $\frac{4}{9}$   
 (D)  $\frac{4}{7}$                       (E)  $\frac{16}{25}$



Well done to all of the students who participated and congratulations to those achieving Credit and Distinction (top 20%) certificates.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
Distinction: Keandra Ramaish Ben Schmidt Coden Spencer  Credit: Arian Kamer	Distinction: George Giudice Jack Wang  Credit: Alexander Vidzhay Blake Wills  Proficiency: Darcie Gravit Matteya Hasnain Noluba Ndiweni	Distinction: Reuben Bergen Aarav Dhillon Adrian Hofmeyr  Credit: Taj Gerada Jessica Holden James Miller James Taylor  Participation: Tanishsha Suppiah	Distinction: Levi Beckett Isaac Gamble Eva Mellow  Credit: Pippa Lin  Proficiency: Ahmed Elgamal Leilani Witt  Participation: Aaron Jijo Xavier Shiosaki





# Arts and Technologies

**GENESIS** celebrates the artwork of students from the Midwest Secondary Schools. Organised by the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery, this event allows students to showcase their work in a professional setting, and for the community to have access to their work.

This exhibition features a selection of artworks from years 7–12, showcasing our students' skills and points of view of the world around them. A number of pieces were selected for the display, and we would like to congratulate the following students in representing Geraldton Grammar School:

Year	Student
7	Isabel Taylor
8	Ena Asmussen
9	Baani Sahota
9	Marcus James
9	Mason Basile
9	Charleigh Scrimgeour
9	Bella Pumpa
9	Emily Pollard
9	Matilda Canny
9	Sarah Blake
10	Camille Atkinson-de Garis
10	Kyla Lewis
10	Duha Shahran
10	Jasmine Cobbs
10	Eva Mellow
12	Gideon Kentish
12	Freya Bergen
12	Robyn Sluka







# Peter Pan - *The Musical*

On Friday 8 and Saturday 9 August, Geraldton Grammar School proudly presented the much-loved musical Peter Pan at Batavia Hall. Both nights were a resounding success, with students' incredible talents taking centre stage for the Geraldton Grammar School community to enjoy.

From swashbuckling pirates to mischievous fairies, the cast brought the magic of Neverland to life with energy, humour, and heart. The audience was treated to soaring songs, dazzling costumes, imaginative sets, and, most importantly, the dedication and teamwork of our students, both on stage and behind the scenes.

Productions like Peter Pan are a true community effort, and this one was no exception. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the many volunteers, parents, and staff members who gave their time and skills to ensure every detail of the show came together.

Whether it was helping with costumes, makeup, set building, lighting, front-of-house, or backstage support, your contributions made this production an unforgettable success.

Congratulations to all of the cast and crew for your creativity, courage, and commitment. You have made our school community proud and reminded us of all of the joy and magic that theatre can bring.

**Katie Clarkson**  
Director





# Chef Ambassador Program

In July, our Year 10 Food Technology students were treated to a visit from Ally Simes, a Chef Ambassador from Hospitality Group Training WA. Ally demonstrated how to make Pork Dumplings with Nam Jim, showcasing her impressive knife skills and sharing valuable tips on food presentation.

She also spoke about her personal journey in the food industry, offering inspiration and insight. The session was both engaging and informative, providing students with invaluable knowledge as they prepare for the annual HEIA Flavour Forecast Competition.

We thank Ally for joining us and look forward to welcoming her back again in the future.





# Indonesian

From 10–12 September 2025, I attended the Association of National and Private Schools (ANPS) Conference for International Leadership in Perth. Among the speakers on the opening night was The Honourable Tony Buti MLA, who holds the international education portfolio. This was followed by a series of engaging and informative presentations on education and leadership.

One highlight was meeting Lisa Hayman, Director of Partnerships at the Asia Education Foundation (University of Melbourne), who leads the Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement (BRIDGE) program. Excitingly, in 2026 we are likely to welcome a BRIDGE partner school from Jogjakarta. This partnership will not only create opportunities for dialogue between our students but will also connect us with a city rich in history, art, and culture, surrounded by stunning landscapes. There is also the potential for families to visit the school and experience Central Java firsthand.

