

MBCC Newsletter

- 31 July 2025-



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Principal's Address

Dear Families and Friends
of the College,

Welcome to Term 3!

We're excited to kick off Term 3 and welcome everyone back to Mount Barker Community College, especially our new families who have joined us this semester. We hope you had a refreshing break and took the opportunity to read Semester 1 reports and set some new learning goals with your children.

A big thank you to all the families who attended our recent College Open Afternoon and Memory



Lane in the Library. It was wonderful to have you here, discussing student progress and celebrating the work being produced across the school so far in 2025. We thank Mr Steve Bedford, Mr Jed Law-Davis, and student leaders Max and Ryan for hosting a sausage sizzle that raised over \$400 for our Chaplaincy program.

Book Week – Week 5

Get ready to celebrate the magic of reading during Book Week in Week 5! This year's theme, *Book an Adventure*, invites students and staff to dive into exciting stories and explore new worlds through books. Don't forget, our Dress-Up Day will be on **Friday** of Week 5, so start planning your adventurous costume inspired by your favourite book character. Let the adventure begin!

Winter Weather Reminder

A cold snap is upon us, please ensure students are rugged up in full winter uniform available from Duggins. If needed, check local op shops, which usually have a supply of uniforms and school supplies. You can also check the lost property at school too!

NAPLAN Results

NAPLAN results will be arriving soon and sent home shortly. These results provide valuable insights into student achievement in literacy and numeracy - individually, as a school, and against national benchmarks. We're proud to share that our Year 7 results are currently the highest in the region. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Pupil Free Day

On Friday 15th August all MBCC teachers and EAs will be attending Professional Learning Activities in Denmark or Albany. There will be office staff and all the Science Lab Technicians from the region at MBCC on the day. Please keep students

at home. They can do some extra reading or homework, or can help out their family by cleaning the house and making them a lovely dinner.

Here's to a great term ahead!

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.

Here are some quick tips to make it a habit:



Make it routine – Add reading to your bedtime schedule.



Create a cozy space – A quiet, comfy spot makes reading more enjoyable.



Let them choose – Kids are more likely to read what they find interesting.



Read together – Take turns or read side-by-side for younger and older kids.



Celebrate progress – Praise effort and small milestones.

A few minutes each night can make a big difference and help foster a lifelong love of reading!

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

Lola Tregoning, Faith O'Halloran, Journey Teaia, Hailey Grylls, Hunter Rynbout, Max Marshall, Percy Pieper, Scarlett Hatto, Ayvah Wood, Lena Williams-Zdrzynski, Doreen Duggan, Violet Bolitho, Carter O'Brien and Johana Aayat.

Superb job, recipients of the SILVER Reader Award

Vance Hammond, Scarlett Roberts, West Carroll, Sonya Nawrozi, Audrey Vicedo, Journey Teaia, Tanami Tuia, Hailey Grylls, Max Marshall, Percy Pieper, Miabi Muller, Georgie Roberts, Hamish Hunt and Olivia O'Callaghan.

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

Anna Hunter, Harvey Rowles, Leonard Jenkins, Charlotte White, George Taylor, Kate Frost, Sydney Coleman, Archie Sobey, Judson Sounness, Chayce Griffin-Mendes, Rivalee Jenkins, Nevaeh Tester, Savannah Liebeck, Sonny Rowles, Libby Grylls, Bella Louise Solomon, Charlotte Douglas, Emerson Clements, Evie Taylor, Amara Dale, Hannah Allison, George Lynch, Ava Baker, Leah Hill and Maisy Cook.





Celebrating Excellence at MBCC



Mount Barker Community College is proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students and staff who continue to exemplify excellence.

Mrs Sarah Taylor was recently awarded the 2025 NAIDOC Theme Award by the Southern Aboriginal Corporation, recognising her inspirational leadership and commitment to reconciliation in line with this year's NAIDOC theme of 'Next generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy'. Her work every day has lasting impact on young people, and the people who work with young people. She ensures legacy by embedding cultural understanding into curriculum and practice, strengthens communities through initiatives like the Harmony Garden and the college Yarning circle, and inspires vision by nurturing the next generation of Aboriginal leaders in students and colleagues. Mrs Taylor absolutely embodies this award and we are exceptionally proud of all she does. She builds such a sense of community in our college just by being her brilliant self and encourages all around her to be their best and walk the path of reconciliation side by side.



Our students are also making their mark on state, national and international stages. Waylan Ciobanu represented WA at the

Junior International Athletics Competition in Singapore, winning gold in triple jump with an incredible 12.94m effort. Beau Sobey is dominating the WA Gravity Enduro Mountain Bike Series, crowned 2025 U15 State Champion after four consecutive wins. Kaleb Zijlstra, an S13 multi-class swimmer, represented WA at the School Sport Australia Championships, earning multiple medals and a Sports Excellence Scholarship.

Congratulations to all – your hard work and spirit inspire us all!



