

AUGUST 2022

# ADOLESCENT PROGRAM MARGARET RIVER MONTESSORI HIGH SCHOOL

## A Newsletter for Prospective Families

Newsletter 2

4/6 Clarke Road, Margaret River Ph 08 9757 2564



## Welcome back! Kaya!

Welcome to the second newsletter update we are providing to the wider community about the new Montessori Adolescent Program (high school) beginning here in Margaret River in 2023. Click [here](#) to view our original newsletter. Read on to find out more about our updated plans for the first Montessori high school in the Southwest.

Lisa Fenton (MRMS Principal)



## OVERVIEW:

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This newsletter is designed to provide an update to families who are interested to know more about the development of a new high school in Margaret River. If you require further information, please contact the MRMS Office on 9757 2564 or email us at [montessori@margmont.wa.edu.au](mailto:montessori@margmont.wa.edu.au)

# Meet our Staff

## Teacher - Katherine Shearer

We are extremely excited to introduce you to Katherine Shearer, the first of our Adolescent Program Staff Team to be announced. Katherine not only taught at but was an integral part of the beginnings of the Adolescent Programs at both Rockingham Montessori and Bali Montessori.

Having begun at Rockingham in 2012 she worked her way up to Lead Adolescent Guide Coordinator before being recruited to begin the Bali Adolescent Program in 2018. Katherine obtained her Bachelor of Arts with a major in international development in Canada, and then completed a minor in anthropology in South Africa.

After a career in aviation finance, Katherine moved to Australia to obtain a graduate diploma in teaching. Katherine loves being outdoors, is a qualified Girl Guide Leader and also holds a private pilot's license. She recently completed a 200 hour yoga teacher training in Bali before moving back to Western Australia late July. Katherine also holds an Association Montessori Internationale Adolescent Studies Certificate.



She believes that by having high expectations and respecting abilities, learning styles, personalities and identities all students can experience success academically, socially and emotionally.

Meet Katherine...



Following her appointment, Katherine recently spent time together with MRMS Principal, Lisa Fenton, at the [Montessori Schools and Centres Australia \(MSCA\)](#) national conference for Australian Montessori Adolescent Programs. The delegates were honored with a presentation by Katherine on her experiences teaching pedagogy of place. Katherine showed us her students' own small business [Lil Lotus Coffee](#) and their business partnerships with local industry experts including an environmental science think tank, primary producers, marketing experts and more...see their [Instagram page](#) for how she helped them connect their learning to the real world.



# Meet our Staff

## Teacher - Georgia Gregory

After a very rigorous recruitment process involving a panel of four (Principal, Deputy Principal and two board members), we are also excited to announce the appointment of Teacher, Georgia Gregory.

Georgia comes to us from a background working in Journalism having studied a double degree in Media/Communications and Arts (Sociology and Politics) before undertaking Bachelor Secondary teaching.

She is a qualified and experienced English and Psychology Secondary Teacher with training qualifications and experience in Big Picture Education (for more info on Big Picture click [here](#)).

Georgia started secondary teaching on the east coast of Australia and soon found her way to high schools in Esperance and Busselton.



She resides in Margaret River where she enjoys engaging with the community and has found many connections through literature, music, cooking, surfing and other interests.

For Georgia, teaching is about engagement and connection. She loves to help students find their passion and purpose, enabling communication and confidence to help find their path.

Meet Georgia...



“ **Maria Montessori**

*"An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking: it involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to the times in which they live."*

*If what we really want is a new world, then education must take as its aim the development of these hidden possibilities."*



# Meet our Staff

## Teacher - Joel Hodgson

We are also excited to introduce to you Joel Hodgson. Joel tells us he is absolutely thrilled to be joining our school next year! He considers himself lucky to have grown up in the Margaret River region, which led him towards hobbies such as surfing, cycling, mountain biking, footy, basketball, playing guitar and in a broad sense, the outdoors.

Joel attained a Masters of Primary Education at UWA in 2016 and began his teaching career in Morawa. He was fortunate to learn from some amazing educators in those two years, and looks back fondly to the great experiences and opportunities he had being part of the local community there.

Joel's next position was in One Arm Point, a remote Aboriginal community 200 kilometers north of Broome. He spent an incredible 18 months up there teaching in their high school and working closely with the local Bardi-Jawi people.

Joel says these experiences have taught him to value the importance of knowing his students and how they learn.



He wants his students to gain critical thinking skills and acquire a social conscience. He also places a high importance upon engaging with the local community in order to accentuate the educational experiences of students both in and outside of school.

Meet Joel...



