



# WAGGA SCHOOL LEADERS PROGRAM



Supported by



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University



The Committee 4 Wagga has once again run a very successful Wagga School Leaders Program. We are pleased with the uptake of this program as it gives the city's future leaders an opportunity to develop their leadership skills. We had a broad cross section of young people nominated from all high schools in Wagga Wagga.

The School Leaders Program helps develop their individual leadership skills through a range of activities and experiences which were designed to promote social, ethical, emotional, physical and cognitive competencies. All of the participants had very busy schedules and a lot of these activities took them way outside their comfort zones. There was a willingness to tackle obstacles and take on challenging situations.

Participation in the Wagga School Leaders Program should assist participants to analyse their strengths and areas for development; enable them to set personal and vocational goals; it enables them to start building their networks and develop their self-confidence to assist in achieving those goals. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of those School Leaders who have successfully completed this program and I wish you all very successful careers armed with the additional skills that you have acquired through the Program.

Thank you to Lisa Simpson and Chris Fitzpatrick for co-ordinating, leading, supporting and mentoring the group through the program. Thanks also to Michelle and Alan from Committee 4 Wagga for your involvement in the program.

I would also take this opportunity to thank the sponsors of the program, in particular Charles Sturt University, whose considerable involvement in the program is invaluable. Without the voluntary contribution of these organisations, this program would not be able to be provided to our future ambassadors and leaders.

The Committee 4 Wagga is pleased to be able to invest time and resources in this program as we recognise the future benefit to our city of having future leaders with the skills and abilities to look after and grow our city.

**Michael Quirk** - Chairperson, Committee 4 Wagga





**UNLEASH YOUR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL**

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## ABOUT COMMITTEE 4 WAGGA



The Committee 4 Wagga is a member based, self-funded, independent organisation representing 54 member organisations that collectively employ over 4,500 people. Committee 4 Wagga works with the community, local businesses and all levels of government to champion positive change for a better city and seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

- Support and promote the city to ensure accelerated population growth
- Identify and implement opportunities that will enhance our cultural, social, business and economic prosperity
- Provide a platform for community, business and government collaboration to effect positive change

## THE SCHOOL LEADERS PROGRAM

The School Leaders Program is a Committee 4 Wagga initiative and supported by local businesses and the Charles Sturt University. The Program was launched in 2016 and is currently in its fourth year, with the objective of developing young, aspiring high school students into positive, successful ambassadors for the city. Students participating in the program attend six single-day and one evening module across the course of the year, with each module of the curriculum designed to achieve different learning outcomes.

The Program engages students in a series of challenging exercises including workshops, lectures, regional industry excursions, physical activities and mentoring sessions to develop their capacity to become successful leaders and community representatives.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SPONSORS



Enirgi Power Storage Recycling (EPSR) recognised the value the Wagga School Leaders Program would have on future Wagga leaders, thus we wanted to be involved from the get go.

“My experience with young engineers, future leaders of companies, has shown me leadership skills are invaluable for those starting off their careers. Knowing the right answer is not enough, the young engineer, or leader, must be able to convince those around them that they are right. Leadership, influencing others, is a skill that I see being cultivated in the Wagga School Leaders Program. Ultimately this will benefit the Wagga Wagga community by empowering the young to speak up on issues and be heard,” said Darren Nelson from Enirgi Power Storage Recycling.

Enirgi Power Storage’s Recycling Division is Australia’s leader in battery recycling. Collecting used batteries from across Australia and processing the waste into useful products. Enirgi Power Storage is a fully integrated company, offering energy storage solutions for residential, commercial and industrial sectors and supplies high quality brand name batteries, such as Super Charge, Marshall and Exide for automotive, marine, power sports, leisure equipment and devices. The comprehensive network of retail stores and wholesale outlets covering all the major population centres in Australia provides national coverage for the Power Storage division and our unique service model dedicated to the manufacture, supply, collection and recycling of lead-acid batteries underpins our sustainability.

**Darren Nelson** - General Manager  
Enirgi Power Storage Recycling



What do you get when you put some of the most talented students from 6 of our local High Schools together for a 4 month School Leaders Program? Answer: An overwhelming sense of confidence that we have some wonderful young ambassadors being developed as strong leaders to take our great city from strength to strength!

The detailed content of the Wagga School Leaders Program is designed to provide students with the skills to understand and engage in the process and practice of leadership. Providing a firm understanding that underpins the program’s content, students initially spend time exploring their own values and the value of community. In doing so, it enables them to understand their personal values, qualities and their unique identity to become strong leaders.

It also gives them a greater awareness of the world in which they live, assisting them to critically evaluate their participation and contribution to their own community, nationally and to the world. Being more aware of their individual values will prepare young adults to understand and be more confident in their leadership skills to participate in a future that is constantly being reshaped by changing values.

Bush & Campbell are proud to be involved in the Wagga School Leaders Program and look forward to seeing what exciting opportunities these capable and gifted young individuals embark on in the future and observe the way in which they will inspire and lead others in our community.

**Jan Centrella** - Business Manager  
Bush & Campbell Accountants



Wagga Motors was really interested in the formulation of the Wagga School Leaders Program via Committee 4 Wagga. The program is designed to highlight the full potential of Wagga Wagga to its budding school leaders so they may consider Wagga Wagga as part of their future, whether it be tertiary education, employment and family endeavours.

Wagga Motors has and continues to invest heavily in Wagga Wagga, employing over 90 staff. It is through the continued promotion of Wagga Wagga and its benefits that will ensure quality people stay and contribute to Wagga Wagga’s potential. In doing so, the quality of human resources for companies such as Wagga Motors will continue to improve.

Great cities are made up of great people, much the same as great companies are made up of great people.

By showcasing our City from a growth and business perspective, we are providing our young leaders with the resources to succeed locally. The City of Wagga Wagga and all of its community and business residents will prosper, from this investment and Wagga Motors looks forward to the program growing from strength to strength, as it does the City of Wagga Wagga.

**Scott Braid** - Director  
Wagga Motors

This year I was again privileged to be given the opportunity to meet with the students and discuss the process, mechanics and challenges of regional development and the importance of the growth of residential estates to the economy and vitality of Wagga Wagga. It was a valuable exchange of ideas and I was again struck with the dialogue, the level of understanding and the maturity of the observations, questions and thoughts that flowed.

Wagga School Leaders Program continues to deliver a unique and valuable experience not just for the students, but also for the presenters and sponsors. As always, I took away an enormous amount from our meeting and for that I am indebted to you all.

I applaud the Committee 4 Wagga for this initiative and I thank all other sponsors, participants and organisers for their valuable support that is so vital to the future of the city.

We hope to maintain our involvement with this program for many years to come. I wish all graduates every success in their studies and beyond, for it is certain that the future of Wagga Wagga and indeed Australia looks to be in very good hands.

**Graham Walker** - Director  
Estella Rise



Sureway Employment and Training is proud to support the Wagga School Leaders Program. It is such a privilege to be a part of both the Committee 4 Wagga’s Mentoring 4 Growth and Wagga School Leaders Program in supporting to shape aspiring local leaders and building a network of young ambassadors for our community. At Sureway Employment and Training our purpose is to change lives and build stronger communities, whether this is by assisting people in gaining employment or by investing in valued programs such as Wagga School Leaders Program that support our local young leaders with the resources, skills and confidence they need for the future and to assist in their working careers. Congratulations to the Wagga School Leaders Program Graduates.

**Matthew Hall** - Chief Executive Officer, Sureway Employment and Training



Riverina Water is proud to support the Wagga School Leaders Program. It is such a privilege to be a part of the Wagga School Leaders Program in supporting to shape aspiring local leaders and building a network of young ambassadors for our community

Reinvesting in our community by supporting the next generation of leaders is important to Riverina Water, as we believe the program participants will go on to shape the future of Wagga Wagga and surrounds.

