



2026 Hollomby Foundation Scholarships Awarded

Thursday, 19 March 2026

A total of \$83,500 in scholarships was awarded to 30 Geraldton Universities Centre (GUC) students today at the annual Hollomby Foundation Scholarship Presentation Event, made possible through the generous support of local scholarship donors.

Named in honour of the late community champion Joe Hollomby, the Hollomby Foundation Scholarship Program provides vital financial assistance to students undertaking university studies through the GUC. The program is supported by a diverse group of individuals, businesses and organisations from across the Mid West, all committed to helping local students access higher education without having to leave their community.

A special presentation also took place during the event, with the gifting of a handcrafted clock made by Joe Hollomby's son, Les Hollomby. The clock was generously donated as a gesture of appreciation to long-term supporters of the Hollomby Foundation.

This year, The Hon Melissa Price MP, Member for Durack, was recognised for her ongoing contribution to the Foundation. Since 2018, Ms Price has proudly supported GUC students through the Hon Melissa Price MP Member for Durack Equity Scholarship, providing financial assistance to students studying at the GUC.

Ms Price has also been a strong advocate for the Federal Government's Regional University Study Hubs Program, which supports 56 regional university study hubs across Australia.

One of the standout stories from the event was first year Bachelor of Education student, Peta Humphreys, who received the Mid West Development Commission Scholarship, designed to support high-achieving Year 12 students to commence university studies at the GUC. Peta achieved outstanding ATAR results while studying at Morawa District High School as a Schools of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE) student, demonstrating exceptional commitment and determination.

The Foundation also welcomed new donors in 2026, with Mitsui E&P and Beach Energy jointly funding three scholarships valued at \$2,000 each, supporting students to study locally through the GUC.

The Hollomby Foundation continues to play a critical role in easing financial pressures for university students across the Mid West.

GUC Director Natalie Nelmes said the stories shared at this year's event highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by students.

"We continue to hear very compelling stories about the impact the current cost-of-living pressures are having on students," Ms Nelmes said.

"Many are struggling to balance work, full-time study and family commitments. Support from local donors and the wider community truly makes all the difference."

About Geraldton Universities Centre and the Hollomby Foundation

The Geraldton Universities Centre (GUC) is a community-owned regional university hub supporting Mid West students to access a wide range of university courses without leaving their community. In partnership with CQUni, UniSQ and Curtin University, the GUC provides local facilities, academic support and wrap-around services to help students succeed in higher education. The Hollomby Foundation, named in honour of the late Joe Hollomby, supports GUC students through scholarships funded by local donors, businesses and organisations, reducing financial barriers and strengthening education outcomes across the Mid West.

Photo Credits:

Hon Melissa Price MP and Hollomby Foundation Chair, Yvonne Messina (clock presentation)

Peta Humphreys and CEO Mid West Development Commission Nils Hay

Group photo of scholarship winners