



MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8 | 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SSO Recognition Week

Week 5 of this term marked School Support Staff Recognition Week. School support staff undertake vital roles in the school. The work that they do is very broad and involves administrative support roles as well as support for teaching and learning. We are privileged to have a highly dedicated and professional school support staff team at Mount Gambier High School. I want to acknowledge and thank all of our non-teaching staff for the tremendous work that they do.



Pupil Free Day

On Monday August 28 we had a pupil free day. The day was dedicated to school curriculum with staff undertaking a professional development session on learning intentions and success criteria before breaking off to undertake further learning area development. These included tiered vocabulary, scope and sequencing, and unit plan development, all of which support our Site Improvement Plan. Whilst at times pupil free days are more broadly viewed negatively by our community it is absolutely crucial that staff be given the time to work collegiately, reviewing and refining their practices to ensure the students at Mount Gambier High School are receiving the most relevant up to date teaching and learning practices, thus ensuring their success throughout their schooling.

Reflections

"We live in a rapidly changing world". We have all heard this phrase over the past 10 or so years often discounting it, as in the main, the changes we have experienced have been subtle, which we easily integrate into our own lives and work without any real thought. Yet what we are now witnessing is a rapid and noticeable escalation of change, which will result in complete shifts in our thinking and in how we work, none more so than in the world of technology.

I was recently at a conference where the speakers shared about the rapid rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the impact that this will have not only on education but on us as humans.

All the knowledge of the world can now be accessed by our smart phones and internet, there really is no need for a teacher to impart their learnt knowledge onto students as the knowledge is already there and can be accessed in a variety of ways, at all age levels. The role of a teacher is becoming one of being a facilitator of learning, enabling students to become agents of their own learning, to think critically, to view information with scepticism and discernment and make informed decisions on real problems. This is not to say that the curriculum is not important, it very much is, but changes are being made to how we deliver it to our students. We need to offer them opportunities to solve problems and to take responsibility for their learning. This is known as student agency and is strongly featured in our new Departmental

Upcoming Events

R U OK? Day

Thursday 14 September

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

LEARNING

BELONGING

RESPONSIBILITY

FROM THE PRINCIPAL (continued)

Education Strategy. Our students are the future and will be required to make a number of decisions on our behalf as we enter the world of "old age," as depressing as that may sound. The problems they will face are nothing like those that previous generations had to confront - Global warming, sustainability, the impact of artificial intelligence on employment, on us as humans, fake news, the rise of mental health issues to name but a few. These are not problems that have a single solution that can be easily solved overnight or with some learnt fact from a lesson. For example, we are now seeing driverless cars, which if you believe the media is a wonderful initiative, yet we already have the technology to have pilotless aircraft - would we fly on a pilotless plane?

There are many other examples of advancing technologies, yet the ethical and moral discussions around these are still lagging behind. We have robots being developed to do minor medical procedures and medical conditions associated with excessive phone usage including additional physical and mental health issues.

It is incumbent on every school to provide opportunities for our students to possess the necessary 21st century skills to make informed decisions, to solve problems, to be critical and creative because if we don't our future may well be worse for future generations.

I commend this newsletter to the community as a testament to the many activities and opportunities that as a school we endeavour to provide our students to enrich their learning and life skills.

UNI SA SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

Recently a group of year 9 and 10 students attended the Uni SA Science Experience. The students were exposed to a range of science careers while completing hands on activities. Some highlights were looking at how genetics is playing a large role in solving cold cases, separating dyes from lollies to discuss allergies of certain colour pigments and exploring electrical engineering by making a musical keyboard.

Grace Edwards | Science Coordinator



YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

As part of their Personal Learning Plan our Year 10 students undertook a week of Work Experience. Students spent time working in a range of industries and professions, learning what skills and expertise it takes to succeed in the world of work. Staff who visited our students were pleased to see so many of our year 10s eager to learn, using their initiative and challenging themselves.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the businesses and individuals who took on our students for this valuable experience.

Natalie Piscioneri | HASS Coordinator



SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 16 August, 24 students from years 8-10 participated in the Science and Engineering Challenge organised by the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes and presented by the University of Newcastle in cooperation with University of South Australia, Rotary Club of Adelaide, City of Mount Gambier, Kimberly-Clark Australia, Timberlink Australia, Inspiring South Australia, Tonkin Consulting, District Council of Grant, Beach Energy, District Council of Naracoorte Lucindale and District Council of Wattle Range.

