

# THE BEACON

APRIL 2025



GERALDTON  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

*Striving for Excellence*



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# A letter from the Principal

Welcome to the first edition of The Beacon for the year! As the new Principal, I am thrilled to share my reflections on what has been an incredibly fast-paced and exciting first term.

From the moment I joined Geraldton Grammar School, I have been impressed by the warmth and enthusiasm of our students, staff, and families.



This term, we have seen our students excel in academics, sports, and the arts, showcasing their talents and hard work. Our teachers have been unwavering in their commitment to providing a high-quality education, and I have been inspired by their innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

Our facilities and grounds are second to none, largely because of the commitment displayed by our colleagues who work tirelessly behind the scenes, often before we arrive and long after we depart for the day. Talking of behind the scenes, our IT team ensure that over 700 devices connect wirelessly to a network that encompasses our whole campus whilst also having to educate dinosaurs like me. We have a front of house too, a school reception building that caters for the needs of 740ish students and over 100 adults. Our finance, human resource, payroll, admissions, marketing, academic services and general administration teams are exceptional.

This term, my first at Grammar, has continually reaffirmed my commitment to our school. How could it not when I get work with such passionate professionals all of whom are here to make a difference to the lives of the students entrusted to our care.

As we move forward, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we will continue to build on our successes, embrace new challenges, and create a nurturing environment where every student can thrive.

Thank you for welcoming me into the Geraldton Grammar School family. I look forward to sharing more updates and celebrating our achievements in the upcoming editions of The Beacon.

Warm regards,



Principal





# Year 12 Induction

The Year 12 Induction Service served as a formal introduction of our Year 12 cohort to the school community.

It marked the beginning of a particularly significant year for our Year 12 students. The students were recognised individually and handed their badges. Freya Bergen, School Captain, shared the following words:

*This Monday, our Year 12 class of 2025 faced the bittersweet truth that this would be our last first day of high school. To me, and I am sure many of my classmates feel the same, it does not seem real that in just 9 months, we will be up here again, saying our final goodbyes as we graduate. This year will be filled with both firsts and lasts—our last sports carnivals, our last school formal, and our last lunchtime laughs. But it will also be a year of new experiences, challenges, and memories we'll carry with us long after we leave these school grounds. It is both exciting and overwhelming that the end is so near. People keep saying that Year 12 flies by, and I plan to make the most of every moment—from the stress of exams to the joy of celebrations—because this is a time in our lives we can never get back.*

The Induction Service was also an opportune time to acknowledge the commitment of those families whose children have been here for the whole of their schooling. The following students were presented with their "One School For Life" badges:

- Sofia Burrows
- Nicole Chamberlain
- Abbie Hagan
- Drew Murdoch
- Jameson Nolan
- Sarah Price-Walkley
- Lily Scrimgeour
- Hamish Sojan
- Amara Starling
- Phoebe Teakle
- Remi Wheatley



## 90'S ATAR CLUB

Congratulations to the GGS Class of 2024! We are incredibly proud of the recent ATAR results, which reflect the dedication and hard work of our students. A special mention to Shanaya Gronow, our 2024 Susan Shaw Medalist and top ATAR student, along with Joe George-Kennedy and George Goforth, who earned a place in the prestigious 90's Club.



**SHANAYA GRONOW**  
SUSAN SHAW MEDALIST



**JOE GEORGE-KENNEDY**  
90'S CLUB



**GEORGE GOFORTH**  
90'S CLUB



# WACE RESULTS AND AWARDS 2024

Geraldton Grammar School is extremely proud of the 2024 graduates for their hard work and commitment to their studies, reflected in their outstanding achievements. Congratulations to all students on achieving the WACE



## 98.35

HIGHEST ATAR  
ACHIEVED



## 28%

OF STUDENTS  
RECEIVED AN  
ATAR OF 88 AND ABOVE



## 100%

COMPLETED WACE



## 59%

OF OUR STUDENTS  
COMPLETED  
THE ATAR  
PATHWAY

## 72%

OF ATAR STUDENTS GOT  
THEIR FIRST PREFERENCE  
TO UNIVERSITY



# PRIMARY SWIMMING CARNIVAL



Thursday, February 20, brought beautiful weather and a competitive, friendly spirit from all students. The Year 3-6 students enjoyed a day filled with fierce competition, but also some fun filled novelty relays throughout the day. It was fantastic to see so many students giving it their best effort, no matter their ability.

An enormous thank you to Anna Kosch and the Geraldton Amateur Swim Club for their invaluable support with marshalling sheets, timing and scoring facilities as well as Mark White for starting the races. We also extend our thanks to the Geraldton Aquarena – their latest facilities made for a great day. Another big thank you to all staff who pitch in to make sure the day runs smoothly and allow students to enjoy themselves.

After all the swimming was done, it was Murchison who reclaimed the title as the Champion House for 2025! **Congratulations Murch!**

1ST	Murchison	1260
2ND	Greenough	1006
3RD	Irwin	974
4TH	Chapman	884

**Well done to all individual runner-up and champion winners!**

## BOYS

	CHAMPION	RUNNER UP
YEAR 3	Aiden Nicholson	Beau Reynolds
YEAR 4	Hudson Kennedy	William Jolly
YEAR 5	Julian Giudice	Quinlan Nelson
YEAR 6	Oliver Nelson	Thisaga Abeysekara

## GIRLS

	CHAMPION	RUNNER UP
YEAR 3	Asta Falconer	Lillia Nelson
YEAR 4	Abigail Holden	Zoya Hasnain
YEAR 5	Lyla Evans	Mirja Schwering
YEAR 6	Josie Mackin	Zahra Holden







# SECONDARY SWIMMING CARNIVAL



Friday 14 February, was the annual Interhouse swimming carnival for Geraldton Grammar School. It was a fantastic day at the Aquarena in the outdoor pool, especially for our Year 12 students who had the privilege of swimming all day on our unicorn inflatables.

