



# MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7 | 2 AUGUST 2024

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to term 3. This term we will be focussing on how we can raise the profile of Mount Gambier High School through the use of the targeted resource money (\$6million) that is both sustainable and will see us meeting the learning needs of our students for the foreseeable future.

This is a joint venture between Mount Gambier High School and the Department for Education whereby, through a collaborative approach, we aim to make the biggest difference for our students through both facilities upgrades and improving the conditions for learning. This is an exciting opportunity for Mount Gambier High School and can only serve to enhance the learning experiences for our students.

Our student forums to date have clearly indicated their desire for upgraded toilets in some parts of the school, together with upgrading our change room facilities. This is closely followed by upgrades to the old sections of the Miller and Carthew buildings as well as a fresh coat of paint for the school. Senior students will be consulted during their forum sessions this term.

Shortly we will be sending out a short survey for all parents/caregivers to gain your input into what you believe needs to be done to further improve the learning environment for our students and the community profile of Mount Gambier High School. We would appreciate it if you could take the time to complete this as our improvements will ultimately be guided by input from everyone in our school community.

### Reflecting on Semester 1 Reports

By now you would have received your child's semester 1 report. This may be a time of celebration but for others it's a time of personal reflection about why they have not done as well as they could have.

Parents are encouraged to make contact with subject teachers and follow up on any issues or concerns you have from the learning completed in the first half of the year. Students need to reflect on their achievements, identify areas for improvement for semester 2 and commit to the actions they will take to make the improvements needed to be successful.

I would like to also acknowledge the efforts of many of our students, particularly those who have shown progress in their subjects, often improving by one grade band or more over the course of a semester. This too must be commended, as it reflects that many students are working hard to improve their learning and achievement, which aligns with our school motto - "Nothing Without Effort".

### New Staff

This term we welcome Michelle Taylor who is our new Business Manager, backfilling Jaime Newell who is on leave for the remainder of the year. Welcome also to Abigail Little who will be teaching Maths and Science for semester 2.



## Upcoming Events

### Governing Council Meeting

Monday 5 August

### Student Free Day

Friday 9 August

### Maths Quiz Night

Wednesday 14 August

### Year 11 Course Counselling

Thursday 22 August

### Year 10 Course Counselling

Friday 23 August

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Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

LEARNING

BELONGING

RESPONSIBILITY

## From the Principal continued...

We also have three student teachers with us, Mitchell Jarett, Ethan Michielan and Charlotte Partington and we trust that their time at Mount Gambier High School is productive and rewarding.

### 2025 Course Counselling

This term we begin course counselling and subject selection for next year. This is a time when students need to work closely with parents/caregivers and teachers to gather accurate, relevant information on which to base decisions about subjects and future pathways.

Subject counselling staff will provide information about SACE, TAFE and Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses to students currently in years 10 and 11. It is important that all students make informed subject choices to keep as many pathways open while completing their studies. As a parent you can assist by carefully reading the soon to be released Course Counselling Guide which will be available through our website and encouraging your child to do the same.

Talk with your child about:

- Their interests, particularly regarding subjects.
- Their future career and study aspirations.
- Their progress in subjects they are doing this year.
- The subjects on offer for next year.
- Your ideas about their subject choices.
- Assisting your child to see subject selection as an important process that requires careful consideration.
- Encouraging your child to ask questions and seek advice.
- Contacting school staff to discuss any issues where you need further information.

Whilst it may seem like we are a long way from a new school year, there is considerable planning that needs to be done in readiness for it. This includes the process of securing our staffing once students have made their subject choices.

## NADOC LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Congratulations to our recently retired Aboriginal Community Education Officer, Kathy Beck who was successful in winning a 'NAIDOC - Lifetime Achievement Award' for her 25 years of service in the school communities at Mount

Gambier High School and Mount Gambier North Primary School.

Kathy has had a significant impact on First Nations students and their families over many years, ensuring students had access to basic needs to enable them to attend school, work experience opportunities, job interviews, apprenticeships or tertiary studies. Kathy's patience and empathetic ear meant the relationships formed were authentic and many remain as lifelong relationships in the community.

Following her recent retirement last term, Kathy reflects on her work at Mount Gambier High School fondly and wants to encourage all students to complete their schooling, any further training and get that dream job!

Sally Beck

## COMMUNITY KIDS FINAL VISIT

The final visit from Community Kids occurred in week 9 last term, with the Year 10 Child Studies class making resources to create egg carton flowers and bunting. These were strung up in the classroom to remember the children and how much fun was had by all. We hope to continue the connection with Community Kids in the future.

Joanna White | Child Studies Teacher



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## 79TH ANNUAL BERRI EXCHANGE

The Annual Mount Gambier-Glossop (now Berri Regional Secondary College) Exchange commenced in 1947 and is the longest running public schools exchange in Australia, with 2024 being the 79th year our two schools have come together to compete for the honours of the Debating Shield and Sporting Cup during week 10, term 2.

On Tuesday morning the first of exchange competitions was held with Berri successful in claiming the Symonds Debating Shield from Mount Gambier High School. All six speakers showed evidence of extensive planning and delivered compelling and confident arguments. In a close finish, Berri came out on top, with both teams commended for a great virtual debate.

After an early start Wednesday morning, we had a very busy and sunny day down in Bordertown for the sporting competition of the exchange.

All matches were played in great spirit, and there were a lot of tight contests despite the score line reflecting different, including the Boys Soccer who went to a penalty shootout!

It was fantastic to see our student's comradery and sportsmanship, particularly when there would have been many moments where they would have felt things were not going their way, but to their credit everyone persevered and gave their absolute best. We also had students who helped officiate, umpire and even stepped up to play a sport they had never played before. Our student's ability to help out when needed and their willingness to push themselves out of their comfort zone demonstrated great character and the values we want students at Mount Gambier High School to display.

Many students will learn from this experience and still have a few more years to compete again so that we can return the Carthew Sporting Cup back to Mount Gambier High School.

Abbey Duncan | Special Sports Coordinator





## 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

We would like to extend our congratulations and gratitude to Elisa Crispino and Belinda Roughana who were both recognised for their 20 years of service in the Department for Education at the end of last term. Thank you ladies for your dedication and support over many years to our school community.



## FLINDERS UNI HEALTH SESSION

During week 10 last term a group of Health and Medical students from Flinders University provided valuable insight to year 10 and 11 students about the various Health related courses available at university. Many of our students found the information helpful with hands on activities such as taking blood pressure readings and a reflex test, providing a practical introduction to the pathways available for entry into these courses. The Flinders students shared many interesting stories about their experiences at university which sparked further interest in the study pathways our students will have the opportunity to pursue.

Caitlin Hitchon | Year 11 Student



## MILK LAB SUPPORTS FLEX

This semester our Year 9 Re-Engage class is piloting a café program, where they will be learning about the skills and knowledge needed to work in a café. During this program students will also be working on developing their regulation and social skills while also engaging with local businesses in the community.

Programs like this take work to get up and running and we are so thankful to Milk Lab for their incredibly generous donation of milk and milk jugs to help get us started. The class is very excited to use these products to start making some hot drinks for our school community during the cold weather.

Skye Biddle | Year 9/10 Learning & Engagement Leader



## STATEWIDE BASKETBALL

Thursday 27 June saw Mount Gambier High School's Open Boys and Girls Basketball teams competed at Wulanda Recreation Centre for a chance to make the Statewide finals. The girls team started the day with a 48-25 win over Grant High School (GHS) followed by the boys team, also defeating GHS 39-33.

The wins continued against St Martins Lutheran College with the girls finishing up 46-41 and the boys 35-22. The next round had our teams face off against Millicent High School (MHS) with the girls unlucky to lose a nail biter 25-26. The boys however continued their winning streak defeating MHS 52-23 to earn their place in the finals to be played in Adelaide.