Seven schools from across the Limestone Coast participated in the challenge held at the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre. The day involved a number of hands-on problem solving tasks and students participated in one or two activities for the day, depending on whether they ran for a half day or a full day. Activities for 2023 included 'The Bridge (Gold Fever)', 'Confounding Communications' (where students had to communicate without verbalising or gesturing), 'Helter Skelter Shelter' (an earthquake proof structure), 'Stringways' (develop networks to join a series of towns in the most efficient way possible), 'Job Juggle' (develop ways to solve scheduling problems in an optimal manner), 'Flight' (build a glider for controlled and accurate flight), 'ElectraCITY' (supply power to a city that is cost effective) and 'Return to Mars' (build a suspension system for a simple buggy).

This year the team had a large number of year 8 students participating who were involved for the first time. The challenge provided students with the opportunity to develop their team building, problem solving as well as their critical and creative thinking skills in a practical hands on environment, linking real world concepts. The most notable event of the day was the 'Bridge Challenge' where our group did not falter under pressure and presented their bridge first with it being the lightest bridge and able to carry considerable weight with not only the trolley, but ingots as well.

Overall Mount Gambier High School finished in 5th place which was a great result with such a new team. Our students represented the school in an enthusiastic and outstanding manner, demonstrating a willingness to persist and challenge themselves.

Year 8 student Mitchell Chapman said, "It was good and fun because we got to build something and you had to be creative". "The Science and Engineering challenge was an interesting and exciting experience for everyone involved. For me the best part was the 'Mars Rover Challenge' because we will be able to use what we learnt for the 'STEMIE Challenge' later in the year," said year 10 student, Alisha Cram.

On behalf of the students we would like to thank Jim O'Hehir and the Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes for their exceptional organisation of the event.

Samantha Brown | Senior School Assistant Principal



OLYMPICS UNLEASHED

On Thursday 17 August Winter Olympian, Nick Timmings spoke with year 7, 8 and 10 students as part of the Olympics Unleashed Program, a Government of South Australia and Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) initiative.

Nick shared his journey from Athletics into being scouted for the Winter Olympics event, the Skeleton, inspiring, motivating and encouraging the students to aim for their own personal bests!

Amanda Lengyel | Public Relations Officer



SKI FOR LIFE PRESENTATION

On Monday 14 August Mount Gambier High School welcomed Mike Rolls and Ben Pettingill from Mates on a Mission and Ski for Life who ran two sessions with our years 9/10 and years 7/8 students about mental health, wellbeing and suicide prevention in rural and regional Australian communities.

Mike and Ben are affectionately known as Legless and Blind with Mike losing both of his legs due to a deadly disease at age 18 and Ben losing 98% of his eyesight overnight due to a rare genetic syndrome at age 16. They both know first hand what it is like to be faced with tough times, challenge and battles with their mental health, bringing the power of story telling, real life strategies and humour into their sessions to share tools that help people connect together, build resilience and prioritise individual and community wellbeing.

Amanda Lengyel | Public Relations Officer



CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Over the last couple of years, the Mount Gambier High School Governing Council have been working towards improving the school canteen to make it more sustainable and to ensure its long term future serving the school. Unfortunately ongoing challenges and the current financial climate has had a significant impact and we face an uncertain future.

We are asking all school families to help support the canteen by encouraging students to purchase food and drinks on site and if there are concerns or issues, provide feedback so that improvements can be made. We are aware that students are opting to purchase food from outside of the school, which is placing further financial pressures on our canteen, both in terms of takings for the day and the amount of remaining food that is wasted.

We are also putting a call out for parents/caregivers who would like to volunteer their time to assist in the canteen. The canteen has not used volunteers since before the pandemic and to make sure we can continue having this facility available for the staff and students of Mount Gambier High School, we once again require assistance from our local community. All training will be provided along with assistance in gaining the required clearances. Please contact Hannah Fry, Principal's Secretary on 8721 0200 or via email dl0784.info@schools.sa.edu.au.