A big thank you to the Geraldton Amateur Swim Club for assisting with timing, marshalling and compiling the students' results. And thank you to all the GGS staff, students, and families for supporting the carnival. Your attendance and positivity are always appreciated.

**Congratulations to Murchison for winning the overall Champion House.**

Congratulations to the following students:

## BOYS

	CHAMPION	RUNNER UP
YEAR 7	Tayte Ackland	Kaden Jeffery
YEAR 8	Oliver White	George Giudice
YEAR 9	Jet Plunkett	Spencer Sojan
YEAR 10	Levi Beckett	Isaac Gamble
Year 11	Callum Sojan	Riley Fong
Year 12	Hamish Sojan	Tom Sorgiovanni

## GIRLS

	CHAMPION	RUNNER UP
YEAR 7	Hallie Gamble	Hannah MacDonald
YEAR 8	Molly Evans	Luella Mackin
YEAR 9	Grace Johnson	Cordelia Oldroyd
YEAR 10	Macy Halford	Eva Mellow
Year 11	Emily Canny	Aurora Milnes
Year 12	Nicole Chamberlain	Abbie Hagan

**Special mention to the following students who have broken records this year:**

- 50m Freestyle Grace Johnson 31.35sec
- 50m Freestyle Callum Sojan 26.86sec
- 50m Breaststroke Molly Evans 40.88sec
- 50m Breaststroke Callum Sojan 37.87sec
- 50m Butterfly Grace Johnson 35.72







# ACC SWIMMING CARNIVAL



Geraldton Grammar School had 45 students represent our school at the ACC Swimming Carnival in Perth on Friday 21 March.

The students enjoyed a few hours at Outback Splash on the way into Perth and then competed at the High Performance Stadium the following day. The events were 100m freestyle, 50m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, 50m backstroke and 50m butterfly as well as the 4 x 50m medley relay and 4 x 50m freestyle relay.

**This year GGS won the junior girls shield, placed second in the senior girls, won the overall girls shield and our school won the overall F division carnival.**

Congratulations to all of our swimmers. We are all so proud of our swim team and cannot wait to watch them compete in E division in 2026.

A big thank you to Mrs Halford, Mr Greenaway and Mr Gill for attending this camp and for their amazing support at the carnival.





# PRIMARY INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL



On Friday, 4 April, our primary students did us proud by taking out first place at this year's Interschool Swimming Carnival. A special congratulations to all individual award winners—you've shown incredible determination and skill.

- **Hudson Kennedy** – Year 4 Champion Boy
- **Lyla Evans** – Year 5 Champion Girl
- **Julian Giudice** – Year 5 Champion Boy
- **Oliver Nelson** – Year 6 Runner up Champion Boy

Thank you to all students who participated and cheered on their team with such enthusiasm, and to our amazing teachers, staff, and parents for your ongoing support.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to St John's for hosting and organising such a fantastic event, and to all the participating schools for a great day of friendly competition.





# Kindy Teddy Bear's Picnic

On Wednesday February 5, we hosted our annual Kindy Teddy Bear's Picnic. Families from the Junior Kindy and Kindy 4 classes came together and spent the afternoon getting to know one another before the start of the school year. The Kindy students spent the afternoon playing with their friends, cuddling their teddy bears, reading stories and dancing to some teddy bear songs. Lots of new friendships were made whilst everyone enjoyed some yummy picnic treats.



# Splash Day

On Thursday, 20 February, the Pre-Primary, Year One and Year Two students thoroughly enjoyed a fabulous morning of Splash Day fun. The children participated in six twenty-minute rotations of water activities, including a slip and slide, bubbles, a shark and water game, a water balloon and spoon race and face painting. A favourite activity was either dodging Mrs Brennan and Mrs Mann with the hose or standing for a complete soaking while playing in the wooden playground!





# P&F Disco

The Primary School Disco, with the fun theme of "When I Grow Up," was a huge hit and very well attended. The students had a fantastic time dancing nonstop, showcasing a wide range of dress-ups, from policemen and tradies to dancers, farmers, vets and nurses.

Parents also enjoyed the Meet & Mingle, with many gathering on picnic blankets to soak up the beautiful summer evening. The new principal, Brad Gill, took the opportunity to connect with parents, making everyone feel welcome.

A special thanks to Localworks for generously sponsoring the lolly bar and to parents for their yummy cupcake and drink donations. Also a big thank you to the P&F volunteers and teachers for all their hard work in making this event such a success!







# Senior Formal

## Geraldton Grammar School Senior Formal Dives into 'Atlantis' Theme with Style.

On the 8 March, we held our Senior Formal right here at our school. The Batavia Hall was completely transformed into a stunning ballroom with beautiful Atlantis-themed decorations. It was amazing to see everyone dressed up, having fun and filling the night with music, dancing and laughter. We captured so many great photos, and it's definitely a night we'll all remember for many years to come.

I'd like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to some very special people who helped make the night such a success.

Firstly, a huge thank you to the parents who gave up their time to help set up the Batavia Hall – your hard work transformed the space and brought the Atlantis theme to life. A special thanks to Mrs Routledge for capturing so many incredible photos on the night.

I'd also like to thank the front office staff for their clerical and financial assistance and to the Year 10 helpers who kept us refreshed with drinks and food – they did an amazing job! To all the teachers who gave up their Saturday evening, thank you – we really appreciated your support, and it was great to have you there, especially for those memorable class photos we'll treasure for years to come.