As part of the conference, we visited Shenton College, St Mark's Anglican Community School, Peter Moyes Anglican Community College, and Scotch College. These visits provided valuable insights for developing the Indonesian Program into Years 7 and 8 and beyond. I also had many productive conversations with Indonesian school leaders, several of whom expressed interest in future collaboration. One such leader, Ibu Nova from Bandung, West Java, will bring a group of primary students to Perth in 2027 and is eager to visit Geraldton Grammar.

It was also a pleasure to reconnect with Pak Wilfred, the Indonesian teacher from Scotch College, whom I had the privilege of mentoring during his time at Geraldton Primary School.

Pak John  
**Indonesian Teacher**





# Pyjama Day

## Nepal School Fundraiser

This term, we held our annual fundraising day for Shree Janakalyan Primary School, a small school in the west of Nepal.

Students and staff enjoyed the opportunity to wear their pyjamas to school for the day. Thanks to the generosity of our school and wider community, we raised an amazing \$1,684.15.

It was a fun way to raise awareness about the needs of children less fortunate than us and all of the money goes directly to the school in Nepal to enable them to support their children's needs.





# Worlds Greatest Shave

## Geraldton Grammar Raises \$14,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation!

On Friday, 19 September, Batavia Hall was alive with cheers as students and staff braved the scissors and shavers for the World's Greatest Shave.

Led by Service Captain Millie Grazziadelli, who set out to raise \$5,000, our school community came together in an incredible show of generosity, raising a total of \$14,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation.

Congratulations to all the brave participants and thank you to our community for your outstanding support – what a remarkable achievement!





# TERM 3 – PRIMARY MUSIC



More singing and more dancing/movement have been features of primary music class work this term.

Years 5 and 6 continue to work on acquiring instrumental skills on piano, ukulele and guitar and show increasing confidence in the use of their singing voices.

Years 3 and 4 combine recorders in Year 3 with the NUVO instruments in Year 4. This has proven to be a very successful program, with many Year 4 students continuing to come to Windstars Band rehearsals in their own time. They are also joined by several enthusiastic Year 5s from last year who have begun their studies on conventional band instruments. After an unpredicted teacher absence during the lead up to the Geraldton Music Festival, this group missed out on performing there and they are now looking forward to performing at Primary Presentation night.

The new Primary House Singing Competition was launched since our last Beacon. The search for energetic songs suited to spurring on the competitive spirit was on! Eventually from a list of suggestions, a draw was held amongst the House Captains with Greenough selecting All Star by Smashmouth, Chapman with Roar by Katy Perry, Irwin with We Will Rock You by Queen and Murchison, with arguably the most difficult song on account of the very fast almost rap-style lyrics, drew Whatever It Takes by Imagine Dragons. The creativity that went into the performances was outstanding. The lion from Chapman house and the ukuleles of Irwin made indelible impressions but, Murchison especially, put together a stunning presentation with some adventurous choralography. However, on the day Greenough emerged victorious after taking the brave decision to present their song to a karaoke backing for extra points.

Our Singstars Choir participated in the Geraldton Music Festival in June singing Saltwater, by Julian Lennon, and received some fantastic feedback from the adjudicators. I was very impressed with their effort.

*"Excellent intonation considering the high notes required. Good tone. Some words could be better articulated to ensure greater clarity. Rhythm – excellent, expression appropriate for the piece." Of our technique they said "great use of head voice! Wonderful presentation and excellent connection with the conductor."*



# TERM 3 – SENIOR MUSIC



In and amongst the very busy schedule of Term 3 the ensembles still found time to prepare a special promotional concert for students in years 3-6. The primary school students were first treated to an energetic performance of Chuck Rio's Tequila by the Guitar Ensemble. They then had the opportunity to watch the well-loved (and my personal favourite) scene from Toy Story 2 of Woody being cleaned, with the music being provided by the Senior Concert Band.

Finally, the Senior Concert Band were joined by the Junior Concert Band for a performance of Oompa Loompa, featuring dances from real Oompa Loompas, who look suspiciously like some of our year 9 and 10 students.

A special commendation for Remy Gaudron, Taj Gerada, Emma Cruickshank, Xavier Shiosaki, Levi Beckett, Taylor Penney, and Ruby Lin who prepared some excellent solo performances to show off the sound of their respective instruments.

Applications to join the Instrument Music Program in 2026 will be released in early Term 4. Students in years 5-12 can sign up to receive lessons on a range of instruments and join the ensembles, where they can be a part of my next ridiculous performance idea.











