



MBCC Newsletter- 28 August 2025

- Principal's Address
- Primary Home Reading Program
- Jethro Wright Nets Four Goals for WA in U15 National Hockey Competition
- Primary Class Requests for 2026
- 2025 Canberra, Sydney, and Perisher Trip
- Year 8 STEM Camp
- Year 5/6 Boys Dockers Shield
- MBCC Scholarships
- Father's Day Stall - 5 September
- VacSwim Enrolments Now Open
- Families and Volunteers on site at MBCC
- P&C Meeting Notice
- Term 3 Planner
- Public Notices

Principal's Address

Dear Families and Friends of the College,

Book Week was our big event - I loved dressing up. And it was great to see that so many others did too. In fact, there were so many fantastic costumes that we had to bow to the judges and

give out more book awards to more people. As far as I'm concerned, you can never have too many books, and it is always great to share them.

It was also a pleasure to see the excellent photos on our [Facebook](#) page about the Canberra and snow adventures that our students had last week. Read about it in this newsletter. Thanks to the staff who went, and the students who represented our college so well.

There has been lots of meetings lately – The Finance Committee met, the P&C met, the Farm Advisory Team met, the Youthcare committee met, the College Board met.... All of these people are working together to provide feedback and work to make our college even better for all the students who come to MBCC for their education. Thanks so much to the parents and community members of these groups, and to the parents who come in and do parent help, and to the teachers who give additional time to make a greater contribution to benefit the students at our college.

We have had three prac teachers choose to do their placement here at MBCC this term. Mr Rennie, Mr Sutherland and Mrs Slade have quickly become part of our college community, bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm, while gaining valuable classroom experience alongside our dedicated staff and students.

Friendly Reminder – Drop Off & Pick Up. Secondary students should be dropped off at the Rec Centre. If they have a sibling in EC, E or M, you are welcome to use the drive-throughs in those areas. Please do not use the staff car park at the front of the administration building. There is more pressure at the front of the college during pick-up and drop-off because of our issues in the early childhood carpark. We are hopeful this will be able to be fixed very soon.

All of the schools in the Great Southern went staff to a whole day of Professional Learning on Friday, 15th August. Secondary staff went to Denmark, Primary staff went to Albany, and all the Lab Technicians came to Mt Barker. It was a wonderful opportunity for staff to meet with their colleagues and share the many good things we do when teaching and working with students. You might see this new logo around more in the

future. As all of our public schools in the region continue to work together to ensure that all students in public schools in WA obtain a quality education.



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!

Matthew Steed.

Superb job, recipients of the SILVER Reader Award!

Ella Seaman, Annabelle Slade and Liam Whittle.

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

Allira Tuia, Cooper Bell, Luke Bell, Audrey Proctor and Grace Proctor.

PLATINUM readers should be proud of their phenomenal efforts!

Harvey Rowles, Leonard Jenkins, Walk Brown, Savannah Liebeck, Rivalee Jenkins, Sonny Rowles, George Lynch, Sydney Coleman, Ava Baker, Lenny Hemmings, Mackenzie Coleman, Anushka Sharma and Bella Louise Soloman.



Jethro Wright Nets Four Goals for WA in U15 National Hockey Competition

Jethro Wright recently represented Mount Barker Community College in the State Schoolboys

Under 15's boys hockey side in Canberra in the National competition from August 3-9. After a very competitive selection trial series, Jethro was



selected as one of four representative players chosen from rural based schools, joining his selected metropolitan based school representatives. The squad trained on weekly in Perth from

early May and enjoyed a number of scratch match with Perth based senior and other representative sides.

Coached by Andrew Blee (Dalyellup College), the U15 boys formed part of a strong squad of sixteen players competing in crisp Canberra conditions at the national competition with other Australian State sides. Demonstrating the diversity and strength of rural hockey Jethro played as forward striker and injector for the WA State side. Jethro netted three field goals for the competition and one goal from an earned penalty stroke.

The Competition was tough as expected, with the WA boys finishing up the week to compete for bronze in the finals series against the Victorians. Despite a tough game, the WA boys led 1-0 until the final minutes, where the Victorians evened the scoreline off a penalty corner to bring the final score to 1-1 at full time. Rather than the progression of one on ones as a decider, tournament rules saw the Victorians take the bronze from the WA boys in an overall narrow goal difference of one.

Closing statements from coach Blee highlighted the WA teams commitment in the lead up to the tournament and also their performance during the week.

"This group of boys is by far the closest group I have taken away. On and off the field they have been amazing".



Well done to Jethro on your fantastic performance and

dedication in achieving hockey at the highest level for your age group.

Primary Class Requests for 2026

We are currently investigating our class groupings for Kindergarten to Year 6 for 2026.

