

MBCC Newsletter- 14 August 2025

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Principal's Address

Dear Families and Friends of the College,

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter with all of the great information about what students are doing in the college.



This week, Ms Prior, Mr Gribble and Ms Felton all went off to the WASSEA (Secondary Principals) conference to be inspired. Shortly Mrs Smyth will be going to the WAPPA (Primary Principals) conference. We learned lots and look forward to sharing our inspired ideas with you more in future.

All teaching staff and Education Assistants will be going to a combined Professional Learning day in Albany (Primary staff) or Denmark (Secondary staff) on **Friday 15th August - so there will be no**

classes at school on this day, our lovely Front Office staff will be here if you do need to make contact or follow anything up. Students can stay home and do lots of housework and make a lovely dinner for their families.

Please see the new logo for the Combined Public schools in the Great Southern. All the principals



of all the public schools have been working on this for a while. We like the idea of working together in public education to best meet the needs of all students - Mt Barker, Denmark, Cranbrook, Frankland, Bremer Bay, Albany, Walpole, Jerramungup, Borden.... . Growing trees is like growing kids, and the colours entwine together - like public schools work together.

We're happy to share that our school has been chosen to take part in the Minister's Innovation Challenge 2025! Over six weeks in Term 4 (13 October – 21 November), a team of 6–8 of our Year 8 students will work with an industry mentor to tackle a local issue and come up with fresh, creative solutions. They'll pitch their ideas at the end of the Challenge, with the top five teams sharing \$35,000 in prize money. Winners will be announced by the Minister for Education in an online exhibition.

On top of that, thanks to **Jade Maiolo's** successful scholarship application, 20 of our Year 10 students will attend the *It Takes a Spark!* conference in Mandurah next month. Seems like we've got plenty of bright sparks at our college, working hard to be their best!

Book Week is coming - next week . Read the info below and make sure you get your costumes ready for the dress-up day. And most importantly - keep reading!

Ms Leanne Prior

Principal

Primary Home Reading Program



A huge thank you to all the families for cheering on the home-reading program, nurturing a lifelong love for books in our little ones. It's a treasure they'll carry forever. Reading each night, even for just 10–15 minutes, helps build your child's

vocabulary, comprehension, and confidence.

A round of applause for these bookworms who have snagged the BRONZE Award!

Hunter Newey, Lancer Valdez, Layne Evans, Leo Hunt, Makenzie Collins, Reign Taylor, Sabeeya Nawrozi, Sonoah Arthur and Tasman O'Halloran.

Superb job, recipients of the SILVER Reader Award

Hunter Newey, Sarah Swain, Addison Wierobiej, Bronte Sheppard, Jack Edwards, Makenzie Collins, Odette Slade, Sonoah Arthur, Reign Taylor, Cooper Whelan and Gracie Barden.



Go for GOLD! Great work to our GOLD Reader Award winners!

Heath Cave, Machenzie Coleman, Patrick Scherell, Maddie Taylor, Lexi Wood, Daisy Brown, Teddy Marshall, Walker Brown, Eloise Sounness, Duncan Parsons, Harry Bolitho, Eadie Hunter, Kennedy Coleman, Odette Slade, Bronte Sheppard, Mia Jones and Maggie Baker and Jacqueline Webley.

















9/10 Football Carnival









On Tuesday 5 August, we took two teams down to Albany for the 9/10 Football Carnival. We played in good conditions against teams from Albany and Denmark at the Centennial Oval Precinct. The event was well organised and played in good spirits throughout.

Our boys were undermanned due to a range of factors. We lost 7 players which dropped us down to a core group of 11 determined boys. While we had our chances during the day, even leading at half time on a couple of occasions, we couldn't manage a win. By the time the 5th place payoff came around, our boys were pretty cooked, and it showed in the end result. We put together a great first half to be in front by over a goal at halftime, only to be overrun by Denmark in the end. Well done to all the boys and thanks heaps to Evie Waddington for putting up her hand to umpire for the day.

Our girls team was both enthusiastic and largely inexperienced. They were as keen as mustard for the day, and by all accounts they hit the ground running. While the results didn't go their way, they improved throughout the day and pushed ASHS during the final game of the day. We didn't get the choccies, however, the enthusiasm for girls' football in Mount Barker received a massive boost with a team full of muddy girls with big smiles on their faces at the end of the day. Well done to all the girls, and thanks to Logan Miller for umpiring all day.