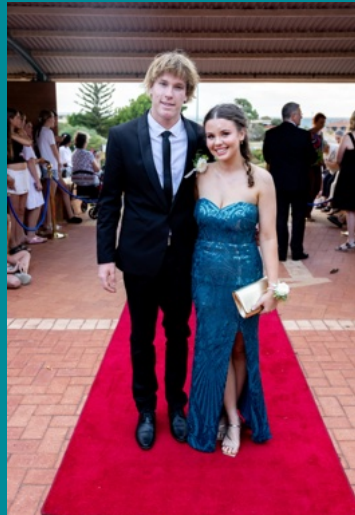
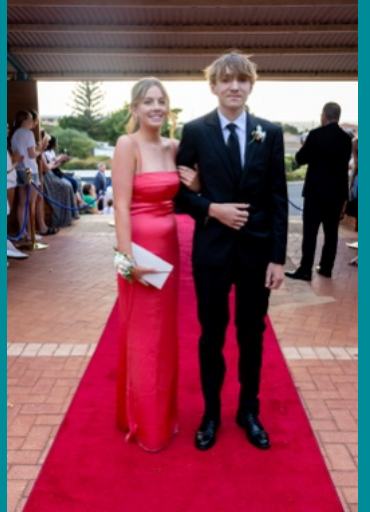
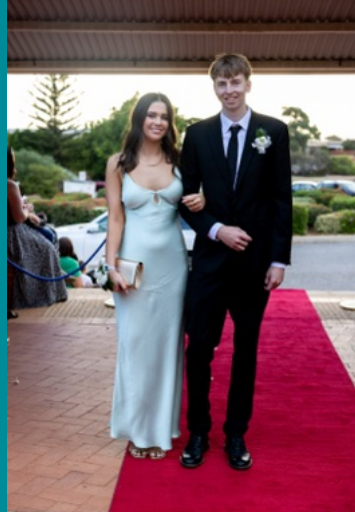
Finally, a huge thank you to our Ball Committee for all their effort and planning – the hard work definitely paid off. And, of course, a special thanks to Mr Angelatos for leading and supporting the Committee through it all.

Thanks again to everyone who made it such a special night, and we hope the upcoming formals are just as special. Thank you!

**Written by Roaa Elgama** (*Ball Committee Representative*)









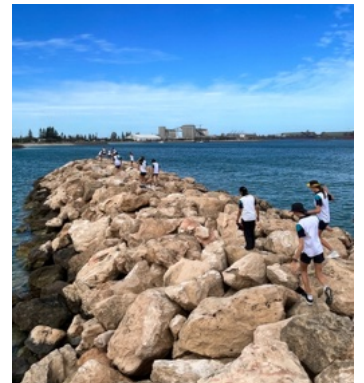
# Year 10 Geography Excursion

The Year 10's explored the changing coastline of Geraldton as part of a Year 10 Geography excursion to analyse the processes and forces that change our coastline.

They created sketch maps of Midalia's Beach and identified the changes made by erosion and deposition in this area before moving onto the Batavia Coast Marina.

Students looked at pollution issues in the area and some of the works being done to manage and improve this space for boaters, before moving to the last stop at the Geraldton foreshore to determine the direction of longshore drift.

It was great weather for an excursion with lots of other groups out enjoying the natural and built environment. Thanks to the Year 10 teachers for organising and coming along with the classes.



# Year 11 Outdoor Ed



In week 6, the year 11 Outdoor Education classes travelled to Dongara for a day trip spent canoeing on the Irwin River.

The calm conditions and enthusiastic students made for a great day.

Cooking up a tasty lunch on the Trangias was a highlight along with some canoeing challenges.

The students showed exemplary teamwork throughout the day which was great to see.





# Year 12 Outdoor Ed



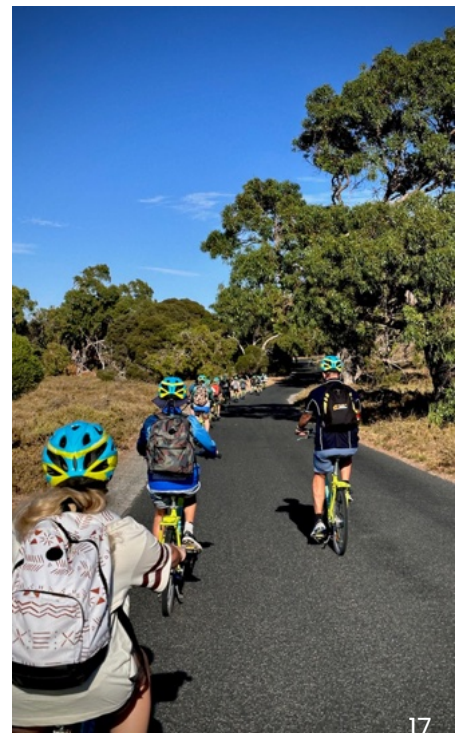
The year 12 outdoor education class had an early start on Monday week 9, packing the bus and leaving for Rottneest. After five long hours we arrived at Hillary's, where we packed our luggage crates and boarded the ferry, ready for a smooth trip across.

On arrival we were greeted by our furry quokka friends as we headed to our campsite. That evening we experienced a stunning sunset while enjoying our first swim on Rottneest Island, along with playing a competitive game of duck, duck, goose. The first day we got up bright and early, heading off on our bikes around the island. We cycled all the way out to West End to visit the Long-Nosed Fur Seals and enjoyed our morning tea with the entertainment of a seal pup playing on the reef. We then rode our bikes along the South side of the island and stopped for a swim at Salmon Bay, before heading back to the campsite for lunch and later, a snorkel at the Basin.

Later that arvo, we played 18 holes of mini golf, and we participated in a serious sandcastle competition, which we won with our sculptured octopus. We then headed back to the campsite for dinner, showers, and bed after a huge day of cycling, snorkelling and swimming. On Wednesday, we cycled to Oliver Hill and checked out the huge gun used in World War II and then went for a snorkel at Little Salmon Bay along with morning tea. We headed back to camp for lunch and another swim before starting the compass challenge. After this we went back to the beach and enjoyed a barbeque dinner.