**Maria Montessori**

*"Let us give the child a vision for the whole universe...for all things are part of the universe, and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.*

*We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe, and are connected with each other to form one whole community. "*

# Enrolments

## What is the Montessori enrolment process?



Families should follow the following process if they are interested in our school:

1. Step 1 is submit an enquiry (via our website enquiry form, phone or email). Your enquiry will be attended to and you will be added to our Enquiry Database.
2. You can skip Step 1 and go straight to Step 2 which is to submit an Application for Enrolment which is accompanied by a \$150 administration fee (non-refundable).
3. Students applying from other primary schools will have a multi-stepped application process, modelled on that used by other Montessori schools. Montessori Adolescent Programs are a strongly connected community so it is important we get to know each individual student as deeply as we can.
4. Step 2 puts you on our waitlist to be placed but is not a guarantee of a place.
5. As per our Enrolment Policy students who graduate from Year 6 in our Primary School will be offered priority placements. Placements also work around maintaining a balance of students' age, gender, needs and interests. Other factors influencing placement include transitioning from another Montessori school or children of our alumni. Families applying to enrol from non-Montessori primary schools will have opportunity to provide their reasons for applying via the application process in Step 2.
6. Preliminary Enrolment Interviews (Step 3) take place following the above steps. More than one interview may be requested.
7. Letters of Offer and Welcome Packs are provided when a student can be placed (Step 4).
8. Students and families are then guided through an Orientation Process (Step 5) before starting.



## An education for Life

As enrolments from existing Margaret River Montessori School students and students from other Montessori schools will be prioritised, and because waitlists are currently in place for all classes in the primary school, Applications for Enrolment for the primary school are welcomed from birth.

## Contact Us

Office Administration, Enrolment Enquiries, Donations

P 08 9757 2564

E (enrolments) [montessori@margmont.wa.edu.au](mailto:montessori@margmont.wa.edu.au)

E (donations) [montessori@margmont.wa.edu.au](mailto:montessori@margmont.wa.edu.au)

W [www.margmont.wa.edu.au](http://www.margmont.wa.edu.au)

F [www.facebook.com/margaretrivermontessori/](https://www.facebook.com/margaretrivermontessori/)

I [www.instagram.com/margaretrivermontessorischool/](https://www.instagram.com/margaretrivermontessorischool/)



# Pedagogy of Place

## Connecting Curriculum to Place and the use of Micro-Economy to Connect to Community

Montessori Adolescent Programs aim to provide an inspiring, nurturing, collaborative and meaningful educational program and environment that will encourage compassion, independence, **initiative** and self-discipline and successfully prepare the students to take on their part in life's ultimate aim – to create a better world.

Teachers assist students to ask questions and **seek solutions** to real needs within their school and local communities.

Students come up with ideas for how to solve these problems, including by using their **entrepreneurial skills** to set up a small business from the ground up - planning, market research, branding, executing, accounting, reflection. It fosters initiative, individual responsibility and group cooperation, thereby reinforcing the school's mission of preparing adolescents for adulthood in the real world.

Without even realising it the students have covered all of the state required curriculum and more in a truly integrated way - AND it has been **meaningful, purposeful** and **authentic**.



Newly appointed MRMS AP Teacher Katherine Shearer and Principal Lisa Fenton recently spent time together at the [MSCA](#) national conference for Australian Montessori Adolescent Programs. The delegates were honored with a presentation by Katherine on her experiences teaching pedagogy of place.

# The Montessori Curriculum and Big Picture Learning

In the Margaret River Montessori Adolescent Program students will enjoy a curriculum that is broad and holistic in nature, catering to the developmental needs of **the whole adolescent**, physically, intellectually, emotionally, spiritually and socially.

The academic program will be based on the National Montessori Curriculum for ages 12-15 (and later 15-18) and will be aligned to the WA K-10 Curriculum and Assessment Outline, as already approved by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA).

The program will be supported by the use of an education framework which helps students to plan and connect their work - this is where Big Picture Education comes in.

Big Picture is an Education Framework that offers a departure from traditional 'appointment learning' where everyone learns the same things according to a fixed timetable.

Students create their own portfolio that they add to over their years of schooling. It allows for personalised, **passion-based** learning. It nurtures creativity, curiosity and independence.

Big Picture allows for a personalised form of assessment. It evaluates and recognises the capacities, experiences and qualities of individual students more comprehensively than exam-based certification systems.

As no two students have the same interest-based learning pathway, a personalised approach provides a fair and balanced assessment that adequately portrays a student's distinctive learning, achievement, competencies and potential.

Unlike other forms of assessment, no attempt is made to rank or scale students against each other. Their achievements are judged on demonstrations and observations of performance throughout their schooling.

Students complete Year 12 with a Learner Profile that is a showcase of a graduate's attainments, backed up by evidence of their work that students curate in an interactive online portfolio.

The Learner Profile is personalised and designed to reflect the richness of students' real-world experiences, personal qualities and academic results, and culminates in the International Big Picture Learning Credential when they graduate.



**Maria Montessori**

*"Within the child lies the fate of the future."*



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**Individual Children. Individualised Learning**