Memory Lane at MBCC



It was wet and cold and dark, and therefore lively and cosy in the Frances Wright Library for our Memory Lane opening night!

The display will be running for the next two weeks, finishing on Thursday 14 August. Community members are more than welcome to stop in on the early close Wednesday afternoons (2.30pm onwards).

If that still isn't quite right for you, please call the front office on 98515800 and make an appointment to visit!

Big thanks to the P&C as well as Kelly Crofts and Lesley Righton for the huge amount of work that has gone into arranging and displaying all the awesome memorabilia!



Band Tour

Our MBCC Senior Concert Band students are super excited to be heading to Perth next week for the Western Australian ABODA Band Festival. We have been joined this year by band students from Albany Senior High School, North Albany Senior High School and Denmark High School to make a super-awesome-exciting Combined Great Southern Concert Band!! We are also being joined by the Denmark High School Choir, the North Albany High School Choir, the Albany Guitar Band and the Combined Albany Schools Orchestra – it's bigger than Ben Hur!

We're heading off to Perth after a brief rehearsal here at the College on Thursday, 7th August from 9:30am. Hopefully some of our students will get to see and hear the groups in action on that day. Then we're off to perform at Kojonup District High School, and then to Perth to visit WAAPA, UWA, and to perform at the Festival. We will be adjudicated and we are hoping to receive a score of Excellent or above (Magnificent?).

We will have a full report in the next newsletter!

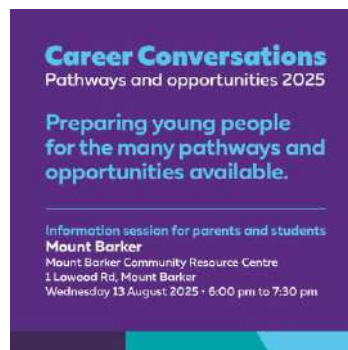
YOH Fest - Year 8 Drama Students



Some of our Year 8 Drama students have been working extremely hard to perfect their item for this year's YOH (Youth on Health) Festival. In Week 4, they will be heading to Albany to perform in the Great Southern heats, against Bethel Christian School and Pemberton High School. Their theme this year was 'Colour My World' and they've created a fabulous 15 minute performance called 'Buckets and Balls: Emotional Dodgeball'. If you would like to see their performance, tickets for the show at the Albany

Town Hall are available from: https://albany-events.bookable.net.au/#/event-detail/ev_9a676e47678d4862b71bb41b872a7862

Career Conversations - Pathways and Opportunities 2025



The world of work is changing. It is important to have career conversations with our young people to support their understanding of the future learning, work and life opportunities available to them.

Armed with accurate, up-to-date information, parents and students can explore the full range of career pathways, building confidence to make decisions about course selections and support successful transition to post-school education, training and employment.

Come to our free events for parents, students and community in your local area and learn more about:

- exploring university and training pathways
- career pathway information for young people with disabilities
- the labour market and where the jobs are
- future work trends
- what employers and industry are looking for

Date: Wednesday 13 August 2025

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:30pm

Venue: Mount Barker Community Resource Centre - 1 Lowood Rd, Mount Barker

Register: [Career Conversations - information for families \(Mt Barker\) Tickets, Mount Barker Community Recreation Centre, Mount Barker | TryBooking Australia](#)

Country Week 2025



Fifty excited students and seven staff from Mount Barker Community College joined over 3,000 students at the 2025 School Sport WA SHS Country Week in Perth for an unforgettable week of competition, camaraderie, and fun.

MBCC fielded five teams: hockey, touch football, netball, and boys' and girls' volleyball. The adventure began Sunday, 29 June, with a long bus ride followed by dinner at the Cambridge International Food Court and a scenic walk around Optus Stadium.



The opening ceremony on Monday kicked off a week of action. Day One saw strong performances, with boys' volleyball, touch, and hockey teams all recording wins. That night, students let off steam at Lazer Blaze, before ending with a chocolate prize for each team's "sportsperson of the day".

Tuesday brought double-headers. Hockey dominated with wins over Eastern Goldfields and Collie SHS, the latter a tight battle foreshadowing a grand final rematch. A movie night wrapped up the day.

Wednesday brought more success: netball defeated Manjimup, touch tied with Bethel in a thriller, and hockey stayed undefeated. Students enjoyed some downtime by the (freezing!) pool and shared a team dinner at Brando's Pizza.

Fatigue set in on Thursday. Despite this, hockey beat WA College of Agriculture Cunderdin after a delayed start, and touch earned a draw. Volleyball teams gave it their all in tight contests.

Finals Friday was full of heart. Netball and boys' volleyball finished strong with wins. Girls' volleyball showed big improvement. Touch

narrowly missed a title. But the highlight: MBCC's hockey team claimed the Boys B Division title with a 5-1 win over Collie, sweet revenge after last year's loss.

Throughout the week, students displayed resilience, sportsmanship, and MBCC pride. A week to remember, on and off the field!



Wait Mate!



