



Geraldton Senior College

November 2015

Greetings!

The first four weeks of Term 4 have certainly been a time of celebration! As you will read in the following pages there have been many functions celebrating the success of individual students, groups of students, current staff and retired staff. Congratulations to all of those mentioned for your outstanding achievements.

Change is also in the air. Our Year 12s have departed with dignity, as expected. The Year 11s are now the senior students and have been encouraged to demonstrate their responsibility and leadership skills. They are busy completing their course requirements and preparing for exams. I look forward to recognising this group of students at their assembly on Tuesday 24 November. The Year 10 students are also busy working towards the end of the year and will soon have their course selections confirmed for 2016. In week 7 we will welcome the Year 9 students from John Willcock to our College for a transition week.

The recent announcement regarding changes to the secondary school model has been welcomed. Details of the changes that are known at this point

The Link Newsletter

are outlined on our website. There is a link on the email accompanying this newsletter or on the front page of our website (gsc.wa.edu.au). The staff at Geraldton Senior College look forward to welcoming Year 7 students to our school from 2019. The allocation of \$5 million to improve the school facilities is also exciting.

The process to select a new Principal for 2016 is underway. At the time of distribution of this newsletter the successful candidate has not been announced. When this information is available we will use our numerous methods of communication to inform the school community.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for parent support to ensure all students maintain a high level of attendance and engagement up until the very last day of school. Thank you for your anticipated support.

I hope you all have a productive and rewarding time as we work towards the close of another school year.

Regards,
Alana Carson
Principal



Upcoming Events

Monday 16 - 20 November
Year 11 Exams

Monday 23 November - 4 December
Year 10 Transition

Wednesday 25 - 27 November
ATAR Camp

Monday 14 - 17 December
Enrichment Week

Thursday 17 December
Year 10 Final Assembly and last day of the school year for students

Monday 1 February 2016
First day of Term 1



2015 Valedictory Ceremony & Awards

On Monday 26 October over 200 students celebrated the completion of Year 12 with their friends, family and school community.

Many students received awards for their academic achievement, leadership, dedication to learning, work ethic, sportsmanship and contribution to the local community.

The staff at Geraldton Senior College wish these students all the best with their future endeavours and look forward to hearing about their success in the beginning of adult life.



Aliesha Williams
Rotary VET Dux



Alysse Kelly
Rotary VET Dux (Runner Up)



Lacey Renner
P&C College ATAR Dux



Chloe Huismann
P&C College ATAR Dux (Runner Up)



Mariah McAullay
Student Leadership Award



Erin Dawson
Augustus Gregory Award



Max Craft
Augustus Gregory Award



Zoe Rowcroft
Sportswoman of the Year



Kyle Harvey
Sportsman of the Year



Sharnee Freeman
Suzette Carr Memorial Citizenship Award



Nadene Zappara
Richard Pym Award

2015 Honour Roll

Awardee	Level	Subject
Kahlee Unbehaun	Excellence	Applied Information Technology
Nyssa Guthrie	Excellence	Business Management & Enterprise
Nadene Zappara	Excellence	Outdoor Education
Kyle Harvey	Excellence	Physical Education Studies
Briannon Don	Excellence	Physical Education Studies
Matthew Saxby	Excellence	Materials Design & Technology – Metals
Lachlan Gray	Excellence	Materials Design & Technology – Wood
Jack Baker	Excellence	Building & Construction
Melany Beardmore	Excellence	Mathematics
Brooke Taylor	Excellence	Mathematics
Siena Raven	Excellence	Mathematics
Sean Chadwick	Excellence	Mathematics
Thomas Walker	Excellence	Mathematics
Ashik Joseph	Commendation	Mathematics
Lacey Renner	Excellence	Mathematics
Lacey Renner	Excellence	Mathematics Specialist
Maxwell Craft	Excellence	Ancient History
Rachael Blundell	Excellence	Ancient History
Nena Sawyer	Commendation	Modern History
Briannon Don	Commendation	Geography
Lacey Renner	Excellence	Chemistry
Brody Attwater	Commendation	Physics
Briannon Don	Excellence	Human Biological Science
Siena Raven	Commendation	Biological Science
Lacey Renner	Excellence	Biological Science
Carlos Antonio	Excellence	Design – Graphics
Aleisha Williams	Excellence	Design – Photography
Olivia Murfit	Commendation	Western Art Music
Darcy Etherton	Excellence	Visual Art
Nena Sawyer	Commendation	Visual Art
Jaimee Clarke	Commendation	Food Science and Technology – Hospitality
Mariah McAullay	Excellence	English
Nena Sawyer	Excellence	English
Rebecca Parfitt	Highest Achiever	Warlugurra Walgamanyulu
Kobi Quartermaine	Highest Achiever	Gigaman Gawala