With a few small changes we can make sure Mount Gambier High School has a canteen for years to come!

Hanna Persello | Governing Council Chairperson

SAETA YOUNG WRITER'S AWARD

Congratulations to Year 12 Student, Cooper Sneddon who was a semi-finalist in the Open category for his short story in the SAETA Young Writer's Award.

Amanda Lengyel | Public Relations Officer



SCIENCE WEEK

August 12 – 20 was National Science Week – a week where science is celebrated all over Australia. The theme for this year was 'Innovation Powering Future Industry'. This provided students with the opportunity to explore and celebrate the importance of innovations in their immediate lives, but also in the wider society.

To facilitate discussions around this theme, students engaged with a range of lessons and activities to investigate innovations and how they have and will continue to shape our world. The lessons ranged from students designing and experimenting with a water filtration system to training a machine learning model (an online AI activity). Alongside these activities students researched current innovations and had robust discussions around how they may help but also could hinder society. To finish off the week, some classes engaged in a “guess the Australian animal” activity, based on a recording of the sound they make. Later this term senior science students will be tie dying some of the lab coats that they wear.

The wider school participated in a Science Week Quiz which had a range of questions such as “What colour is solid oxygen?” (the answer is blue). The homegroup that took out the win this year was 7.2 with Ms Westland.

Lastly, Rod Sparks from ABC South East Radio interviewed one of our Science teachers. They had discussions highlighting the importance that science plays in our everyday lives.

Grace Potts | Science Coordinator



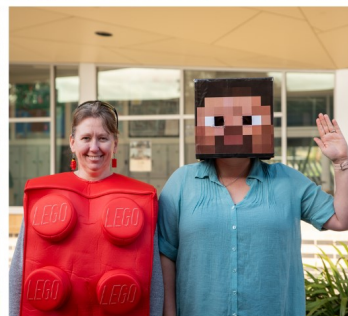
STAFF BOOK WEEK COSTUMES

The HASS and English office collaborated to organise a staff dress up for book week. It has been a few years since staff got into the book week spirit and this provided plenty of entertainment for students last Friday.

Barbie and Ken was certainly the favourite costume choice this year with Workout Barbie, Exotic Barbie, Wellbeing Barbie and Corporate Barbie all making an appearance. Of course who is Barbie without Ken!

Other featured characters were Peter Rabbit, Cowardly Lion, Mad Hatter, Minecraft Man, Lego Block, Cleopatra, Neil Daniher, Madeline and the old faithfuls Where's Wally and Harry Potter.

Amanda Lengyel | Public Relations Officer



2024 MGHS UNIFORM

Over the past couple of years, Mount Gambier High School has been working through a change-over period between the old 'Dress Code' and a new 'Uniform Policy'. From 2024 it will be an expectation that all students attending Mount Gambier High School will be dressed in the Lowes Australia uniform, found in store or on their website. This is an exclusive range of uniform items that reflect the 'needs and wants' of students, parents/caregivers and the Governing Council.

As we transition into this new expectation for 2024, we highly recommend that families begin to source uniform items from Lowes. There are a number of 20% off days remaining this year (keep an eye on your emails and our social media pages), take home layby options and the Mount Gambier High School Lowes Uniform Buy, Swap and Sell page to help sell and source Lowes Uniform items.

For families finding it difficult to purchase the new uniform range, please contact the school and we will work with you to provide assistance with this.

Kerran Wingard | Deputy Principal

SSO WEEK

Last week we celebrated SSO Week with our support staff enjoying an evening out at The Barn on Friday with 100s of support staff from around the Limestone Coast.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all of our support staff. Support staff are the glue that holds schools together - the work that they do to support staff, students and families does not go unnoticed. The impact that they have and the relationships that are built can last a lifetime. Thank you for all that you do.



BIKE SA CHALLENGE

Throughout term 3, select middle and senior school students from Mount Gambier High School have been participating in the Team BSA program run by Bike SA. Team BSA is funded by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources and promotes riding and fixing bikes as an important vehicle for developing healthy and empowering behaviours in youth living in regional and remote communities.

The students are participating in the 8-week BMX program, which gives them the opportunity to be involved in an alternative program outside of their regular curriculum, with the objective of increasing school engagement and positive behaviour outcomes.