STRENGTH, VISION &  
LEGACY

# NAIDOC WEEK

## NAIDOC Week 2025 – Celebrating Culture, Strength and Connection

This year Geraldton Grammar School proudly celebrated NAIDOC Week (30 June – 4 July) with the national theme “The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy.”

Our Whole-School NAIDOC Week Celebration was held at the end of Term 2 (Week 10), with a variety of events, assemblies, and activities designed to deepen our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history, and achievements.

### Assemblies & Storytelling

- Secondary Assembly – Monday, 30 June
- Primary Assembly – Thursday, 3 July

Students engaged with NAIDOC Week-themed reflections, performances, and discussions, while our younger students enjoyed dreamtime storytelling, including the much-loved tale of Tiddalik.

### Cultural Displays & Art

The Hall Foyer was transformed with a vibrant NAIDOC display featuring:

- Wajarri words and phrases connected to each of our school houses.
- A collaborative artwork – a map of our rivers.
- A showcase of student artwork from both primary and secondary classes.
- An interactive language map of Western Australia’s First Languages.

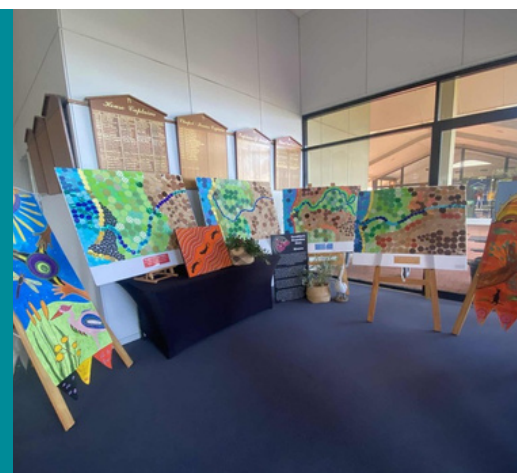
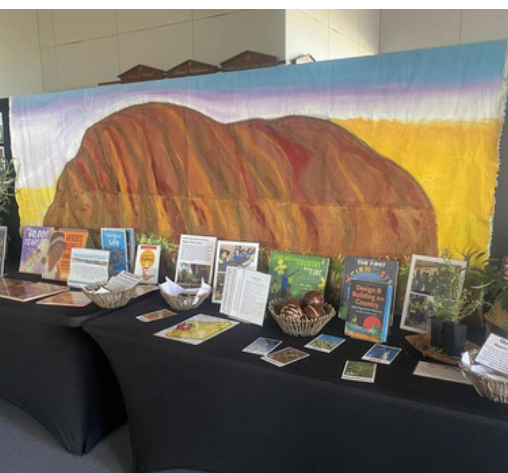
These displays provided daily opportunities for students, staff, and visitors to pause, reflect, and learn. Indigenous Resources Walkthrough

One of the highlights was the release of our NAIDOC Week Video Walkaround, created in collaboration with local indigenous women Jarmanda Jones. This resource takes viewers on a journey through the Indigenous resources and places across our school, including:

- Indigenous artwork displayed in the Hall and Library
- The yarning circle in the Kindy playground
- Indigenous-inspired equipment in the Early Learning area
- The walking trail, showcasing local flora, fauna, and cultural significance

### Country Week Connection

While some of our students were away at Senior Country Week, they’ll also be part of special Indigenous connection activities, ensuring everyone shares in the NAIDOC spirit.







# TERM 3 – IN THE LIBRARY

What a term it's been in the Sheila Flanagan Library. Every day has started the same way — opening up, switching on the music, and getting the space ready for students to drop in before school or between classes. From quiet reading corners to noisy lunchtime chess tournaments, Term 3 has kept the library buzzing from start to finish.

## **Characters That Inspire**

This term, our focus has been on characters — who they are, what inspires us about them, and how they help us think about our own lives. We explored both fiction and non-fiction books, talking about the difference between the two, and why it's so important to recognise whether a story is made up or based on real events. These conversations have led to some wonderful reflections from students on the kinds of role models and lessons characters can offer us.

## **Formats That Spark Reading**

Graphic novels have continued to rise in popularity, with more and more students reaching for them each week. We've talked about why they're such a good reading option — the combination of words and visuals helps stories come alive, making them accessible, engaging, and just plain fun.