By supporting the program, we're keen to showcase local career opportunities and to highlight Wagga Wagga's potential as a regional hub, which students can consider as a long term option for further education and employment.

We understand that the success of an organisation is underpinned by its people and community. As such we're excited to see the next generation of leaders contribute to and lead our city's future workforce.

**Andrew Crakanthorp, JP, MAICD**  
General Manager - Riverina Water



The NSW Government is immensely proud to support the Wagga School Leaders Program. We are always looking at ways we can support young people and the Wagga School Leaders Program is a fantastic initiative aimed at equipping high school students with the skills necessary to become successful ambassadors for Wagga Wagga. The program is challenging yet rewarding and an invaluable learning resource for participants on their way to becoming community representatives. We look forward to seeing the program go from strength to strength and following the stories of these impressive young citizens as they continue to contribute, in a variety of different ways, to our city. Congratulations to all graduates.

**The Hon Wes Fang MLC**  
Nationals Member of the Legislative Council



Charles Sturt University is proud to partner with the Committee 4 Wagga and support the Wagga School Leaders Program. Indeed, we have been part of this great initiative since it first began in 2016. The University is an incubator for people who are energetic and driven individuals, who are leaders, educators, innovators, experts and people who are brimming with community pride and spirit.

We see our support as more than just sponsorship, we see it as an investment in the future. Charles Sturt University is committed to doing all we can to help grow strong regional communities, and this Program contributes to doing just that.

The Wagga School Leaders Program is an initiative that nurtures our young leaders, demonstrates the strength of our regional communities and encourages us to think progressively about our future challenges.

Strong leadership is vital to successful communities, and it is so important that our young people are well-equipped to take on leadership roles in those communities in the future. It is so exciting to see the wonderful young people who are participating in the Program, who are prepared to take on the challenges, to learn and grow, and to look to making a positive difference for the future of their region.

**Hon Fiona Nash** – Strategic Adviser, Regional Engagement - Charles Sturt University



## SCHOOL SUPPORT

### KILDARE CATHOLIC COLLEGE



**Christie Scoble**  
Acting Principal

Congratulations to Asha Murphy and Oliver Hazell-Plum for completing the Committee 4 Wagga School Leaders Program this year. The impact of this worthwhile initiative was clearly evident for both students at the Program Graduation, where each displayed a growth in confidence through very impressive public speaking skills. It was wonderful to see how proud they were of their achievements and the gratitude they felt for the experiences the Program had provided them. The Program has clearly helped these young people glean deeper insight into what it means to be an authentic leader and how to work as a team. Both students particularly enjoyed expanding their social networks with like minded peers across our local secondary schools. They also benefited from developing a better understanding of our local community, including more awareness about the different industries and employment opportunities available.

**Christie Scoble**, Acting Principal.

### WAGGA WAGGA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



**Phillip Wilson**  
Principal



**Sue Smedley**  
Student Leadership  
Coordinator

The Wagga School Leaders Program has become an integral part of our Student Leadership program here at the Christian College. Student Leadership is important to us and we have well over 100 people from Years 5-12 being part of the leadership teams. The experiences that this program provides have been inspirational and rich for the students who have attended. We are already seeing the fruit of this program in our emerging leaders. The Committee 4 Wagga team are to be commended for the series of workshops that they have developed. They are challenging and rewarding and our students have grown through the program and associated activities. We look forward to our continued partnership in this excellent student leadership program.

**Phillip Wilson** - Principal **Sue Smedley** – Student Leadership Coordinator.



# THE RIVERINA ANGLICAN COLLEGE

THE RIVERINA ANGLICAN COLLEGE



**Paul Humble**  
Principal



**Michael Stubbs**  
Deputy Principal

It is very pleasing for the College to once again have their three students graduate from the Committee 4 Wagga School Leaders Program for 2019. Each participant was able to highlight the benefits they gained from being part of the program. These benefits included facing and overcoming the fear of public speaking, the important role each individual plays as part of a team and the discovery of their personal leadership skills.

It is hoped that these students will continue on their journey of leadership and share these skills in their everyday life here at The Riverina Anglican College.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved with the Committee 4 Wagga for facilitating such a comprehensive program. The students were privileged to be addressed by so many successful people throughout the different sessions. **Michael Stubbs** - Deputy Principal - Wellbeing

This program is an exceptional opportunity for all student leaders in Wagga Wagga to engage in a collaborative and collegial experience. Quality schools must foster student leadership as a central element of the education they provide. As educators we aim for each student to positively contribute to the College/School community on a regular basis both formally and informally. At The Riverina Anglican College, we see the essence of leadership as service for all age groups within the College. As such, the students seek out opportunities to role model expectations and strive to set the best possible example to all other students. This program beautifully enhances and compliments this aspect of the students learning. **Paul Humble** - Principal

# KOORINGAL HIGH SCHOOL



**Kyle Bryant**  
Principal



**Roslyn Mattingly**  
Student Welfare

It was fantastic to hear from the students about the impact that this program has had on these young leaders. The students have spoken about how the program allowed them to gain a deeper knowledge of the values of a leader and how to overcome the challenges involved in leadership. They also spoke of the other skills they developed throughout the program such as public speaking and self-reflection. Giving these students the opportunity to develop these skills is invaluable and Kooringal High School is extremely proud of Amelia and Katie and is happy to continue to be a part of the Wagga School Leaders Program.

**Kyle Bryant** - Principal.

# WAGGA WAGGA HIGH SCHOOL



**Chris Davies**  
Principal



**Tania Maddison**  
Deputy Principal

Wagga Wagga High School has thoroughly supported Paige and Harshil's involvement in the Wagga School Leaders Program. The students have shown an improvement in their confidence both with their public speaking and in their general demeanour. Both students have enthusiastically reported their progress following each module and have highly recommended the program to other students.

Wagga Wagga High School has seen the practical relevance of this highly valued program, which the students have greatly enjoyed. They have appreciated their opportunities and their ability to work with the Committee 4 Wagga staff and other members of the wider Wagga Wagga community. The students have been impressed with the passion and dedication of the people involved in the Wagga School Leaders program.

Wagga Wagga High School looks forward to our future involvement in the Wagga School Leaders Program as the students are able to gain a perspective on local and global issues which impact on them. The ability for students and interact with students with a similar mindset from other local schools and the friendships that the students form has been one of the many highlights of the program.

This program equips the students to have greater confidence in their abilities and inspires them to be leaders in their community in the future.

**Chris Davies** - Principal    **Tania Maddison** – Deputy Principal.

# MATER DEI CATHOLIC COLLEGE



**Val Thomas**  
Principal



**Catherine Banks**  
Leader of Students

Mater Dei Catholic College commends the importance of programs such as the Wagga School Leaders Program, as it offers our students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills now and as lifelong learners. Congratulations to our 2019 participants Louise, Holly and Isabelle on their journey towards personal leadership growth, and in their development of communication, confidence and team building skills. We are grateful for the opportunity to be involved in this initiative as it benefits our individual students, the College and the local community. We look forward to our continued partnership in this excellent student leadership program.

**Val Thomas** - Principal    **Catherine Banks** - Leader of Students.

## ASHA MURPHY KILDARE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

*Leadership word: Authenticity*



### Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership shield and why?

My leadership shield is a representation of values, qualities and activities which I perceive as important. The four leaf clover border represents family as both ancestors originated in Ireland. The centred triangle consists of five colours each symbolising specific qualities: Gold - generosity Silver - peace Blue - truth Green - hope & joy Orange - worthy ambition.