Giving the students a weekly outlet has had great effects. Riding outside improves not just the physical ability of each student but also has a positive impact on mental health and general wellbeing. Additionally, it provides a healthy social platform for students to interact with each other away from social media and outside of the traditional classroom. Not only do students get to ride at various locations around town, they work together on bike maintenance, trail building and social interaction through physical activity and challenge.

The program has been delivered to six regional and remote communities and mentored over 140 youth prior to coming to Mount Gambier. Excellent outcomes have been achieved since the program's inception, such as increased student attendance rates, reported mental health improvements and greater positive social interaction between students.

The students in Mount Gambier can look forward to another 4 weeks of riding within the community.

Michael Brooks | Senior School Wellbeing Leader



Learner Driver Mentoring Program



Australian
Red Cross

About the Program

This program is designed to assist vulnerable people of any age to develop their driving skills, confidence and experience in the Limestone Coast with a volunteer mentor.

The learner driver can use this program to assist them in reaching their 75 supervised hours, required for them to obtain their provisional license, along with professional lessons.

Our mentors are not driving instructors.



To Register in the Program

Please visit our office at

49 Helen St Mt Gambier

Call **08 8725 3622** or email

SAMOUNTGAMIER@redcross.org.au

Cost: \$10 donation per hour

Eligibility

To be eligible for this program the following criteria must be met.

- Have a Learner's Permit.
- A minimum of 3 lessons with a professional instructor in your log book.
- Economic hardship.
- Have limited access to a suitable supervisory driver.
- Have limited access to a reliable vehicle.

FOOD & HOSPITALITY

The Year 11 Food and Hospitality students have been looking at the impact of social media on food choice, food styling and presentation.

The students prepared and presented Deconstructed Lemon Meringue Pies and are looking forward to making their own deconstructed desserts over the next few weeks.

Carol Shepherd | Food & Hospitality Teacher



The Stage 2 Food and Hospitality students were delighted to be gifted some truffles from Anthea Harrison from Echo Farm. Anthea is currently working as one of our TRT teachers at the school. The umami aroma of the black truffles permeated the Home Ec Centre as students whipped up serves of creamy scrambled eggs served with sourdough toast and lashings of shaved truffles over the top.

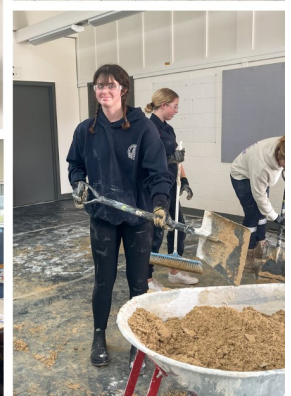
Many thanks to the Harrison family for sharing their precious truffles to enable our students the opportunity to cook with them.

Jan Longbottom | HPE Coordinator



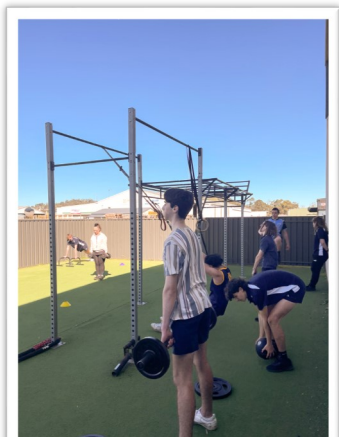
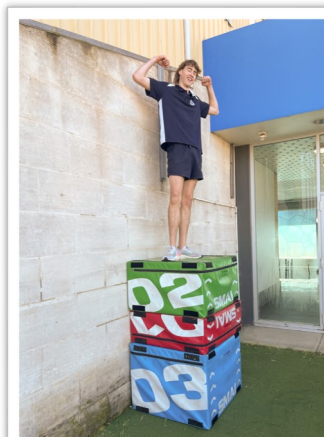
VET NEWS

VET for term 3 has started with a bang with students completing three weeks of construction pathways offered to multiple groups of students, resulting in 31 year 9/10 student completing their White Card Training.



Year 10 Flexible Industry Pathway (FIP) students have embarked on a fitness program to help promote 'better minds and better bodies' in the workplace and we are looking forward to the many immersion coming up for the rest of the term.

