

Term 1 Flexi Learning Centre Newsletter 2023



St Marys Flexi Learning Centre
Wollongong Flexi Learning Centre
St Laurence Flexi Learning Centre, Newcastle
Pambula Beach Flexi Learning Centre
Eastern Flexi Network Office, Wollongong



Eastern Flexi Schools Network

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.

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January 26 is "Survival Day", an important time when the community gathers to celebrate the resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The day serves to acknowledge and reinforce the present and the future of our cultures



National Close the Gap Day is observed on Thurs March 16th, and advocates for health equity of Australia's indigenous people. Since 2007, National Close the Gap Day brings together Australians from all over the country to advocate for health equity and take meaningful action to create better and more equitable conditions for the indigenous people.



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Visit our website;

<https://www.ereafsn.edu.au/eastern-flexi-schools-network/>

St Marys FLC

A NEW TERM

What's been happening so far.....

Last Term.....

It was great to start the final term of 2022 with our staff, Young People, their families, and the external services we work with incorporating so many new and ongoing opportunities. We are always so impressed with the resilience our Young People, who continue to show us the positive way they respond to challenges and continue to make the most of their time at St Mary's Flexi. We are so proud of our Young People who have grown naturally into leaders of our school space, providing support for their peers as well as taking ownership of their pathways, improving their learning and attending various potential career opportunities.

Hearing the voices of our Young People was our main focus last term and this included holding our very first Young Person TOP (Technology of Participation) Day which was an opportunity for a small group of students to discuss the suggestions they have for changes that would support their time here. We have also provided the first opportunity for a Young Person to join staff on an interview panel when recruiting a new Youth Worker for the school.

Some of the term's highlights have been various gardening projects that have taught us sustainability while also improving the look and feel of our school yards. We have had multiple students complete a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways, and we have also had some success implementing Essential Assessment as a new program to support the literacy and numeracy development of Young People in order to increase their employment opportunities.

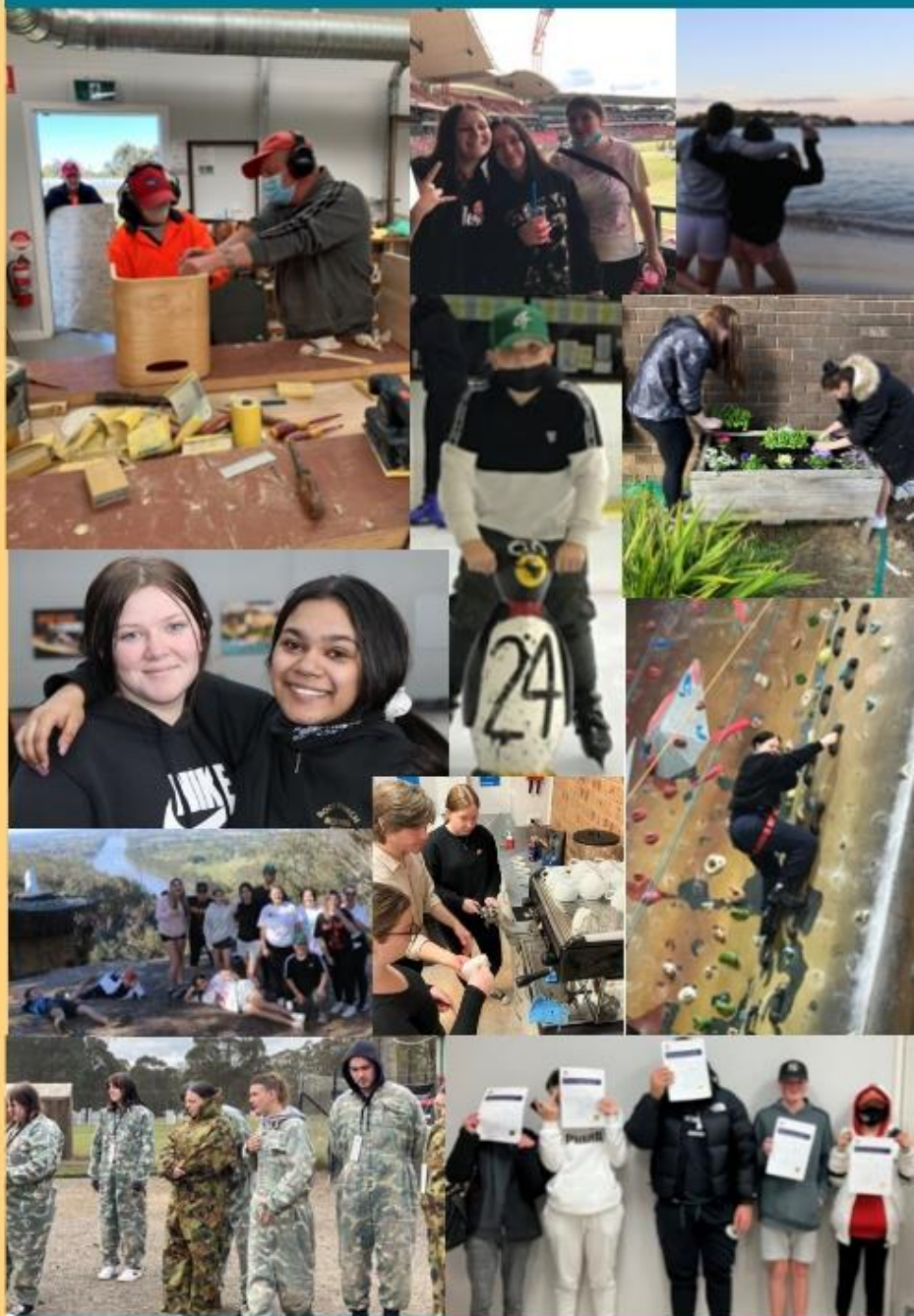
Coming up in Term 1.....