Thanks to all the people who organised the day, to all of the other teams who lent us players so that our guys could have a game, and also to all of the staff who helped out before and during. We hope to come back bigger and better next year.

Mr Sobey Secondary Phys Ed

Band Tour Report 2025

On Thursday, 7th August, 115 students from Albany Senior High School, North



Albany Senior High School, Denmark Senior High School and Mount Barker Community College went on an adventure to Perth. Students were part of either the Combined Concert Band, two Guitar groups, two Choirs or an Orchestra.

The Albany and Denmark crews came across to MBCC on that morning and we held a combined rehearsal, using the Rec Centre, M Block Undercover Area, the Performing Arts Theatre and Foyer. We thank all of our MBCC staff who were able to use other spaces for the morning!

We then all jumped on the buses and headed towards our first stop – Kojonup District High School. The primary students from KDHS were mesmerised by the orchestra, choir and band performances.

After a lunch break, we continued our journey to our campsite, the Seaside Camp for Children right on the beach at Rockingham. We unpacked and got sorted in our dorm rooms. After a brief team meeting, we headed into Rockingham City to do some very quick shopping and dinner. Students then got to choose between watching 'Jurassic World: Rebirth' and 'How To Train Your Dragon' at the Rockingham Cinema.

We headed back to the camp, tired but full of popcorn and delicious snacks and went to bed, ready for a huge day on Friday.

On Friday morning, we all split up into different groups. The Concert Band students had a rehearsal with Mrs Webster, Ms Warnock and Mr Talbot, in preparation for their performance at the ABODA WA Concert Band Festival in the afternoon, while the Choirs, Guitar groups and Orchestra headed to the Kwinana Senior Citizens Centre to entertain them.

We met up at WAAPA (the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts), and took a tour of the facilities. They're super excited because in 2026, they'll be moving WAAPA to the Perth CBD. We sat in on some classes – our students were quite impressed by the lecture theatres with chairs with built-in desks that slide out of the arms – and watched a few students perform so their lecturer and other students could judge them.

Then we took a tour of the facilities, which are amazing! We saw the theatres and backstage spaces, plus rehearsal rooms, classrooms and lecture theatres – and places for relaxing and eating!

The orchestra, vocal and guitar groups all had special workshops to do at WAAPA, and while they were doing that, the concert band team headed to the University of Western Australia, where the UWA Music students hosted a sausage sizzle lunch for us. We ate lunch in the beautiful Somerville Auditorium, which hosts the Perth Festival Film Season amongst other events. When the rain came down, we hid under the verandahs and then headed off to a rhythm workshop with Paul Tanner, while the orchestra, vocalists and

guitarists worked with specialist teachers in their areas as well.

The concert band team then said farewell to the university and went to Churchlands Senior High



School for the WA Schools' Senior Band Festival. We performed three pieces, 'Hornpipe' with Mrs Webster, 'Into the Unknown' with Ms Warnock and 'Afterburn' with Mr Talbot. The adjudicator was very complimentary about our performance and we await the arrival of our certificate so we can find out our grade!

Once we finished at the Festival, we headed back to the campgrounds and had a pizza dinner (MBCC's Suzie Van had to pick up the pizzas – 54 of them!). Then two different bands came to perform for us – the first was 'Aquila', a string quartet (plus a drummer!) who do fantastic covers of pop and rock songs. They had all the students singing along for their set. The second performers were a funky band called 'Junkadelic', who use a lot of recycled materials to build their instruments. They gave out a bunch of shakers they'd made and students were grooving along throughout.

On Saturday, we got up, packed all our gear, tidied up and headed off back down the highway – tired but very pleased with the amazing camp Ms Warnock had organised. We'd like to thank all of our students for being amazing throughout the camp!

What's next? Well, we're thinking in two years' time, we'll probably aim for taking the Combined Bands to Sydney to perform – why not dream big, right?!

Rhianna Reynolds

Music/LOTE/Drama

Book Week Parade

It's time to get your dress-ups out! Week 5 is Book Week. The Book Week Parade will be held on Friday 22 August at 9am on the Primary courts.

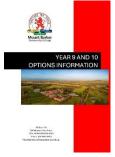


Students will parade

from oldest to youngest. High school students are encouraged to participate as well. We also love to see students bring the book their character is from, or know the title of their book and character. This is such a fun event. We are looking forward to seeing all the creative costumes! Parents are very welcome to come along and share the excitement.

