

Staff News

Unfortunately, Denise, one of our Work placement Coordinators had the roof of her home catch fire on 3 different occasions in term 1. Having the commitment Denise is renowned for, she was able to continue with her job responsibilities.



Youth Pathways News

For this edition of the HVYE newsletter we would like to share some really exciting news from the Youth Pathways team regarding some work with young people from a remote Indigenous community in Western Australia called Balgo.

During the April School holiday period, Sarah & Ellen were invited to travel across the Tanami Desert from Alice Springs to Balgo with the Community Capacity Builder for the community Margaret Kavanagh to engage and work with young people and assist in the development of programs to support remote Indigenous education and wellbeing.

These young people are by nature of their geographic location very isolated and have limited access to any support or guidance in respect of their education. Common issues that present across primary and secondary school age children include very low levels of Numeracy & Literacy, challenges with regular attendance and retention rates, and inadequate access to resources such as stationary and writing implements, let alone technology such as a computer.

Having worked in the Youth Pathways program for three years now, I would like to thank the Schools for their support and the young people for their participation.

The great thing about the program is its flexibility to provide assistance to young people in whatever area they need. It is not a "one size fits all" program, but individually tailored assistance.

Nothing could be more rewarding than seeing a young person develop a resume, practice job-seeking skills and then have the confidence to go out and land themselves a job. Equally as gratifying is witnessing those who decide to really tackle their behaviour issues, learn to manage their anger, or start passing subjects where they have a history of failing. The genuine confidence and self esteem resulting from this progress is priceless. Taking the first step, achieving the first goal can be the start of something wonderful and the positive effects snowball from that point onwards in so many cases.

A personal thank you to Maureen Wilson, my Youth Pathways partner for her guidance and inspiration. Maureen's ability to engage young people and help them with her boundless goodwill and positive energy will be sadly missed, but we wish her well in the next chapter where she will doubtlessly continue to help others shape better lives for themselves.

Toni Falk - Youth Pathways Officer for CHS, MVHS, KKHS, MTC & MGHS

Our warmest congratulations go to **Christina Bright** who was nominated for and awarded the 'can do it' award at the annual Hunter Volunteer Centre Awards. Christina regularly volunteers in the HVYE Careers Caravan. She was presented with her award at a luncheon held at South's Leagues Club, Merewether in May.



Students who are interested in secondary education are required to leave their community and travel for 10 hours to a city school in WA where they will remain for terms at a time.

Transition support for the few students who do continue with schooling past Yr 6 is critical but seldom available resulting in these students returning to Balgo. Many historical, social, cultural, and other factors combine to create the challenges faced by all members of this community.....however the community is culturally rich with traditional language, art, and storytelling still flowing through the Balgo Hills. Ellen and Sarah have so much to share with you about this experience and the work they did over these few weeks that this article could be endless. In short they are happy to talk with anyone who is interested in finding out about working with 'at risk' young people, the challenges of delivering and sustaining remote education in Indigenous communities, and the strength and resilience that is critical to identify and develop if education and wellbeing are to be priorities in remote Australia.

It was a unique opportunity to develop skills that have been beneficial to ongoing Youth Pathways delivery in our schools.

Sarah Sherlock—Youth Pathways



Upcoming Events

- Career Quests— 4 June KKHS, 25 June THS, Indigenous Career Quest 8 July RTHS
- NAIDOC Week 6—12 July
- Try a Trade— Port Stephens 12 June, 14 August Maitland
- Mobile Career Caravan— 9—19 June KKHS, 13—17 July, Stockland Greenhills.
- Teacher Network Days— November TBC
- Industry Engagement Night RIE 23 June
- Retail Rookie (Expo) 1 June
- Brick and Block—22 June, THS, TBC, MVHS

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Hunter Valley Youth Express Your Local Community Partnership—from the Managers Desk

2009 sees the final year of Hunter Valley Youth Express contract with DEEWR to provide Career and Transition, Structured Workplace Learning, Adopt a School Support and Youth Pathways services. As a result of the May budget and allocation of youth program funding, Hunter Valley Youth Express Local Community Partnership Program will cease in its current form on 31 December 2009. To keep you all informed the following information gives a quick outline of the opportunities that HVYE will be looking towards in 2010.

From 1 January 2010 existing Australian Government youth, transitions and career programs will be restructured into two new initiatives, targeted at supporting

young people who need the most help to get a job.

Youth Pathways, YouthLinx, Connections, Mentor Marketplace, will be consolidated into one **Youth Connections** program; and Youth Connections will provide a safety net for young people at risk, either through personalised individual support or by providing services that recognise the role that family and community play in a young person's well-being and development.