8th - 10th March - FLC Camping Trip at Coledale Beach

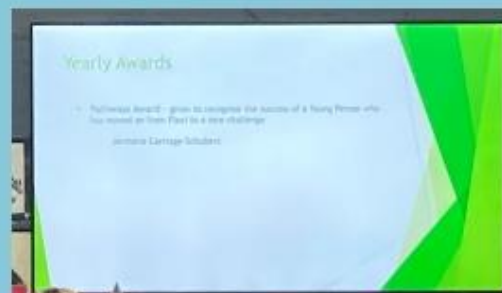
15th - 27th March - NAPLAN

31st March - Family & Community BBQ

6th April - Last Day of Term 1



Good News Stories from StMFLC....



Last term we celebrated our Pathways achievements by awarding our young people and their leadership and involvement skills. We also celebrated our Young People's success in finding employment throughout the year and awarded our yearly Pathways Award to an inspiring young man, in recognition of his amazing transition from Flexi to a new and exciting challenge.

Wollongong FLC

A NEW TERM

What's been happening so far.....

Last Term.....

Term 4 was a difficult term for the WFLC community following the tragic death of a young person. All the staff worked together to provide high levels of support for other young people who were emotionally disturbed and grieving.

We also farewelled some staff and welcomed a few new faces on the staff team including our new Transitional Support Worker, Jordan Day, who will assist and support our Young People onto further employment and/or training opportunities.

WFLC had some success stories with 5 young people completing their Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways. Young people also got statement of attainments for completing units in Certificate I in Art and Certificate I in Sport & Recreation.

We also transitioned a number of young people into TAFE courses, full time employments as well as having a young person secure an apprenticeship. Moreover, a young person has been successful in getting enrolled at Five Islands College for 2023 with the aim of completing their HSC.

Coming up in Term 1.....

7th Feb - State Census Day

17th Feb - Community Day with Youth Workers

22nd Feb - Wellbeing Showcase Day for Educators

24th Feb - Smoking Ceremony & Commitment Day

15th - 27th March - NAPLAN

17th March - National 'Close the Gap' Day

21st March - Harmony Day

30th March - Illawarra Disability Options Expo

5th April - TRADES SKILLS PROGRAMME

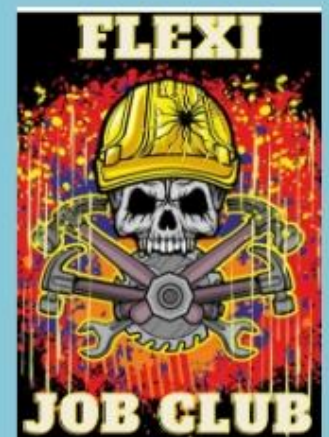
6th April - Last Day of Term 1



Good News Stories from WLGFLC.....

This term we will be including 'Job Club' at our FLC as a main elective subject for our Young People.

This will include resume writing, practice interviews, industry speakers, completing employment applications and information about upcoming courses and career opportunities to assist our Young People with future employment opportunities.



Pambula Beach FLC

Last Term.....