The Children's Book Week theme for 2025 is "Book an Adventure". This theme encourages young readers to explore new worlds, embark on literary journeys, and discover the endless possibilities that books offer. It also celebrates the 80th anniversary of Children's Book Week!

Year 9 and 10 Option Subject Selection - 2026



This week, Mr Gribble met with our Year 8 and 9 students to explain the process for selecting elective subjects for 2026. A form has been sent home with your child. Please complete it and return it to Student Services as soon as possible.

Popular classes fill quickly and are offered on a **first-come**, **first-served** basis, so early submission is key.

We encourage you to review the subjects listed in the <u>Year 9 and 10 Options Information</u> booklet and discuss which courses best align with your child's interests and future goals.

YEAR 9 STUDENTS

In Year 9, it's a great idea to explore a variety of subjects. This approach helps you gain experience in different areas and learn basic skills across multiple fields. Think of it as sampling different subjects to discover what you enjoy and where your strengths lie.

YEAR 10 STUDENTS

When selecting electives in Year 10, consider both your interests and potential career paths. Many of these courses teach valuable skills that will be useful in upper school and can contribute to Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificates, whether at TAFE or MBCC. Some subjects also include competencies that count towards your Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE), giving you a head start for Year 12.

If you have any questions, need guidance, or would like to notify the College that your child will not be attending MBCC in 2026, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your support as we help students build a learning path that suits them best.

All About the Katanning Netball Carnival

The Netball Carnival was played on Friday 1 August.

The A Team was so close to winning the grand final and lost by 4 goals, but we gave it our best shot.



All the Year 6's had a great day playing all the netball games and trying their best.

On the way there, half of us were excited and active, but the other half were tired because we had to leave by 7:30am!!

We had a great time and got back really tired and sore, but it was worth it.

Thank you to the teachers, Mrs de Jonge and Mr Sellenger for making it possible for us to go.

Hayley Post and Connor Beveridge

Year 6 Students

VacSwim Enrolments Now Open

VacSwim is back for the October 2025 and summer 2025–26 school holidays, offering fun



and affordable swimming lessons for children aged 5–17 across WA. Lessons cater for stages 1–16, helping kids build vital water safety and swimming skills.

Each child may enrol in **one October** and **one summer** program. Waitlists are available for families seeking extra sessions.

Key dates:

- Enrolments open: Tuesday 5 August 2025
- October enrolments close: Tuesday 26
 August 2025
- Summer enrolments close: Wednesday 15
 October 2025

Programs run at pools, beaches, and inland waterways, with costs starting from \$16.50 (concessions available). Venue entry fees are not included.

Enrol easily <u>online</u>, or download, print, and post a form before the closing date.

Early Childhood Drop-off and Pickup

With the water damage to the Early Childhood entrance and exit, drop off and pick up has become a little more complicated. The safety of your children is our highest priority, so a quick reminder of how we need the drop-off and pick-up times to flow.

There is one entrance, between the trees, and one exit on the other side of the temporary fencing. Traffic flow is one way only. Please follow the arrows. There are staff on hand to help if you are not sure which way to go.

It is very important that children are not walking unsupervised across traffic flow areas.

Children need to be collected from the footpath area outside the EC building, from the section after the fire hydrant.

We thank you for your patience and care in helping to make these busy times as safe as possible for all.

The Education Minister's Running Challenge is BACK for 2025!

Running for 9 weeks, all WA students can log their running, walking, cycling/scooting and wheelchair activity for a chance to win some amazing prizes.

- Primary school students must log at least 200 minutes throughout the challenge.
- Secondary school students and education staff must log at least 300 minutes.

Register now and get logging! Home - Education Ministers Running Challenge - Department of Education

Families and Volunteers on site at MBCC



We love having parents, carers, and volunteers visit our college to support our students! To keep everyone safe and ensure we know who is on-site in case of an

emergency, we ask that all visitors sign in and out at the Front Office.

When must you sign in?

- Monday to Friday: 8:50 am 3:00 pm
- Wednesdays: 8:50 am 2:20 pm
- Please note that Student Services is not a sign-in point for visitors.

Visits During School Hours

Visitors are permitted on campus during school hours for the following purposes:

- Meetings or appointments
- Parent help

- Paying accounts or seeking information
- Dropping off or collecting items or students

Dropping Off Items or Bringing Students in Late?