If you're uneasy about primary school-aged children having smartphones, you're not alone - and there's a growing movement to support your stance.

Wait Mate is an Australian non-profit initiative founded by parents who aim to delay children's access to smartphones until at least high school. The movement connects like-minded families through a pledge system: once ten families from the same school year sign the pledge, it becomes active, fostering a peer support network.

Research indicates that early smartphone use in children is linked to addictive behaviours, increased anxiety, depression, disrupted sleep, and heightened exposure to cyberbullying. By collectively delaying smartphone access, parents can alleviate the peer pressure children face regarding mobile phone ownership.

Mount Barker Community College supports the Wait Mate pledge, encouraging families to "hit pause" on smartphones until high school. This collective approach promotes a more engaging, play-based childhood, free from early exposure to addictive devices.

Let's stand together to give our kids the childhood they deserve.

To learn more or to take the pledge, visit waitmate.org.au.



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.

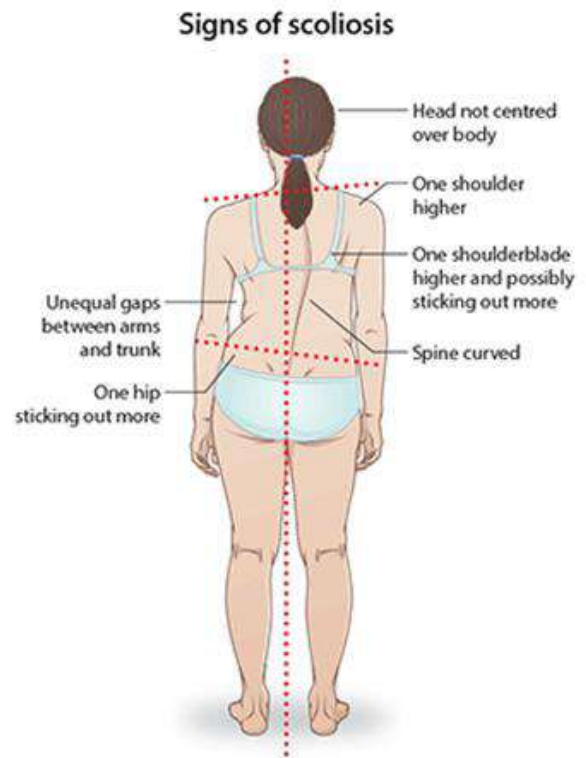
Nurse Notes - Scoliosis

Scoliosis is an abnormal sideways curvature of the spine. It can be detected by a simple examination of the back.

The normal spine has three curves – one in the neck, one in the upper back and one in the lower back. These curves can be seen from the side, but when you look from behind the spine should appear straight. If the spine has a sideways curve, this is scoliosis.

Please read through the [scoliosis](#) information provided by Raising Children Network and check your child for scoliosis as described

If you have any concerns, please contact your General Practitioner or Child Health Nurse, **Sue Rout** on **0467 771 995**.



Term 3 Planner

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.au/news-term-planner/calendar/>

Public Notices



CALLING ALL
GREAT SOUTHERN YOUTH
9-18 YEARS

We would like to invite you to join
Breaksea Youth Ensemble
Term 3 & 4

Wednesdays 4-5:30pm
During term time
@Southern Edge Arts

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Breaksea Youth Ensemble - Lower Great Southern

Led by Choral Director Neville Talbot and Breaksea directors Matt Reuben, James Ward & Pia Harris, participants aged between 9 and 18 years will be provided with opportunities for social connection, participation in music, singing activities, and learning Noongar language.

Participation opportunities:

- Weekly sessions held after school at Southern Edge Arts

Sessions will provide young people with opportunities to participate in:

- mindfulness, sharing stories and ideas,
- learning from professional artists (singing, music, performance skills),
- Zoom sessions with Music Director Pia Harris and,
- Production week with Artistic Director Matt Reuben, James Ward and Director of Music Pia Harris.

In Term 3 & 4 we will be learning music by Gina Williams & Guy Ghouse and Breaksea.

The Breaksea Youth Ensemble will have the opportunity of performing at City of Albany presents New Year's Eve Picnic & Fireworks, in a stage program curated by Breaksea including the song "Kinjartling" by Gina Williams & Guy Ghouse!



albany therapy services

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 988 798 to secure your spot or email us
at admin@albanytherapy.com.au

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



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME TOURING EXHIBITION

2025 Photographic Exhibition proudly presented by:



WAWOMENSHALLOFFAME.COM.AU





MBCC Board

Chairperson - Miles Ebert 0429 083 484 or miles_ebert@inet.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

mastermind
AUSTRALIA



**OCTOBER HOLIDAY EXAM
PREPARATION & REVISION PROGRAMS**
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

ENROL NOW **MASTERMIND AUSTRALIA**
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To return forms:
MountBarker.CC.Forms@education.wa.edu.au

Facebook - [Mount Barker Community College Western Australia](#)

College Website - [Mount Barker Community College Website](#)