Following dinner, we played tennis, forty-four homes and our end of camp debrief. Thursday saw an extremely early start with the luggage crates being packed to be picked up by 7am. We rode into Rottneest Settlement, to enjoy breakfast from the bakery before boarding the ferry to go home. We had an amazing time on what was one of our last school camps and are so thankful for Ms Cinanni and Ms Bassett-Scarfe for organising such a fun and successful camp. Thanks also to Mr Murray and Mr Angelatos for accompanying us on the camp.

**Written by Ruby and Lorelie**





# Ride 2 School Day

## 'Your Move' Program- new to GGS!

Ride to School Day was a successful event held in Week 7 and helped us launch this new program, with 69 students choosing active travel options.

It was an opportunity for students, parents and teachers to try riding, walking, skating or scooting to school, as well as celebrating all the regular walkers and riders. On these days, we aim to normalise walking and riding to school, and hopefully help our families create a new habit. The day is a chance to celebrate walking and riding on a large scale and to prove it can be done.

We are now a Your Move School!

Your Move is a Department of Transport program that encourages students and their families to get active by walking, riding and scooting to school or catching public transport, more often.

Making a small behavioural change a few times a week can result in huge benefits for your child and the community, including:

- reduced congestion, travel times and parking problems around schools;
- improved safety for everyone at drop-off and pick-up times;
- reduced carbon dioxide emissions around the school;
- lifelong improved health and emotional well-being due to instilling positive exercise habits at a young age;
- improved concentration and academic performance; and
- more sustainable and cost-effective transport outcomes, such as reducing the need for investment in parking that may only be utilised for a short period each day, and reduced road infrastructure maintenance costs.

We earn Your Move points by posting stories and photos of our active transport adventures on the website; these can translate into grants to fund active transport facilities and activities for the school and other rewards. A group of our Year 6 students will be leading this program along with Mrs Buckley, Ms Martin and Mrs Angelatos.





# Stargirls STEM Camp & ICRAR Workshops



In Week 4 of this term a number of our secondary students were selected to attend the Stargirls STEM Camp. This was a 2-day immersive run by the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) at Curtin University, hosted by the Geraldton Universities Centre. The aim of the camp is to inspire female students into STEM-related subjects and careers, especially space and astronomy sciences. The students were able to meet and hear from inspiring mentors and participate in hands-on activities such as controlling research scale telescopes.

At the Midwest Stargirls STEM Camp, we had the opportunity to meet and talk with engineers, astronomers, radio astronomers, and many other amazing professionals who work with organizations like SKAO, ICRAR, and CSIRO. We learned how to set up and use telescopes, and we were even given accounts to capture images using the SPIRIT Telescopes, located further south nearby Perth. It was an incredible experience, and I would absolutely love to attend again if given the chance. – Peyton Teale, Year 8.

Following on from the Stargirls STEM Camp, Geraldton Grammar School was offered the chance for the Radio Astronomers from that camp to visit the school and run some workshops. They worked with students from Year 3 through to Year 12 answering some of the big questions regarding our Solar Systems, Galaxy and the Universe. It was so great to not only hear about the amazing Science but to hear the thought-provoking questions provided by students at every level and to have the presenters also share a little about their journey into Radioastronomy and Science Communication as well as some great Science Fiction recommendations!

## Solar Model Car Challenge

On Thursday 27 March Geraldton Grammar School had 2 teams participate in the Synergy Solar Model Car Challenge.

Our teams from Year 6 and Year 8 competed against students from other schools to build, modify and race Solar Model Cars. The teams have been preparing for this in Primary STEM Club and Dalton throughout this term.

It was a fantastic day, with a great atmosphere and lots of excitement. Our teams showed great teamwork, communication, problem solving and a positive attitude. Each race was filled with healthy competition and great sportsmanship from all teams.

Congratulations to the following team members.

Year 6	Year 8
Hafsa Aung	Zack Ibbotson
Eli Boonzaier	Noluba Ndiweni
Diana Kamer	Oscar Ringwood
Toby Luscombe	Peyton Teale





# Arts and Technologies

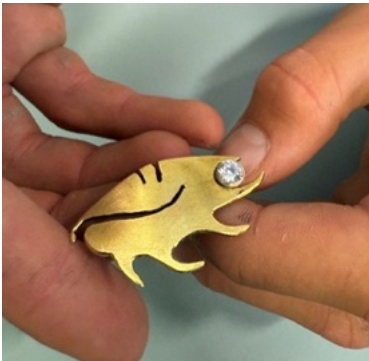
Considering the sudden upheaval from F block, students have managed to transition well into the new Arts Centre and are currently working hard to produce fantastic work exploring a range of themes. The lower school students are exploring their natural environment looking closely at what surrounds us and how we interact with the ecosystem. They have observed and painted elements from the environment, plants and insects, becoming aware of the little things that make up our surroundings.

Students are also exploring elements of nature in Jewellery and developing skills that will equip them to create more complex designs in the future.

Arts and Technologies cater for creative thought, including originality, problem solving, the understanding of complex issues. Art making is a powerful way to express ourselves and it can hold strong emotions which are often hard to communicate with words. There is an emphasis on cultural understandings, recycling, environmental issues and insights of the self and others. Students have the opportunity to use technology to create their artwork and use elements of nature to help create final mixed media designs.

We look forward to the end of the Term to admire completed works.

**Written by Ms Felipe and Ms Biggins**



# Design and Technology

This term, our Design & Technology students have taken on an inspiring sustainability challenge, addressing a critical need in our environment. Decades of land clearing have left many native bird species—ranging from tiny parrots and boobook owls to the endangered Carnaby's Cockatoos—struggling to find suitable nesting hollows.

In partnership with BirdLife Midwest, the students have been crafting custom-designed nesting boxes in various sizes to support these incredible birds. Using recycled materials, they've built sturdy, eco-friendly boxes equipped with internal ladders and durable hardwood entrances. Each box is carefully finished to blend seamlessly into the natural surroundings, ensuring they are not only functional but also long-lasting.

