



Walgett Community College High School

GABA GAAY

'GOOD STORY'

Issue 2 | March 2022

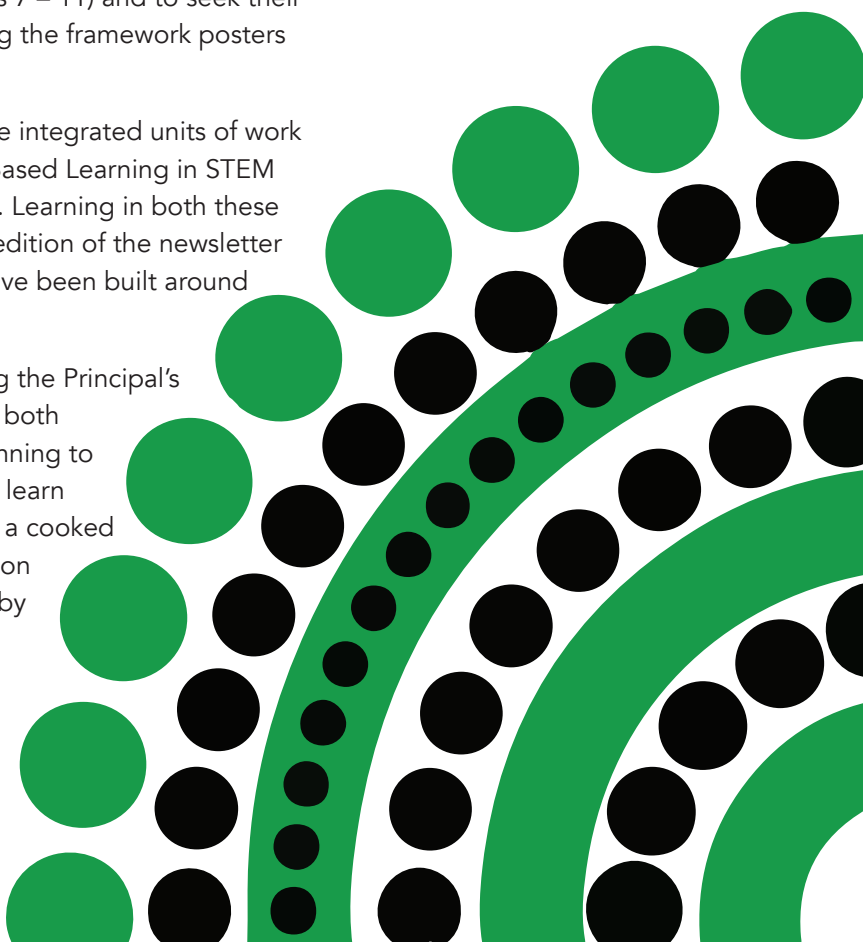
2022 has started with all students back at school for face-to-face learning and implementation of our Making School a Better Place framework now in full swing. The Framework is included in this edition and you will see examples of activities and initiatives we are working on throughout this edition of the newsletter.

Student attendance continues to be maintained at equal to our best levels for the last 12 months. It appears this is being sustained day by day which is very pleasing as the first component of successful learning is coming along to school each day. Most students continue to remain calm and focused within the school environment which has allowed the staff to focus on building learning experiences for those students.

Student wellbeing is being more comprehensively addressed in 2022 with sport, careers and dedicated wellbeing lessons now formally timetabled for all students in Years 7 – 11. A highlight in Term 1 has been to explicitly introduce the Making School a Better Place framework to all students (Years 7 – 11) and to seek their feedback. This has been complemented by displaying the framework posters around the school for students to see.

The school timetable has also changed to incorporate integrated units of work in CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts) and Project Based Learning in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Learning in both these areas has focused on the theme of water and in this edition of the newsletter you will see examples of student excursions which have been built around this theme.

One highlight for me this term has been commencing the Principal's Breakfast which has been a very positive initiative for both students and staff who participate. As part of the planning to better engage students and ensure they are ready to learn when they start the school day, we are implementing a cooked breakfast program. The first step in this implementation has been the "Principal's Breakfast" which is cooked by me (with some help from the ably qualified Beau Johnson and Doug Grave) and served each Friday morning from 8:00 am – 8:30am.



