

# EDMUND RICE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA FLEXIBLE SCHOOLS NETWORKS

Our Four Principles are: Honesty, Respect, Participation, Safe & Legal



## TERM 1 2021 NEWSLETTER

### EASTERN FLEXI SCHOOLS NETWORK:

St Mary's FLC (NSW)

Wollongong FLC (NSW)

St Laurence FLC (Newcastle, NSW)

Pambula Beach FLC (NSW)

Flexible Learning Centres provide a place and an opportunity for young people to engage with learning and community.

Flexible Learning Centres operate on a common ground basis where young people are empowered to determine their own pathways.

## WELCOME

Flexible Learning Centres are part of Edmund Rice Education Australia's national initiative, responding to the needs of young people in our communities. They provide young people with an opportunity to engage in education in a flexible supported learning environment.



# A NEW YEAR 2021

## What's Been Happening So Far...

### Wollongong FLC



Wollongong FLC recently had a Smoking Ceremony and welcome to country, performed by Uncle Richard Campbell from Gumaraa.

We welcomed our new young people for 2021 and acknowledged the spiritual and cultural connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander have to this country.

In other news at Wollongong FLC, our Transition Support Worker has sourced some amazing employment and work experience opportunities for our young people so far. One young person from Merrigong class, whilst already working at Wollongong McDonalds, even secured a second place of employment herself at Thunderbird Chickens in Dapto.

Since then, she has been working hours at both jobs and really enjoying herself. She's now juggling school and 2 jobs - an amazing accomplishment. Our TSW recently acknowledged how this young person is an extremely driven, independent young woman and has no doubt that even more great things are on the way for her.

## St Marys FLC



St Mary's FLC recently took the kayaks down to the Nepean River for Wellbeing Day. The weather was picture perfect and the students had a lot of fun out on their kayaks and cooling off in the river. Some students who didn't want to go in the water made jewelry or played music. There was a seafood feast in honour of New Zealand's National Day, Waitangi Day.

One of the parents brought us some traditional seafood to try; a delicious seafood chowder, some oysters, mussels, and kina (sea urchin). Kina tasted like the concentrated essence of the whole ocean, an intense experience for the taste buds. We were extremely fortunate to have the same parent come in with some friends on Monday morning and perform some Māori dances and songs for us. A few brave students and staff joined in at the end to do the Haka, which was very powerful.

## St Laurence FLC



St Laurence FLC kicked the term off with a range of fun and work skill-based activities for our Young People, including:

- Participation in Kooragang Wetlands Conservation - supporting revegetation and natural resource management on and beyond Ash Island.
- Cycling Crew – exploring the many bike tracks in and around Newcastle.

## Pambula Beach FLC



Pambula Beach FLC welcomed two new young people this term into the community, both in Stage 4 and Stage 5 classes.

So far this term young people and staff have worked together to maintain and prepare our community garden for our next lot of vegies!

We have also been adventuring to Bermagui to snorkel in the blue pool with some young people and staff were lucky enough to see an octopus under the water.

# What's Coming Up This Term...

## Wollongong FLC



OrangeSky Laundry Day came on Mon 1st March – where young people connected with community & learnt about setting up their own business & how to use a washing machine.

We have a tour of the WIN Stadium on Wed 24th March and a 'Day in Construction' on Tues 30th March (inc presentations by local employers) Every Monday this term we have Project Warrior Basketball, and every Friday is Futsal at the Wollongong Fraternity Club.

## St Marys FLC



Staff Development Day on Fri 12th March – no young people required on that day.

Community BBQ on Fri 19th March for young people and their families.

We have also commenced a 2-week chick hatching activity in late Feb that will see us watch as chicks hatch from eggs.

## St Laurence FLC

We have an upcoming Drone Workshop in March.

Our Culture Strong Program kicks off this week and will run through to the end of Term 1 with special guest presenters from 'Youth Express'.

A few fun fantastic electives this term such as Furniture Restoration, Tennis, Surfing, Gym, Minecraft, Cooking and Swimming.

## Pambula Beach FLC



We have started some new traditions in our community such as Bacon and Egg Monday's, an attendance raffle, and the 'Minute to Win' challenge on a Friday.

The young people here at PBFLC have also been amazing in participating in our afternoon walks to prepare for PBFLC's big adventure to Mount Kosciusko later this term.

