FAIRBRIDGE
COLLEGE

KALGOORLIE

NEWSLETTER
TERM 1
2025

Issue 34

PDF Version

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From the Principal's Desk

What a wonderful start to 2025! With so many new faces joining us this term, it has been amazing getting to know everyone!

I would like to warmly welcome our new staff members this term, **Sarah Barr, Sarah Betts and Shondell Perkins.**

Our new Student Support Officer (SSO) Sarah, Sarah and Shondell, have been valuable additions to our team this term. We are grateful to have such amazing and experienced staff on board!

We are delighted to have Gary, Tracey and Toods teaching this year, bringing a huge range of knowledge and experience to the team.

Students have been enjoying a cooked breakfast and lunch each day throughout term 1 as part of our trial kitchen program. I am pleased to say the program has been a success, with more and more students taking part in the program and enjoying the time to check in with staff and friends before class. Thank you to Mel for all of her hard work to ensure the program was a success!

We welcomed back Lindsay this term to continue his incredible music program. The music students are loving having Lindsay back and we cannot thank him enough for dedicating his time to our school.

Students will have the opportunity to work with Headspace Kalgoorlie onsite as they join us once a week to offer a 'Safe Space' similar to what they offer at their centre. Thank you to Maaz for making this opportunity available to our students.

We would like to thank all of our wonderful parents who attended our Harmony Day lunch this term. What an amazing turnout, and some pretty great food too! Well done to students as well as Sarah Barr and Mel for their incredible efforts in the kitchen!

Last week, we officially retired our therapy chickens, Maggie and Penny. We would like to say a huge thank you to Finn and Candise for allowing us to love and care for their chickens over the years and we are so glad they will have a nice quiet retirement!

Liana

Liana's Corner

K3 have been working hard this Term to continue developing their mathematics skills through the **Maths Pathways** program as well as learning how to apply math skills to our every day lives. In English, we have been learning about extending our sentences through the use of descriptive language to make our writing more interesting to the reader.

Students from K3 enjoyed designing and making **Harmony Day** t-shirts. They look amazing!

This term students have been enjoying weekly Friday excursions, including visiting the museum, PCYC, bush trips and the Kambalda pool. It has been a great way to get to know each other and learn about the history of our town!

Liana

The Tracey Time

K4 Seniors' Remarkable Journey in Term 1
As we near the end of Term 1, it's a perfect time to reflect on the incredible journey our K4 seniors have embarked upon. This term has been particularly special for me as I transitioned from SSO to Teacher, witnessing firsthand the dedication and growth of our students.

Vocational Educational Training and Pathways Courses
This term, our K4 seniors began their Vocational Educational Training and pathways courses. Despite the challenges posed by staff changes, all students have successfully enrolled in, commenced, or are about to commence either Certificate II or III courses through TAFE or independent local training facilities.

Diverse Learning Experiences
The delivery of these courses has been diverse and enriching:

- TAFE Attendance: Some students attend TAFE one day a week.
- On-Site Blocks: Others participate in on-site blocks of one or two weeks.
- Virtual Classes: Virtual classes via TAFEs in other areas have been a great option for some.
- Online Courses: Dedicated time at school for online courses has allowed students to focus on their studies and assessments.

Exploring Future Career Opportunities
In March, we had the opportunity to attend the Meedac Employment Expo at the Coolgardie Town Hall. This event provided valuable insights and connections for our seniors. Looking ahead to next term, our students will have the chance to participate in work experience placements with local businesses, offering them practical, hands-on experience in various fields.

It's crucial for our seniors to explore various options for their future careers. The experiences and skills they gain through these courses and work placements will undoubtedly pave the way for their future success.

In the Classroom we have been looking at goal setting, conspiracy theories and have enjoyed weekly excursions, sport and music.

We have also started on our Formal Dinner Party for our big picture project which will be held for the staff and partners next term as part of their assessment.

Tracey

A Term with Toods

K2 Kicks Off 2025 with a Fantastic Start!
The 2025 school year has begun on a high note for K2, with students quickly settling into their new learning environment. It has been heartwarming to see how warmly our newcomers have been welcomed, and the sense of teamwork and camaraderie that has already developed within the class. From the very first day, students have shown a strong commitment to working together, supporting one another, and creating an inclusive and positive atmosphere in our classroom.

One of the highlights of the term so far has been K2's active participation in the Big Picture Project Youth Awareness Anti-Vaping Campaign, **"More than Just a Puff."** Students have thrown themselves into this important initiative, engaging in meaningful discussions and contributing to a range of activities. From a thought-provoking class debate to conducting a whole school survey, designing impactful Youth Anti-Vaping posters, and crafting social media posts, their dedication to spreading awareness has been inspiring. Through this project, K2 has not only developed valuable advocacy skills but also strengthened their sense of responsibility to their peers and the wider school community.

Beyond the classroom, our weekly Friday Whole School Excursions have provided incredible learning experiences and strengthened the bonds among students. At **The Goldfields Museum**, K2 students stepped back in time to explore the history of life in the goldfields, gaining a deeper appreciation for our region's rich past. The **Meedac Careers Expo in Coolgardie** was another standout experience, where students had the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations with mining services and community organisations about potential career pathways. Taking full advantage of the warm weather, we also enjoyed refreshing trips to **The Kambalda Pool and Goldfields Oasis**, where students could cool off, have fun, and build friendships outside the classroom. Our **bush trips to Lake Douglas and Wendy Gully** brought adventure and excitement, as students tried their luck catching yabbies and explored the natural beauty of the bushland.

