

# skillset. senior college Newsletter

*Term 4, October 2023*

## Message from HEAD OF COLLEGE

*Term 4 is a time of celebration, achievement and fun!*

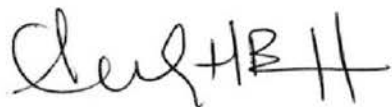
As 2023 comes to a close, we celebrate the hard work and dedication of Skillset Senior College (SSC) students and staff. Year 10 and 12 students attend their respective formals, Year 10 complete their Record of School Achievement (RoSA) and Year 12 conclude their Higher School Certificate (HSC). Additionally, we highlight the transition of Year 11 students into their new roles as senior leaders in the College. It is an honour and privilege to attend the formals and graduations and witness the excitement and gratification as student's progress on their journey. These events highlight moments of connection, collaboration and closure that create treasured life-long memories.

There were many activities and adventures during Term 3 that enhanced the students' learning and the pages ahead shine with the stories. Across the College, Year 12 students participated in work experience while gaining valuable insights into their chosen career paths. A selection of Year 10 students embarked on an overnight camp and hike to Glenbrook National Park. The SSC community had a blast dressing up as their favourite characters during Book Week. Our commitment to inclusivity was marked during Wear It Purple Day with a vibrant colour run, raising awareness and support for the LGBTQIA+ community, and we honoured the rich culture and traditions of our First Nations people through various NAIDOC activities.

At SSC, our commitment to learning and a growth mindset approach extends to staff professional development. During Term 3, the SSC "Dream Team" staff attended the annual Alternative Education Conference hosted by Warakirri College. The highlights are outlined ahead in Dr. Martin Hughes's Research Report.

Thank you to our dedicated students, staff and families for being an essential part of our school community. We are grateful for your contribution and ongoing enthusiasm. Keep safe and well and enjoy the time together over the Christmas period and New Year.

Warmest wishes,



Abbey Barrett





# Key Dates Term

## BATHURST

30 Oct - 3 Nov | Milestone Week (Year 10)

Friday, 10 November | Cross Campus Burrendong Day (Year 11)

Friday, 24 November | Year 12 Graduation

Wednesday, 29 November | Graduation and Awards Ceremony

Friday, 1 December | Year 10 Formal

Dec 4 - Dec 8 | Leadership Camp - Booti Booti NSW

## DUBBO

30 Oct - 3 Nov | Milestone Week (Year 10)

Friday, 10 November | Cross Campus Burrendong Day (Year 11)

Thursday, 16 November | Year 12 Graduation

Wednesday, 22 November | Year 10 RoSA and Formal

Dec 4 - Dec 8 | Leadership Camp - Booti Booti NSW

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Last day of term | Friday, 8 December





**Dr. Martin Hughes**  
Head of Research and Development

In the final weeks of Term 3, SSC staff attended the Alternative Education Conference in Sydney. ffgddfg

The conference provided a unique platform for our educators to connect with counterparts from various alternative education providers, sparking discussions and exchanging ideas that promised to enhance the learning experience for our students. The event allowed us to explore a myriad of diverse practices, pedagogical approaches, and holistic strategies aimed at addressing the ever-evolving needs of our students.

A significant highlight of the conference was our very own Dr. Martin Hughes, Head of Development & Research, presenting his keynote presentation: "Window Of Tolerance," which delved into the intricacies of emotional regulation and stress management while emphasising the pivotal role of maintaining a balanced emotional state for both students and educators to assist in fostering a conducive learning environment. Through his talk, he not only shed light on the challenges faced within alternative education but also offered practical strategies to expand the Window of Tolerance within school environments.

Dr. Hughes' participation as a keynote speaker showcased our College's dedication to advancing the field of alternative education and further solidified our commitment to nurturing both the emotional and personal growth of our students.

Skillset Senior College's Head of Education, Chris Harris, took the stage as a panellist at the 2023 AISNSW Education Research Symposium.

The symposium, themed "Fostering Evidence Enriched Cultures," delved into critical questions surrounding education practices. The panel, explored the longevity and effectiveness of "research-informed" methods ingrained in our educational institutions and whether these practices are still suitable for our ever-evolving schools and students.

The symposium offered valuable insights, encouraged critical reflection and was incredibly well-received by delegates.



**Chris Harris**  
Head of Curriculum



# FAREWELL *Year 12*

Our Year 12 students marked the end of high school and their HSC exam with a memorable celebration. In Dubbo, they honoured the occasion by painting the Year 12 Mural, a gift that each Year 12 class will leave behind at the campus for younger students to enjoy and for staff to remember them by.

In Bathurst, another cherished tradition took place as the students participated in the annual Hand Print Ceremony. The Year 12s added their handprints to the Year 12 wall, joining the ranks of previous graduating classes.

Both traditions will serve as a reminder of the lasting legacy they leave behind at Skillset Senior College.

As they eagerly await their upcoming end-of-year formals in November we are thrilled for each and every student and are excited to see all the bright futures they have ahead of them!













# Glenbrook HIKE

A selection of our Year 10 students recently embarked on an extraordinary expedition to Glenbrook in the Blue Mountains. This overnight camp and hiking experience enabled them to venture beyond their comfort zones and accomplish remarkable achievements. The students demonstrated exceptional teamwork, resilience, and camaraderie with their peers.

We take immense pride in how our Year 10 students embraced this memorable journey, rising to the occasion and providing unwavering support to one another throughout the adventure!









# Glenbrook Camp



MARINE  
STUDIES

MARINE  
STUDIES

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# Dubbo REGIONAL COUNCIL

## WORK Studies

For the entirety of Term 3, our Year 11 Work Studies students had the opportunity to visit work sites across Dubbo Regional Council to learn about all the careers and employment opportunities DRC has to offer.

Students learnt about many different career pathways and spoke with people employed in those areas. Weekly, students visited places such as the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre (DRTCC), the animal shelter, road works sites, a childcare centre, and the tip just to name a few.

Year 11 students came away from the visits with hands-on learning and new ideas about careers opportunities that they may not have previously considered.

Thank you to Dubbo Regional Council for their organisation and enthusiasm to host our Year 11 students throughout Term 3!



Our Dubbo students enjoyed some time away from the classroom to experience a new kind of excursion in Term 3!

## HorseSPORTS

The kids got up close and personal with some four-legged friends at the Western Plains Riding Centre as part of their weekly sports activities. We were very proud of how the students embraced the new challenge!

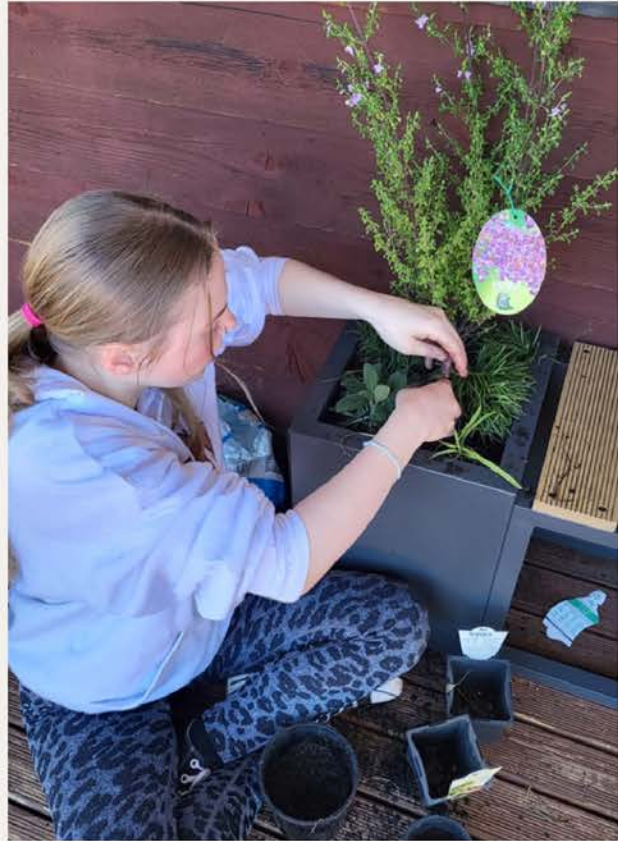




# Tree DAY

Each year, our Dubbo students take part in National Tree Day by planting native trees around the campus grounds. It is a fun day that ensures the students are educated about the environmental importance of trees but also fosters a sense of ownership and pride in the students' surroundings. This educational initiative nurtures responsible, environmentally conscious citizens who are inspired to protect and preserve the natural world.

Well done team!





# Paint It PURPLE

On the most colourful day of our school year, our campuses embraced the spirit of inclusivity and unity during Wear It Purple Day. This annual event serves as a powerful symbol of support for LGBTIQ+ youth and fosters an environment where everyone can feel safe, accepted and valued!







*Wear It Purple*





# Book WEEK

Students and staff in Dubbo and Bathurst brought the magic of books to life during their celebration of Book Week.

Both campuses were full of colour, excitement and laughter as familiar characters from well-known stories roamed the grounds for the day.

It was a great event enjoyed by all who attended, and hopefully inspired some future readers in the school!

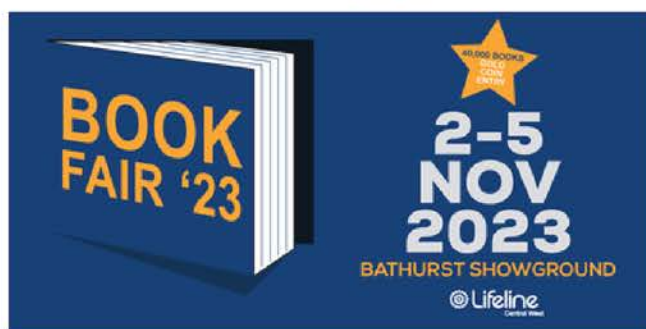








# Coming Soon



SUPPORTING THE WORK OF LIFELINE CENTRAL WEST



**BATHURST SHOWGROUND**

Kendall Ave, Bathurst | On-site Parking | BYO shopping bag /sleigh

*Skillset Senior College would like to pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging.*

*We acknowledge their stories and traditions and recognise their continuing contribution to land and culture.*

*We are committed to building a brighter future together.*

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