



## 2018 Student Leader Induction Ceremony addresses

### Carol Petterson: Welcome to Country

This is the Noongar season of Bunuru: February to March, or early Autumn. Traditionally, our Noongar peoples of the past moved to coastal estuaries and reefs where fish and abalone were the main seasonal foods. This was also the time of preparing for the salmon and herring runs. Large fish could be speared from overhanging trees along the riverbanks. The paperbark trees covered in flowers told us that it was good time to gather fish.

The Colours of Bunuru are orange, red and yellow, as we associated different colours with our six seasons.

The next season is Djeran: Green, which symbolises cooler weather.

This helped the younger people to learn the seasons from the Elders and it taught them to respect our land in harvesting and hunting only what they needed, and at the correct time of the year, in accordance with our totemic systems, thus allowing for sustainability of all the species for future harvests.

On behalf of the Menang Peoples of Kinjarling, I welcome you all here today as we gather to celebrate another expected great year at Great Southern Grammar.

We are pleased to give you this welcome to our country, our ancestor's land from the Dreamtime and the land of our younger generation of the future.

In history and through today, as one we stand tall and proud of our spiritual connection to our land. Noongar spirituality lies in the belief of a cultural landscape and the connectedness between us humans and spiritual realms. Everything in our vast landscape has meaning and purpose. Life is a web of interrelationship where Noongar peoples and nature are partners, and where *Kura* (the past) is always connected to the *Yey* (the present). Through our paintings, our music and our gatherings, we are paying respect to our ancestral creators and, at the same time, spiritually connecting and strengthening our belief systems.

Noongar connection with nature and Boodja (country) signifies a close relationship with spiritual beings associated with every aspect of the land. We express this through our caring for Boodja and observing our lore of the land carried through eons of years by oral traditions of storytelling. Upon reflection, today's celebration is like this past traditional practice. It's our belief today, that this particular land where Great Southern Grammar stands and belongs, is a place of teaching, repeating the rules of long ago; helping younger people to learn from the Elders, teaching them to respect our way in caring for the land in harvesting and hunting for knowledge, for what they needed, in accordance with our new totemic systems. At the same time, spiritually connecting and strengthening our belief systems in our new lore.

Therefore, let us rejoice in shared hopes and prayers that this will continue to cement our connectedness and spirituality to our Boodja here at Great Southern Grammar School.

Welcome to Country and let us acknowledge that where we stand today is Menang Boodja.

### Bridie Weaver Address

It's great to see you all. To those new faces, welcome. I'm Bridie. I graduated with the class of 2017 at the end of last year and I'm so privileged to be back today to see this year's leaders stepping up to the plate. You are all in very safe hands and I wish our leadership group the very best as they make their mark on the school.

For all of you, I am sure that this year holds some daunting possibilities. You will be expected to live up to your new year level, the work will get harder and the load a bit heavier, so I've been asked to give you a little advice for the year ahead. One word which I will be using to do this is passion. I know it's a pretty clichéd word, but it really was what helped me gain success during my time at Grammar and it is applicable to all of us. No matter what year you are in, you can work to find something you are passionate about. This can be a particular area of academics, a certain sport or the skills of being a good friend or a leader; anything!

You might not yet know what your passion is, so I encourage you to try as many things as possible, whether this means extracurricular activities, funky electives or just talking to new people. Personally, my passion was the Arts and the fact that my highest achieving subjects were in the Arts is definitely no coincidence. When you find what you enjoy, it is so much easier to be successful as you can put passion into the work that you produce. The bottom line to any success is simply trying your best.

I know that school is definitely not all fine and dandy. Occasionally, you are going to need to do things that you are not passionate about, and it's hard to find the motivation you need. Again, dedication and hard work is the only key; there is no magic word. But, as you move further through your school life you will find that the hard work you put into the things you don't enjoy, makes it so much easier to create a personalised schedule of the classes and moments that you love.

Success can't be measured on a scale. For every person, the idea of succeeding is different. I was blessed enough last year to have academic success in the areas that I was passionate about, but that isn't the only way to measure a year. You might find that this year your aim is to become a kinder person or to do well at a class you are failing at, or to try your hardest in your soccer team. What you are passionate about can help you find how you will measure the success of the year. And note, it is very important to have aims if you want to see an outcome to your efforts. Remember also, find your limits and push them, but know when you have done your all. At the end of the day you can do nothing more than your best, and that in itself is success.

