



# Term 2 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.

### Contents:

What's been happening....

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## Term 2



With the coming of the Second World War, Anzac Day also served to commemorate the lives of Australians who died in that war. The meaning of Anzac Day today includes the remembrance of all Australians killed in military operations.

Harmony Day is a time for everyone to celebrate the enormous benefits of multiculturalism. The day recognises the importance of cultural respect, participation, and inclusiveness for everyone who calls Australia home.



National Reconciliation Week—held every year from 27 May to 3 June—is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.



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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.....

Our highlights from last term include;

St Marys FLC took 17 YP on a 2-night camp to Coledale Beach. While we were there, we took some canoes and met some YP from Wollongong FLC at Lake Illawarra.

We had 9 YP successfully complete their white card course. We also had Domestic Violence and Women's Shelter guest speakers in Feb and Sexual Ed talks from Western Area Adolescent Health Team in March.

Also in March we completed our community picnic table project, which was constructed by our YP and will be placed in a community area with a plaque on it. We also had a Two-day Trade readiness program in Plumbing and Carpentry to explore pathways in this sector.

Later that same month 4YP and 2 Staff travelled down to Pambula Beach Flexi for a couple of days and attended classes and did a surfing lesson.

We had an amazing Family Fun Day, which included carnival games and a BBQ

In April we had our Easter Show Excursion

### Coming up in Term 2.....

We have our Edmund Rice Feast Day – 5th May

Our YP are visiting the new Airport to check employment opportunities for the future -18th May

National Sorry Day – 26th May

Reconciliation Week 27th May – 3rd June

Semester 1 Presentation Day – 29th June

We have TAFE tester days in hospitality and beauty, as well as Trades workshop days, to explore pathways in these vocations.

We have a 5 day "Girls can do" TAFE program from 5th-9th June



### Good News Stories from StMFLC.....

Last term we celebrated our YP who have successfully applied for casual jobs, with one YP offered a traineeship!! - Awesome news!

We also had two YP successfully pass their Learner's driver test





# Wollongong FLC

## A NEW TERM

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

### Last Term.....

Term 1 Transition support activity and events.

Our collaboration this term was with the RIEP program to deliver a Trade Readiness Construction Day, which was a roaring success with all 12 YP in attendance on the day joining in and enjoying the experience. We were joined by students of all stages and abilities whether interested in transitioning into trades or not.

Our community gathered at the Wollongong Surf Leisure Resort to bid farewell to our dear friend and flexi stalwart Michele, who will be moving on to new adventures. Michele has been an integral part of the Wollongong flexi team for over 10 years and will be immensely missed. During lunch provided by the resort, wonderful stories, laughs and heart felt goodbyes with many YP and staff expressing their appreciation for the positive impact Michele has had on our community. Although we are sad to see her go we wish Michele all the best.

During school holidays we offered both young men's and young women's days. Our young women's day was far and away our most successful holiday program post Covid. Kate Q and Emily took a group of 6 YP to a local Shellharbour Nail salon and then for lunch. All YP enjoyed the day, and we intend to hold this outing again later in the year.

We also had some awesome community BBQ's this term for our YP and their families.

### Coming up in Term 2.....

Transition support activity dates for next term include:

- Street Art Day – Friday 5th May 2023
- Bush Walking Day – Friday 12th May 2023
- RYDA Program – Friday 19th May 2023.



### Good News Stories from WLGFLC.....

All of the YP actively participated our abseiling activity last term and were able to show respect to the staff and on another.

All YP successfully completed the 5m and 10m Wall, showed resilience, encouragement, and courage as they assisted each other both verbally and physically up the towering obstacles.

All YP followed the instruction of the staff and wore the correct PPE as requested. The group celebrated a successful day and were rewarded with McDonald's on the way home.



# Pambula Beach FLC

## Last Term.....

Our young people completed some amazing achievements and outstanding engagement from our young people, pushing themselves to show up and give it a go!

This term saw us preparing our legs, bodies and minds for our hike to Australia's tallest mountain – Mount Kosciusko. One foot in front of the other, stopping to acknowledge the rocks, wildflowers and spectacular beauty that the high country is.

We also did lots of surfing, which is a skill some of our young people took to like a duck to water, for others the challenge and allure of catching the perfect wave is what brought us back week after week.

We were lucky to partner with Parks NSW in an effort to help protect the local endangered to Yellow Bellied Gliders. We were wowed with their amazing knowledge and showed us how to spot scratches and markings in the trees around our school. We all grabbed our shovel & hoes, donned our official Parks helmets and we were heading off into the Beowa state forest. Our task was to help geographically log/map habitat trees and clear a meter wide area around the base of tree in preparation for a planned burn of the undergrowth.

All our young people showed their resilience and grit by participating, either clearing shrubs, sticks and other debris from around the base of each tree. The planned burn was completed, and we are looking forward to tracking the new growth and regeneration.

## Coming up in Term 2.....

We have work experience planned as well as a day for completing a White Card, which both will help our YP with their employment pathways.

Our young people, and a few staff are keen to show off their fishing skills, then 3 weeks of canoeing followed by the always popular bush cooking. Speaking of growing, we are stoked to have Mumma T at the helm to coordinate the installation of a new demountable classroom we recently took delivery of. We are already imagining our Monday community breakfasts on the veranda and lots of excited conversations are happening about how we are going to use the space.

## A NEW TERM

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



## Good News Stories from PBFLC.....

We saw Shell join Lou in the "Yellow Belly Gliders" classroom, and the "Goannas" classroom welcomed Kalli and Dave.

Kalli brings a love of gardening, and is known to be quite the fisherperson. Dave is our music and bad joke guru, who will be helping our young people achieve their Vocational Education and Training certificate, and capture their love of photography in our Friday afternoon elective.

Sadly, we bid farewell to Caleb, who has played a massive role and positive impact on the lives of our young people, their families and our wider community. Heartfelt thanks farewells and reflections were shared by our young people during our end of term lunch and during our final circle for the term.



# Flexi School Network News..



Our whole NSW Flexi Schools staff team spent time away from our school communities in April for a few days to participate in a professional learning event.

We met in Wollongong with the intention to connect to our creative energy, share our rich expertise and to grow our capacity as professionals, educators and leaders over a 3 day program.

Our program was led by some guest presenters who supported us through maintaining positive culture and goal setting. There were also many opportunities to have quality conversations with our colleagues and spend some quality time together as a whole staff group as we aimed to renew, cultivate, and enable our alternate education and flexible learning practices further.

While we were all away from our usual workplaces and school communities, we were mindful of the place we were visiting. We learned some stories about the history of the Illawarra, the creation of the Dharawal lands and the perspective of First Nations people. Dakota Feirer took us on a wellbeing walk into the Puckey's Estate Nature Reserve. He told us of the significance of the water that connects the different eco systems within the Wollongong region to the culture of the Dharawal people.

Dakota showed us how to let the country know we were present and open to receive from it during our staff gathering, by releasing an object we collected at Puckey's into the water and washing our hands in the ocean together. He then led us in a meditative activity on the sand dunes at Fairy Meadow beach where we did some connected breathing.

Overall, it was a great opportunity to connect/re-connect with the Flexi Practices we embed throughout our programs, and to collaborate with others across all our schools in NSW. Overall, the event was a wonderful success in supporting our staff to better support our young people.

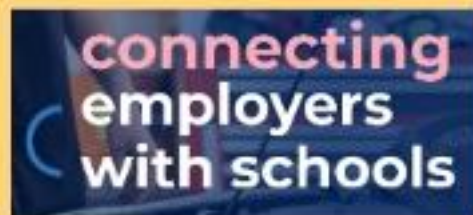




# Connecting with community..

## Regional Industry Education Partnerships Program (RIEP)

An initiative of the NSW Government



Again this term our Flexi's have continued to work with the RIEP program, bringing together some amazing opportunities for our young people - with even more to come! These include 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.

Our Flexi School in Newcastle participated in the **Lifesaver Drone Outreach Pilot Program** in partnership with Surf life-saving NSW and UAV. The employment pathway is well supported and they now have the opportunity to receive an additional two day training course to become UAV Operators prior to being rostered, and then inducted into each local area as well. **Market my Skills** project is also currently happening at St Laurence FLC in Newcastle, which is a 6 week project that teaches the students employability skills.



Our Flexi School in Wollongong took part in the **Trade Readiness Program**, which showcased trades to our young people and promoted trade pathways, thereby introducing new, skilled and diverse workers to the construction sector in the future and helping students interested in Construction Pathways



**If you have any amazing ideas, or are interested in any programs listed below - Please reach out to your Transitional Support Worker or Head of Campus.**

### Upcoming in Term 2 and in development for 2023 across NSW

- Silverdale Industry Tour, Equine Careers in Thoroughbred Breeding
- Street Artist Career Workshops
- SES Volunteer School Programme (Selected LGA Trial)
- Perky Pooches Dog Grooming Workshops
- Flagstaff Work Readiness Program (In development)
- Guide Dog Ambassador Visits (In development)
- Renewable Energy Careers (In development)
- Dairy Farmers NSW programme (In development)

### Ongoing Activities that may be of interest....

- Mining Skills Hub Dapto High - **21st July 2023**
- Gumaraa On-Country Experience (**Aug 11th & Nov 24th**)
- Hospitality Experiences
- BlueScope Steel Industry Tours
- MyneSight Immersive Mining Experience Workshop
- Media for Millennials Workshops (Content Creation & Podcasting)
- KJ Scaffolding Mini Workshops
- Cyber Security Careers - Ambassador Program
- ANSTO Meet a Science Expert







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### **Policies and Procedures**

Our Flexible Learning Centre has a number of policy and procedures outlining why and how we will respond to a variety of situations. Many of these documents are publicly available on our website:

**St Marys FLC** <https://www.creafsn.edu.au/st-marys-flc-documents-policies-reports/>

**Wollongong FLC** <https://www.creafsn.edu.au/wollongong-flc-3/>

**St Laurence FLC** <https://www.creafsn.edu.au/st-laurence-flexible-learning-centre-sflc-newcastle-documents-policies-and-reports/>

**Pambula Beach FLC** <https://www.creafsn.edu.au/pambula-beach-flc-school-documents-policies-and-reports/>

Below is a brief description of some of the policies and procedures that can be found on our website. If you are having troubles accessing these or want to ask questions, please see any Flexible Learning Centre staff member.

#### **EREA Child Safeguarding Policy**

This policy guides our work practices in relation to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of students in our schools. It outlines expected behaviours and strategies to support groups of vulnerable Young People. It provides our mandatory obligations in mandatory reporting as well as what happens if the policy is breached.

#### **EREA Code of Conduct**

This policy details the standards of behaviour expected from EREA staff, visitors and volunteers. This includes expectations concerning interactions with students and colleagues as well as professional boundaries that must be maintained. It guides the way we use technology to communicate with students and the way we aim to promote an inclusive environment.

#### **EREA Complaints Handling Guide**

This policy outlines what a complaint is and procedures for making an informal or formal complaint. It explains our processes and what will happen once we receive a complaint. This policy also describes when complaints might also be treated as Reportable Conduct under the Ombudsman Act.

Other policies available on the websites include:

- ☐ Whistle Blower Protection Policy
- ☐ Student Enrolment Policy
- ☐ Student Attendance Policy
- ☐ Student Behaviour Management Policy
- ☐ Previous Annual Reports







# GIRLS FIRE AND RESILIENCE CAMP



**APPLY NOW**

[www.girlsonfire.com.au](http://www.girlsonfire.com.au)

[info@girlsonfire.com.au](mailto:info@girlsonfire.com.au)

## Newcastle

August 8<sup>th</sup>



- Teamwork activities
- Basic Firefighting Operations
- Community resilience
- Confidence & Courage



## INTERACTIVE ONE DAY WORKSHOP



**Gary Sewell**  
Ph 0447 856540

Supported by fire and emergency services

Official partner of Girls on Fire





# RIEP & Opal Healthcare School Based & Traineeships Information Session



This information session provides an opportunity for students, parents and teachers to learn more about nursing pathways in the aged care sector and to access training and work experience in the sector. 28 school-based trainees and full-time traineeship with Opal Care Communities on offer. Hear from Opal's current employees about these roles and find out how you can become a part of the program.

**Where:** Opal Healthcare Sites upon registration

**When:** Monday 19/6, Wednesday 21/6 and Friday 23/6

**Time:** 2 sessions 9-11 and 12-2pm

**RSVP:** School representatives can register students for this event here.

<https://forms.office.com/r/cw0Qii2usH>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information including VOR and risk assessment. For additional information please contact your RIEP officer .

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## Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP)

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Tourism & Hospitality Experience

# T.H.E. Schools Day

**BEGA VALLEY  
WED 26 JULY 2023**

## What to expect

Students from Years 9-11 will explore the diverse career opportunities in the tourism and hospitality industry, including:

Students will travel to Oaklands Barn in Pambula to learn about the career pathways available, traineeships and work experience opportunities to start a career in the hospitality and tourism sector.

There will be practical sessions, venue and grounds tours to inspire students to experience a sample of what this industry can offer you to build a life-long career.

**For more information speak to your Careers Advisor on how you can attend THE Schools Day.**

Approximate excursion times depend on travel time. Time at Oaklands Barn 9am-3pm.

**Chef**



**Front of House**



**Outdoor Recreation**



**Venue & Event Management**



**Tour Operator**



THE Schools Day has been organised by the South Coast Centre of Excellence.



# Skills and Thrills Careers Showcase Illawarra Region



A free Showcase presented in partnership with Training Services NSW. about Industry and Global Trends, Jobs of the future, Vocational Education and Training, Apprenticeships, Traineeships- both School Based and Post School.



## DETAILS

### WHAT:

60 minute presentation  
showcase of careers, pathways  
and opportunities through VET  
to High School Students

### WHEN:

Tuesday 20 June @ Hope  
Theatre , University of  
Wollongong Campus  
2 sessions: 9.30am and 11am.  
Bookings required. Contact  
Anne Cazar 0438 808848 or via  
[anne.cazar@skillsone.com.au](mailto:anne.cazar@skillsone.com.au) to  
reserve your seats

## ABOUT

The Skills and Thrills Careers Showcase is a FREE Informative, engaging and creative showcase, designed to dispel the myths surrounding vocational education and training (VET), showcase the many various career pathways in VET and highlight the success stories of individuals who have chosen and excelled in VET courses and through apprenticeships and traineeships.

Sectors covered include: Tourism and Hospitality | Building and construction | Digital/IT/STEM | Agriculture | Retail Community Services and Healthcare | Service Industries | Creative | plus many more!

The Showcase is 60 minutes and uses music, video, animation, and speakers to showcase careers information in a unique way. Ambassadors from NSW training Awards will be on stage .

The showcases are presented in partnership with Training Service NSW within the Department of Education

## TOPICS COVERED

- Industry trends/ jobs of the future
- Covid-19 impacts on industry
- Vocational Education and Training (VET)  
Options: School -delivered VET, SBATs and EVET

- Apprenticeships / Traineeships
- TAFE / Private Training Providers
- Free free courses
- Useful resources and services



# APPRENTICESHIP/TRAINEESHIP & JOBS EXPOS

The Expos provide our career/job seekers, business and industry, education providers and employers with the opportunities to all come together under the one roof where exhibitors also get the chance to collect resumes and promote their organisation for upcoming recruitment drives.

## FREE PUBLIC ADMISSION



### Newcastle & Hunter

**Tuesday 8th August 2023**

**3pm to 8pm**

**NEX – Newcastle Exhibition & Convention Centre – Newcastle West**



### Wollongong

**Tuesday 22nd August 2023**

**3pm to 8pm**

**Illawarra Sports Stadium - Berkeley**



### Western Sydney (St Marys)

**Tuesday 5 September 2023**

**3pm to 8pm**

**Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre – Cambridge Park**

**The Apprenticeship/Traineeship & Job Expos** are held annually and have grown to a status where they are widely accepted as the premier events of their kind in NSW.

Over 400 exhibitors and 20,000 visitors attend each year to have important career conversations with professionals. These expos are beneficial for high school graduates and career/job seekers to feel confident and knowledgeable about their future career choices.

If you are seeking a career or looking for a job, these events are not to be missed!



# 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.<sup>1</sup>

### 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](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au)