Over the coming term other teams are planning to take charge of the breakfast cooking on other days of the week so that breakfast can become part of the regular school day.



Pictured above:
WCC High School Executive Principal Adam Batchelor in full swing in the kitchen, assisted by Beau Johnson, SLSO.

The other highlight has been the school's partnership with Public Works Advisory. More detail about this initiative is included in this edition.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and it gives you a sense of the current activities which are combining to *make school a better place*.

Adam Batchelor
Executive Principal

MAKING SCHOOL A BETTER PLACE

This framework has been developed through consultation with staff, students, and School Reference Group members to guide activities and priorities at Walgett Community College High School for the period 2022 – 2024.

MAKING SCHOOL A BETTER PLACE



SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Capable, consistent leadership which demonstrates strong teamwork, consistent communication, and genuine consultation



A POSITIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

A supportive place where staff and students want to work and learn, and student achievement is the focus



EMBEDDING LOCAL LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Aboriginal language and culture is taught, acknowledged, and celebrated in the school and community



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

A range of educational and recreational activities, instilling a love of learning



A FOCUS ON LITERACY AND NUMERACY

A commitment to student engagement and achievement in literacy and numeracy



WELLBEING

A commitment to promoting the health, safety and wellbeing of all students, staff, and the wider community



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PATHWAYS

A broad range of opportunities for students to develop work ready skills and knowledge



LINKING EDUCATION TO THE COMMUNITY

Providing opportunities for classroom learning to be practised in the community



COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

We will have regular conversations with parents and caregivers about their child's progress



FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

A school and canteen which meets the needs of students, staff and community members



Walgett Community College High School
COURAGE AND EXCELLENCE

Students are becoming familiar with the Making School a Better Place framework through a student version which is displayed around the school.

OUTDOOR LEARNING AT BARWON RIVER

On March 15th and 16th, Year 9 students from the integrated Creative and Performing Arts units spent their morning in the outdoor classroom at the Barwon River. Students worked collaboratively to film the river as a part of their filmmaking and poetry assessment task for Term 1.



On 17th March, Year 10 STEM students attended a river exploration excursion to the Barwon River. The original plan was to undertake water testing, fishing and capture and release sampling techniques. Due to recent flooding, the Barwon River was too high to safely undertake the water testing and sampling techniques.



Despite no fish being caught the class experienced the tranquillity of being on Country and incidentally learnt that the best time to fish is when the river water is falling, not rising. During the excursion they were able to practise their casting skills. In the future, the class will fillet and cook a fish in herb butter they have made and make a mud map so they can relocate their fishing spot.



CERTIFICATE II AUTOMOTIVE

This term, several Year 11 students started the Certificate II Automotive course as part of their RoSA and HSC pathways. The students appear to be thoroughly engaged with their learning in a workshop environment, and they report that the practical, hands-on components of the course make it their favourite subject.

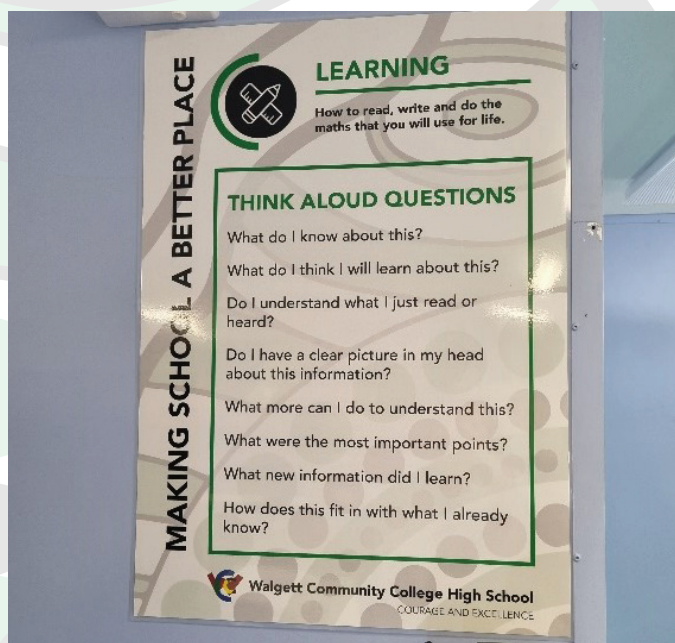
The students have been working on a broken-down car to develop and hone their mechanical skills under the guidance of their Auto teacher, Wally. By the end of their third day, the engine turned over and they got the car running. The students also report that they enjoy learning about the tools of the trade and the correct ways of using them.