Located in the top left hand corner are three items symbolic of family and life. The first is an open book demonstrating my readiness to learn from every situation, negative or positive. The motto, 'Virtue et Scientia' meaning goodness and knowledge is from Mount Erin High School. The school holds significant value as my paternal great grandmother, maternal nan and mother attended.

The lightbulb in a thought bubble indicates that we are continually learning throughout life and symbolic of light and connections. On the top right hand corner are puzzle pieces, a lock and a heart with a green tick, which represent respect, trust and authenticity, respectively.

The footprints covering the crest depicts my eagerness to travel and explore, the air and clouds (under the motto) portray optimism, and the trees with the embedded peace signs represent peacefulness in simplicity.

Finally, my personal leadership quote - "empowering through example", is an accurate statement for the definition of leadership. Motivating people to achieve a common goal is acquired when participants see a leader attempting a task, or literally showing the way.

### How has the Program changed you and your leadership?

Each module has challenged and benefited me in a particular way: Module 1 taught me how to learn to listen and listen to learn when interviewing Fiona Nash. Kapooka then allowed me to develop trust and communication. Modules 3 & 4 focused on health and wellbeing. Then TEYS and Enirgi gave me a wider perspective of Wagga businesses and the collaboration needed for them to be successful. The Hume and Hovell track gave us the opportunity to lead a group. The final session just consolidated our understanding of leadership and purpose.

### What is one valuable piece of advice you will take away from the Program?

The entire course was replete with advice from Chris, Lisa and Michelle, and all of the guest speakers. The one that resonated with me the most is from Jum Lamont - 'Attitude is contagious, is yours worth catching?'. Even though this isn't specifically about leadership, once you adopt a growth mindset, everyone will be attracted to your optimistic attitude.

### What do you enjoy about living in Wagga Wagga?

The size of Wagga Wagga allows for a variety of schools and employment opportunities to be available, especially for younger generations. Over 65 000 citizens allows for medium sized schools which attract high quality teachers and resources, and yet are not overcrowded.

There is also a range of extracurricular opportunities available, including sports, musicals, art, Wagga Library, festivals (River & Wren / Lost Lanes) which cater for everyone's needs.



# OLIVER HAZELL-PLUM

## KILDARE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Leadership word: Motivate



### Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership shield and why?

My leadership shield consists of 4 main elements: an upwards pointing arrow which weaves between obstacles, plum and hazelnut trees, three coloured stars and an Indigenous painting. Firstly, The upwards arrow represents the constant upwards direction that we should maintain as we move through life. The obstacles demonstrate the ups and down which will inevitably occur, however, over all the arrow travels upwards. Secondly, the plum and hazelnut trees represents my last name "Hazell-Plum". Thirdly, The Yellow, Blue and Green stars represent the colours which resonate with me the most. Finally, The Indigenous painting represents my Indigenous background. Overall, The shield is drawn upside down which serves as a metaphor to how life can occasionally throw you upside down.

### How has the Program changed you and your leadership?

The main change that I have noticed from the program is the improvement in my confidence. Additionally, I am able to cope with nerves much more effectively when public speaking.

### What is one valuable piece of advice you will take away from the Program?

When speaking with a mentor during the last module, I asked about university and explained that I was unsure about what I want to do in the future. The advice that I got was not to stress and to enjoy the ride. I was also told about the possibilities of travelling overseas on exchange during university to explore the world and different cultures.

### What do you enjoy about living in Wagga Wagga?

There are a variety of reasons why I enjoy living near Wagga Wagga. Firstly, there is an excellent range of sporting facilities at our fingertips including Bolton park, Jubilee park and the exhibition centre. Furthermore, We have great resources alike the Wagga Wagga library. Wagga Wagga also has entertainment options such as Forum 6 Cinemas and the Civic theatre. Overall, I believe Wagga Wagga is a great town with great opportunity and expected growth.





# PAUL ANDERSON

## WAGGA WAGGA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

*Leadership word: Example*



### **Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership shield and why?**

The Stag is the symbolic meaning of peace and harmony, strength and fortitude and one who will not fight unless provoked. I once used to have no control over my anger, but I have learnt to control and to react in a fair and just way as much as I can. The Black Snake is a mixed representation with the snake representing wisdom and black meaning grief or sadness, together for me they mean wisdom gained from hardship from life that I have been through. The olive branch and leaves are the common symbols of peace. I chose this because where ever I go, I only want to take peace with me.

The Dog collar belonged to my dog that has passed away, it means memories that will not be forgotten not just about my dog but about everyone and everything that has impacted my life. The blue means truth and loyalty, I try to act this way in every friendship I have and earn trust from them to show that I'm always there if they need me.

The red means military strength and magnanimity, I always attempt my best to be generous to everyone when I can and show that I can defend myself. The gold means generosity and elevation of the mind, I enjoy helping people as much as I can and sharing my understanding of areas and building my character. The quote in Spanish "Mida dos veces, corta una vez" means "measure twice, cut once". It's a saying that my brother taught me, and he related it to life by saying that you always go to think about what you are going to do before you do the action, because once its done you cant take it back. I wrote it in Spanish because I aspire to speak and read the language fluently.

### **How has the Program changed you and your leadership?**

It has changed how I approach leadership improved and built up upon the values I bring to any aspect of leadership. The friendships that have come from the program has been amazing for me, I really enjoyed the activities we all did together and the encouragement that we all gave to each other throughout the program. It taught me that you can do anything with the right people supporting you along the way.

### **What is one valuable piece of advice you will take away from the Program?**

That it is important that you have a purpose in both leadership and personal life. You can not lead anyone if you don't even know what you are doing yourself, you must believe in what you are leading and have a passion to share that with everyone.

### **What do you enjoy about living in Wagga Wagga?**

I love how our community works together to achieve a common goal, from picking up rubbish on clean up Australia day to supporting ANZAC day cheering on all the people walking down Baylis Street.



# ROYCE HUNTER

## THE RIVERINA ANGLICAN COLLEGE

Leadership word: *Respect*



### Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership shield and why?

My Leadership shield incorporates things and values that I believe reflect me. In the top left and bottom right corner of my shield I have two objects which represent the farm that my family live on and have for my whole life. I've got a sheep and some canola for this. In the top right corner I've got a football which represents my interests, and the reason I enjoy footy is because I get to play in a team and get to use leadership, by hopefully setting a good example. In the bottom left hand corner I put the hand gesture of giving because I feel like as farmers we provide for the country, and this is also a value my parents have taught me along the way. Finally my motto is 'Don't just tell, show'. This represents my leadership word which was example. My leadership style is setting an example for the team or group and getting in there and doing the job, because how can you expect the people to do something if you can't or won't do it yourself.

### How has the Program changed you and your leadership?

This program has been very beneficial for my leadership. I've taken new skills back to my school and other places that I'm in involved in. This program has taught me to be a better listener and be more personable through interpersonal skills. It has also taught me to be a more compassionate and authentic leader, and to trust myself and back myself to make decisions.

### What is one valuable piece of advice you will take away from the Program?

One bit of advice that has stuck with me the most was a saying from the first session we had with Jum Lamont from Jump Start. This saying was 'Attitude is contagious, is yours worth catching'. I really liked this because it tied in with my leadership motto, and I have had experiences with negative leaders and know that it's hard to be motivated by someone who looks like they don't want to be there themselves.

### What do you enjoy about living in Wagga Wagga?

I live in a small town about 45 mins from Wagga Wagga called Yerong Creek, but I'm in Wagga Wagga everyday for school. Wagga Wagga is a good size, it's not too large and is not too busy. It's a pretty relaxed place, where you can still experience the city and there is plenty to do.



# LARA JAY

## THE RIVERINA ANGLICAN COLLEGE

Leadership word: Empowerment



### Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership and why?