Congratulations to all players who competed on the day, overall efforts were outstanding and we wish the boys all the best in Adelaide for the Statewide finals.

Jess Kennedy | Basketball Teacher

## VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS NEWS

Congratulations to Year 12 Student, Brok O'Neil, who has secured a full time apprenticeship with Max Medhurst Crash Repairs. Brok explored several options and completed a week of work experience, impressing his employer and leading Group Training Employment (GTE) to offer him an apprenticeship. A special thank you to Rosie French, GTE, Marcus Stewart, Max Medhurst Crash Repairs and Julie Tipene, SYC for their support.

Well done to Year 11 Student, Oliver Balkin who has begun his full time apprenticeship with MTA as a Light Vehicle Mechanical Technician. Oliver made a strong impression during his week of work experience, resulting in a job offer. Many thanks to Daryl Watson, Workshop Foreman, Nathan McEachern, Service Manager and Franco Albuino, MTA for their guidance and support.

Congratulations to Year 10 Student, Lachlan Legray who has secured a School-Based Traineeship (SBT) with Vivid Glass Windows and Doors. Lachlan has been actively exploring this industry and has earned a Certificate II in Storage and Warehousing. Our gratitude goes to Rosie French, GTE, Peter Allan, Vivid Glass Windows and Doors, and Tara Marygold, MAS National for making this opportunity possible.

Well done to Year 10 Student, Alysha Verrity who has secured a SBT with BOC Limited. Alysha's work trial impressed, leading GTE to offer her a Certificate III in Business. Thank you to Rosie French, GTE, Rob Michalski, BOC Limited and Tara Marygold, MAS National for their invaluable support.



Mount Gambier High School students have had the chance to participate in various programs over the term. Year 10 students attended TAFE Mount Gambier, participating in the 'Try a Trade' program and successfully completing White Card Training. It was wonderful to hear positive feedback about the behaviour and skills of our students.

We have offered several Job Skills Programs in Construction and Community Services with positive outcomes for our students. Various industries have provided work experience opportunities and some students have successfully secured employment in Aged Care.



Eluisa Crispino | Vocational Pathways Coordinator

## FINAL NOTICES MATERIALS & SERVICES CHARGES

Thank you to those families who have paid their school fees or entered into a payment arrangement. Final Notice letters for outstanding school fees have been posted to those families with outstanding accounts. Governing Council wish to advise that if payment is not received within 30 days action will be taken to recover the debt.

If you believe you may be entitled to School Card assistance, please complete an application form. A School Card application is required to be completed for each family, each year, regardless of the previous year's status. If an application has been completed at a primary school for younger siblings, an application is also required to be completed for Mount Gambier High School students. These forms can be collected from the Student Office or completed online using the following link <http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/school-card-scheme> under the Applications tab.

Payment of accounts can now be processed via the school website [www.mghs.sa.edu.au](http://www.mghs.sa.edu.au) using the payment link, QKR! App or in person at the Student Office. If you are experiencing financial difficulties please contact the Finance Manager to arrange a payment schedule.

## UNISA CAREERS PRESENTATION



In week 9 last term Marketing Officer: Student Liaison from UniSA, Olivia Hocking gave a presentation to our year 10 cohort, focusing on “what careers are right for you?”, “what should I

consider?”, “your path from school” and “why go to university?”

Olivia provided students with lots to think about in preparation for our upcoming course counselling and selection of subjects. She asked them questions to reflect on, such as ‘what are you good at or passionate about?’, ‘what kind of working conditions do you like?’ and got students to consider trends shaping the future. She also spoke about personality types ‘Driver, Analyser, Promotor and Supporter’ and connected them to the results of the My Career Match report completed by students. Olivia then went on to discuss related qualities and strengths of each as well as linked careers, and highlighted the importance of all four in any strong team environment.