Local Community Partnerships, Regional Industry Career Advisors and National Industry Career Specialists will be consolidated into a **Community Education & Employers Partnerships Brokers** program.

The Community and Education

Engagement Partnerships providers will broker strategic, sustainable partnerships between schools and the community - including business, industry, community organisations, parents and families - to improve educational outcomes and support young people to stay engaged in learning.

Hunter Valley Youth Express will be looking to form strong local partnerships to help see quality delivery and support of these programs.

Feel free to contact me should you require further information.

Cheers 'til next time.

Julie Eldridge
Program Manager HVYE

Career Tips for Parents

Hunter Valley Youth Express, in response to telephone calls and enquiries from parents on an ongoing basis, facilitated 4 parent evenings during May and June. Parents of Year 7—10 aged young people were invited to take part in information sessions provided by industry on Professional and Defence careers, Apprenticeship/Traineeships including School Based options, Using Technology, Drivers Licence Support, Industry Expectations, Vocational Subjects and Pathways, Career Planning, Regional and National Labour Market Information and much more. Industries who supported these events included: Forsythes Recruitment, Woolworths (pictured), Companion Credit Union, MAS National, Peppers Anchorage, Harbourside Haven, HPOTs, Defence Recruiting, Alliance—Defence Apprenticeships, Achieve Employment, MEGT, Maitland City Council, Centrelink, AI Group. Parents and young people were able to visit information stalls after completing the sessions to gain further information, ask questions and collect from the wide range of brochure materials. (pictured Garry Kay of Rutherford Technology HS seeks information at VET information stall).



Structured Workplace Learning—Lower Hunter



MHS teacher, Matt Ford, TAFE teacher Geoff Towns with proud Maitland HS students, and their new commemorative wall.

Hunter Valley Youth Express represented at the Careers Market held at Tocal; providing brochures on VET courses and supporting a demonstration from Hospitality students at Maitland High Schools. SWL coordinators have been actively involved with industry by conducting regular site visits to employers that participate in the Work Placement program and have been seeking out new employers. Hunter Valley Youth Express would like to

thank all of the supportive employers for their ongoing commitment in these hard times.

Coordination of Year 11 placements has commenced, and students have participated in work placement orientations providing them with work readiness preparation. Denise and Anthony look forward to continuing to facilitate quality work placements in term 2/3 and encourage you to contact them if you have questions.

4 Dungog HS, CISCO IT Work placement students have been busy at Hunter Valley Youth Express Offices during week 6. They are able to access the expertise of CISCO staff in Sydney whilst being able to remain close to home, to complete their work placement utilising a 'virtual' model.

Welcome to new Construction Teacher, Chris Gillespie at Cessnock HS. We look forward to organising helpful placements for your students in 2009.

Career Transition Support—Lower Hunter

Information Evenings—have been supported at both Plan Your Career and Career Tips for Parents nights, throughout March and April.

Mobile Careers Van—has visited Maitland Christian, Maitland and Kurri High Schools, Cessnock TAFE, Tomaree Foreshore, Woodberry Family Fun Day, St Phillips Founders Day events during term 2. We are fortunate to have the support of volunteers who come via the Hunter Volunteer Centre to assist in the van. The van is booked for Stockland Greenhills

for the first week of the July school holidays. All welcome.

Career Quest— HVEY partnered with the FAER Project and conducted a combined Career/Pirate Quest for Dungog High during April. With another to follow for Tomaree HS. Career Quests for Maitland Grossmann Kurri High, Tomaree HS, Indigenous Job Market will occur during May and June. A Lower Hunter Indigenous specific Career Quest will be offered to 10 high schools and hosted by Rutherford High in July to celebrate NAIDOC week.

HVEY continues to support Try a Trade events through contribution to Regional planning, provision of Mobile Careers Van support and by accessing industry presenters for events.

P&C—staff are in contact with all High School P&C Associations and have attended FGHS and MHS meetings to date in 2009.

Resource Centre—provides free career transition support to young people 13–19 years of age and their parents Monday–Friday. To make a booking, phone 4931 2721.

Adopt a School—Lower Hunter

Wine Country— 110 students from CHS, MVHS, KKHS, SHS and St Joseph's Lochinvar visited 10 small hospitality businesses within Pokolbin Village to gain insights into career opportunities and skills needed to work within that industry in early March. Apprentices and staff from a range of businesses provided a quick question and answer opportunity upon completion of the visits. A flyer showcasing a number of businesses was introduced to students on the day along with a showbag packed with information. The event provided a great lead in to

the Hospitality Roadshow in early April.

Brick and Block— Maitland and Maitland Grossmann High Schools have both taken part in this program during term 2 resulting in a fine brick wall, commemorative wall and pathway constructed by students under the leadership of TAFE trainers.