My leadership shield represents my values, what I strive for, my family and myself as a person. My motto on the shield is "Be good. Do good. Feel good". This motto resonates with me because I believe in doing good things and caring for other people which allows me to feel good. This motto connects with me because I want to help people as much as I can. The symbols I have on my leadership shield are balancing scales, a book, a world globe, a tree, a heart and farming land. These symbols all represent myself and my future visions. The balancing scales on my leadership shield represent fairness as I believe that everyone should be treated fairly and equally, no matter what your background. The book represents my love of education and learning new things. I value education because I believe it can take you far and it is important to keep learning things. The world globe on my leadership shield is my love for travelling and discovering new things as when I am older hope to travel. The tree with roots on my leadership shield symbolises the importance of knowing my family history, I am a strong believer in knowing where you come from, so you know where you are going. The heart on my leadership shield represents having love and passion for things in life. As a leader, you need to be passionate about your cause. The farming land on my leadership shield represents my love and passion for the land, my connection to the land is strong because I have spent a lot of time on my grandparent's farm.

### How has the program changed you and your leadership?

Throughout the course of the program, I have developed better personal skills, public speaking skills and leadership skills. This program has taught me that leading isn't just from the front, it is leading from within a group through empathy, authenticity, integrity, inclusion, empowerment, honesty and respect.

### What is one valuable piece of advice that you will take away from the program?

One valuable piece of advice that I'll take away from the program is that attitude is contagious, the way you act and treat people will influence the way that they act and treat other people. So be thoughtful about the way you act as it will have an influence on other people.

### What do you enjoy about living in Wagga Wagga?

Wagga Wagga is such a lovely place to live. Although, it is developing into a bigger city, it still has a strong sense of community. Building and sustaining the community is something important about a growing city.



# MARINA GABRA

## THE RIVERINA ANGLICAN COLLEGE

Leadership word: Humility



### Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership shield and why?

The leadership shield that I have created is meant to embody the morals, values and attributes that I aimed to enhance over the course, yet also throughout my life. The main elements included: outstretched hands for generosity, the flags of Australia and Sudan- my birth country- to create unity in diversity. The tree was to represent my growth and development journey and finally, the book represents the need for knowledge and how it can take me places. The centre of the shield is a cross representing the foundation on which my morals are built.

### How has the Program changed you and your leadership?

This program has changed me and my leadership as it allowed me to explore the many aspects of leadership. I see leadership on a wider level, yet I understand that even the smallest acts are looked upon. Leadership for me has now become an ongoing journey instead of a fixated goal.

### What is one valuable piece of advice you will take away from the Program?

One of the most important pieces of advice I have gained is about attitude and its effect. "Attitude is contagious, is yours worth catching?" This is a question that has stuck with me and allows me to change my mindset from negative to positive to ensure that my attitude is also positive. I can now reflect on my attitude and mindset and understand the effect it has on the environment around me.

### What do you enjoy about living in Wagga Wagga?

When I think of Wagga Wagga, I think of community. When I think of community, I immediately think of belonging. My favourite thing about living in Wagga Wagga is the sense of community and belonging that I feel in all aspects of every day life. Whether it is a charity event or even walking around the lake, there is always a deeper sense of belonging interweaved into the Wagga Wagga community. This aspect, is one that I truly enjoy.



*Laissez-Faire*



# AMELIA HANSON

## KOORINGAL HIGH SCHOOL

*Leadership word: Resilience*



### **Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership shield and why?**

My leadership shield includes many small elements, depicting the hobbies and interests that I have. The shield also includes red and green coloured bands on the side that have internal values tied to them, which allows the colours to appropriately represent my family and beliefs. The motto that I created, “Through courage gain resilience”, will act as a guide for my values and aspirations through my lifetime; along with the shield reminding me of the skills that I learnt during this Program.

### **How has the Program changed you and your leadership?**

The Wagga School Leaders Program has enlightened me to a deeper understanding of not only the values that form a great and respected leader, but how to grasp at these values and use them in the community. This Program has also allowed me to step outside of my comfort zone, whether that be jumping off a tower, or delivering a speech to a room of 70 people; I’ve gained from both experiences and furthermore will be able to use the skills gained in my future. This Program also showed me the importance of self-reflection and how that is essential in order for you to state on top of your mental and physical health.

### **What is one valuable piece of advice you will take away from the Program?**

There are countless, valuable pieces of advice that I’ve learnt from the Program – that will all have a significant influence on how I live my life. But, the most memorable advice that I will take away, is that you must listen in order to learn. Listening is a fundamental element to have, as it allows us to grow from mistakes and work effectively in a team, whilst learning from others.

### **What do you enjoy about living in Wagga Wagga?**

I believe that Wagga Wagga provides many great opportunities for people of all ages. From many various sporting opportunities, to programs like The Wagga School Leaders Program – targeted at benefiting the youth of our region. Wagga Wagga is very much a wholesome community, which makes me proud to call it home.



# KATIE HARPER

## KOORINGAL HIGH SCHOOL

Leadership word: *Passion*



### Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership shield and why?

I included a range of different elements in my leadership shield. Every time I'd finish drawing something, I'd think of another new symbol or object that I just had to add. I included the three ornaments at the bottom of the inner shield as each one represents a different aspect of my heritage. I was born in Australia, the native land of the kangaroo, my mother is from Sri Lanka; the only place in the world you can find Ceylon sapphires and my father is from Ireland; which is known for their four leaf clovers. The science equipment and planets were an element I added to represent my love and talent for all things science. The mountains represent my dream to travel. The flowering tree represents my love for the environment and passion to help protect it and the cat is there just because I love them so much. Everything I have on my leadership shield is close to my heart and I am so grateful that I got the chance to make one as it helped me gain clarity on who I am as a person.

### How has the program changed you and your leadership?

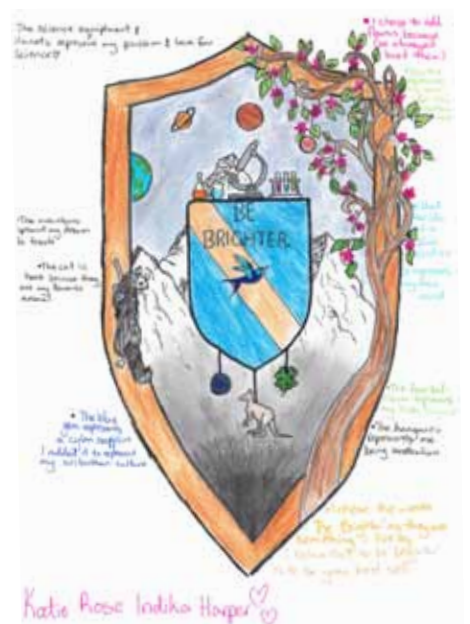
This program was an amazing personal development journey for me. I haven't only gained great skills in presentation but also amazing strategies on how to tackle tricky situations. I am more confident in my public speaking than I have ever been but I believe the most important thing that has changed in my leadership is my awareness of the impact I have on those around me. I now understand how important it is to influence others in a positive way. I also find important messages that I heard at the program, popping in my head often. Messages that Lisa always use to say like 'Seek first to understand and then to be understood'. I believe this extremely important in regards to leadership and I have seen a huge change in how I talk to others after hearing this quote.

### What is one valuable piece of advice you will take away from the program?

The most valuable piece of advice I will take away from this program is to know who you are. In the very first module we touched on the importance of integrity, purpose and how its quite hard to be a good leader if you first do not know who you are. I believe the most important aspect of leadership is being aware of the impact you are making on others and whether that impact is positive.