If you need to drop off a forgotten lunch, uniform, or bring your child in late, please come to the Front Office.

Please do not proceed directly to classrooms or to Student Services.

What about Assemblies, Book Fairs, Sporting Events and Other Large Group Activities?

You do not need to sign in when you have been invited to a large group event at the college such as an assembly, carnival, or special function.

P&C Meeting Notice

Join us for our next P&C Meeting!

When: Monday 19 August

Time: 6:30pm

Where: College Staffroom

Your ideas, energy, and input make a real difference — we'd love to see you there!

Term 3 Planner

IIII Stay Up to Date with Our Term Planner

Our term planner is now available on our website! You can easily subscribe to our calendars and have important dates automatically sync to your personal device.

Choose from:

- Primary Events
- Secondary Events
- Whole School Events

Visit the calendar page here:



https://mountbarkercommunitycollege.wa.edu.a u/news-term-planner/calendar/



Public Notices

Country to Canberra's 2025 Leadership Competition

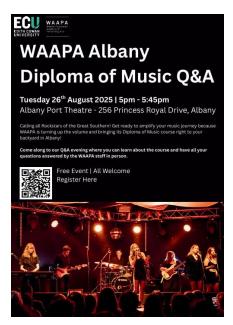


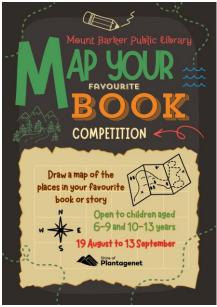
Are you a young person from regional Australia who is passionate about advocating for your community? Country to Canberra wants to hear from you! Country to Canberra's national Leadership Competition is open for 2025 - empowering young women and non-binary people aged 15 to 18 years from regional Australia to reach their leadership potential. Winners will receive an all expenses paid trip to Canberra, where they will mingle with CEOs and politicians, receive career coaching, public speaking training, and networking opportunities

to accelerate their leadership journey. Previous winners have had private meetings with the Prime Minister and other politicians, been trained by TEDx speakers, and completed media training to appear on TV! Is this you or someone you know?

Head to

https://countrytocanberra.com.au/leadershipcompetition-2025/ to find out more!









www. academicgroup.com.au | 08 9314 9500 | learn@academicgroup.com.au





See us at The Mt Barker Community College every fortnight

TERM 3 dates:

MONDAY 4th AUGUST MONDAY 18th AUGUST MONDAY 1st SEPTEMBER
MONDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

Contact **0477 998 798** to secure your spot or email us

Providing physio services for children 0-18yo

- Developmental & milestone review
- Gross motor skill development
- Continence & toileting training assist
- Musculoskeletal assessment
- · Coordination, strength & balance
- Injury assessment and treatment
- Serial casting





mastermind



OCTOBER HOLIDAY EXAM PREPARATION & REVISION PROGAMS

Tuition for all students Year 11 to 12

Week Two 6 October - 10 October Venue - Hale School Week Two 5 October - 10 October Venue - Mt Lawley SHS

The October School Holiday Programs will offer Year 11 & 12 students comprehensive subject revision. These classes assist in preparing students for their Final Exams. *20% school discount per subject*



MASTERMIND AUSTRALIA
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Contact Us

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MOUNT BARKER WA 6324

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Email: MountBarker.CC@education.wa.edu.au

To return forms:

MountBarker.CC.Forms@education.wa.edu.au

Facebook - <u>Mount Barker Community College</u> <u>Western Australia</u>

College Website - <u>Mount Barker Community</u> College Website

MBCC Board

Chairperson - Miles Ebert 0429 083 484 or miles ebert@iinet.net.au

All meetings are open to the public.

MBCC P&C

MBCC Parents and Citizens Association Facebook Page

College Contacts

If parents have any concerns and would like to contact their child's Associate or Deputy Principal, you can contact the college on 9851 5800 or by email below:

Principal

Leanne Prior - K - 12

Leanne.Prior@education.wa.edu.au

Associate Principals

Rebecca Smyth - K-6

Rebecca.Smyth@education.wa.edu.au

Callum Gribble - Year 7-9

Callum.Gribble@education.wa.edu.au

Pamela Felton - Year 10-12

Pamela.Felton@education.wa.edu.au

Deputy Principals

Peter Dines – K-6 (Learning Support Coordinator)

Peter.Dines@education.wa.edu.au

Lisa York - (K-6) PEAC

Lisa.York@education.wa.edu.au