The closing date for requests will be the end of Week 9, Term 3 – Friday 19 September 2025. Once classes are finalised, they are not open to requests for change.

As parents and carers, you are therefore invited to submit any requests or supporting information about your child/ren that you would like to be considered as the Kindergarten to Year 6 classes for 2026 are prepared.

It is important to keep in mind that classes are not yet determined, and staff are not yet allocated to them.

You may have noticed in previous years that staff do move around the college and change the year levels they are teaching.

This is not an opportunity, therefore, to pick a particular class or teacher for your child; it is to share any thoughts or preferences which may be helpful to us in making the best class allocation for the children.

The information is kept very confidential and used only to inform the process of class development.

Please understand that while we will do our best, we cannot guarantee that all requests can be accommodated.

As always, we will endeavour to get the best balance of students, year groups and teachers for 2026.

If you would like to share requests or information with us, please send an email to the address below, *using the subject line: Classes 2026*

Rebecca.Smyth@education.wa.edu.au

Alternatively, you could address a letter as below and drop it off at the front office:

“Private and Confidential”

Ms Rebecca Smyth

Associate Principal K-6

Please feel free to contact Ms Smyth at the school if you would like to talk the process through. I’m very happy to chat informally about it with you.

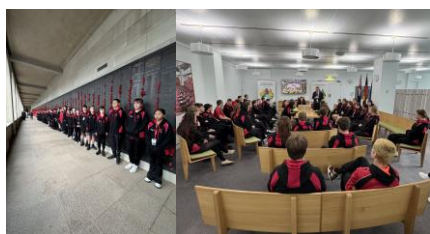
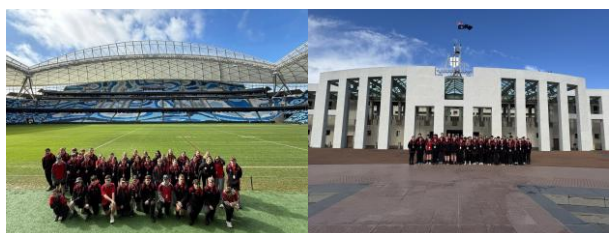
HELP: Will You Be Here Next Year?

As we are beginning to look at student numbers and classes for 2026, it is incredibly helpful for us to have the most accurate information possible.

For this reason, we ask that you let our front office know if you are already sure you will no longer be with us at MBCC in 2026.

We will be sad to see you go but we understand that things change in people’s lives. Thank you for your support with this.

Year 9 & 10 Sydney, Canberra, and Perisher Trip



What an adventure! Over seven action-packed days (17-23 August 2025), our Year 9 and 10 students explored Sydney, Canberra, and the snowy slopes of Perisher — an experience filled with learning, laughter, and memories to last a lifetime.

Sydney Highlights

The trip began in Sydney with visits to iconic landmarks including Bondi Beach, Mrs. Macquarie’s Chair, and Luna Park. Students explored **The Rocks**, navigated their way to the Opera House, and cruised by ferry across to Manly. A soggy but unforgettable visit to **Taronga Zoo** had everyone looking a little like “drowned rats,” before the day ended with stunning city views from the **Sydney Tower Eye**.

On the final day in Sydney, students toured the **Sydney Cricket Ground** and Allianz Stadium, then walked across the **Harbour Bridge** and climbed one of its pylons for spectacular views — the perfect farewell to the harbour city.

Canberra Experiences

Arriving in Canberra, students dived straight into learning at the **Australian Institute of Sport**, followed by a night of laser tag and games. Over the next two days, they discovered the very heart of Australia’s capital:

- At **Parliament House**, students role-played a sitting of the House of Representatives — complete with Prime Minister, Opposition Leader, Speaker, Clerk, and Sergeant-at-Arms.
- **Questacon** brought science to life through hands-on exhibits, while the **National Arboretum** and **Mount Ainslie Lookout** offered breathtaking views.

- Visits to the **War Memorial, ANZAC Parade, National Museum, Old Parliament House, High Court, and National Portrait Gallery** connected history, civics, and culture in meaningful ways.
- A wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial was a moving highlight, as students reflected on service and sacrifice.

Snow Day at Perisher

A big highlight of the week was the snow day! After collecting gear at Berridale, students travelled to **Blue Cow Mountain** where snowball fights broke out between teachers and students, followed by tobogganing and plenty of laughs. The day ended with well-earned hot chocolates to warm up.



Final Day & Homeward Bound

Before heading home, students toured the **embassy district**, visited the **Royal Australian Mint**, and explored **Cockington Green Gardens**, admiring miniature buildings from around the world. By the time they boarded the flight, everyone was tired but full of stories to share.

A Trip to Remember

Throughout the week, our students showed resilience, curiosity, and school pride. They explored history, politics, culture, science, sport, and nature — all while building friendships and making unforgettable memories. We would like to acknowledge the federal PACER funding, which this year subsidised each student a huge \$1530 towards the trip. A heartfelt thank you goes to the staff who guided the group, and to our wonderful students for embracing every part of the journey, even when not feeling the best!

Year 8 STEM Camp

22 students were selected to attend the Year 8 STEM camp on the 19th and 20th of August. The students had a great time visiting the Resource Technology Showcase, Scitech, and the Gravity Discovery Centre.

Some feedback from the students:

“We woke at the crack of dawn to drive to Kendenup and Cranbrook to pick up the other kids. The bus ride was full of the boys who sat at the back of the bus singing. When we got to the RTS (Resource Technology Showcase) we had pizza for lunch then we had fun at the showcase.

Once again, we were on the bus, but now to Gingin. At the Gravity Discovery Centre we climbed the tower and did some learning on physics. Then we had a great dinner and looked at the telescopes, but we couldn't look at the stars as it was cloudy. Then we went to bed. We woke up a reasonable time for breakfast. We left Gingin at 8:00am for SciTech. At SciTech we went in the planetarium to watch the solar system, and once again we had pizza for lunch. On the way back to Barker, Mrs Smith threw some snacks at us :)

So, a huge thanks to Mr Beck and Mrs Smith for putting up with us all and thanks to Mrs Maiolo for putting it all together.”

Macy Smith

“We had a good bus ride where we all had a music sing-along. Then we went to the resource showcase and got free stuff. Then we went to the Gravity Discovery Centre and dropped water balloons off the leaning tower. We slept in a cool dome and became ninjas when we went to the bathroom.”

Micah Bailey

“It was a really fun camp. I loved the discovery centre, and our guide was really nice. I also really liked SciTech, and the planetarium show was so cool.”

Mia Hall



seasoned footballers, but we also had 5 players who had never played before.



We played 5 games throughout the day, each game consisting of 2 fifteen-minute halves. We versed Spencer Park Primary School, Yakamia Primary School and Great Southern Grammar in the initial fixtured rounds. With a close game against Spencer Park, we went into our second game with enthusiasm and some rhythm. We secured the win against Yakamia. Unfortunately, Great Southern Grammar proved too strong for us in the third round.

Now into the final rounds of the competition, we once again fixtured against Great Southern Grammar. We matched their skill, particularly in the 2nd half of the game, but the win did not go in our favour. Our final game of the day shortly followed, playing for the 7th or 8th spot, once again against Yakamia Primary School. We secured 8th place out of 10 schools.

We were extremely proud of the way the boys, and our girls, Jasmine, and Dharcie carried themselves throughout the day. They played with heart and never gave up.

Special thanks to Mr Nathan Skinner for offering his time to coach this awesome group of students, his football knowledge was gratefully received. Also, thanks to Mr Cameron for supporting the students during the day and goal umpiring.

The Girls Carnival Dockers' Cup has been postponed due to weather, and we hope to reschedule for Tuesday 9th of September.



Year 5/6 Boys Dockers Shield

On Thursday 21st of August, eighteen Year 5 and 6 students travelled to Albany to take part in the annual Dockers' Shield. Many of our team were

MBCC Scholarships

Mount Barker Community College has a number of scholarships available for students to encourage their personal excellence. Scholarships are open to students currently in Year 10 and 11 who fit the eligibility criteria. Winners of these scholarships are announced at the annual Year 7-12 Speech Night. Application forms can be collected from the front office or by following the links below.

[Norm Burnell Memorial Scholarship](#)

This scholarship is made available by public subscription in memory of the late Mr Norm Burnell, a Mount Barker resident for many years and a man with a high sense of community responsibility and dedication to the local community.

Students in Year 11 and 12 for 2026 are eligible to apply for the scholarship by completing this [form](#).

[Plantagenet Student Hostel Award](#)

This scholarship is made available from funds in trust from the closure of the Mount Barker Student Hostel and is available to Mount Barker Community College students in Year 11 and 12 who travel 45 minutes or more to school by bus.

Students in Year 11 and 12 for 2026 are eligible to apply for the scholarship by completing this [form](#).

Book Week 2025 Pics





Father's Day Stall

The ever-popular Father's Day Stall Fundraiser will be held on 5 September. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to choose a special gift for someone they care about.

- Primary classes will visit the stall throughout the day.
- Secondary students will have the opportunity to purchase gifts at lunchtime.

Please send money in a sealed envelope with your student's name and classroom clearly marked. EFTPOS will also be available for your convenience.

This year, the stall has been put together by the families of the Singapore STEM Exchange trip for 2026. Please show them your support!