We also introduced a new range of dyslexia-friendly books, which have been really well received. These specially designed texts, with clearer fonts and layouts, give every student the chance to enjoy reading without barriers. Together, graphic novels and dyslexia-friendly books are proving that there's no single "right" way to read — every format opens a door to stories.

## **Displays, New Books & an Author Visit**

Our shelves had some exciting new arrivals this term. From brand-new fiction titles to fresh non-fiction resources, students have been quick to borrow and recommend their favourites to friends. Creative displays helped bring those books to life — whether it was celebrating CBCA Award winners, showcasing Indigenous voices, or tying in with events happening across the school.



Another special moment this term was welcoming Mabel Gibson, author of *Cry Baby*, for a visit. It was especially meaningful to talk with her about her connections to Geraldton and her Indigenous heritage, which gave her stories even deeper resonance.

### Indigenous Connections

A real focus this term has been building up our local Indigenous collection. With new resources highlighting Wajarri language and culture, students have had more opportunities to connect with stories and histories from right here in Geraldton.

One of the most special additions this term was our new yarning mat. This colourful space has already become a favourite spot for students to sit, reflect, and share. More than just a place to gather, it's a reminder of the first storytellers of this land and an invitation to pause, listen, and connect.

### Everyday Library Life

It's often the little things that make the biggest impact. Lunchtimes have been filled with chess games, puzzles, and the toy library, giving students a chance to unwind and connect. One of the standouts this term has been seeing students work together on our group jigsaws — tackling the challenge piece by piece, and then celebrating as they moved onto the next puzzle. It's been a simple but lovely way to see teamwork and patience in action.

### Looking Ahead

As Term 3 comes to a close, I'm reminded once again that the library is more than just bookshelves. It's a place where curiosity is sparked, creativity is encouraged, and community is built. Next term will bring fresh displays, new resources, and of course, more chances to celebrate reading and learning together. I can't wait to see what adventures Term 4 brings.





# BOOK WEEK 2025



## Book Week 2025 – Book an Adventure

This year, Geraldton Grammar School celebrated Book Week with the theme “Book an Adventure.” The theme encourages children to explore new worlds and possibilities through reading, celebrating every book as a journey of discovery and a chance to meet new characters and experience different adventures.

## Assemblies & Parade

Our Primary Book Week Assembly and Parade was a highlight of the week. Students came dressed as their favourite book characters, filling the hall with colour, excitement, and imagination. Staff also joined in the fun. Special thanks to Mr Gill and Ms Price, who recorded a read-aloud video to share with the students, along with other staff who joined in the fun.

## Hall Foyer Display & Library Spotlight

The Batavia Hall foyer came alive with a camp out themed display for the week to set the tone for adventure. The display also featured the 2025 CBCA Book of the Year Awards – Winners and Honour Books, celebrating the remarkable creators and publishers bringing Australian stories to life.

## Competitions & Involvement

Primary students also took part in a Book Week colouring-in competition. Our Year 12 students had the honour of judging, and their recorded announcement of the winners was shown at the assembly. This created a wonderful moment of connection between our youngest and oldest students.

## A Community of Readers

Book Week continues to be a highlight of our school calendar, bringing together students, staff, and families in the joy of reading. A huge thank you to everyone involved in preparing displays, organising events, and most importantly, joining in with enthusiasm. Together, we proved once again that reading truly is an adventure.







# BOOK WEEK





# Student News



## Midwest Netball Champs!

Geraldton Grammar School was proud to have our Year 4 and Year 5/6 students competing in the Midwest Gascoyne Regional Netball Championships in the July School Holidays.

A huge congratulations to all players on their teamwork and sportsmanship — and a special shoutout to our Under 12s Division 2 Grand Final winners!

Well done to everyone involved — you've made us proud!

## Congratulations to Harlow McAllister Scream and Shout Champion

Harlow McAllister had an outstanding performance at the recent Scream and Shout Championships in Mandurah, winning her age group and placing in or winning all her dances against incredible talent.

Dancing with Cheer and Dance Intensity, Harlow competes regularly and continues to shine on stage. Well done, Harlow!



