

# Wagga Wagga District NEWSLETTER



Tuesday 22 May 2001

CP 01/19

Dear Colleagues,

Have you visited the District Website recently? A number of principals have commented favourably on the inclusion of the District Diary on our website. It is a quick way to check the events which may be taking your staff and colleagues out of their schools. Principals also access the School Times to check convenient times to call other schools, particularly for our teaching colleagues.

Congratulations on the many positive achievements being communicated to your communities through your school newsletters. It is pleasing to note that it is not used as a vehicle to "deliver a serve" to parents or students as there are many community members, not connected with the school, who read our newsletters. As a public document, just like our annual school reports, we need to be judicious about the messages that the newsletter gives about the school culture as well as the success of students and the programs that operate.

Over the past few weeks I have particularly enjoyed reading about the wonderful Centenary of Federation ceremonies, the successful work experience programs, the participation of District Office staff in your schools, the joyful achievements of students in a wide range of extra-curricula activities and the inclusions of outstanding student written work, to name but a few examples.

I look forward to working with you in Cootamundra on 6 June. An agenda will be included in the next newsletter.

Regards,  
Colin

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## From the CEO

In discussions across the District it has become apparent that a more systematic approach is needed to sharing ideas to make the Annual School Improvement Cycle less painful and more useful. To facilitate this I have put together a database of the areas evaluated by district schools in 2000 and I ask for your assistance in supplying me with your two areas for evaluation in 2001. I will collate this information and distribute it at the District Principals Meeting at Cootamundra on 6 June 2001.

**Please indicate by FAX on 69373899 by 5 June the following:**

**Educational and Management Practice Evaluation area:** eg Culture, Teaching, Learning and Program or KLA eg. Literacy K-6, Mathematics, Creative Arts

Colin and I will be visiting all secondary schools over the next few weeks and I look forward to discussing the major achievements and program development with Principals and their staff.

Peter Brabin  
Chief Education Officer

### **Wagga District Annual SRC Conference, 23-25 May 2001.**

Seventy eight students representing all the secondary and central schools in the Wagga District will attend the Wagga District Annual Student Representative Council Conference to be held at the Wagga Education Centre, 23 - 25 May, 2001. The conference has been organised by young people for young people.

This year's theme will be ***Participate, It's Great*** and will challenge students to actively participate in their school communities. Topics covered will include identifying barriers to participating, racism, relaxation techniques, homophobia, environmental issues, playing the didge for boys only, youth councils, bullying in schools and teen pregnancy.

Staff and parents are very welcome to attend. For further information contact Rose Manousaridis, Student Welfare Consultant on telephone 69373868.

### **Pediculosis in Schools**

If you would like an information package please contact Rose Manousaridis, Student Welfare Consultant on telephone 69373868 or e-mail [rose.manousaridis@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:rose.manousaridis@det.nsw.edu.au).

Rose Manousaridis  
Student Welfare Consultant

### **From the HSLO**

A big THANKYOU to all schools for having rolls ready and available for checking on my recent visits. Generally rolls in our district are kept in excellent order and staff should be congratulated for this. To those schools I have yet to visit, I plan at this stage to get to all schools by the end of term 2 so I look forward to seeing you soon.

Lyn Robinson  
Home School Liaison Officer

### **VET Teacher Network Meetings**

Principals are asked to support teachers attending these meetings. They are now being held from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm and will be followed by an evening meal courtesy of the district vocational education committee. These groups will develop and coordinate a training day for all VET teachers to be held in Term 3. VET teachers are being notified through the school WEB mail system.

### **New Workplace Learning Handbook**

The new policy for Government School students covering both work experience and VET work placements is now in operation. All VET teachers and the careers teacher should be familiar with the new procedures. Bruce Norton has been visiting schools to unpackage the document. To organise a school visit please contact Bruce on telephone number 69 373895.

**The School to Work Planning Day** for teachers in charge of VET and the STW program coordinator is being held at the Bidgee Resource Centre from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm on 6 June. Schools should have faxed their acceptances to Bruce Norton by now.

### **Part Time School Based Trainees**

Congratulations to Coolamon Central School for its success in organising traineeships for two year 11 students, one in Retail and the other in Primary Industries. These students will be employed whilst they complete the traineeship which will also count toward their HSC.

Bruce Norton  
Vocational Education Consultant

### **Network cabling grant**

Each school will receive a \$750 grant to ensure that OASIS servers are on the same network as the router (through which the ISDN internet service is delivered).

Most district schools would have this connectivity, and will be able to spend the funds on other network related expenses. Please complete the connectivity test

<http://www.intranet.schools.nsw.edu.au/staff/F6.0/connect.pdf> and fax back form on page 4 of <http://www.intranet.schools.nsw.edu.au/staff/F6.0/guide.pdf> . If you have trouble with test ring me on 6937 3879.

**The ten district schools (Bribbaree PS, Collingullie PS, Currawarna PS, Eurongilly PS, Illabo PS, Ladysmith PS, Maimuru PS, Uranquinty PS, Wallendbeen PS and Wirrimah PS) that are unable to be connected to ISDN are asked to hold the funds until a fast, networkable internet solution is provided. (No details on time-frame, sorry).**

**Twelve district schools may require cabling to be organised before end of term 2: Barmedman PS, Bendick-Murrell PS, Cootamundra HS, Ganmain PS, Junee PS, Lockhart CS, Milbrulong PS, Monteagle PS, Murringo PS, Shepherds Park SSP, Temora PS, and Wombat PS.**

**Cabling work needs to be organised before end of term (accepted quote). Please make contact for advice and list of contractors.**

**All cabling project documents are available at:**

<http://www.intranet.schools.nsw.edu.au/stand.cgi/staff/F6.0/cabling.htm>

Matt Gown  
Technology Adviser

### **District Office Staffing**

District Office welcomes Diana Reilly into the position of Early Learning Program Coordinator until the end of the year. Diana will be replacing Clare Kelly who is presently Acting Special Education Consultant. This term Diana will be introducing the Early Learning Program to 4 targeted schools. These training and development modules support schools and families to improve the individual outcomes for students with disabilities entering mainstream settings. The other priority area will be to ensure that transition referral forms reach District Office before the end of term 2. Letters will then be sent to Principals to flag possible enrolments of students with support needs.

Diana's extensive experience in Special Education, both as a teacher at Willans Hill and the ESSP teacher between Mt Austin and Tolland, will provide the solid background and expertise needed to support early childhood settings, early intervention, schools and families in 4 Districts.

Clare Kelly  
Relieving Special Education Consultant

### **Child Protection Update**

An enlightening and thought provoking course was held in Wagga for district representatives on 17/18 May.

The course addressed current issues affecting schools in relation to the new legislation. These included topics dealing with the risk of harm for children and young people and the types of contextual questions needed to be asked of students by principals when making reports. Explicit advice was given to ensure that reports made by schools were acted on by the Dept of Community Services.

It is planned that this important information be passed on to principals at the next two superintendent's meetings. Hopefully the state principals' representative seconded to the Helpline will be able to attend the Term 3 meeting.

District participants at the course are able to provide feedback to schools. These include Jim McMahon, Brian Buckley, Kerrie Tweddle and Rose Manousaridis.

Kerrie Tweddle  
Student Services and Equity Coordinator