Throughout the project, the students have dived in with enthusiasm, mastering valuable skills such as reading working drawings, precise measuring and marking, safe use of power tools, and assembly techniques.

Congratulations to our Design & Technology classes for their creativity, dedication, and contribution to a healthier ecosystem! Keep up the fantastic work.

**Written by Mr Niemeyer**



# Food Technology

## Year 8s Earn Their Licence to Cook!

Building on the skills they developed in Year 7 through the OzHarvest FEAST program, our Year 8 students are once again stepping into the Food Technology room—this time for the Licence to Cook program!

Each week, students refine their practical kitchen skills while also diving deeper into nutrition education. They explore the Australian Government's Eatwell Guidelines, learning how to make informed food choices for themselves. From decoding food labels to modifying recipes for better nutrition, students are developing the skills to create balanced, healthy meals.

This week, students have put their learning to the test in an assessed practical task to earn their Licence to Cook certificate. Demonstrating their safety awareness, technical skills, and presentation techniques, they've showcased just how much they've grown as confident and capable young cooks.





# School Production

## Term One Has Soared Into Action with a Touch of Magic in Drama!

We're thrilled to announce that auditions for this year's school musical, Peter Pan, have officially kicked off – and what an incredible start it's been! With a record-breaking number of students eager to take part, the energy around this production is absolutely buzzing.

Rehearsals will begin in Week 6, and both students and staff are excited to bring this magical story to life.

The performance is set for early in Term 3, and we can't wait to share more updates as we continue our journey to Neverland. Stay tuned for behind-the-scenes sneak peeks and exciting news leading up to the big show!

**Written by Ms Clarkson**





# Year 7 STEP Day



The first Year 7 STEP Day (*Seven Towards Eight Program*) was held on Friday, 28 March.

This program will take place three times throughout the year, with each day focused on reinforcing the school's four core values: Inclusivity, Respect, Perseverance, and Responsibility. These STEPIN days also provide students with the opportunity to work in gender-based groupings, helping them develop social, emotional, and age-appropriate resilience skills.

The day began with a hike along the Greenough River Trail, setting the tone for an active and engaging experience. After recess, students participated in a study skills workshop, led by Renee Olsen from the Geraldton Universities Centre, where they learned how to study effectively and utilise the Dalton Plan.

To conclude students were engaged by Mr Royce getting a better understanding of the history of Geraldton Grammar.

The students had a great day, and I must commend all the year 7s on a great start to the year! Well done.

**Mr Chad Greenaway**  
Year 7 and 8 Coordinator





# Young Writers

This term, our talented young writers from Years 6, 7, and 8 had the exciting opportunity to participate in creative writing workshops with renowned Fremantle-based author Deb Fitzpatrick. Known for writing books for 'adventurous kids with big hearts,' Deb has authored 11 books for readers of all ages, some of which have received awards in Australia, been published in the US, and even optioned for film. Her forthcoming novel, *Tawny Trouble* (2025), follows *Kelpie Chaos* (2024).

With a Master of Arts in Creative Writing from UWA, Deb regularly teaches writing to both children and adults, drawing inspiration from real-life stories to spark creativity and imagination. Her visit left students engaged and inspired to continue honing their storytelling skills, eagerly anticipating their next author workshop.

A special thank you to The Literature Centre in Perth for organising these wonderful experiences for our students!



# Have Sum Fun

The Have Sum Fun Mathematics Competition hosted by the Mathematics Association of Western Australia was hosted in Geraldton for the second consecutive year. Teams from schools in the Geraldton area race against the clock to solve four intense rounds of eight challenging problems. The student's resilience and perseverance was on full display with the year 7/8 teams achieving 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place and the year 9/10 achieving 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Congratulations to all students who took part in the event.

Students who participated:

**Year 7:** Arian Kamer, Keandra Ramaish, Kai Bassett-Scarfe, Beswin Biju, Isabel Taylor, Coden Spencer.

**Year 8:** Angus Harrop, Blake Wills, Wesley Brown, Rawley Duperouzel, Jasmin Nicholson, Luba Ndiweni

**Year 9:** Aarav Singh Dhillon, Alex McAlpine, James Taylor, Felix Andrews, Miriam Beckett, Hannah Antony

**Year 10:** Isaac Gamble, Levi Beckett, Sahar Chowdhury, Eva Mellow, Xavier Shiosaki, Pippa Lin





# Zones of Regulation

For the last three weeks, students in Years 7 and 8 PDP classes have participated in a crash course in the Zones of Regulation. This program is aimed at allowing students to identify how they are feeling and to acknowledge when the feelings they are experiencing may not be good for their wellbeing.

They have looked at the four zones and the feelings associated with each zone: blue, green, yellow and red. While ALL feelings are valid, they understand that it is not good for us to be in a particular zone for too long a period of time.

They identified and categorised a myriad of different feelings and considered scenarios and triggers which may involve these feelings.

Each student now has a personal toolkit that they can look to when their feelings are out-of-sorts which can help them feel well more of the time. Some of these include opening up lines of communication with a peer or someone who can support or listen to their thoughts, taking a walk, eating healthy food, taking a drink, etc.

Students are now more confident to open up about their feelings and support each other in ways which help their overall well-being.



## 2024 Volunteer of the Year Awards



In late 2024, our Year 11 and 12 students were nominated for two awards at the Centacare 2024 Volunteer of the Year Awards for their volunteering efforts during Camps Week. As a part of their service component of camps week the students attended the Greenough Museum and Gardens for 2 days to do gardening and maintenance work.

On Thursday 5 December, after Speech Day, 5 of our student leaders attended the awards ceremony on behalf of the school where they were commended for their work in the categories of:

- Youth-involving Organisation of the year**
- Volunteer-involving Organisation of the year**

Thank you to Freya Bergen, Jack Ward, Millie Graziadelli, Roaa Elgamal and Jameson Nolan for attending this special event where a number of local community organisations and people were recognised for their efforts. The students were able to make contacts and consider other opportunities to provide a service to their community. Well done to all involved.