PBFLC had a successful term 4 with young people engaging in classwork and participating in some really cool community outings.

We had a go at Lawn Bowls, went snorkelling and surfing and Mogo Zoo. One of our highlight outings was to Flip out in Canberra, young people and staff managed to get themselves up earlier and ready for the big drive to Canberra. Staff had prepared breakfast packs for the drive and a wonderful lunch 'some would say, better than subway'. All young people jumped, showing us their tricks and flips. Everyone had a flipping great day.

All our young people have had a wonderful year and we had the chance to celebrate a graduation lunch at a restaurant in Eden.

It was great to see so many smiling faces as we 'cheered' the past year and shared all of our favourite stories. We were thrilled to be able to farewell some of our senior young people who have finished their Flexi journey and are moving onto other adventures.

Coming up in Term 1.....

This term we are working towards our outdoor adventure based learning goals. We are hoping to explore more of our favourite local coastline.

Our 2 classroom spaces are set up the same as last year, with some new faces among our staff and young people, which is really cool.

We will be doing some walks this term to build up our strength and stamina to take on the Kosciuszko hike. We will walk each week around our local coastal headlands, the Merimbula Boardwalk, the Goodenia Rainforest, Haycock Point, Pambula River walk and the Pambula Wetlands. When we do these walks we try to think of ways to incorporate bringing some morning tea and lunch with us (that isn't too heavy to carry) to prepare us for longer and more enduring walks. We stop to cook ourselves lunch and we have a couple of favourite things to make: 2 min noodles, BBQ and sushi.

A NEW TERM

What's been happening so far.....



Good News Stories from PBFLC.....

Towards the end of Term 4, we had some amazing success with our work experience program, where a number of our young people not only highlighted the industry they would like to gain experience in, but then went on to achieve 24 hours of local work experience over 3 weeks, gaining invaluable skills and knowledge that will assist them when they are ready to transition on from Pambula Beach Flexible Learning Centre.

We had so much positive feedback from the employers about our YP, who were not only impressed with their hard work and their ability to 'give it a go', but also with their confidence, their reliability, their positive attitude and their diligence. A number of our YP even had further discussions with their W/exp employers afterwards about the possibility of apprenticeships in the future. We at PB FLC are immensely proud of all our work experience YP, and we hope to run this again in Term 2, 2023.

Eastern Flexi Network Office

By the end of 2022, we said good bye to the following Flexi staff.....

Yale, Ivan & Michael - **Network Office**

Sean, Emily, Alex, Lexi, Amy and Fay -
Wollongong FLC

Jay, Jordan, Jeeps & Dale - **St Marys FLC**

Lyndon - **St Laurence FLC**

Teegan, Meghan, Cameron & Erin - **Pambula Beach FLC**

We thank them for their amazing work and wish them all the best with their future endeavours.

At the start of 2023, we welcomed the following new Flexi staff in their new roles.....

Bilal (*IT Support*) - **Network Office**

Jordan (*Transitional Support Worker*), Joanne (*Youth Worker*), Louise (*Senior Administrator*), Naomi (*Teacher*) and Monica (*Teacher*) -
Wollongong FLC

Patrick (*Teacher*) and Ethan (*Youth Worker*) -
St Marys FLC

Noah (*Youth Worker*) - **St Laurence FLC**
Rylee (*Youth Worker*), Laura (*Teacher*), Sadia (*Administrator Officer*) and Hayden (*Wellbeing Co-Ordinator*) - **Pambula Beach FLC**

Please extend the warmest of welcomes and say a huge Hi whenever you can.

We also welcome Adam as our new official Principal across all our schools in NSW, and we have now officially combined with our Flexi Schools in Victoria and Tasmania to become the new South East network, which as from 2023 is now a 'Non for Profit' organisation.

And some of our amazing Network staff also continued with their ongoing coverage of classes at St Marys FLC and Wollongong FLC throughout 2022, collaborating with our awesome young people at those Flexi's.

A NEW TERM

What's been happening so far.....

Good News Stories from the NSW Eastern Flexi Schools Network

Welcoming the following Flexi's in Victoria and Tasmania, from the former Nano Nagle Network, to become part of the new South East Flexi Schools Network.

This new network will now combine all Flexi Learning Centres across the states of NSW, Tasmania and Victoria.



St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre has campuses in North Melbourne, Colac and Geelong, and were registered as Flexi Schools in 2012 .