As a special note to the Year Twelves. This year is hard, whether you are doing ATAR or general, it requires dedication. For me, Year Twelve seemed like a huge mountain and that wasn't quite enough to motivate me onwards. I needed something to enjoy along the way to keep me going. I found these moments in my friendships and Art, but they can be in things as simple as a class you actually enjoy, food Fridays, the friendships you will form with students and teachers, or just being first in line for the microwave at lunch (this never happened for me).

Now a quick word for the boarders. You guys are close to my heart, having been part of the boarding family my Grammar time. Commencing in Year Ten, I was the only girl in my year to arrive as a boarder in 2015. To all you new boarders, I know exactly how you feel, but the feeling doesn't last long. I was so grateful to be accepted with open arms into a community of friends who became like sisters to me. This support that you have as a family within the school family is precious and it's another important way to make it through your schooling. It is not all about the end product, it is about the journey. To finish off, I quote some really deep lyrics from a cheesy Miley Cyrus song. "It's not about how fast you get there, it's not about what's waiting on the other side, it's the climb."

Thanks for listening and good luck to you all this year. Try your best in whatever you love and you will do fabulously.

#### **Head Girl (Claire Bradshaw) and Head Boy (Angus Milne) Address**

Good afternoon to staff, students, and guests of GSG. What an absolute honour it is to stand up and speak to you all today as members of this school community.

On our Year Eleven camp last year, we had the privilege of listening to a guest speaker named Greg Mitchell. One thing that really stuck with us was a story he had about a homeless man named Larry, and the lifelong effect that a simple act of kindness can have on a person. Greg left us with the question:

“What is my dollar to give and who is my Larry to give it to?”

The idea of leadership stems from this. You can't change the world with a simple click of your fingers, but you *can* change a person's attitude or perspective by offering what you have to give. This could be your time, some words of encouragement, or in Larry's case, a dollar. Just think, if everyone in this room were to find a Larry and work out what their dollar is to give, that's an entire school's worth of people who have been motivated and inspired, and this generates a domino effect of positivity. Leadership can have an extraordinarily powerful effect.

As a leadership team and Year Twelve group, we want to encourage everyone in this school environment to embrace the virtue of their own potential leadership to help evolve the positive culture that we hope to develop.

Leadership is not about being at the top of the tree, it is about being at the roots. This is something that we talked a lot about on leadership camp; the idea that good leaders should be at the bottom of the tree, pushing people up, rather than being at the top, dragging people up. We also talked a lot about our vision and how we plan to enact our vision and ways we can encourage others to engage with our vision.

We like the idea of 'transformational leadership' where a good leader or leadership team has the following attributes.

They should:

- Be able to create an inspiring vision for the future;
- Have the ability to motivate and inspire others to engage with that vision; and most importantly,
- Manage the delivery of the vision.

On camp we talked about our vision for the future and we took those ideas and incorporated it into a mission statement which is basically a formal summary of our aims and values as a leadership team.

Our statement reads:

“As the leadership team of 2018, we endeavour to develop a thriving and inclusive culture within our GSG community. We make a commitment to strengthening the relationships between students of different sub-schools and to creating an environment where students feel comfortable and are encouraged to be themselves.”

So, the first attribute of being a 'transformational leadership team' is to create an inspiring vision. Our inspiring vision is to develop a thriving and inclusive culture within our GSG community.

The next attribute is having the ability to motivate others to engage with our vision. We plan to do this by encouraging each and every one of you and by working hard towards strengthening the relationships between all of us.

Lastly, a good leader or leadership team should manage the delivery of the vision. We need your help to do this! We plan to do this by speaking with you as much as we can, seeking your feedback on how we are going, so be honest!

Every one of you can be a leader, some of you might know it and some of you might not. With our encouragement, we hope that we can inspire you and help you find the inner leader that you all possess. We want to be really clear about one thing before we finish. Throughout this speech we've talked a lot about our vision. By the word 'our' I do not mean the leadership team, I mean all of us.

We really hope that

- a) you like our mission statement; that you can relate to it and think that is on the right track,

and

- b) that you are prepared to come on this journey with us.

I'm going to repeat again that every single person in here has the ability to inspire someone else. I urge you to uplift others, encourage others and embolden each other to take on some challenges. If all of us try to do this, we will be well on our way to being successful in achieving our vision.

Thank you.