

# Wagga Wagga District NEWSLETTER



Tuesday 19 June 2001

CP 01/23

**Dear Colleagues**

In keeping with the procedures heralded by District Office's use of email for school correspondence, the DET has announced that "commencing from 12 June 2001, where appropriate, all correspondence to schools will be sent by email. Use of the Faxstream system, currently used for the distribution of time-sensitive correspondence, will be phased out from that date" (DET Memorandum). Those schools that have adopted the procedures for viewing and distributing mail forwarded by the District Office will find the transition very comfortable. Matt Gown will readily assist schools with an update on the process.

Although this newsletter is forwarded to Principals, many use it in hard copy to update executive staff and in turn other staff members. Staff can also now be informed that the newsletter, including archived copies, is available on the District Office website at <http://www.waggad.det.nsw.edu.au/> It is at this site that the District Diary can also be accessed. The district website may be a good vehicle for a computer literacy training and development activity for your next school development day.

Do your canteen workers, reading helpers, sports parents, scripture teachers have a name tag to wear whilst in the school? Many schools use this low cost strategy to ensure that our volunteer workers have a badge of legitimate status in the school, which has proven to be a wonderful boost to morale and a feeling of being valued for the many hours they put in. It is amazing how many like to wear them beyond the school gate with pride. What a great advertisement for your school!

Several items from recent media releases are attached for your interest.

Regards

**Colin**

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## **News from the CEO**

Thank you to all of those Principals who have indicated their areas for evaluation for 2001 in their Annual School Report. I am still waiting for a few schools to decide on their areas and hence the slight delay in sending out that information to all schools. Also ready to be sent out is a timeline of critical dates associated with the completion of the Report this year.

Colin and I are looking forward to our planned visits to all High and Central Schools over the next ten days.

Finally, I am sure that much professional bonding was undertaken at the Secondary Principals Council State Conference held in the Hunter valley last week. I look forward to the reports.

**Peter Brabin**  
**Chief Education Officer**

## FUNDING SUPPORT 2002 – TIMELINE

Funding Support is a targeted program designed to support students with disabilities within mainstream settings.

**School learning support teams** are asked to profile the educational need of students in areas where additional support is required and cannot be met by resources within the school and district. Parents must also be involved in this process. The school counsellor will need to provide a completed *Disability Confirmation Sheet*, which states the student meets the DET disability criteria.

Following is the funding support timeline from State Office.

Actions	By	Term
★ 2002 booklets sent to schools	23 July	Term 3 wk 1
★ Schools forward 2002 applications to DO	1 September	Term 3 wk 7
★ 2002 Funding Advice and Part A distributed to schools	30 November	Term 4 wk 7
★ Funding letters to schools	28 January	2002

**Clare Kelly**  
**Special Education Consultant (Acting)**

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### Aboriginal Community Meeting

All parents and carers of Indigenous students are invited to take part in a Community Meeting to discuss educational issues for their children. The meeting will be held at the Australian Rules Football Club, on Thursday evening, 28 June, from 7pm. Guest Speaker will be Christine Foreshew, the State AEA Support Officer.

Please promote this meeting through your usual channels.

**Sally Tapscott**  
**Aboriginal Education Policy Support Officer**

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### New HSIE Consultant

Melinda Sampson has commenced duty as the Wagga Wagga/Griffith HSIE Consultant. Melinda replaces Osanna Moir and can be contacted at Griffith District Office (6961 8100).

## School Development Day Notification Term 3 - Reminder

Please remember that the School Development Day Policy, Memorandum No 97/015 (S.014) requires that a school development day notification form together with the proposed program and a summary of the short term evaluation of the previous school development day should be forwarded to the district superintendent at least four weeks prior to the day.

Please ensure that your notification reaches the Wagga Wagga District Office (marked to the attention of David O'Neill) by 3:00pm on Monday 25 June, 2001.

## SASS School Development Day

Information concerning the Wagga Wagga District SASS Development Day to be held on 23 July 2001 has been forwarded to all schools. Principals are asked to encourage their School Administrative and Support Staff to attend. Presenters from Training and Development Directorate, Bathurst State Office and Wagga Wagga District Office will present some of the sessions during the day.

**David O'Neill**  
**T&D/Curriculum Coordinator**

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## Creative Arts

The 2001 Riverina Dance Festival will be held in Griffith on 26 June. Schools from the Wagga District that will be participating include Wagga Wagga HS, Mt Austin HS, Koorinal HS, Young HS, Willans Hill SSP, Cootamundra PS, Sturt PS, Mt Austin PS and the Wagga District Dance 2001 Ensemble. All of these schools successfully auditioned for the festival earlier this term and will perform at the matinee and evening performances. School groups from the Albury, Deniliquin and Griffith districts will also take part. Tickets are available from the Griffith Regional Theatre, ph: 6962 7466.

## *Beyond the Frame*, a visual arts project

Congratulations to Lockhart CS, Mt Austin HS, Mt Austin PS, Wagga Wagga HS and Sturt PS for their involvement in the *Beyond the Frame* project, which culminated in an exhibition of student work at the Wagga Wagga Regional Art Gallery. On June 8, a large crowd celebrated the launch of the exhibition at the gallery, which was opened by Colin Parker. Students proudly displayed and spoke about their work and the project.

The exhibition will run from June 8 – July 8.

**Julie Webber**  
**Creative Arts Consultant**

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The ***Countering Discrimination through Learning Together*** conference held at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga on 8 June, 01 was an enormous success.

Thank you to all participants for your interest and enthusiasm.

Professor Loretta Giorcelli spoke to participants about inclusivity and discrimination with much depth and passion. Feedback about her sessions was extremely positive. She made the audience aware of the following sites, which may be useful for your teaching staff:

- [www.chad.org](http://www.chad.org) (about impulsivity)
- [www.add.com](http://www.add.com) (about ADD)
- [www.ldonline.org](http://www.ldonline.org) (about learning difficulties)
- [www.4teachers.rubistar.com](http://www.4teachers.rubistar.com) (how to plan for multiability classes)
- [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)
- [www.inspiratio.com](http://www.inspiratio.com)

A letter will be sent to all schools inviting you to apply for funding to develop and implement discrimination projects before the end of the semester.

For further information please contact me on telephone 69373868.

**Rose Manousaridis**  
**Student Welfare Consultant**

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### **Guided Reading** (Small group)

Each student requires a copy of the text  
Use unseen material  
Texts are selected at the child's *instructional* level  
Read the book and have some questions ready to support the learner to the meaning, language structures and visual information within the text.

### **Introduction to the text**

Tell the child the title of the book  
Give a brief introduction about the content  
Talk through each page sharing what is happening in the pictures  
Use the tense and the language structures of the text  
Use the new or unusual words that appear as you talk

### **First reading of the new book**

The children read the book independently and at their own pace  
The teacher moves around the group listening to students as they read  
Avoid interruptions  
If meaning becomes lost, use a prompt to help them with the unknown word  
Encourage fluent reading, discourage stilted reading  
Use prompts that encourage the student to problem-solve on text

<i>Does that make sense?</i>	Meaning prompt
<i>What word would sound right there?</i>	Structure prompt
<i>Does that look right?</i>	Visual prompt

Does that look right and make sense?  
Think about the story and look at the first letter

### **After the reading**

Share responses to the text focusing on the understandings gained

Respond to or consolidate particular skills and strategies that the child requires

### **Follow up activities**

Innovate on the text using similar language structures eg There's a hole in my sock and a hole in my shoe. There's a hole in my apple where a worm is munching through. Oh, Bother!

I can see a.....

Resequence the story that has been written on a card and cut up

Use letters of the alphabet or work games to reinforce letter clusters and sounds.

**Sue Hayward**  
**Reading Recovery Tutor**

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### **Rural Health Careers Expo**

Some 300 students from across the district attended the recent Rural Health Careers Expo. The level of involvement and support provided by the medical staff of GMAHS was outstanding. The students were very involved, interested and well behaved and a credit to the schools they represented.

### **Trial HSC VET examinations**

The VET teacher networks have worked hard to produce a common Wagga district HSC examination in hospitality, primary industries, retail, metals and engineering, and construction. This resource will be made available for all our district schools.

### **Work Place Learning Handbook**

Teachers from Young HS, Murrumburrah HS, Lockhart CS, Cootamundra HS, Temora HS, Mount Austin HS, Koorinal HS, Wagga Wagga HS have all participated in a workshop to introduce the new policy and procedure for student work placement. Even though these workshops were held after school the level of participation has been outstanding. Congratulations to all those participating teachers for their commitment and active participation.

### **Rural Careers VET Expo**

Primary Industries teachers have been working hard to organize and run a Rural Careers Expo to be held at North Wagga TAFE on 7 August 2001. The expo deserves your school's full support.

**Bruce Norton**  
**Vocational Education Consultant**