

Duke of Edinburgh's Award news

Girls show resilience and determination to complete their Adventurous Journey

Students working towards their Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards attended camps during the first week of the September holidays.

A group of thirty-one students completing their Silver Award successfully completed their Qualifying Expedition. Over three days, the girls refined their navigation and camp craft skills in Nowra and along the Shoalhaven River.

The camp was a "pack and paddle" trip that required the girls to trek and canoe while carrying all their necessary equipment. The weather provided ideal conditions for hiking on the first day and gradually warmed up over the subsequent days during the canoeing leg of the journey. Memorable moments included encounters with wombats at the campsites, refreshing swims in the river and stargazing sessions by the campfire.

Ten students completing their Gold Award participated in a four-day Practice Expedition. The girls hiked and canoed at Berowra, facing the challenges of wet weather, including freeing canoes from the dense mud during low tide. Highlights included working together in small groups, preparing dinner and enjoying the camping experience.

Both groups showed resilience and were enthusiastic about completing the journey together as a team.

The Silver group has now completed the Adventurous Journey component of the Award and members of the Gold group are preparing to complete their upcoming Qualification Expedition, which will test the same skill sets they developed on this expedition.

Congratulations to all the girls. Thank you to Mr Staples for accompanying the Gold group, and to Ms Lee and Mrs Seo-Hung for accompanying the Silver group, alongside me. Thanks also to the Youthworks Christian Outdoor Education providers for assisting with two camps running at the same time and for their care of the girls.

I encourage all girls involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to continue with their activities and keep logging their hours. For any questions, please email me at cmarsh@meriden.nsw.edu.au or Miss Niamh Friel at nfriel@meriden.nsw.edu.au.



Top image: Year 10 students on their Silver Qualifying Expedition

Bottom image: Year 11 students on their Gold Practice Adventurous Journey

Four Year 12 students receive Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

We are immensely proud of our four Year 12 students who have successfully achieved their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards while managing their studies for the HSC.

Emma Higgins

Emma began her Duke of Edinburgh's Award journey in Year 9, earning her Bronze Award, followed by her Silver Award in Year 10. In Year 11, she embarked on her Gold Award program. Alongside her

academic pursuits, Emma excelled in Touch Football and established her own dedicated running regime. She also honed her chess skills as an active member of Meriden's Chess Club and engaged in online volunteering with DigiVol, where she contributed by digitising various data for the Australian Museum. As part of her Residential Project, Emma participated in a CRU HSC Study Camp. This experience not only supported her HSC studies but also expanded her understanding of the Christian worldview through engaging talks and discussion groups.

Grace Allen

Grace began her Duke of Edinburgh's Award journey with her Bronze Award and completed her Silver Award in Year 10. For her Gold Award, Grace combined Basketball, Netball, and running to fulfill her physical activity requirements. She played the violin for the skill component and participated in the Smith Family's *Student2Student* reading program as part of the volunteer component. Grace also attended a CRU Study Camp for her Residential Project, combining assistance with study with learning more about the Christian faith.

Allison Dai

Allison went straight into the Gold Award when she turned sixteen in Year 10. This meant that she completed an extra six months on one of her activities as she did not complete her Silver Award. Allison played Badminton for her physical activity, practised the violin for her skill, and also completed volunteering for DigiVol by transcribing historical documents for the Australian Museum. Allison also attended an HSC Study Camp at Galston Gorge, with supervised study, exam simulations and Christian discussion groups.

Yunzhi Wang

Yunzhi began her Duke of Edinburgh's Award journey with her Silver Award and commenced her Gold Award in Year 11. She played Badminton, developed her chess skills at Meriden's Chess Club, and also volunteered for DigiVol by transcribing historical documents and classifying animal pictures for the Australian Museum. Yunzhi attended an HSC Study Camp for her Residential Project with the aim of improving her academic skills and learning different ways to study.

All four girls participated in a six-day combined Practice and Qualifying Adventurous Journey, which included hiking and canoeing at Berowra Waters. The girls will receive their Awards and certificates from the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, at a ceremony later in the year. Congratulations to the girls for their hard work in completing these awards.

Mrs Claire Marsh

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator