

From the Editors Desk

Welcome to the new look SDIEA newsletter. Since January we have been busy rolling out the new Youth Connections program on the Southern Downs. Youth Connections is a new, national program funded by the Australian Government. The Federal, State and Territory Governments have agreed on a National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transition.

The Australian Government's goal is to increase the numbers of young people who attain a Year 12 or equivalent. Youth Connections assists by being a safety net for those young people who have already left school prior to completing Year 12 or those young people who are at risk of not completing their 12 years of schooling. We are very happy to be providing this service right across the Southern Downs Regional

Council area but also Clifton. Our "old friends" suite of programs are rolling out beautifully. Read all about the happenings in Get Set For Work, Youth Support Coordinators, Warwick Youth Links and School-based Australian Apprentices later in this issue.

I'd also like to welcome our three new recruits. Ashleigh Newman and Hailey Cosh join Travis Maguire as the Youth Connections team along with Petra Kuziw, who assist at our alternate learning site.

We experienced a change of board earlier in the year with our long term Chair Deb Dunstone taking a dream position in Rockhampton. Deb had worked tirelessly in her role as Chairperson and definitely left her mark in our organizational culture. We will miss Deb.



I look forward with confidence to working with our new Executive Board members. Janelle Robb—Chair, Daniel Spry—Secretary and Cathy Rolfe—Treasurer.

I also look forward to bringing you all the updates from SDIEA each quarter. We are always open to feedback and would welcome any comments you would like to make about our newsletter.

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Youth Support Coordinators

The Youth Support Coordinators are very busy this Term. Not only are they working with a full list of individual clients, but they are also running numerous programs in different schools.

Two programs that are being run at Warwick High School are "Shine" for girls and a "Charging Ahead" group for boys.

Both Clare Hine and Travis Bradach are also working together to run a "Healthy

Relationships/Team Building" program for over 30 students in Year 8 at Allora State School.

Also, Clare is working with Bonita Tyler, and is receiving additional support from *Beads of Ambrosia*, to run a program that focuses on helping girls to feel better about themselves by working with clothes and jewellery.

Travis is also running a small, boys group in Allora that

focuses on self-esteem, work ethic, attitude, performing better in class, life skills, and preparation for the workforce. Term 3 will be a busy, but exciting, couple of months!

The photo at the right shows a challenge whereby ten students were asked to eat one of the ten slices without using their hands. Also, no crumbs were to be left on the floor. It was all about problem solving and supporting each other.

When a team outgrows individual performance and learns team confidence, excellence becomes a reality.

- Joe Paterno



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Beer Goggles for affect.

Gundi Gossip

In 2010, the Year 12 students have again been introduced to the "Think the Drink" program. This program is about informing students of their rights and responsibilities when drinking alcohol. The program is not about telling students not to drink but about drinking in moderation and being aware of consequences that alcohol can bring about. On the day, students initially met altogether at the Railway Hotel for an introduction of the day and a talk by the School Based Youth Health Nurse regarding alcohol and how it affects the brain. The students were

then broken up into three groups, which rotated around three local hotels (Victoria, Queensland and Royal) where guest speakers talked about: (a) Individual and social implications from a GP perspective; (b) Laws around alcohol consumption as provided by the Qld Police and Ambulance response to alcohol effected persons; and (c) Liquor Licensing Rules and Regulations as described by the local Liquor Accord Committee. Each site also included an interactive game including the Party House board game, beer goggle activities and standard drink activities. The students

then met back up for a social BBQ lunch in the park. The final session included all the students meeting at the local RSL Club to listen to the difference between Pubs and Clubs, the local taxi driver talk on taxi etiquette and the local security company regarding how they deal with those who display violence and/or aggressive behaviours while under the influence of alcohol. The day was very informative and the students walked away being able to make an informed decision regarding their alcohol use.

Quote of the quarter

"Let us be about setting high standards for life, love, creativity, and wisdom. If our expectations in these areas are low, we are not likely to experience wellness. Setting high standards makes every day and every decade worth looking forward to."

Youth Connections

Watch out this September for some action at the skate park!! Youth Connections, together with the Southern Downs Regional Council, are putting on a skate competition bigger than ever before. From the end of August until the end of September, there will be heats of skate, scooter, and bike riders pulling out their best tricks for a place in the grand final on September 22nd. Up for grabs in the grand final is a total prize pool of over \$500!!!! At the Grand Final, a

BMX demonstration by local rider Drew Farrell will excite the crowd. Drew is an outstanding local bike rider who has had sponsors from Brisbane chasing him. So come down and watch out for Drew's famous back flip!!!

Also happening in the Youth Connections world is the introduction of a new program. The "Discovery" program run by the Youth Connections team is designed to assist young people

with the skills they need to help build a positive future. The program covers team building and communication skills through fun activities, as well as practical information and help with career choices and everyday life skills. For more information on either of the above programs, feel free to contact the Youth Connections Officers on the numbers below.

Travis	0457 843 449
Hailey	0408 466 586
Ashleigh	0457 841 406

Get Set For Work



Learning fire making on camp

Get Set For Work (GSFW) 2010 will see up to 18 young people supported to find their first experience in the workforce. Our first intake and program saw 10 young people embark on a journey of self awareness and discovery, completing and succeeding at gaining accredited training (often for the first time), gaining life skills and ultimately that first job. At GSFW, we take the students through a 2 day camp,

Complete senior first aid, and their Workplace Health and Safety qualifications along with a variety of other learning experiences. These include life skills, cooking, budgeting, art and craft, physical activity, industry tours and job search training. Our 10 graduates from GSFW in first semester are either working or have gone onto further training. In addition, the graduates of GSFW have 2 points banked into their learn-

ing accounts for the Queensland Certificate of Education. We have just commenced our 2nd intake of students for 2010, and the students had a great time on camp. They have just completed their accredited training part and will now focus on job search training. Over 80% of GSFW students either commence employment, go onto further training, or return to school. Contact Grace for further information.

Warwick Youth Links

Warwick youth links is the only one stop shop for all young people, all schools, parents, business and industry etc. This means that all services can be accessed via one youth provider. Funded by the Queensland Department of Education and Training, this important community resource continues to go from strength to strength. When we receive an enquiry, we assess the immediate needs and offer a service solution immediately if the presenting issue relates to one of our programs. Should the presenting issue be of a mental health, health or other specialised service, we support the cus-

tomers to make appointments with those specialised services and most importantly follow up to ensure that our customer has received the support they need. From January – June 2010 we supported 429 unique enquiries and ensured that our customers received the information and/or the service immediately. Our website received 1085 unique visitors that's a 64% increase on the same semester last year. Ten 15 -17 yr olds graduated from Get Set For Work in semester 1. 51 students were assisted by Youth Support Coordinators, 157 students were

assisted into SATs or career info and 24 disengaged young people were enrolled in Youth Connections as of 30/6/2010. 27 young people were referred to specialist assistance. 3 parent enquiries. 155 young people received information and support to remain connected to mainstream schooling. 85 young people 14 - 18 years have been assisted to remain engaged in learning, training and employment as at 30/6/2010. This includes previously excluded young people. Visit www.sdiea.org.au for your copy of the Southern Downs Youth Provider Directories.

Happiness does not come from doing easy work but from the afterglow of satisfaction that comes after the achievement of a difficult task that demanded our best.

Theodore Isaac Rubin



Bella Donna on route to shopping centre for a spot of promotion. Bella received a lot of interest whilst she was enjoying the ride.

Introducing .. Executive Board



President - Janelle Robb

Janelle has been our Treasurer for the past 4 years and now leads our organisation with her board as President. Janelle has a great passion for ensuring that students can access a variety of learning experiences. Janelle is a mad sports fan and can be found most weekends organising, refereeing or cheering on sporting activities.



Secretary - Daniel Spry

Dan is a valued representative of local business and industry he is the immediate past President of the Warwick Chamber of Commerce. Dan first became interested in our work through his role as VET coordinator for Rotary. Dan also knows the difficulty young people face when planning their careers for he's a Dad of two recent year 12 graduates.



Treasurer - Cathy Rolfe

Cath has been a valued member of the board for many years. Cath has excellent skills in Financial Management and will use these skills to further develop SDIEA. Cath is also committed to making a difference every day to a young person's life.

Recently, we commissioned a change to our website. The new look website aims to bring up to date information and resources to all of our stakeholders. Young people, Business & Industry, Teachers and Parents. Everything is a couple of mouse clicks away. We would welcome any feedback.

www.sdiea.org.au

School-based Australian Apprenticeships/ Traineeships

Latest HR stats

Employers who fail to hire the right management could end up costing the organisation \$60,000, according to talent acquisition firm, Futurestep. [Source: [HR Leader](#)]

Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.
- Unknown

Warwick State High School's School-Based Apprentices and Trainees have once again excelled in their chosen field. Students have worked exceptionally hard to secure their employment in these difficult times and have displayed outstanding work ethic and maturity in their approach to employment.

We have Apprentices and Trainees in a diverse range of employment, with the most popular being:

- Hairdressing
- Automotive

- Retail
- Engineering

The support from our local employers has been wonderful, with some employing a new school-based apprentice or trainee every year!

Employers understand how big a commitment it is to train an Apprentice or Trainee and they are still keen to make that commitment and ensure a stronger workforce for the future. Their ongoing support is very much appreciated by our Apprentices and Trainees, as well as by the school.

Although our total number of Apprentices and Trainees is down a little on previous years, it is interesting to note that there are a larger number of employers opting for a higher level of training. Nearly 70% of our students are training in a Certificate III level.

Each and every one of our School-based Apprentices and Trainees are outstanding, and they are a credit to themselves, family, school and their employers.

New team members



Ashleigh Newman Youth Connections

Last meal on earth?

Chicken Parmagiana

What do you never leave home without?

My camera - I might get that perfect shot one day.

If you were an animal what would you be?

Tiger - I just think Tigers are cool

Secret skill?

Awesome Soccer Player.



Hailey Cosh Youth Connections

Last meal on earth?

Seafood—nice muddy

What do you never leave home without?

My phone

If you were an animal what would you be?

Kookaburra

Secret skill?

Talented baker



Petra Kuziw Learning Support

Last meal on earth?

A bit of everything—except liver and pumpkin

What do you never leave home without?

My sanity

If you were an animal what would you be?

Cheetah

Secret skill?

Blowing bubbles off my tongue and I'm the WA Burping Champion 3 years running.

**Supporting successful futures
for young people**

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