LITERACY AND NUMERACY OUTCOMES

The literacy and numeracy gains of students at Walgett Community College High School are substantial. Students' reading abilities have been assessed using the York Assessment of Reading Comprehension. In addition, the Literacy and Numeracy team identified strategies aimed at improving student outcomes. Plans include one-on-one support with Learning and Support teachers, COVID ILSP (Intensive Learning Support Program) tutoring program, Multi-Lit, Quick Smart and the upskilling of all staff in the Think Aloud reading strategy. This strategy is research-led and data-driven to optimise face-to-face teaching and learning for all students at WCCHS.

From the start of this year, teachers and students have reported that classrooms are more engaging, and an increased understanding of the concepts being taught is evident. Students are being taught the Think Aloud strategy and given resources to use this approach independently in and out of the classroom.



The COVID ILSP tutoring program consists of students working with an online tutor for one hour, two-to-three days a week. The ILSP tutors work closely with WCCHS to determine students' reading and comprehension levels. Students appear to be engaged and determined to succeed in literacy and numeracy lessons.

The Year 10 Reading and Numeracy Group is a program that we have set up to aid student understanding and retention of ideas taught in the classrooms. SLSOs and teachers build on students' skills so they are ready for work experience. Our skilled SLSOs, George Williams and Geoffrey Walford, engage the students in reading

and numeracy small group work that students find accessible and enjoyable. Feedback from students is positive and includes, 'Geoffrey and George know how we learn and help us in class.'

The Multi Lit reading system is being used to improve student reading outcomes and this approach is seeing improvements for Stage 4 students. Students in Years 7 and 8 have engaged in this system, and their reading levels are improving. Students are engaging in more complex texts and identifying the main ideas or concepts in the text.



Students are engaged in numeracy groups and can discuss their thoughts and ideas to improve their understanding. There has been a noticeable improvement in students' results in grouping and counting items by tens and numerical recognition and identification.

Overall, students are showing improvements in literacy and numeracy through a combination of evidence-based strategies for student engagement, teacher and SLSO training and the modelling of targeted strategies to cultivate student success.



INTER SCHOOL SPORT BACK AFTER COVID RESTRICTIONS

On 28th February, students from Walgett Community College High School travelled to Coonabarabran to participate in the Combined High Schools Basketball Round 1 Knockout. The team played well, winning their first game against Wee Waa High School, but narrowly going down to the home team Coonabarabran by less than 10 points. The students should be proud of their efforts, being the first team to represent Walgett Community College High School in over two years.

On the 10th March, students from Walgett Community College High School participated in a Basketball Gala Day at Walgett PCYC, playing against Lightning Ridge Central School. The day was run by the PCYC team. Lightning Ridge Central School narrowly defeated our Walgett team by just one point! The students had a great time throughout the day, enjoying meeting students from another school and playing various games.



TAFE TASTER DAY – EXTREME MILKSHAKES AND BEVERAGES

In Week 6 of this term, students from Years 7 – 12 had the opportunity to participate in a TAFE Taster Day that literally tasted fantastic. TAFE teacher, Jonathan Perese, travelled out from Dubbo with his coffee cart and magic milkshake recipes to help our students learn some of the latest trends in hospitality. From hot chocolates to fruity smoothies, students created their own concoctions from M&Ms, Maltesers, milk and mangoes.