Cows Create Careers - calves have arrived at Cessnock, Mount View (first time in the program in 2009), Rutherford, Tomaree and Dungog High Schools. Mentors from the Dairy industry have

visited classes and Dairy Farmers are providing ongoing support to schools. Project work is well underway.

Hatchery— 2 schools were successful in gaining entry to this program in 2009—Tomaree and Mount View.

Financial Literacy— through the support of Mark Grant at Hunter United Credit Union, students at St Joseph's Lochinvar have been able to develop a budget and learn more about managing their money. Plans are underway to visit students at St Peters, later in 2009.

School Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships

The majority of SBAT sign ups have been completed for 2009 however there is the odd one still being undertaken. With the current economic climate it has been difficult in some industry areas for employers to make a 2 year commitment to a young person, this is reflected in the number of sign ups completed in 2009. We are currently investigating other ways that employers can remain engaged with young people so that when the current situation improves there won't be a shortage of skilled employees available.

Health Services Certificate III - 3 students have been signed up with Hunter New England Health, 2 at Maitland Hospital from Maitland High School and 1 at Cessnock Hospital who attends Cessnock High School.

This opportunity will give these students some very exciting pathways into nursing.

Subway - have remained strong once again signing 2 school based trainees in retail.

KFC - have been very active this year in offering their casual staff the opportunity to undertake a school based traineeship in retail. Yum Restaurants, the training arm of KFC are delivering the formal part of these traineeships.

Harvey Norman - have employed 2 information technology SBATs. These students spend the majority of their time in the tech bay but do rotate into the retail area to gain further skills.

LJ Hooker Cessnock - Bryce Gibson of LJ Hooker Cessnock

who was the first school based trainee in New South Wales in property services has just employed a Mount View HS student. Daniel will also be undertaking his course through OTEN. It is great to see a success story giving back to the industry and community.

Monitoring of SBATs— is currently being undertaken at all schools.

SBATs—Teina Mullen and Amy Squires at their sign up at Subway Maitland.



Upper Hunter News

The Upper Hunter Year 11 VET Student's Mock Interview Day Adopt a School Project was conducted on 2nd April at the Muswellbrook Hunter TAFE Campus. The day involved 4 Upper Hunter High Schools, Merriwa Central School, Scone High School, St Joseph's High School Aberdeen and Muswellbrook High School, with an overall participation of 140 students studying from the VET subjects of Business Services, Hospitality, Primary Industries, Metals & Engineering, Electrotechnology, Retail, and Construction.

The day involved the opening address by the Mayor of Muswellbrook, Martin Rush, the interview panel comprising of 11 industry personnel and 5 TAFE teachers and the involvement of 13 teachers.

Whilst not in interview sessions on the

subjects of OHS, Workplace Readiness and Structured Workplace Learning.

Positive feedback, especially in the form of the need for more activities such as this, was provided from all involved, thus the day was deemed a success. Needless to say, other projects stemming from this day are on the drawing board.

HVEY participated in the Pirate Quest conducted for Muswellbrook High School's 135 Year 9 students. Students were very receptive to the information and material provided in the 15 minute sessions.

The three Upper Hunter schools participating in the Cows Create Careers (CCC), Adopt a School programme, Singleton High School, St Joseph's Aberdeen and St Catherine's High School Singleton, have conducted their first meeting with their

respective Agriculture teachers, the CCC organisers and HVEY ASP personnel and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of calves from the local dairies involved to begin the programme. It is anticipated that this year's event will be quite competitive based upon experience and rivalry from the 2008 event .. watch this space for the results!

The St Josephs High School Careers Committee is currently working on developing CTS within the mainstream curriculum from year 7 to year 12. This endeavour will involve all classroom teachers throughout the range of subjects taught at the school, in infiltrating a determined career's structure into their delivery, thus making 'Careers' more frequently addressed and familiar for students to make the link to the world of work and the careers pathways akin to them.



Tocal students visit the careers van at the Careers Market on 19 May.

*"When we build,
let us think that
we build forever"*
—John Ruskin



Emmett Anderson takes advantage of the Mobile Careers Van at Nelson Bay during the April school holidays.

*"Some people will
do anything for
money—even
work!"* PK Shaw



John Hogno with young people dressed for work, from Mai Wel visit the HVEY Maitland Resource Centre.

*"If winter
comes, can
spring be far
behind?"*
Percy Bysshe
Shelley



Louise Jamieson, President Cessnock Wine Country Chamber of Commerce and business owner at Hunter Valley Gardens Village, provides a baking demonstration to Cessnock High School Students at Wine Wine Country ASP day.