### What do you enjoy about living in Wagga Wagga?

The thing I love most about Wagga Wagga is its size. It's a large enough city that you don't know everybody, but it's small enough that we're all connected in small ways to one another. I also love how there is always something going on. Whether it's a NADOC day celebration at the Tolland Community Centre, the night markets or Fusion down the main street. There is always something you're able to get involved in and the environment you're in is just so fun and friendly.



# PAIGE GAYNOR

## WAGGA WAGGA HIGH SCHOOL

Leadership word: Integrity



### Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership shield and why?

The focus of my leadership shield was to represent six of my core values; integrity, authenticity, balance of work and play, contentment, family, happiness and joy. The central bridge is a representation of Bellbridge, a place where my family and I share a lot of fond memories. The cattle and sheep drawn in the grass signify links to both sides of my lineage with one being a butcher and the other a mixed farmer. I have drawn wheat to signify income and the work that must be put in to reap that reward. This follows onto the idea of having a work/life balance of work and play. The motto 'To be, rather than to seem' speaks to be a sign of me as being an authentic and integral person. The contentment from being proud of what you have and tolerant of those who misrepresent themselves. Overall, the agricultural theme surrounding my shield is representative of my future endeavors to study Ag.

### How has the program changed you and your leadership?

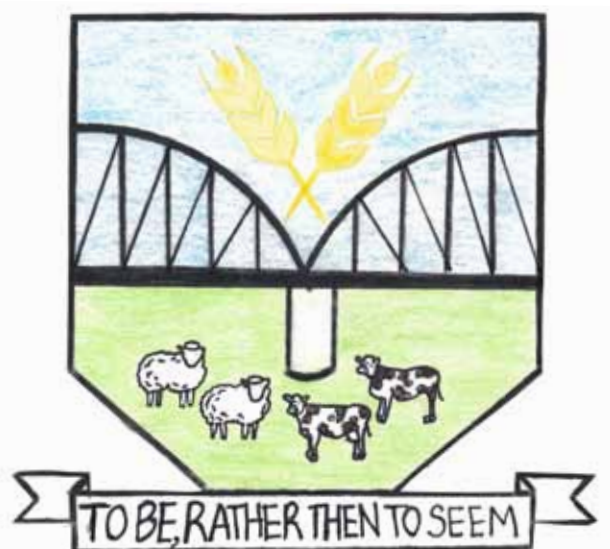
Firstly, Thank you to Committee 4 Wagga for running the Wagga School Leaders Program that has provided many invaluable opportunities. After the program, I believe that I have grown not only as a person but as a leader. I am no longer daunted by the fact of public speaking, because no one wants you to fail but now I am more confident in my abilities in meeting future challenges not if they arrive but when they arrive.

### What is one valuable piece of advice you will take away from the program?

During my interview with Graham Walker, he mentioned that "people need to hear the truth even if it may cause conflict or disagree with their ideas and not to be afraid of doing so". Although it sounds like a bad idea at first, you gain people's respect who consequently will value your opinions because it demonstrates courage of conviction.

### What do you enjoy about living in Wagga Wagga?

What I love most about Wagga Wagga is that we have become and continue to be a progressive regional city by fostering all aspects of life. I believe that the most unique thing about Wagga Wagga is the strong presence of multiculturalism bringing our community together particularly during times need e.g. floods.



# HARSHIL RAWAL

## WAGGA WAGGA HIGH SCHOOL

Leadership word: Motivate



### Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership shield and why?

I included elements of culture and religion to firstly display where I come from, what I believe, and to illustrate my context, what has shaped my values. Next I have a reactional element which explores all my activities which I love doing, such as camping, swimming, and playing tennis, displaying more about myself. Lastly the motto and the other objects are demonstrating the more academic side of myself, my love for reading, my future aspirations, and what I use to drive myself (motto).

### How has the Program changed you and your leadership?

The leadership has drastically changed me, it has developed my personality and has put me on the path to become the best version of me, with the greatest value I learnt was self-control. I believe this will also improve my leadership skills, and it'll allow me to be more thoughtful in my decisions and have patience.

### What is one valuable piece of advice you will take away from the Program?

As said before, self-control, but because I don't want to repeat myself, I'm going to say to find the brighter side in situations, and always have fun. The communications skills gained through-out the program allowed us to have more and more fun in every module.

### What do you enjoy about living in Wagga Wagga?

I love living in Wagga Wagga, it's quiet, it has all the facilities, but it's large enough that I can meet new people, whenever I do anything. Yet our community is tight, and I think it's very valuable in running such rural town.





# HOLLY MACK

## MATER DEI CATHOLIC COLLEGE

*Leadership word: Trust*



### **Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership shield and why?**

I included elements important to myself in my shield such as a tree, emphasising my connection to nature, the notes around the tree, showing my love of music, the butterfly (Bindi) and Jarrah leaf as these are the names of my youngest niece and nephew, to show my connection to my family, the book to show my love of learning and reading, the Australian flag, explaining my Australian heritage, the fleur de lis, making evident my connection to Scouts Australia, and, of course, my motto; Doctrina et Familia which is Latin for Learning and Family, two of the most important things in my life. I found it really challenging to put only minimal things on a page to describe myself. There was so much else I could have added.

### **How has the Program changed you and your leadership?**

The program has made me aware of who I am. Moreover, it has made me confident to be me. I now feel like I can communicate with people much better and I am able to empathise with people I would not have before. The benefits from this program were numerous and it has really had an impact on my life, on how I tackle every situation I am faced with. I have learnt how to stay calm during the rough times and how to celebrate my own and other people's successes.

### **What is one valuable piece of advice you will take away from the Program?**

Breathe. You might be nervous and scared and not at all confident in yourself, but just breathe and everything will be fine. This piece of advice has helped me through many speeches in the short time since we were left with this information, including the speeches I made in Parliament last week. In Parliament, it was challenging as there were constantly people shouting out interjections to what I was saying, trying to catch me off guard. By continuing the simple breathing exercises we were taught at Committee 4 Wagga, I was able to keep my head in these hot situations and was able to present speeches I look back on and be proud of.

### **What do you enjoy about living in Wagga Wagga?**

I love the people. I honestly love how amazing the people of Wagga Wagga are, how they all support each other and make each other feel at home. It doesn't matter if you know them, while you are walking down the street, you are bound to get at least one smile from the people around you. I also really enjoy going to community charity events and seeing the amount of people who turn up to support members of the community.



# ISABELLE CUNNINGHAM

## MATER DEI CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Leadership word: *Passion*



### Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership shield and why?

My shield is sectioned off into four sections with the motto being presented down the bottom of it. In the top left section of my shield I include things associated with me and things I enjoy, the top right includes the word family, the bottom left including a rocky mountain with one side dark one side sunny (negative and positive) with the bottom right including a tree with roots connecting to the ground. My motto is "if you can, you must" Every element in this shield relates to me and my life and the way I go about things.

### How has the program changed you and your leadership?

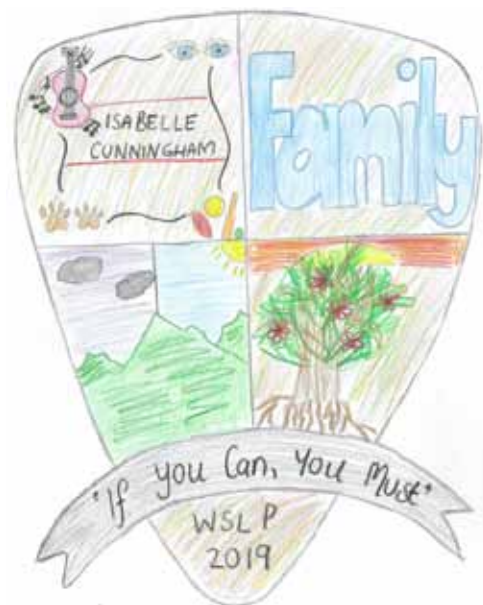
This program has taught me so much and it has enabled me to step out of my comfort zone and really push myself. It has helped me to believe in myself which helps when trying to show leadership. It has definitely made me a more confident public speaker and I was able to take so much away and in a way it helped me to change the way I think about things and have a more positive view on life.