The students absolutely loved the experience. Some of them created their own recipes for refreshing drinks and expressed an interest in furthering the experience at school.



PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP

In late 2021, WCC High School formed a partnership with Public Works Advisory to support local trades people to grow their businesses through potentially gaining more NSW Government trade work, and at the same time, offering work experience opportunities to students undertaking the VET Construction course at the school.

Since the beginning of 2022, three Tradie and Contractor Information Sessions have been co-presented by WCC High School staff and Jon Grahame, Manager of Strategic Projects - Public Works Advisory Riverina and Western Region. These sessions have attracted 11 local trades persons and have:

- Outlined the content and approach used in the Construction course being undertaken by Year 11 students, including the work placement requirements.
- Provided the opportunity to tour the construction facilities at the high school.
- Explained how to tender for NSW construction work with Public Works Advisory, find out who is available to help with preparing tender documents and how to meet the requirements of demonstrating a safety plan in a tender document.

It is hoped that through this partnership that local trades people may secure more NSW Government work and therefore be better placed to offer ongoing employment to young people from the Walgett community. The school is now better placed to provide young people with the basic trade skills that local employers are looking for.



It was pleasing to see three past WCC High School students attending the Tradie sessions with their employer. Pictured here are Damian Kennedy, Bailey Williams, and Isaac Kennedy with WCC High School Construction teacher Harry Witt.

HOSPITALITY STUDENTS COMPLETE BASIC CAFÉ SKILLS TRAINING

Recently a group of Hospitality students were involved in an intensive course based around basic café skills delivered by TAFE NSW at the Walgett TAFE Campus.

The units of competency allowed the students to become familiar with industry standards in hygiene, as well as developing skills in making espresso coffee and non-alcoholic beverages. Under teacher supervision students had to successfully produce a range of espresso coffees in an allocated time frame. They also used industry equipment to make three varieties of non-alcoholic beverages. At all times hygiene was a major focus in these tasks.

All students who attended the three day course achieved competency in these three units of competency. This gives the students a set of entry level industry skills which will enable them to seek a career in the hospitality industry.

Students will consolidate these skills by operating a small café at the school throughout the remainder of this year.



CULTURAL LEARNING FOR YEAR 9 & 10 BOYS

Stories from Gamilaraay, Murrawarri, Yuwalaraay and Wiradjuri Country were shared with Year 9 and Year 10 male students in two cultural sessions with Tom Barker, Murrawarri artefact maker and master craftsman from Lightning Ridge.

Tom brought with him a wide collection of artefacts and weapons including grinding stones, boomerangs, spears, emu callers and stone axes, alongside photos and documents from Brewarrina and Angledool.

Students engaged respectfully and listened intently with leadership and support from WCC HS staff members, Justin French, Daniel Walford, Cecil See, Geoffrey Walford and Ugur Cagala. Students had the opportunity to participate in a hands-on component at the end of each session and took the following photograph that shows their obvious enjoyment and pride.



This was the first in a series of cultural sessions and excursions that are planned to be held on Country during the rest of Term 1 and continuing into Term 2. In the coming sessions, students will be doing further learning out on Country, identifying, and selecting different types of wood and will then apply their learning back in the classroom and workshop to create artefacts of their own.

LINKING EDUCATION TO THE COMMUNITY

This term, students in Years 10, 11, and 12 have begun their transition from school to work. Work experience is being undertaken at local businesses, Blend and Co, Bi Rite, Les Pitt Carpentry, GBC and the Walgett Shire. One of the Year 11 students is also completing a School Based Traineeship at Service NSW. Amanda Wales, from Service NSW notes:

"Service NSW is excited to be able to support rural youth through the provision of a pilot School Based Traineeship program, such as the one being undertaken by Lucinda. Our team at Walgett is there to support Lucinda through hands on, practical experience in customer service. Lucinda has already shown she is committed to working hard and learning. Her enthusiasm is evident, and she has been welcomed by customers as part of the Walgett Service Centre Team."

WCC High School is looking forward to having more of our students involved in businesses and organisations around town in the coming months.