# Term 1 in the Library

As we wrapped up Term 1, the library was abuzz with activity. From National Women's Week celebrations to Easter traditions, and from genre to exam preparation, it was a busy and productive start to the year.

As the term progressed, students settled into routines, and the library became a hub of activity during lunch. With many students using this time to study, work on projects, or simply relax with a book, the library was a hive of productivity and focus.

## **National Women's Week Celebrations**

To commemorate National Women's Week, we showcased books and resources highlighting the achievements and contributions of women in various fields. Students explored the stories of trailblazing women who paved the way for future generations, and we encouraged discussions about the importance of equality and empowerment.

## **Easter and Traditions**

As Easter approached, we welcomed the season with festive decorations and activities. Students enjoyed traditional Easter-themed stories, and we shared stories about the cultural significance of Easter in different parts of the world.

## **Genre**

Students dove into the world of Australian genre, exploring the unique characteristics of Australian settings and animals. We talked about the ways in which Australian genres reflect the country's diverse culture, history, and landscapes.

## **Author Spotlights: Alison Lester and Graeme Base**

We also highlighted the works of two renowned Australian authors: Alison Lester and Graeme Base. Students learned about Lester's beloved characters, such as Bridget and Camilla, and explored the imaginative worlds created by Base in his picture books.

## **Lots of Study Happening**

Throughout the term, the library became a popular spot for students to study and prepare. The library offers a quiet and supportive environment, and many students took advantage of the resources and study spaces.

## **A Hive During Lunch**

During lunch, the library was bustling with students playing chess, reading, or simply socialising with friends. It was great to see students making the most of their time and using the library as a hub for both academic and social activities.

## **Reading Statistics**

By the end of Week 9, students had borrowed an impressive 4260 books in total. This is a testament to the students' love of reading and the library's role in supporting their academic and recreational reading habits.

Overall, Term 1 in the library was a busy and productive start to the year, with a range of activities and events that supported student learning and engagement. We're looking forward to an equally exciting and productive Term 2.

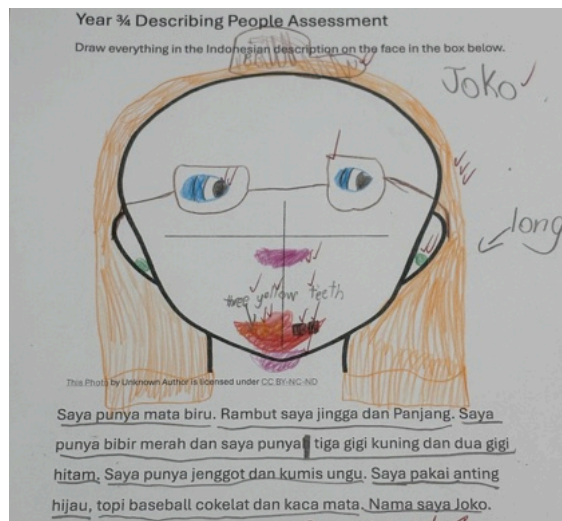
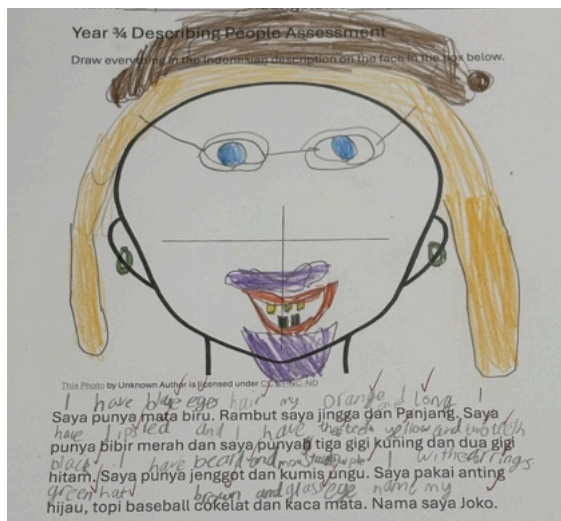
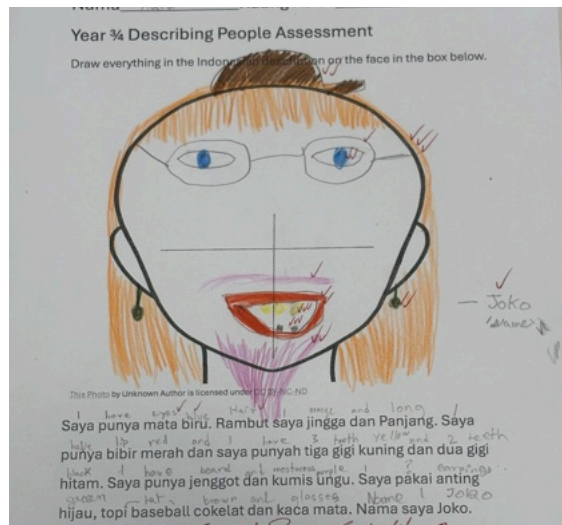
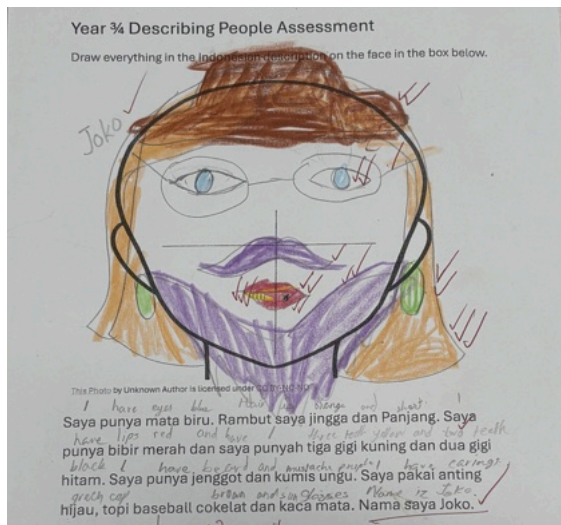