Young people at the three St Joseph's FLC campuses have access to a range of classroom and community-based learning opportunities, and programs are offered both on-site and on an outreach basis.



St Francis Flexible Learning Centre is located in West Moonah, Hobart, Tasmania and opened as a Flexi School in 2016.



As well as on site programs, St Francis FLC also offers an outreach program which supports YP to work towards a full time on site program.



Connecting with community.

Regional Industry Education Partnerships Program (RIEP)

An initiative of the NSW Government



Over the last term, at all of our four Flexi's, we have continued to corroborate with the above NSW government program, which have enabled our young people to attend some amazing fully funded workshops and opportunities both online and face to face. This has included workshops and activities ranging from career expos, mock interviews, industry tours, industry partner school visits, skills acquisition workshops, work experience, webinars, work placements and job readiness/employability sessions.

The RIEP program have assisted our young people in connecting with industry to learn about career and employment pathways.

In addition to the below upcoming and ongoing activities in 2023 for our FLC in Wollongong, the RIEP program is committed to working with all of our Flexi's on any tailored projects linked with industry engagement.

Therefore if you or your young person have some amazing ideas - Please reach out to your Transitional Support Worker or Head of Campus.

New and in development for 2023

- Trade Skills Workshops (selected schools via EOI process early this year)
- Shoalhaven Food Network Events for Students including PD Opportunities for VET Teachers
(**March - June 2023**)
- Nursing & Health Day at UOW Shoalhaven Campus returns in early Term 2 (**May 3rd 2023 TBC**)
- Nursing & Health days in discussion and planning at UOW Southern Highlands (**wk. 7 T1 TBC**) & Wollongong Campuses
- Silverdale Industry Tour, Equine Careers in Thoroughbred Breeding (**March 2023** dates TBC)
- Illawarra Disability Options (IDO) Career Expo (**March 30th 2023**)
- Who's Who in the Zoo Animal Careers programme (in development)
- Renewable Energy Careers (In development)

Ongoing Activities

- Mining Skills Hub Dapto High - **21st July 2023**
- Gumaraa On-Country Experience (**Dates TBA**)
- Hospitality Experiences (Novotel Wollongong, Mercure Gerringong & Peppers Manor House)
- BlueScope Steel Industry Tours
- MyneSight Immersive Mining Experience Workshop
- Media for Millennials Workshops (Content Creation & Podcasting)
- KJ Scaffolding Mini Workshops
- Cyber Security Careers
- ANSTO Meet a Science Expert
- Wings over Illawarra Careers Day 2023



'I would like to go to university': flexi school students share their goals in Australia-first survey

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Nathan Cowley/Pexels

Recent new research shows students value the support they get from their flexi school but want the curriculum to challenge them more, and better support their aspirations. We surveyed almost 500 flexi school students around the country in May to June 2022. Please see link below for further info.

[Microsoft Word - Flexi youth survey report_Final.docx \(uq.edu.au\)](#) - Published October 2022

Our research showed Australian flexi schools educate a diverse group of young people. In such a diverse school setting, 77% of young people said they felt their identity was valued. More than 80% felt their flexi school was a welcoming place. As one respondent said: *If I am experiencing issues, teachers support me, don't judge and are extremely kind and considerate.*

Many flexi school students have already been labelled as "disengaged" by the sheer fact mainstream schooling hasn't worked for or accommodated them. But this does not mean they are disengaged from their education or their lives going forward.

In our survey we asked young people to tell us about their career and life goals. Young people told us they had a huge range of career goals from owning a small business to doing a trade or becoming a park ranger, youth worker, primary teacher, author, or worker in the mining industry. Our respondents told us they have strong aspirations for their futures.

As one student told us: *[I want] to grow my [business] into a popular [...] local gardening landscaping service supporting houses and gardens that need repairing.* Others told us they want to become "totally independent" and talked about pursuing happiness and community connections: *[I want to] find some work I purely enjoy and just live a normal life. Preferably doing some trade work or contributing to the community.*

Young people also specifically spoke about doing further study and going to TAFE or university, to do a wide range of courses from computer science to education and medicine:

I aspire to be a paramedic or doctor when the time comes, I would like to go to university to study medicine.

It is often assumed young people in flexi schools are not interested in doing intellectually challenging work. Data from our survey shows this is certainly not the case.

In an ideal world, there would be no need for flexi schools because mainstream schools would cater for every young person in society. This is not the current reality, and, in the meantime, flexi schools play a critical role supporting young people who would otherwise be disengaged from mainstream schools.