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 [online](#), or download, print, and post a form before the closing date.

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.

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/>

Mon Jul 21	Tue Jul 22	Wed Jul 23	Thu Jul 24	Fri Jul 25
101				

Mon Jul 28	Tue Jul 29	Wed Jul 30	Thu Jul 31	Fri Aug 01
102	102	102	102	102

Mon Aug 04	Tue Aug 05	Wed Aug 06	Thu Aug 07	Fri Aug 08
103	103	103	103	103

Mon Aug 11	Tue Aug 12	Wed Aug 13	Thu Aug 14	Fri Aug 15
104	104	104	104	104

Mon Aug 18	Tue Aug 19	Wed Aug 20	Thu Aug 21	Fri Aug 22
105	105	105	105	105

Mon Aug 25	Tue Aug 26	Wed Aug 27	Thu Aug 28	Fri Aug 29
106	106	106	106	106

Mon Sep 01	Tue Sep 02	Wed Sep 03	Thu Sep 04	Fri Sep 05
107	107	107	107	107

Mon Sep 08	Tue Sep 09	Wed Sep 10	Thu Sep 11	Fri Sep 12
108	108	108	108	108

Mon Sep 15	Tue Sep 16	Wed Sep 17	Thu Sep 18	Fri Sep 19
109	109	109	109	109

Mon Sep 22	Tue Sep 23	Wed Sep 24	Thu Sep 25	Fri Sep 26
110	110	110	110	110

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/leadership-competition-2025/> to find out more!

ARTS AND CULTURE
SOUTHERN ART + CRAFT TRAIL EVENTS



HEATHER BROWN
Searching for Fibonacci
Heather Brown creates unique small canvases using paper, paint, and natural materials like homegrown flowers, seeds, and nuts. Her larger prints capture scenes from the local, biodiverse ecosystem.
VANCOUVER ARTS CENTRE | M-F 10-4pm / S-S 10-2



FELTERS IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN
A Year of Challenge
Find Felters in the Great Southern (FIGS) exhibition in the large meeting room at the Vancouver Arts Centre at venue number 48 on the Southern Art and Craft Trail map.
VANCOUVER ARTS CENTRE | M-F 10-4pm / S-S 10-2



ALBANY ART GROUP
Open Spectrum
The Albany Art Group is a vibrant collective of diverse and talented artists working across a range of mediums. The AAG is venue number 49 on the Southern Art and Craft Trail map.
VANCOUVER ARTS CENTRE | M-F 10-4pm / S-S 10-2



QUADRANT- ALBANY PRINTMAKING
#Scapes
#Scapes is a multimedia and printmaking exhibition. The artists will focus on the Great Southern area taking inspiration from the different Scapes that comprise the region. This exhibition is venue number 47 on the Southern Art and Craft Trail map.
VANCOUVER ARTS CENTRE | M-F 10-4pm / S-S 10-2



CITY OF ALBANY ART COLLECTION
Paul's Choice
A special exhibition from the City of Albany's Art Collection upstairs at the Town Hall.
ALBANY TOWN HALL | M-S 10-5pm / S-S 10-2

SEPT 27-12 OCT 2025
For more information about the Art South Art Trail head to <https://artsouthwa.com.au/>

Albany Town Hall Vancouver Arts

GIRLS JOIN THE TEAM
UNDER 13 GIRLS CRICKET

Its time to unlock a lifetime of friendship & fun.
No previous cricket experience is needed
Join us for an exciting Under 13 Girls Competition this cricket season kicking off 20th October 2025

REGISTER NOW
<https://forms.office.com/r/571h6riE1w>

@gswcricket
www.facebook.com/gswgc
gswomenscricket@gmail.com

WOMEN & GIRLS

Mount Barker Public Library

MAP YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK COMPETITION

Draw a map of the places in your favourite book or story

Open to children aged 6-9 and 10-13 years

19 August to 13 September

Shire of Plantagenet

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Year 11 - 12

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Albany Town Hall Tuesday – Saturday
2 – 12 September 10am – 5pm

2025

WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
15th ANNIVERSARY

WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME INTERNATIONAL

WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME TOURING EXHIBITION

2025 Photographic Exhibition proudly presented by:



WAWOMENSHALLOFFAME.COM.AU



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 998 798** to secure your spot or email us
at admin@albanytherapy.com.au

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



mastermind

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

www.mastermindaustralia.com.au

MASTERMIND AUSTRALIA

Ph: 9342 2000 mob: 0488 102 907

email: admin@mastermindaustralia.com.au

Contact Us

PO Box 116

23 Woogenellup Road

MOUNT BARKER WA 6324

Ph: (08) 9851 5800

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

To return forms:

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

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

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

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