# Helping your Young Person with career planning...



Whilst we may only be in Term 1, it's always worth starting to explore different ideas for the future and consider what the different options & pathways there are for future goals.

Our Transition Support Workers at our different Flexi Learning Centres are always happy to assist and support young people with opportunities of work experience, and/or employment, as well as helping with cover letters, job applications & resumes, and transitioning onto further training courses.

Currently there is a growing demand for employment in Aged/Health Care, Childcare, Retail, Construction, Professional Technical & Scientific Services and Education & Training.

## So what can I do at home?...

To help, support and guide your young person, when starting to explore the different options & pathways, it's great to first:

- Explore their interests and discover their passions
- Help them grow in experience by engaging in a range of career-related activities to build skills and competence
- Set realistic career goals and support them in achieving those goals
- Connect with mentors and allies that will encourage them and assist them with their growth & knowledge
- Explore the range of educational and career options available to them that can increase their learning
- Try on 'career hats' through volunteering and work experience

Don't forget the Transition Support Workers can assist and support with the above too.

## Where do you look for a job?

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#### Finding a job

The first step on the road to employment is finding a job. But where are jobs listed? Employers often use a number of methods to find candidates and below are some of the most common methods used.

#### Internet

Many employers use the internet to advertise jobs. This includes their own company website, or job search websites like Australian Job Search.



**55%** of jobs are advertised on recruitment and company websites

Tailor your résumé and application for each different job you apply for. This helps you stand out from others who may use the same résumé and application every time.

#### Social media

More and more employers are using social media to hire workers. Look out for ads posted on business pages or in social media job groups.



**14%** of jobs are advertised on social media

If you are contacting an employer or business for work on Facebook, make sure your public profile is presentable! Employers often look at profiles to review potential employees.

Ask friends, family and former co-workers if they know of any work available.

#### Newspapers

Don't forget about the humble newspaper—many employers still advertise their job openings in the classifieds section.



**8%** of jobs are advertised in newspapers

Keep an eye out for jobs posted in your local newspaper, especially if you live in a regional area.

#### Word of Mouth

Employers often ask people they know to 'spread the word' about an available position, or even ask current staff if they know someone who would fit the role.



**33%** of jobs are promoted by word of mouth

#### Approach employers

Many job seekers approach employers to ask if they have any jobs open or to drop off their résumé. Employers often consider these job seekers for current or future opportunities.



Not all jobs are advertised! Don't forget to approach employers directly as well!

# Wollongong Flexible Learning Centre

**Head of Campus: Atesh Maharaj**

**Tel: 02 4201 1900**

**Email: wollongongflc@ereafsn.edu.au**



Wollongong FLC opened as a registered school in 2013. Since opening, we provide courses to young people from Year 7-10 and have a strong focus on providing individualised programs of study that respond to the unique talents and needs of each young person. We provide the NESA Syllabus for Years 7-10 alongside a range of wellbeing programs. We also offer a Transition to Work program with several accredited pathways.

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# St Marys Flexible Learning Centre

**Head of Campus: Michael Loudoun**

**Tel: 0427 341 657**

**Email: stmarys@ereafsn.edu.au**



St. Mary's FLC opened as a registered school in 2015 having transitioned from an annex of St. Dominic's College, Penrith. Since opening, we help to build self-confidence and esteem in young people, promote an optimistic view of their potentialities and future, and assist them to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to enjoy a healthy and fulfilling life.

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# St Laurence (Newcastle) Flexible Learning Centre

**Head of Campus: Kelly Anderson**

**Tel: : 02 4075 2700 / 0447 331 382**

**Email: StLaurence.FLC@ereafsn.edu.au**



St Laurence FLC opened as a registered school in 2019 catering to Stage 5 (Year 9 and 10) students. Since opening, we provide young people with a varied and holistic set of learning, including the ROSA, and experiences supporting them to identify and pursue an individual transition to adulthood, employment, further education and training, and social connectedness.

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# Pambula Beach Flexible Learning Centre

**Principal: Ivan Mahoney**

**Lead Teacher: John Card**

**Tel: 0427 682 424**

**Email: pbflc@ereafsn.edu.au**



Pambula Beach FLC opened as a registered school in January 2020. Since opening, our commitment has been to support and encourage an awareness of our school within the Bega Valley educational landscape as a special assistance school offering varied flexible learning options for young people who have difficulty meeting the demands of mainstream education.

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**Eastern Flexi Schools Network**

**PO Box 301**

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