43 CULTURES SPOKE

1 IN 3 VOICES WERE ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER



MEDIA FOR MILLENNIALS

SOCIAL MEDIA & CONTENT CREATION

A workshop that teaches students how to use Social Media as a business tool.

Suitable for anyone who enjoys creating content, photography, film, advertising & social media.

Students will design a Social Media campaign on a specific product.

They will be taught how to build a brand & create engaging digital & written content to produce:

1x Facebook Post

1 x Instagram Post

1 x Instagram Story

1 x Twitter Post

Half day Workshop - \$25 Per student



WWW.MEDIAFORMILLENNIALS.COM.AU



LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Employers' advice for young people



Many young people find that going from school to a job is tough. The good news is that many employers understand this and have suggestions for young people on how to improve their chances.¹

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS THAT EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR?

Employers look for a number of things when recruiting young people, especially:

- A positive attitude and willingness to work
- Motivation and enthusiasm
- Someone who is prepared to learn and take direction.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE DEMANDS OF THE WORKPLACE?

Employers said that young people often had unrealistic expectations of work. These include:

- Being unprepared for the demands of the workplace and the nature of the work expected of them
- The level of pay on offer
- Wanting to 'start at the top' instead of working their way up.

HOW VALUABLE IS WORK EXPERIENCE?

Employers said that getting work experience or doing volunteer work is a good way for young people to prepare for work as it:

- Provides an opportunity to learn about workplace expectations
- Enables young people to get practical skills and insights into different jobs
- Demonstrates a young person's commitment to work.

IS BEING RELIABLE AND RESPONSIBLE IMPORTANT?

Yes, most employers also look for someone who is reliable and responsible. Young people need to be:

- Punctual and dependable
- Respectful to colleagues and customers
- Loyal and stay in a job for an acceptable period of time.

IS PRESENTATION IMPORTANT?

Yes, many employers said that young people need to pay more attention to their personal presentation, particularly when going to a job interview and when handing in their résumé. In particular, employers mentioned:

- Inappropriate clothing
- Untidy hair
- Tattoos, piercings and jewellery.

HOW SHOULD I APPLY FOR A JOB?

Many employers discussed the importance of good job search skills. Employers said that young people need to:

- Tailor their application to the position for which they are applying
- Pay more attention to detail in their applications and résumés, particularly spelling and grammar
- Approach employers directly and personally follow up on their résumé, while being well presented when doing so
- Demonstrate some understanding of the industry or job for which they are applying
- Communicate well and appear genuinely interested in the job.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To assist you in your job search, locating a Job Services Australia provider and access to a range of job sites go to www.jobsearch.gov.au



Indigenous APPRENTICESHIPS PROGRAM 2023

APPLY FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP WITH A GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND SET YOURSELF UP FOR A GREAT CAREER IN THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE.

- It's full-time work with a competitive salary, great benefits and on-the-job training.
- The apprenticeship runs for 12 months.
- You get to complete a nationally recognised certificate or diploma.
- There are jobs in capital cities and most regional areas across Australia.
- You'll be supported by an Indigenous mentor.

Apply to make a difference in the lives of everyday Australians.

You don't need a degree or any work experience to apply.

What will your story be?



Applications open 23 January to 17 February 2023.

To apply or for more info, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/IAP



Australian Government

**Career
Pathways**

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Trade Skills Programme 2023



➤ What is it?

- » 1 day or 3 Day programme primarily targeting year 15 x Year 10 students
- » Delivered at RTO facility or on School premises by registered RTO
- » Designed to provide a short taster into trade pathways
- » Non Accredited training

➤ What is it not?

- » A programme to facilitate a school infrastructure project
- » Accredited training
- » White Cards cannot be funded or delivered through Trade Skills
(DOE schools please discuss with Heather White from Pathways & Transition team if you need assistance with white cards)

➤ When will it be happening?

- » It will be delivered across Term 2 by June 30th (no rollover into T3 allowed)
- » Date will be assigned based on programme school selects and will have limited flexibility due to number of schools requiring delivery across the region



1 Day Programme example



- Introduction to tools and safety
- Practical skills taught such as measuring, cutting, use of power tools
- Small take away project such as, but not limited to, bird feeder or mini-easel etc.
- Pathways discussion to entice students to undertake Cert II Construction as part of their HSC



Regional Industry Education Partnerships program (RIEP)
Illawarra, Shoalhaven & Southern Highlands

connecting
employers
with schools