Presented at the
Leavers Assembly



Sharnee Freeman
Integrity Award



Briannon Don
ECU Year 12 Personal Excellence



Olivia Murfit
ADF Long Tan Teamwork
& Leadership Excellence Award



Sean Chadwick
Westscheme Award for Excellence
in Vocational Education & Training
gsc.wa.edu.au • phone 08 9965 8400 • geraldtonsenior.college@education.wa.edu.au



William Barrett
Freemasons VET Award



Logan MacGregor
Caltex All Rounder

Leavers Celebrations Final Assembly

Emotions ran high at the recent Leavers Assembly where, in the end, we said farewell to our Year 12 students, families and friends.

The assembly captured the essence of recent events and included awards, speeches and words of wisdom from the 2015 Student Leaders, and the Change of Custodianship including the introduction of the 2016 Student Leaders and House Captains. We heard encouraging messages from guest speaker Mat Dwyer, enjoyed musical entertainment from a variety of talented students and a heart-warming farewell to our recently retired Principal Mr Simmons.

The most anticipated moment by the Year 12 students was the traditional procession at the end of the assembly where they would leave the gymnasium for the final time as a student. Outside, it was a memorable moment for friends to catch a last photo together.



Leavers Celebrations Leavers Lunch

After the Leavers Assembly, groups of Year 12 students walked over to the Railways Football Club to enjoy a final lunch together. Fun awards were handed out, keeping the spirits up with hilarious times.



**Forgot to order
your yearbook?
It's not too late!**

Drop into the front reception area at Geraldton Senior College to complete a form and pre-pay for your copy of the 2016 Yearbook.

You can choose to collect your copy or have it posted to you when it is released in early February 2016. Don't miss out!

Fishful Thinking

A selection of starter sentences to assist your young person (and maybe yourself) to identify a few key take aways from the year and set a few goals for the summer ahead.

- What were a few of your successes this past year? What skills or strengths did you use to bring them about?
- What were some of your favourite moments this year? What made them so special for you?
- What are a few things you learned about yourself?
- What are you most proud of having done this past year?
- What was a challenge that you overcame? How did you do it?
- What parts of yourself did you rely on?
- Who did you get close to this year? What makes that relationship especially important to you?
- What are a few things you want to build on this summer? What are some specific goals you can set for each area?

Sourced by Deb Muscio at the GSC Health Centre and reproduced with permission from Dr Karen Reivich - Fishful Thinking

Earlier this year, nine students in Year 10 began an extra-curricular activity. The students wanted to learn more about becoming a lawyer and what happens in a court of law. During the year, and specifically for this activity, Mock Trials were put on and all of the students took part in the trials. Competitions were held against Geraldton Grammar School and Morawa Agriculture School. Simon Keemink, teacher and organiser of the Mock Trials, announced, "We came second in the competition to Geraldton Grammar School and hope to go one better next year!" The students were very engaged in all aspects of the activity. Keelan, a participating student, explains, "I really enjoyed meeting the coaches and learning from them. I loved working in such a close team to bring down the opposing team."