With such a fantastic start to the year, we are excited for all that lies ahead in 2025. The enthusiasm, teamwork, and dedication K2 has displayed so far set the stage for a year filled with learning, growth, and unforgettable experiences. Keep up the great work, K2!

Toods

Keeping Up with Gary

It has been a delight to watch K1 grow and develop as a class this term. Most of the boys are new to Fairbridge – yes, they're all boys – and have had to adjust to a new school environment together. Everybody started off a little shy, not sure where they fitted and then…the personalities emerged!

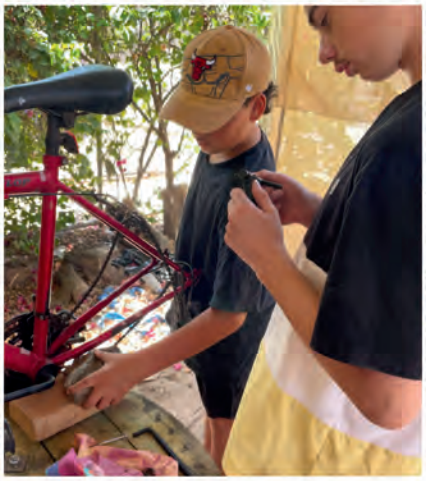
The foundation of our learning has been the very necessary basics of literacy and numeracy. Wherever the students want to go in life, these skills will empower them to get there. The boys' creativity has also been encouraged, with regular art lessons and some very good t-shirt designs for **Harmony Day**.

The Big Project has absorbed much of our time. The boys' task was to design and make a couple of billy carts. This sounds like fun – and it was - but I managed to sneak in a bunch of maths, English, media, science and social skills while the fun was happening. Did it all turn out quite how we'd hoped? No. But was a lot learned? Yes it was.

We also saw the huge generosity of the KB community when I put a Facebook appeal out for donations of second hand bicycles to practise on. I had to beg people to stop donating after we got 15 bikes and several scooters!

I'm so looking forward to seeing the K1 boys grow in confidence, academically and socially, as we move into Term 2 and beyond.

Gary



Wellbeing Corner

Happy Easter from Jayne & Gal!

I hope you're enjoying a restful break and returning recharged for the term ahead! This is my first Wellbeing Newsletter for 2025, and it comes at a time of fresh beginnings and exciting new chapters.

After five wonderful years as a team effort, the Wellbeing space is evolving. Our much-loved Psychologist Bridget Leahy, who gave so much to our students and school community, has moved on to new adventures.

We're incredibly grateful for all she brought to Fairbridge and wish her the very best. Likewise, our amazing Wellbeing Officer Kate has also embraced a new opportunity. Both Bridget and Kate leave behind a legacy of care, humour, and connection that we'll continue to build on with pride.

This term, Gal (our loyal Wellbeing Dog) and I have been busy supporting new staff as they settle in—and we're thrilled to welcome our newest team member, Niamh! It's been a season of learning, growing, and shifting perspectives—my counselling focus even turned toward guiding our brilliant new colleagues as they found their feet.

This change reminded me just how important it is to keep our self-care fresh and flexible. As our roles and routines shift, our self-care needs might too. Lately, I've found calm in an unexpected place—a veggie patch made from old boots! Watering a few beetroot and carrot seedlings has become a peaceful daily ritual, filled with tiny moments of joy (yes, even the odd visiting spider!). Soon I'll harvest something small and wonky—but it'll be mine, and it'll remind me that growth happens with patience and care.

Wishing you your own little moments of peace and connection this term. Try something new—you never know what might bloom!

Jayne & Gal

Meet the New Crew!

Hi, I'm **Sarah Barr**, a Student Support Officer at Fairbridge College in Kalgoorlie. I'm also a proud mum of three beautiful children, aged 5, 6, and 8.

With 15 years of experience working with youth across various age groups, I've had the privilege of supporting young people in different settings, including out-of-home care, working with individuals with disabilities, and even running playgroups while my children were young.

I'm thoroughly enjoying my role at Fairbridge College and feel fortunate to be part of such a dedicated and supportive team. It's been a refreshing and rewarding change, and I'm excited to continue contributing to the growth and development of the students here.

Hi, I'm **Shondell Perkins**, I am a Noongar woman from Perth, now based in Kalgoorlie, where I have lived for the past 16 years with my three daughters. With 11 years of experience in education, I am passionate about supporting students and ensuring they feel heard, valued, and capable of reaching their full potential.

As a Student Support Officer, I am committed to creating a positive and inclusive learning environment where students feel empowered to overcome challenges and achieve their goals. My deep connection to the Goldfields community allows me to understand and address the unique needs of local students, fostering strong relationships built on trust and respect.

My work is driven by the belief that every student deserves the support and encouragement needed to succeed academically, emotionally, and personally.

Hello! My name is **Sarah Betts**, also known as Bettsy. I'm a mum of 2 kids and I've lived in Kalgoorlie my whole life.

I've come to Fairbridge with a background youth and social work. I've worked with both individuals and small student groups.

I am looking forward to supporting students in every aspect, academically and socially. Also I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with a dedicated team to create a positive and supportive learning environment for all students.

Important News

- **Week 1** Thursday - ANZAC ceremony
- **Week 10** Thursday - NAIDOC celebrations

FAIRBRIDGE

HAPPY

Easter

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FAIRBRIDGE COLLEGE

FAIRBRIDGE EDUCATION

CAMP FAIRBRIDGE

SHINE
experience grow
become
FLOURISH
LEARN *be*