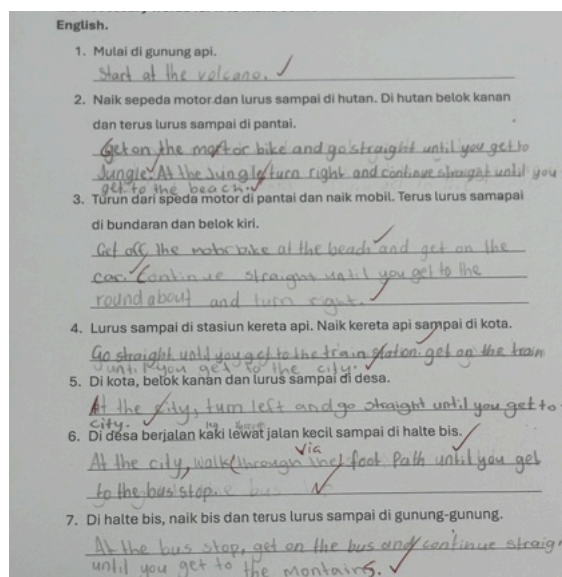
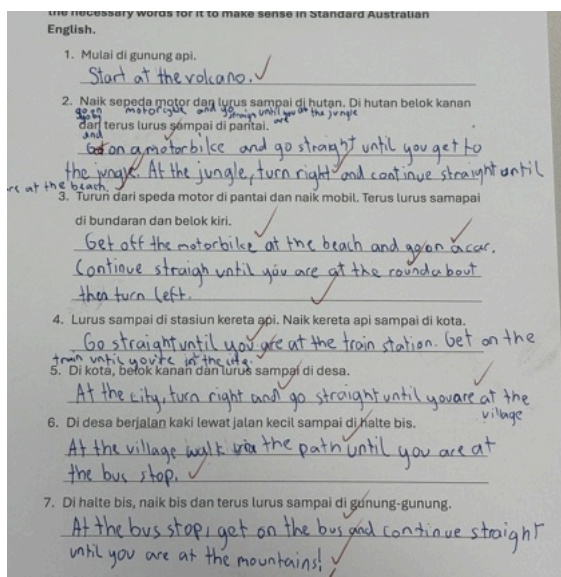


# Indonesian – Student Spotlight

Year 3/4 have been working on describing people by learning the parts of the face, colours, adjectives, and some accessories. For the translating assessment, students were asked to use their memory for the high frequency language and the context to determine the meaning of the text before using a two-language dictionary to complete the task.



Year 5/6 have been working on a mapping unit that consists of forms of transport, directions, landmarks, and infrastructure. For the translating assessment, students were asked to use their memory for the high frequency language and the context to determine the meaning of the text before using a two-language dictionary to complete the task.





# Mandarin

As a part of the cultural study outcome for the Chinese classes, the students researched different Chinese cultural festivals. Some of these included the Ghost Festival, The Dragon Festival and Chinese New Year. A lot of effort went in to putting these together and the students enjoyed creating visual presentations and presenting them to the classes.





# Primary Music

Our most exciting news in Music in the primary school is the emerging success of our singing initiative. Ms McGrath, with fantastic support from classroom teachers, is trialling the concept of 'sing every day'. A song is selected to be performed at each next assembly and students get to have a brief singing session each day with their class teachers, and in their music lessons before it is then performed in community at the next assembly. The program is designed to support not only confidence in singing for boys and girls equally, but also good social emotional wellbeing.

## **SINGSTARS (CHOIR)**

Choir numbers have increased this year and confidence levels are high. These students are working on breath control and articulation skills as well as building a repertoire. Look for them on one of next terms assemblies and at the Geraldton Music Festival. We are particularly pleased to see that a number of boys have joined us this year. New members are still welcome. Rehearsals are on Wednesday mornings 7:50 – 8:30am.

## **WINDSTARS BAND**

As you can see from the photo this group is VERY popular this year. As this goes to print, I am getting ready to send these instruments home with the students so they can really take their learning to the next level. I have been so impressed with the children's level of commitment. Many have turned up for several lunchtime lessons each week early on in the term so they could learn more notes and produce a musical sound. We have had to borrow music stands from the high school to cater for our numbers, and the group is certainly learning some teamwork skills while we learn how to manage instruments, chairs and music stands for our rehearsals. This group will also perform in the Geraldton Music Festival later in the year along with the high school groups.



Windstars Band



Singstars (Choir)



# Senior Music

The Instrumental Music Program has had a great start in 2025. The new lesson schedule in the secondary school has been welcomed by the students, and the ensembles are hard at work, perfecting their repertoire. The level of musicianship across the program continues to improve each year, particularly with the new year 5 students: a clear result of the successful Windstars Band in the Primary School. Our newest band, the Guitar Ensemble, is making great progress and we will soon be able to relaunch the Rock Band made up of our strongest vocalists, guitarists, bassists, pianists, and drummers. The students are already preparing for their first major performance of the year: the Geraldton Music Festival, which will be hosted at Geraldton Grammar School on the 26 and 27 of June.

Beginning in 2025, students in one of the school's senior ensembles are awarded a music badge to display on their uniform. This badge acknowledges the commitment to their instrument and the quality of musicianship that the students must demonstrate in order to be chosen for the Senior Concert Band, Jazz Band, or Rock Band. Each of these ensembles will also be led by a captain who has demonstrated the capacity to direct other students in their playing, professionalism, and organisation. The 2025 ensemble captains are Taylor Penney – Senior Concert Band, and Levi Beckett – Jazz Band.