Some of the trials investigated cases such as assault causing bodily harm (stabbing with a fork) and stealing a push bike. Witness statements were collected as evidence. All of the students believe that this course was very eye opening and a great experience. Many law skills were learned along with how to practise many of the law job roles. "I really enjoyed this mock trial ex-

perience and it has widened my choices for what I want to do as a career," says Keavy, one of the students.

"One thing I enjoyed about the Mock trial was working with Mr Keemink, he is a champion!" remarks Sammi. Mr Keemink helped the students come together with court visits and debriefs to bring the program together. Huge thanks to the Geraldton Resource Centre for mentoring the students and Kate Turtley-Chappel from the Midwest and Gascoyne Regional Office for organising the trials. Also a lot of gratitude to the teachers who let the students leave their class to practise for the trials.

By Keavy Hallgarth and Emma Clark



Midwest Clontarf Academy Awards



Recently the Midwest Clontarf Academy held the annual Academy Awards night. The venue was packed to the rafters with students, family members, staff and partners. The night was one of the best awards night we have held and was a great way to send off our graduating Year 12 students. We were also able to thank and reward all participating members for their efforts throughout 2015.

Attendance awards were handed out to the students with the best school and morning training attendance for each year, and these winners were:

Attendance Award

Les Curley (Year 10)
Rylie Petersen (Year 11)
Xaviour Prunster (Year 12)

Each year group had an opportunity for all members to come up on stage together as we went through the Year Group Awards. This consisted of an Encouragement Award to the student who always tries hard and has shown improvement.

Encouragement Award

Wes Ward (Year 10)
Zayika Baumgarten (Year 11)
Keenan Poland (Year 12)

The Most Outstanding and Runner Up Most Outstanding students are the best Midwest Clontarf Academy stu-

dents in attendance, morning trainings and overall commitment to the program. The following students were award winners:

Most Outstanding Award (Runner Up)

Kingsley Dawson (Year 10)
Aiden Wainwright (Year 11)
Zenash Kelly (Year 11)
Denzel Allan (Year 11)
Declan Comeagain (Year 12)

Most Outstanding Award

Damian Taylor (Year 10)
Ethan Taylor (Year 11)
David Moore (Year 12)

We also give out an Employment Award to the student who demonstrates himself as the most 'work ready' student within the Year 12 cohort.

Employment Award

David Moore

The Spirit of Clontarf is another prestigious award which is given to a student who most demonstrates the Academy values throughout the year. This can be a student who may have struggled at times and had to really force himself to think about our values and then make a conscious decision about his choices, or it could be just a great young man who always strives to do his best regardless.

Spirit of Clontarf Award

Dion Dann

Our Final award was the Academic Award, which goes to the student who has put his head down in the classroom all year and performed well across the Year 12 curriculum set out by his teachers and this year the worthy winner was:

Academic Award

Kobi Quartermaine

As I mentioned earlier it was an amazing night with some very deserving winners and some unlucky lads that just missed out. We now look forward to the remainder of this year and then move on and do it all again in 2016. The staff and students at the Midwest Clontarf Academy would like to thank everybody that has helped out or participated in anything and everything that we have done throughout the year.

Dale Baynes
Clontarf Foundation
Midwest Academy



Geraldton Bands Spectacular

GSC @ Showcase

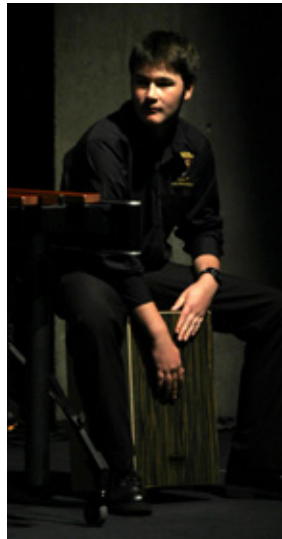
Over 270 students and staff from schools across the Midwest came together to perform At the QPT on Friday 23rd October for Showcase.