Olivia then spoke about pathways from school and that these can take many forms, giving examples of what this can look like so students could see there are many options. Attending university can include a Tafe and/or apprenticeship pathway as well. She finished off with a brief overview of why to go to university and what university life looks like for students. It was a great opportunity to get students thinking about pathways and what they need to consider.

Samantha Brown | Head of Senior School



<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/menstruation>

## LET'S TALK

During the school holidays, Year 11 students Annabel Judd and Sebastian Ricketts attended the ‘Let’s Talk’ language program in Adelaide, hosted by the School of Languages. As Stage 1 Japanese students via Open Access, this program offered them a fantastic opportunity to connect with students from other schools also studying Japanese and to enhance their language skills. They participated in games, learned new vocabulary, and improved their grammar, which boosted their confidence in speaking Japanese. We wish Annabel and Sebastian continued success in their Japanese studies!



Brittany Lawry | Japanese Teacher

## UNIVERSITY PREPARATION

If you are looking to study at university in 2024 or take a gap year, please take note of the following information:

- Monday 5 August: Tracey from UniSA will be available 9.00am to 11.20am to meet one on one with students to answer any questions in preparation for applying for university, including your application, pathway options, scholarships and accommodation. Use the booking sheet located on the SACE floor to secure your 20min appointment.
- Tuesday 6 August: Travis from Flinders University will be available for 15min appointments between 11.30am and 2.30pm. Please message Miss Brown to book an appointment.
- Miss Brown is also working with Deakin University to facilitate student appointments, but this will most likely be towards the end of August.
- Monday 12 August: SATAC Information Session to explain the application process. A SATAC representative will present online in the Mount Gambier High School CLC from 10.30am. Please message Miss Brown to register.

Please make sure you register using the sheets up on the SACE Floor and message Miss Brown for the SATAC session to confirm your interest in attending.

Samantha Brown | Head of Senior School

## TERM 3 SPORTING CALENDAR

Statewide Year 9/10 Netball	Week 3 - Monday 5 August
Statewide Open Boys Basketball Finals - Adelaide	Week 4 - Tues/Weds 13-14 August
Statewide Girls & Boys 9/10 Basketball - Millicent	Week 5 - Thursday 22 August
SEZ Div B Netball - Wulanda Recreation Centre	Week 7 - Wednesday 4 September
SEZ Open Volleyball Competition- Wulanda Recreation Centre	Week 8 - Thursday 12 September
SEZ 7-9 Futsal Competition - TBC	Week 9 - Tuesday 17 September
SEZ 10-12 Futsal Competition - TBC	Week 9 - Thursday 19 September
SEZ 7-9 Girls 9 -A-Side Football	Week 10- Wednesday 25 September
<p>Please Note: Dates are subject to change.</p> <p>Students wishing to nominate for teams must do so by accessing the online form via the Daymap bulletin.</p> <p>SEZ: South East Zone</p>	

## NDIS SCHOOL LEAVERS INFORMATION SESSION

Mount Gambier High School would like to invite students and families to a NDIS School Leaver Information Session to assist any students with a disability who will finish school at the end of 2024 or 2025. The session will include information on:

- How do I apply for the NDIS?
- What evidence do I need to apply for the NDIS?
- How can the NDIS support a school leaver?

Limestone Coast Local Area Coordinators (LAC's) will explain the NDIS process and supports that may be available for school leavers such as:

- Have you ever wanted to know what local supports are available after finishing school?
- What is a Disability Employment Provider (DES) Provider? What can they offer?
- What is a School Leaver Employment Service (SLES)? What can they offer?

Come and hear what supports, programs and activities local organisations can offer students after finishing school.

Date: Tuesday 13 August 2024 (week 4)

Time: 1.00pm for a 1.15pm start and 3.00pm finish

Venue: Mount Gambier High School Collaborative Learning Centre (CLC)

Format: Part 1 - NDIS Presentation, Part 2 - 4x 5-10-minute Overviews - Wise Employment, Are-Able, Beneficent and AXIS Employment explaining eligibility, programs, supports and services for school leavers, Part 3 - Time to book appointments and participate in a Banner Making activity.