Eluisa Crispino | Vocational Pathways Coordinator



2022 SCHOOL MAGAZINE *Last chance to Order*

The 2022 School Magazine is almost ready for print and will be delivered soon. This is your last chance to order a copy of the magazine at \$18 each. Please contact the Student Office to organise your copy.

MATHS QUIZ NIGHT

Recently 24 students from years 7 to 12 attended the MASA Quiz Night in Penola in recognition of national Maths month. It was a great event competing against neighbouring schools in the Limestone Coast. Throughout the night students worked in teams to solve general knowledge and maths problems. All the students were fantastic representatives of Mount Gambier High School, demonstrating exemplary behaviour and sportsmanship.

Two of our teams were successful in winning special awards. Our year 10 students Anna Anbu, Caitlin Hitchon, Dakota Chapman and Alisha Cram won the Best Overall Intermediate Team and in the senior section year 12 students Jenna Male, Harry Martin, Maddie Smulders and Jessica McDonald won the Best Overall Senior team. Thank you to the Maths teachers and parents who gave up their evening to support our students. Great fun was had by all!

Karen Henman | Maths Coordinator



NEW!

Youth Activation Group

YOUTH
ACTIVATION
GROUP

WE NEED YOU!

Young people between
the ages of 15-25 years
to actively participate
and support the delivery
of activities & events in
Mount Gambier.

PROJECT 1

Activate the Youth
Space at the Wulanda
Recreation &
Convention Centre
with an allocated
budget.

APPLICATIONS

APPLY HERE:





DONATE TO THE MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education



MONDAY 28 AUGUST – FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

WHAT TO DONATE

- UHT or Powdered Milk
- Fruit Juice (Long Life Carton)
- Jam/Peanut Butter
- Instant Mash Potato
- Sugar
- Chocolate/Snacks/Biscuits
- Tinned Meat
- Nappies
- Soup Packets
- Toilet Paper
- Toiletries (Shampoo/Gel/Deodorant/Toothpaste)
- Instant Coffee/Hot Chocolate
- Cereal
- Rice/Noodles

DONATION BOX LOCATIONS

Student Office | Reception | Collaborative Learning Centre | SACE Floor | Wellbeing Space

More Than 1 In 6 Australian Children Live in Poverty!

Poverty refers to the lack of financial stability in order to afford basic human needs or essentials.

This includes food, shelter, clothing or hygiene products. Foodbank is one of the many charitable organisations dedicated to helping the Australian community fight poverty by ending Australian hunger.

**WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE 2023
FUNDRAISER**

SPORTS COLOURS DAY

04 SEPTEMBER 2023- MONDAY

Come dressed in your favourite sports teams/
local club colours for a gold coin donation and
join various tournaments!

TOURNAMENTS TO SIGN UP FOR:

- **Wii Sports**
- **Just Dance**
- **Rocket League**
- **Staff V Students Netball**
(Year 11s and 12s only)
1st September Friday- Gym

You can find sign-up sheets for \$1 at the Miller Office. For netball, the sign-up sheet is located on the SACE Floor in the Year Level Manager Office.



PRESENTATION & PERFORMANCE NIGHT SPONSORS

We would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their generous support towards our 2023 Presentation and Performance night.

- Ampol
- ASW Lawyers
- Mr Harold Allison
- Banner Mitre 10
- Barry Maney Group
- Baxter Hire Equipment
- Bunnings Mount Gambier
- Computer Bits
- Cutbush Family
- The Fire Station Optometrists
- Foster's Newsagency
- Galpins Accountants, Auditors & Business Consultants
- Green Triangle Electronics
- Group Training Employment
- GT Industrial Sales
- Heemskerk Security
- Hughes & Loveday Sports Store
- Intersport
- KW Wholesale Stationers Pty Ltd
- Limestone Coast Solutions
- Little Blue Wren Gifts & Art
- MEGT
- Mount Gambier Bus Lines Pty Ltd
- Mount Glass & Glazing
- Ray Scott Group
- Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West Inc
- Servicing SA Pty Ltd
- Shredall Security
- Sinclair Wilson
- Spectrum Business Management
- Stuckey Electrical Contractors
- University of South Australia
- Westlab



Barry Maney

GROUP



Foster's Newsagency

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Mount Gambier SA 5290



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