Geraldton Senior College was the only senior school to participate, and presented a dance from Year 10 and 11 Dance students. Thanks to Tessa, Sharae and Aimee for providing vocals and live music along with the Flute Ensemble.

All acts were very successful and received a lot of positive feedback from members of the audience and people from other schools.

Also thanks to students working behind the scenes: Chloe, Milli, Alora and Aimee for their help backstage and photographers Chadre, Tahleah, Molly and Keelan.

Jo Corlett, Teacher



The date was 31 October, Halloween, a perfect motif to what was a scarily awesome performance. It wasn't the cold that gave the audience goose bumps but the sheer scale of talent that was witnessed.

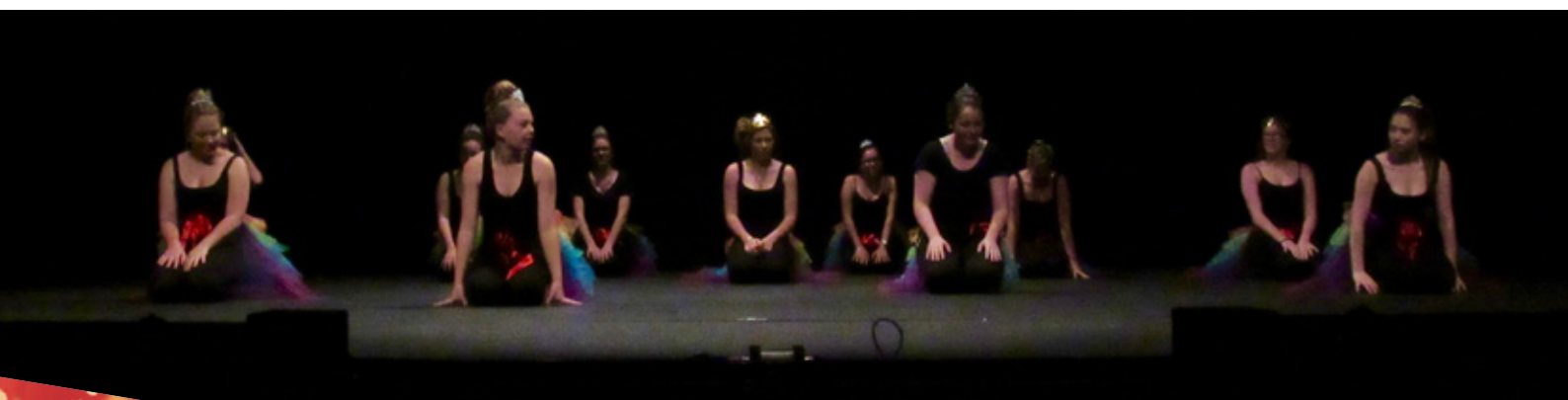
Bands from across Geraldton and as far away as Morawa came together to entertain a full house at the Queens Park Theatre. Bands included: Geraldton Senior College Concert Band, Geraldton Schools Training Band, John Willcock College Concert Band, Geraldton Grammar School Concert Band, Morawa District High School Brass Band, Geraldton City Band and collectively the Massed Band which consisted of around 260 musicians!

Geraldton Senior College also delighted the crowd with pre-concert entertainment from our Jazz Band and during the interval the wonderful Tessa Maynard was again a crowd favorite. I know they are blossoming under the help of Tim Stewart, Daniel Connor, Anne Williams, Greg McMurdo, Leonie Courtney and Melanie Penny.

Our Year 12 SIM students were recognized for their work and effort this year. Congratulations Brandon Mark, Olivia Murfit, Teri Adams, Matt Mills, Nena Sawyer and Zoe Rowcroft.