Registrations close: Monday 5 August (week 2).





# Clubs and Activities | Term 3 2024

# LUNCHTIME



**Giant Games**  
Mondays and Fridays  
Week 1 - 10  
CLC



**Yu-Gi-Oh Club**  
Mondays  
Week 1 - 10  
CLC



**Chess Club**  
Tuesdays  
Week 1 - 10  
CLC



**Art & Painting**  
Tuesdays  
Week 1-10  
Murapena Room



**Soup Day**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Week 1 - 10  
Yarnbala - Wellbeing



**Quiz Day**  
Wednesdays  
Week 1 - 10  
CLC - Green Room



**Rainbow Club**  
Wednesdays  
Week 1 - 10  
Yarnbala - Wellbeing



**Scattagories**  
Thursdays  
Week 1-10  
CLC - Green Room



**Dungeons & Dragons**  
Friday  
Week 1 - 10  
CLC - Green Room



**Awkward Club**  
Mondays  
Week 1 - 5  
Drama Room



**Music (listening)**  
Wednesdays  
Week 1 - 5  
Yarnbala - Wellbeing



**Chalk Drawing**  
Thursdays  
Week 2, 4 & 5  
Outside  
(meet in front of Drama)



**Novel Planning**  
Fridays  
Week 2, 4, 5 & 6  
CLC - Bubbles



**Songwriting & Slam Poetry**  
Mondays  
Week 6-10  
Drama Room



**Learn Facepainting**  
Wednesdays  
Week 6-10  
Yarnbala - Wellbeing



**Pen Pal Club**  
Fridays  
Week 7-10  
CLC - Bubbles



**YOUR IDEA GOES HERE!**  
Chat to Alysha from  
Wellbeing

CLC activities may change  
throughout the term.

If you'd like LEGO, 3D Printing,  
VR, Craft or other ideas in CLC,  
please chat to Miss Kelly.



**Government  
of South Australia**  
Department for Education

## Dear Mount Gambier High School Community

In Term 3 2023, we surveyed local Year 10's to find out about their lifestyles, and relationships with parents, peers, and schools, and we also asked them about their alcohol and drug use.

We want to show you the data and discuss how we can continue to build a strong community around our children to promote well-being for the future.

The evidence shows that the earlier parents know how to guide their children away from substance use, the easier it is to manage the teenage years and pressures for early substance use by the society we live in.

**When: 6.00pm, Monday 5 August 2024**

**Where: Mount Gambier High School Front Office**

### What is Planet Youth?

Developed by the Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis (ICSRA) at Reykjavik University. Planet Youth is an international evidence-based primary prevention model that has been designed to reduce rates of substance use among adolescents.

The Planet Youth model uses a whole community approach and offers the opportunity to improve health and life outcomes for local young people. It works by directly targeting the risk and protective factors in each of the 4 domains of Family, School, Leisure time & peer groups, aiming to enhance the social environment they are growing up in.

### Planet Youth Stakeholders

Planet Youth is founded on partnerships, collaboration, and community involvement, and each stakeholder contributes to Planet Youth in their own way.

Parents	Schools
Community Organisations	Local Government
SAPOL	Sporting Associations
Recreational Organisations	Government Departments
Drug Action Teams	Non-Government Organisations
Young People	Voluntary Organisations
Philanthropic	Health Services & Councils

***Substance use and mental health issues are the leading cause of burden of disease for young people, causing incredible morbidity, behavioural problems, mental illness, loss of income to self, and the community they are living in.***

MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY

# STEAM CLUB

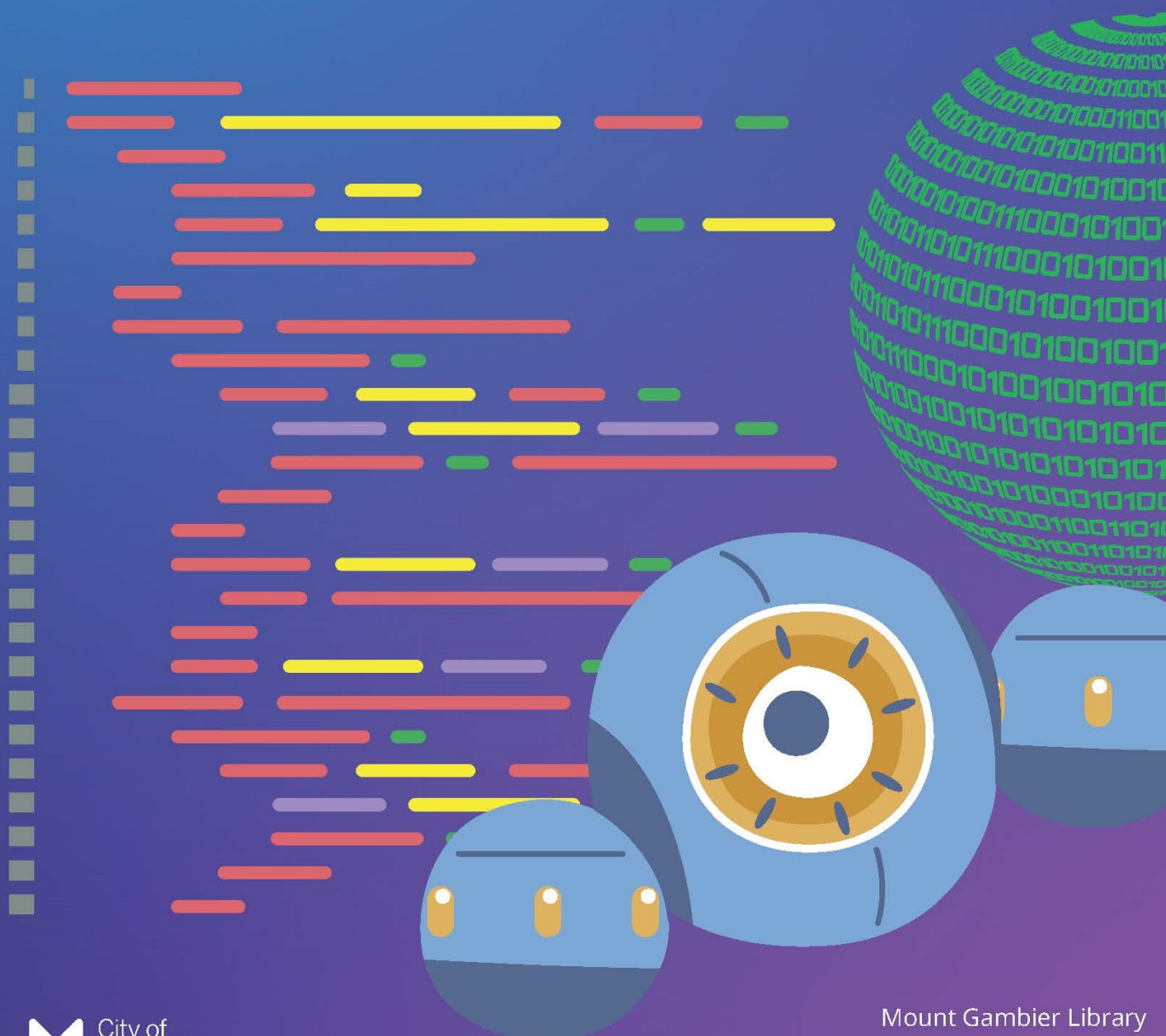
Term 3: Tuesdays 4:00pm – 5:00pm  
23 July to 24 September

Explore draw coding and block coding to play soccer, race cars and more.