## Outstanding Success at Chapman Valley Show

At the 75th Annual Chapman Valley Agricultural Show on 6 September, Jasmine Breese achieved remarkable success in the Exhibition Hall. Her entries in art, craft, cookery, and photography earned her four trophies and two rosettes, including:

- Joan Potts Memorial Trophy – Highest Points in Exhibition Hall
- Kerrie Criddle Memorial Trophy – Overall Exhibitor (2nd Highest Points)
- McCagh Family Trophy – Highest Points in Junior Sections
- M & B Williamson Trophy – Highest Points in Under 12
- Overall Rosette for Juniors Under 12

A fantastic achievement and a wonderful example of creativity, dedication, and community spirit.





# Student News



## **Congratulations to Owen Scatena – WA State U18 Selection**

We are proud to share that Owen Scatena has been selected to represent Western Australia in the 2025/26 U18 Boys State Team. He will compete at the prestigious Nox Bailey Shield in Blacktown, NSW, from 20–25 January 2026.

This outstanding achievement reflects Owen's commitment, talent, and dedication to his sport, supported by his family and the pathways that enable regional athletes to excel on state and national stages.

His club and association are incredibly proud of Owen and wish him every success as he prepares to represent WA.

## **Tully Represents WA at the U16 National Championships**

Geraldton Grammar School proudly celebrates the achievement of Year 9 student Tully, who was selected to the WA Country Girls team at the National Championships held in Bendigo, Victoria. Tully and her teammates demonstrated exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination on the national stage and were recipients of the Trish Fallon Fair Play Award.

Looking ahead, Tully aspires to continue developing her game with the goal of earning a spot in the Australian junior development program. We commend Tully on her inspiring journey and look forward to supporting her as she reaches for even greater heights.



## **Congratulations to Isla Quirke – Squash WA Junior State Team Selection**

We are proud to announce that Isla Quirke has been selected for the Squash WA Junior State Team for 2025.

Isla will travel to Ballarat, Victoria, later this month to compete against the best young players from across Australia. The competition includes the individual event (28 September – 1 October) followed by the teams event (2 – 4 October).

This achievement reflects Isla's hard work, dedication, and talent in the sport of squash. We congratulate her on this outstanding accomplishment and wish her every success as she represents Western Australia on the national stage.



## **Congratulations Alexander Vidzhay**

Year 8 student Alexander Vidzhay received a Volunteer Recognition Certificate on 25 May 2025.



## **Congratulations to Grace Johnson**

(pictured left) on being selected for the State Water Polo Team.

This is an outstanding achievement, and we wish you every success for the season ahead.



# Student News



## Mason Dennis – 2025 SCWA Sub-Junior State Champion

Mason capped off a strong season in the 2025 Sporting Clays WA State Series by winning the Sub-Junior category at the State 2-Day Carnival in Perth by 12 targets, earning the title of 2025 SCWA Sub-Junior State Champion.

He also placed 2nd overall in the series aggregate. In only his second year of competition, Mason will now head to Queensland during the September school holidays to compete in the English Sporting Nationals on the Gold Coast and the Sporting Clays Australia Nationals in Brisbane.

## Congratulations to Aaysha King – Regional Winner!

Year 10 student Aaysha King made it through to the State Finals of the Rotary Four-Way Speech Competition with her speech "The Social Contagion: How Social Media Affects Adolescent Behaviour."

On 20 September at Batavia Hall, Geraldton, she competed against some outstanding speakers. Although she didn't take out a placing, Aaysha delivered her speech with confidence and eloquence, impressing both adjudicators and the audience.

Well done, Aaysha – an outstanding effort and achievement!



## Outstanding Effort at the 2025 Think Mental Health Schools Surfing State Titles!

Last Friday at Trigg Beach, our students gave it their all, showcasing exceptional skill, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm. Representing our school in the Junior Girls and Senior Boys divisions, they competed against peers from across Western Australia.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts and thankful to the supportive parents who helped with supervision and travel.

## Congratulations to Leilani Witt – Dressage Star

Leilani has had an outstanding 2025 season! She won the Highest Score Trophy for Junior Rider Under 18 at the DWA Pony Showcase and achieved multiple wins at the Geraldton Combined Equestrian Club Dressage Championships, including Highest Score Dressage Pony and Novice Dressage Champion Pony. She has now qualified for the 2025 State Dressage Championships in Perth.

Well done, Leilani – a truly well-deserved achievement!







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# ADMISSIONS NOW OPEN, *Availabilities in Year 2, 3 & 4 for 2026*

*"Geraldton Grammar School  
was founded on the pursuit of  
excellence with a vision of  
creating an independent  
educational experience for the  
children of the Mid West region."*



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