All bands, teachers, conductors, and students presented a really professional concert that I, for one, thoroughly enjoyed and will remember. Well done to all involved! Cannot wait until next year!

Katie Hood, Photography Teacher



Midwest Education Awards

Congratulations to the staff who were nominated and recognised for their efforts at the Midwest Education Awards.

Edie Maher, Ben Puzzar and the Year 10 Leadership program were nominated for excellence, commitment and improving the outcomes for students at Geraldton Senior College

Pictured right (clockwise): Edie Maher - Midwest Excellence in Teaching and Learning in Aboriginal Education

Cameron Todd for the Year 10 Leadership program - Midwest Outstanding Initiative for Aboriginal Students

Ben Puzzar - Midwest Education Week - Geraldton Senior College Awardee



Is your child at school today? An important reminder for parents

If your child will not be at school please send an SMS to 0407 081 344 or phone the Student Services area directly on 08 9965 8415 with the reason for the absence. As per Department of Education policy, an explanation is required for each day (or part thereof) that a student is absent from school.

If you are collecting your child during school hours, please provide a note to be given to their Form teacher. All students leaving Geraldton Senior College

must have a note or phone call from a legal guardian before a leave pass will be issued. For safety reasons, it is not permitted for students to meet a parent off school grounds unexplained.

If your child is not feeling well, we encourage him or her to let the teacher know, get a note and visit the Student Services area before contacting home. As this is our policy, we ask students to respect this process. At Student Services, your child can visit the School Health Nurse

or have a rest so that they can possibly return to class. Our School Health Nurse is available Monday to Wednesday and Thursday mornings. This process helps the staff at Student Services help your child by giving the opportunity to follow up where required.

Amanda Sheehan, Student Services



Statements and Fees

A friendly reminder to those who have outstanding accounts with the school. While some of our students have completed or will do so shortly, staff are still here to accept payment of outstanding accounts.

Also, please be aware that debts from previous years are cumulative and will be added to the charges next year. Prompt payment of accounts helps optimise resourcing for students.

We understand that some families may not be able to pay the fees outright but we are happy to arrange payment plans to break payments down to weekly, fortnightly or monthly to suit your needs.

Please make contact with our Finance Officer Janette Baker to discuss how much may be owing and to discuss payment options. We accept a variety of payment methods including cash, cheque, EFTPOS, credit card and EFT payments.

Happy Retirement

It's difficult to sum up a 45-year career in public education in one Saturday afternoon. Many community members and Department of Education staff came together to officially send-off Mr Garry Simmons into a new world of retirement. People who shared time with Mr Simmons at various portions of his career spoke about their experiences and wished him well.

Not everyone who spends so much time in a job or career gets such a send off but for someone who has made an impact on so many lives, it was important to commemorate the occasion.

"Having been privileged to participate in the Leavers Assembly, Luncheon, Residential College and Academy presentations as well as the retirement function I leave with incredibly satisfying thoughts about my time as GSC Principal," said Mr Simmons.

We wish you all the best, Mr Simmons!



VETiS Awards

Many of our students involved in the Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) program gathered at an award ceremony. It was presented by Durack Institute of Technology and recognised students as well as employers for their efforts and contributions to another successful year of giving students the opportunity to gain a Certificate while studying at high school. Students were nominated from other high schools in Geraldton and Carnarvon. Congratulations to the following Geraldton Senior College nominees:

Aboriginal Vocational Student of the Year

Zamaria Councillor
Tamara Dalgety

Employment Based Training Student of the Year

Zamaria Councillor

Certificate II VETiS Student of the Year

Sean Chadwick
Alex Cornish
Thomas Walker

Certificate III (or higher) VETiS Student of the Year

Skye Alexander
Kymberly Bowden
Alysse Kelly
Bianca Stoner

Congratulations to Sean Chadwick and Alysse Kelly who won in their categories and again to Sean Chadwick who was the winner of the 2015 Midwest & Gascoyne VETiS Student of the Year