**BYO device (smartphone/tablet) with SpheroEDU app installed.**

**Suitable for ages 8+.**

**Bookings essential.**



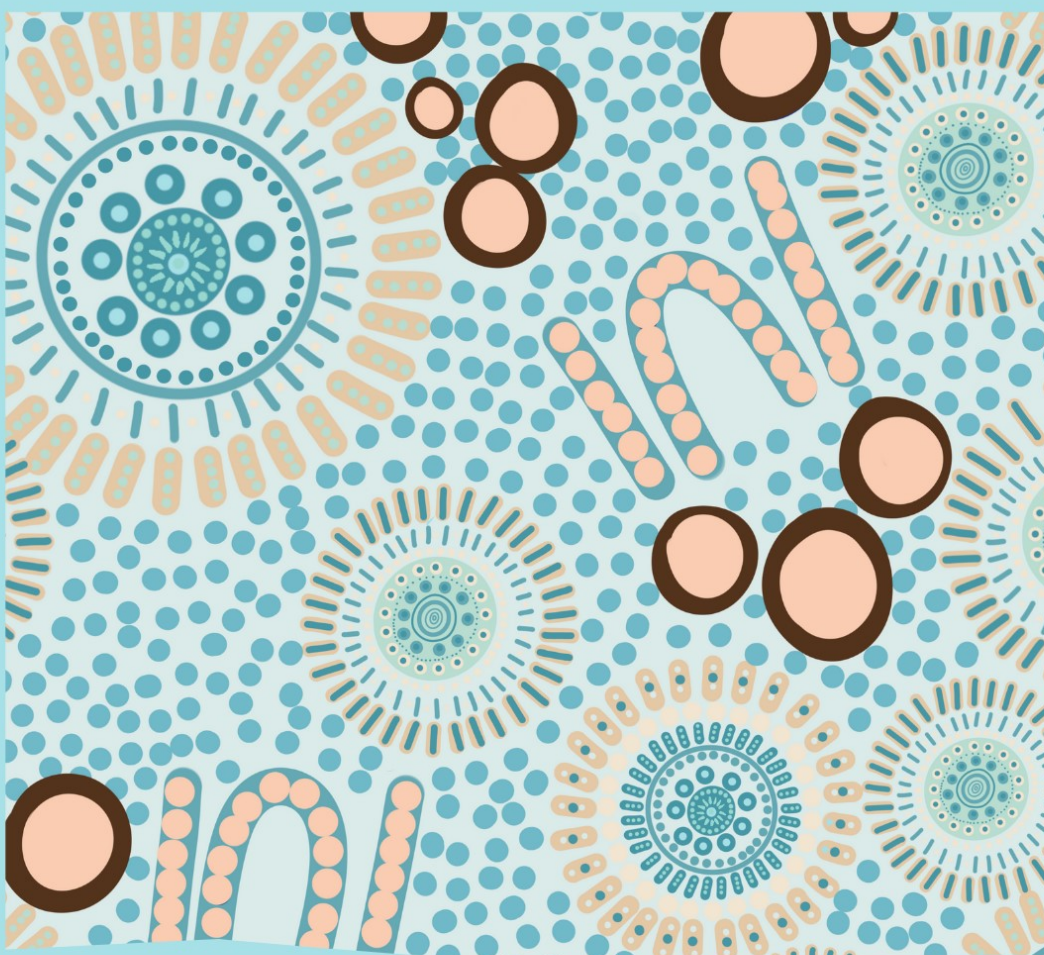
City of  
Mount Gambier

Mount Gambier Library  
6 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier  
Phone 08 8721 2540  
[mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library](http://mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library)

REFLECTING ON OUR ROOTS

SHAPING A SHARED FUTURE

REFLECTING ON OUR ROOTS



# NAIDOC WEEK



MGHS are beginning their NAIDOC week celebrations with a whole school assembly.  
Monday 5 August | 10:25am | MGHS Gym

PARENTS/CAREGIVERS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND



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