### What is one valuable piece of advice you will take away from the program?

Quite simply the most valuable piece of advice I took away was "attitudes are contagious, is yours worth catching?" It amazes me how something so simple is so powerful.

### What do you enjoy about living in Wagga?

I enjoy the community spirit and the country lifestyle. I also enjoy where Wagga Wagga is going, I feel like it is only going up. Positive things to come.



# LOUISE BAKER

## MATER DEI CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Leadership word: Respect



### Explain what elements you have included in your personal leadership shield and why?

My leadership shield is split into 3 quadrants. The first representing the love and passion I have for music, and my ability to play the flute and piano. The colour red means warrior and so does the name Louise. The second is my family quadrant, which has a seven pointed star for the seven members of my family with an 'unbreakable' circle tying us all together. The infinity sign represents that family and friends are with you forever no matter what. The colour green represents hope, joy and loyalty in love, all important qualities. The final quadrant is about my education at Mater Dei, shown by the school motto and book. It also represents my Catholic background through the cross which impacts all aspects of my life. The colour blue represents truth and loyalty which are valuable qualities. The words surrounding my shield are a mix between words that I feel make a good leader. My motto "Be true to yourself on life's journey," is important as you must be true to yourself before you can be true to others involving being respectful and acknowledging your own beliefs and values.

### How has the Program changed you and your leadership?

The Wagga School Leaders Program has changed my leadership immensely. It changed my perspective on what I think a good leader is, as now I understand that it takes a very special person with many different qualities to be a successful leader. The program has given me more confidence and skills to enhance my public speaking. It has allowed me to understand more about myself, growing my leadership.

### What is one valuable piece of advice you will take away from the Program?

The school leaders program has given me many valuable pieces of advice, but one that stood out most to me was 'Fear is what keeps you alive.' Although this may be a bit strange, it was this piece of advice that got me through our day at Kapooka. To be able to recognise fear and use it as an advantage takes a great amount of strength and resilience. Moving forward I can recognise that fear is normal and something that everyone experiences.

### What do you enjoy about living in Wagga Wagga?

I enjoy many things about living in the city of Wagga Wagga, but one thing that stands out the most is the opportunities it has allowed me to explore. The Committee 4 Wagga School Leaders Program is a great example of this, as it gives young people the opportunity to enhance their leadership, presentation skills and become ambassadors for the city. As someone who loves music, I find the Riverina Conservatorium of Music is an excellent facility designed for the growth of musicians and a pathway for future careers.











# LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Wagga School Leaders Program (WSLP) was designed on the following modules:

1. Introduction, overview and purpose
2. Me as a leader and a member of Wagga School Leaders Program
3. Me and My Place – Wagga, Me and leadership in a broader context
4. Me and My Health and Wellbeing
5. Me and My place – learning about leadership and about Wagga Wagga
6. Me, My place in a bigger environment
7. Forward with knowledge – I am a Wagga Wagga ambassador

The detailed content of the program was then developed to equip our participants with the skills to understand and engage in the process and practice of leadership. The following content was then identified and presented to the Wagga School Leaders Program as a series of lectures, interactive activities, tours, forums, events, excursions and virtual experiences to deliver the Wagga School Leaders Program.



**FORWARD WITH KNOWLEDGE – I AM A WAGGA AMBASSADOR**



# MODULE 1 – CSU AGRITECH INCUBATOR

## INTRODUCTION, OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

**Date: February 21, 2019**

### **Objectives:**

- To share why the Wagga School Leaders Program is important and to communicate the role of the program in developing future leaders/ambassadors.
- To communicate how and why a trending suburb such as Estella Rise connects and contributes to the local community.
- To commence developing a leadership shield, a medium for the students to communicate who they are, where they fit within family and what is important.
- Provide the fundamental knowledge in understanding media and an introduction to the skills required when speaking to the media.

The first module set the scene for the program and included an official program launch. Committee 4 Wagga Chair, Michael Quirk and Committee 4 Wagga CEO, Alan Johnston used the program launch to highlight that leadership comes in many forms and for the students to really embrace each opportunity they are presented with during the program. A host of Dignitaries were in attendance at the AgriTech Incubator Hub, on Thursday 21st February. Board members from Committee 4 Wagga Darren Nelson, Jason Wadley, Colin Duff and Lyn Angel including CSU Strategic Adviser Regional Development Hon Fiona Nash, Acting Head of Campus Aaron McDonnell, Hon Wes Fang MLC, Dr Joe McGirr MP, Councillor Dan Hayes representing Wagga Wagga City Council along with seventeen eager Year 11 students from 6 local High Schools to commence Module one.

The first part of the day for the students involved introducing themselves to another student they didn't know previously and learning some interesting facts about each other to share with the group a little later in the day. The students then had a briefing session on the purpose of the Wagga School Leaders Program – “Why is it important” and “Their role as Wagga's future leaders/ambassadors”. They also were given information on “Planning the Perfect Presentation”. During the official launch and morning tea, each student was assigned to interview a guest, the learnings from which were later discussed, with the student explaining what the best piece of advice the guest had given them regarding public speaking.

Students were then given a presentation by Graham Walker from Estella Rise. Graham spoke of the importance of connecting communities, about leadership and explained in his experience “if you believe you can do it ... do it!

Emily Paul from the Catholic Education Office then delivered her presentation on the Leadership Shield. Emily assisted the students to grasp the purpose and design elements of a Leadership Shield. The creation of a Leadership Shield is intended to assist students to realise more about themselves, encouraging participants to think about who they are, where they fit in their family and what is important to them. Students were encouraged to learn more about their family's story and history so their heritage could be better reflected within their Leadership Shields.

The Shield and its key messages will be refined over the course of the program and framed for the students upon graduation.

Nathan Irvin from TAFE NSW then presented a session on media presentation and tips. The students were given an overview on “what is media” and “where did it all start”, and how much it has changed particularly in the last 26 years. They were given reason to think about content in all forms of media, where it comes from and who is good at it. Valuable points for content when being interviewed are – what, where, why, who and how. Know what you want to get out of it.

No more than 3 points:

- think about the message
- who are you talking to?
- what do they care about?

Remember to keep the message simple.

The day concluded with a debriefing, giving the students the opportunity to discuss and reflect on what they had learned during the day.



Emily Paul addressing students

## MODULE 2 - ARTC KAPOOKA

### ME AS A LEADER AND MEMBER OF THE WAGGA SCHOOL LEADERS PROGRAM

**Date: March 14, 2019**

#### **Objectives:**

- The ARTC Kapooka module is likely to challenge the individual participants and develop teamwork skills.
- The students learn about their strengths and weaknesses, develop trust and get to know each other better.

Kapooka is a vitally important component of the Defence Force and every recruit to the Australian Army spends their first 80 days of full-time training at the Centre before being deployed to specialist bases across Australia.

As the bus entered the Blamey Barracks, ARTC Kapooka, the students observed the signs containing the words: Courage, Initiative, Teamwork and Respect.

Once cleared to enter the Barracks through the security gates, the students are taken to the clothing store where they are given army 'fatigues' to change into before entering the Adventurous Training Wing the same wing where every registered army recruit is required to undertake the same physical activities as the students. This tests their ability to handle pressure and work both individually and as a team to overcome challenges.

The students were introduced to their mentors for the day, Major James Van Strijp and Corporal Gabrielle Hammond. The students were briefed about the day's activities and split into groups and lead through a series of exercises to develop trust and teamwork before moving on to the technical skills needed to be safe and confident on the Tower.

The activities provided both physical and mental challenges to the students who improved their ability to work collaboratively and operate under pressure. Every student embraced the challenges and participated in each activity, including climbing and abseiling the 15-metre Tower.

Several of the students were given the opportunity to participate in media interviews conducted by Wagga Wagga based television and print media reporters. During the day students were exposed to the challenges and opportunities of life as a soldier, including being provided a genuine army style packed lunch.

The leadership skills displayed across the entire range of Army ranks was not overlooked by the students. The students were debriefed by the Major James Van Strijp before leaving the Barracks with each student reflecting on the relationships forming, their resilience, their courage and social awareness.





## MODULE 3 – CSU AGRITECH INCUBATOR WAGGA, ME AND LEADERSHIP IN A BROADER CONTEXT

**Date: April 4, 2019**

### **Objectives:**

- To enable participants to share information about their backgrounds, values, philosophies of life and leadership understanding through sharing their personal Leadership Shield.
- To build students experience and confidence in giving a presentation in front of a group.
- To provide participants with information on, and generate enthusiasm for, their roles as future leaders and potential ambassadors for the regions.

The morning starts at Charles Sturt University with an inspirational quote by Maya Angelou “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel”.

Pete Millet from Charles Sturt University then joined the group and assisted the students to learn about their personality type through a series of questions and exercises. The questions followed Littauer’s theory developed in the early 1990’s that consists of four specific personality types: Sanguine, Melancholic, Choleric and Phlegmatic. Pete highlighted that there are many ways to lead and many types of leaders. Pete continued by sharing that leaders come from all personality traits and emphasised that the point of the exercise is to be empowered by the knowledge that comes from understanding yourself and others.

Chris Fitzpatrick shared some presentation tips including the importance of wrapping a presentation around some structure. The benefits from preparing and practicing a presentation were highlighted and concluded with ‘perfect preparation prevents poor performance’.

As part of the program, the students had earlier been asked to consider a leadership word of personal relevance. The next stage of the program provided the students with the opportunity to share their leadership word and why it had been chosen.

Following a small break in content delivery, the students were invited to present their shields, an exercise initiated in Module 1. The details included in the shield designs evidenced the student’s commitment to the program as it was clear that each program participant had directed much energy and thought towards what their shield represented.

The attention of the students then turned to leadership styles and qualities they admire in leaders. The leadership style of the New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinta Adhern in the wake of the terrorist attacks was reflected upon with the students being able to relate their leadership words including – respect, trust, resilience, integrity and courage.



## MODULE 4 – WORKOUT WAGGA & THE TOWNHOUSE

### ME AND MY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**Date: April 4, 2019**

**Objectives:**

- To communicate to students why a good diet, regular exercise and sleep are important facets to maintaining a healthy balance.
- Awareness of situations

It became apparent when the application forms from the students who had nominated to participate in the 2019 Wagga School Leaders Program were being processed that the students felt concern around issues including but not limited to mental health, disengaged youth and crime.

In this module the students commenced with an exercise class at Workout Wagga. Dayna Kahlefeldt and Nick Leary took the students through a boxing circuit before finishing with a yoga session. Dayna imparted on the students how important balance in life is and that exercise is a good outlet for stress. Nick had the students working hard correcting techniques and giving encouragement along the way.

The students then proceeded to the Townhouse where a session on Food for Fuel was presented by Dietician Jocelyn Williams. Jocelyn gave the students ideas on having more fruit and vegetables in their diet, the importance of drinking water, don't skip breakfast and add colour and variety. Jocelyn included in her presentation 6 steps to be and feel happier which were food, drink, exercise, activity, stress and sleep. The students were very interactive and asked many questions.

Dr Carl Henman then gave the students a presentation. Dr Henman included some components of health and wellbeing – Physical, Emotional, Mental and Spiritual. Dr Henman asked the students to consider what Healthy means to them? He discussed sleep hygiene - the do's and don'ts to help to get a good night's sleep. Dr Henman left the students with the message "No one thing, success or failure defines you or your pathway in life".



# MODULE 5 – TEYS MEAT PROCESSING PLANT + ENIRGI POWER STORAGE RECYCLING

## ME AND MY PLACE - LEARNING ABOUT LEADERSHIP

**Date: May 9, 2019**

### **Objectives:**

- To provide the students with an understanding of business and enterprises in the Wagga region and their centrality to a healthy, vibrant community and economy.
- To provide participants with information on, and generate enthusiasm for, their roles as future leaders and potential ambassadors for the region by extending their understanding of it
- To introduce students to Council's planning considerations.
- To extend communication skills in the areas of
  - o Interpersonal skills (verbal and non-verbal)
  - o Building relationships and rapport
  - o Presentation skills

The students were taken to Bomen Business Park for the day, with the first stop being Tey's Meat Processing Plant. Tey's Meat Processing Plant senior staff introduced themselves and the operation to the students. The significance of Tey's Meat Processing Plant to Wagga Wagga's economy as one of the largest beef processing plants in NSW was not overlooked. Tey's Meat Processing Plant rarely employ less than 950 staff and can process up to 1300 head of cattle daily during periods of strong supply and demand.

The group dressed in the necessary protective clothing including full length pants, shirt, boots, hairnet and hard hat before beginning the tour of the processing facility. A wide range of production lines were inspected. The students were shown how each cut of meat is graded by colour and marbling before it is cut and packaged ready for the supermarket shelves.

The next stop was Enirgi Power Storage Recycling, a lead recycling plant also located in the Bomen Business Park. Process Engineer Matthew Morton welcomed the students and explained how the plant's business model is integrated and encompasses the sale of car batteries via retail outlets, through to the recovery of used batteries before recycling the lead for re-use in new batteries at the Wagga Wagga Plant. The group was provided safety clothing and equipment before undertaking a tour of the factory to learn about the processes involved in lead recycling. Some of the students were particularly interested in seeing firsthand how the chemistry and engineering theory learned at school was being applied.

During lunch at the head office of Enirgi Power Storage Recycling, Wagga Wagga City Council's Manager City Strategy, Tristan Kell, presented a lively and interactive session on the attributes of Wagga Wagga and the need for planning. The students were challenged to develop solutions to a range of planning activities including Flood and Fire, Transport, Liveability and CBD development.

After lunch the students gathered in the board room to participate in a session focussing on improved presentation and communication skills, facilitated by Jum Lamont. Jum explained the importance of good communication skills and the students discussed how various forms of non-verbal communication such as body language and the environment can impact the effective transfer of a message. During the session the students undertook a variety of activities designed to emphasise the importance of effective communication and also to improve the student's public speaking skills.

A number of students indicated they felt more confident speaking in front of an audience and had learned much from Jum.

During the de-briefing session, Chris Fitzpatrick spoke of the need for the students to direct some attention to a presentation they will be delivering in Module seven, a two-minute speech about the School Leaders experience, what has been learnt and what the students hope to achieve moving forward.



Students out the front of Enirgi Power Storage Recycling



## MODULE 6 – TUMBARUMBA - VARIOUS ME, MY PLACE IN A BIGGER ENVIRONMENT

**Date:** June 06, 2019

### **Objectives:**

- Strengthen the Wagga School Leaders Program team through meaningful activities, sharing and having fun.
- To continue building an understanding of business and enterprises in the region and their centrality to a healthy, vibrant community and economy.
- To promote reflection and connection with country through the Hume and Hovell Track walk.
- To provide participants with information on, and generate enthusiasm for, their roles as future leaders and potential ambassadors for the region.

The day commenced at the Wagga Visitors Information Centre. Students dressed in hiking attire, ready for a day of physical activities. The air was crisp and the skies were clear as students boarded the bus in predetermined pairings.

The students undertook three tasks during the journey towards Tumbarumba:-

i. The students worked in pairs as they created story-based objects from pipe cleaners and pompoms, aka Kooky Creations. The exercise was intended to build relationships through creativity. The students were encouraged to link their creation with their favourite module from the program. Later in the day, the Kooky Creations, and what they represented, were shared with the cohort.

ii. Students were asked to review the gym and yoga session from module four. They were asked to explain why we need physical exercise as part of our daily routine and what benefits can be gained. They were also asked to explore why yoga is good for your mind and soul.

iii. The students were asked to also reflect on the Food is Fuel presentation and what if any observations they had made depending on the types of foods they eat in regards to how it makes them feel. Students also took some time to rewind and consider the session they shared with Dr. Carl Henman, how a balanced lifestyle helps keep you healthy.

Before embarking on the Hume and Hovell Walking Track the students presented to their peers an impromptu speech reflecting on the learnings and take homes from the Health and Wellbeing Module.

Hyne Timber Mill was the first stop in Tumbarumba. Beyond the technologies employed by the mill and the significant contribution this business provides to the regional economy, it was evident that Hyne Timber invested in staff. In a manner not dissimilar to what was evident at Teys Meat Processing Plant, Hyne Timber Mill represented an organisation that, regardless of an employee's level of entry into the workplace, if the desired attitude and work ethic is demonstrated, your efforts will ultimately be rewarded by a promotion.

Prior to lunch, the students presented their Kooky Creations, sharing the meaning behind their artistic expressions. After an exercise in 'directional awareness' based on compass points, the students headed onto Henry Angel trackhead just outside of Tumbarumba, commencing the hike along a section of the Hume and Hovell Walking Track. Students learned about the nation's history and experienced some of the region's best natural assets. The Hume and Hovell Track stretches 426 kilometres from Yass to Albury, and retraces the footsteps of explorers Hamilton Hume and William Hovell on their expedition to Port Phillip in 1824.

Three groups were created before the commencement of the walk, with each student taking it in turns to lead their peers and navigate to the turnaround point 6.5kms away. Along the walk each group was tasked with using clues to locate objects that had been hidden in the bush. By the time the walk had been completed, each group had successfully located each of their objects. By the time the 13km distance had been covered, there were some tired students!





## MODULE 7 – CSU AGRITECH INCUBATOR

### FORWARD WITH KNOWLEDGE – I AM A WAGGA WAGGA AMBASSADOR

**Date:** 21 June, 2019

#### **Objectives:**

- To bring the team’s activities to fruition through planning their presentations.
- To combine individual insights regarding Wagga School Leaders Program learnings into a group presentation for the Celebration dinner
- To develop individual leadership plans with a mentor
- To use their presentation skills to present their learning and thanks to the Wagga Wagga Community and the Committee 4 Wagga.

The final module of the Wagga School Leaders Program for 2019 focused on putting the skills developed throughout the program into practice and reflecting on the lessons learned through each of the previous modules. Chris Fitzpatrick began the day by discussing some of the lessons learned and emphasising the importance of having a purpose in everything we do. Each student was given a chance to explain what their purpose is, and importantly if this had changed as a result of the messages from guest speakers or experiences since the beginning of the program.

Lisa Simpson then did a session on self-belief. The students were asked to consider “who you are and what you want”, to accept that you will make mistakes and to listen. They were asked to think about self-esteem, self-confidence and positivity. Are you a ‘glass half full’ or a ‘glass half empty’ type of person? They explored losing and winning graciously. Attitude is contagious, is yours worth catching?

The group discussed the importance of being well prepared and appearing as the authority on a matter when speaking in front of an audience or the media. They concurred that being well prepared for presentations and noted the saying: perfectly prepared preparation prevents pathetically poor performance. Being well prepared makes it easier to stay calm, cool and collected while giving a presentation. The students again examined the confidence chart in comparison to how they rated themselves in earlier modules.

The students then began their final session with communication expert Jum Lamont. Jum encouraged the students to write down 10 words that they felt other people would use to describe them and then think about how they would like themselves to be described.

Most students were feeling comfortable with the concept and the majority had grown in confidence over the course of the program. Each student was required to then give a two-minute presentation on their learnings and leadership word, prepared since module three. All the students delivered strong presentations that were well prepared and well executed. Following the presentations each student was critiqued by their peers about the quality of delivery and their non-verbal communication techniques. Jum spoke about the significant improvements in the group based on his observations since module five, noting that all students have progressed significantly and developed a strong understanding of the link between effective communication and leadership.

Following lunch, the students began the mentoring session and each mentor paired with two students to learn from each other. The mentors spoke with their mentees for 45 minutes and shared some valuable life experiences, passing on messages about their experiences and discussed what effective leadership means to them. The students were able to ask questions and learn from the mentor during the time. Following that each mentor spoke about what they had passed on to the student also noted what they had learned from the discussion.

At the close of the session, everyone was asked to speak openly and honestly about an experience or message, with no time limit or set structure to the talk. The opportunity was designed to be impromptu and allow the students to speak freely about what they had learned during the course of the program. Importantly, the students reflected on how differently they might have spoken if given the same opportunity in front of the group at the beginning of the program.



# GRADUATION CEREMONY

## MAGPIES NEST

**Date: 21 June, 2019**

The 2019 Wagga School Leaders Program concluded with a graduation evening at the Magpies Nest Restaurant. The students were joined by proud parents, school principals and co-ordinators, program facilitators and contributors as well as our valued sponsors and dignitaries were there for a night of gratitude and acknowledgement of achievement.

Students were given the opportunity to host the evening through describing each module. They shared their highlights from the program, their take home messages, how they can integrate their learnings into other areas of their life, along with many other insights. The students were also given the opportunity to thank sponsors and mentors. The students carried out their responsibilities with distinction and it was clear to see the skills they had been learning, practiced and polished throughout the program. Skills of communication, leadership and presentation were on display for all to see.

Students were presented with their Graduation certificates by representatives of the programs sponsors. Bob Gnezdiloff from Wagga Motors, Andrew Crakanthorp from Riverina Water, Graham Walker from Estella Rise, Judy Galloway from Sureway Employment & Training, Siobhain Howard from Charles Sturt University, Jan Centrella from Bush & Campbell and Wes Fang from the NSW Government all participated in the presentation.

Committee 4 Wagga would like to thank the contributors and sponsors for this program, for without their support this would not have been possible. We would therefore like to extend our appreciation to Charles Sturt University, Estella Rise, Enirgi Power Storage Recycling, Riverina Water, The NSW Government, Wagga Motors, Bush & Campbell and Sureway Employment & Training. A thank you also to Australian Recruit and Training Centre, Teys Meat Processing Plant and Hyne Timber Mill.

We would also like to thank Kay Hull Committee 4 Wagga patron and Mayor of Wagga Wagga Greg Conkey for attending the evening.

I'm sure everyone in attendance would agree the graduation celebration was an incredible reflection on a brilliant program benefiting and investing in our young local leaders who have huge potential to achieve their goals and ambitions in life and represent Wagga Wagga in the future.



Marina Gabra, Lara Jay, Asha Murphy & Harshil Rawal.



Louise Baker, Holly Mack & Isabelle Cunningham



Kay Hull AM, Harshil Rawal & Graham Walker Estella Rise



Kay Hull Am, Louise Baker & Hon Wes Fang MLC







*Congratulations  
to the graduates of 2019*  
**WAGGA SCHOOL LEADERS PROGRAM**



**Charles Sturt  
University**