Senior Concert Band



Taylor Penney – Senior Concert Captain  
and Levi Beckett – Jazz Band Captain



Music Badge, Awarded to the  
Senior the senior ensembles.



Jazz Band



# Netball Incursion

On Wednesday, 2 April, Geraldton Grammar School hosted Quinns Baptist College, Geraldton Christian College, Champion Bay Senior High School and Geraldton Senior High School for an afternoon of Netball games. GGS had two Year 8 teams, two Year 9/10 teams and one Year 11/12 team who competed with excellent sportsmanship and skills.

A big thank you to the following students who volunteered to umpire and score throughout the day: Samantha Scott, Isla Quirke, Tanna Parker, Grace Earl, Matilda McCabe and Molly Sheerer.

Another big thank you to our amazing staff Mrs Jefferies, Miss Knight, Mrs Halford, Miss Mills and Mrs Opalinski for coaching and umpiring our students in the very hot conditions.

We are all looking forward to competing in the Midwest Netball Carnival in Term 2.





# Student News



## Making a Splash at the Junior State Championships!

Congratulations to our Geraldton Grammar School students who represented the School at the 2025 Western Australian Junior State Championship held in Perth over the weekend. Pictured (left to right) are Lyla Evans, Oliver White, Molly Evans, and George Giudice, alongside their coach Mary Lynas. All four swimmers delivered outstanding performances and achieved new personal bests across their events.

Lyla competed in the girls 9yrs 50m and 100m freestyle, and 50m and 100m backstroke; Oliver in the boys 12yrs 50m, 100m, and 200m freestyle; and George in the boys 13yrs 50m, 100m, 200m, and 400m freestyle. Molly had an impressive weekend in the girls 12yrs division, competing in seven events and earning silver medals in both the 50m and 200m breaststroke. Well done to all on their achievements and for proudly representing Geraldton Grammar School.



## Jasmine Scores Big in Basketball and Surf Life Saving

Congratulations to Jasmine Breese in Year 4 for her recent sporting achievements outside of school. At her end-of-season presentations in March, Jasmine was awarded the Coaches Award for the Under 12's Rockets team in the Dongara Basketball Association.

She was also named Champion for the Under 9's in the 2024/25 Woodside Nippers program at the Dongara Denison Surf Lifesaving Club. Well done, Jasmine, on your dedication and success across multiple sports!

## Shooting for Success!

Congratulations to Jemima Beagley and Lucy McCartney for recently representing the Buccaneers in the Under 12's Basketball State Championships. Their team had a fantastic season, finishing as runners-up at the State Championships and taking out the win at the Country Championships.

A special mention to Lucy, who was also named the runner-up leading point scorer for the Buccaneers at the State Championships. Well done to both girls on their outstanding achievements!





# Student News

## Luke Represents Geraldton at State Teeball Championships

The State Teeball Championships have been running since 1974 and is held every long weekend in March in Perth. It attracts more than 80 representative teams of both boys and girls, representing about 30 clubs from metropolitan and country regions across WA, in 5 age groups and many divisions. Luke was selected by the Geraldton Softball Association to represent Geraldton in the U11's team. The team played 5 games of Teeball over the March long weekend, and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall which was a fantastic effort.



## Callum Makes waves in Kalbarri

Over the weekend of April 5–6, Callum Sojan took on the Kalbarri Jetty Surf Frothin Fools surf comp, a two-day event that draws surfers from all over the state.

Competing in the 18 & Under division, Callum held his own against some tough talent and came away with an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish!

Awesome work, Callum!

## Making Waves On and Off the Beach!

A big congratulations to the many Geraldton Grammar School students who were recognised at the recent Geraldton Surf Life Saving Club season wind-up. Award winners included Hallie Gamble, Isaac Gamble, Matteya Hasnain, Oliver Nelson, Quinlan Nelson, Lillia Nelson, Lankesh Jayakody, Samara Penney, Mason Kennedy, Hudson Kennedy, Aria Kennedy, Eli Brook, Ziggy Gould, Violet Taylor, Aiden Nicholson, and Tom van der Merwe.

While Surf Life Saving involves competition, it is primarily focused on community service, with an emphasis on voluntary beach patrols and teaching young people essential skills in beach safety and helping others. Well done to all students for their commitment and contributions both in and out of the water.





# Student News



## **Congratulations – Aerin Scatena Junior Girl Geraldton Softball Association MVP**

Aerin has been the talk of the competition this season, impressing not only her own club but also other clubs with her exceptional skills and sportsmanship. Her passion, dedication, and commitment to the sport have been evident in every game.

Playing in all three grades (Juniors, Div 1 & 2) this season and travelling to Perth to play in the Junior Championships, everyone is excited to see where her softball journey takes her next.

## **Student Spotlight: Nicole Chamberlain**

We're proud to cheer on Nicole Chamberlain, who is set to compete in the 2025 Australian Open and U20 Athletics Championships next week!

Nicole will be taking on the 3000m Steeplechase, a demanding event that tests endurance, strength, and determination.

This is an incredible achievement, and we wish Nicole all the very best



## **Saddling Up for Success: GGS Equestrian Team Heads to Competition**

Best of luck to our Interschool Equestrian Team, who will be competing at the State Championships in Perth from April 13-16!

We are incredibly proud of our talented riders – Aerin Scatena, Ashlee Blake, Bronte Butt, and Isabelle Dewar – who will be representing Geraldton Grammar School with skill and sportsmanship.

Go team GGS!



## **Have something to share?**

We love celebrating our students' successes! Whether they've excelled academically, creatively, or in extracurricular activities, we'd love to hear about it. Please send a brief description and a photo of their achievement to [ggs@ggs.wa.edu.au](mailto:ggs@ggs.wa.edu.au) so we can celebrate their accomplishments with our community.



RESPECT  
RESPONSIBILITY  
INCLUSIVITY  
PERSEVERANCE





APRIL 2025



GERALDTON  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL