

# skillset. senior college Newsletter

Term 2, May 2024

## Message from HEAD OF COLLEGE

*Welcome back to Term 2!*

It is exciting to witness our new students settle into the SSC environment and embrace the culture and school values of courage, kindness and consideration.

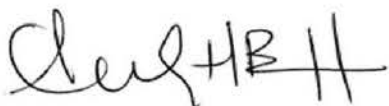
During Term 1, we witnessed substantial growth and progress within the school community, both personally and academically. As the year progresses, students are encouraged to trust their ability and to dream big to embrace the journey toward their "best future imaginable".

The dedicated staff provide a variety of events and adventures to enhance and extend the learning experience. You will see examples of their contribution and fun in the pages ahead. There is a considered balance between academic, physical and wellbeing pursuits.

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mums in our school community and to all those who contribute to the task of mothering and nurturing those around them.

Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm for our small and mighty school. We look forward to catching up further in the months ahead.

Warmest wishes,



Abbey Barrett



A photograph of two students from Skillset College standing back-to-back in a hallway. The student on the left is a young man with curly hair, wearing a grey and orange beanie with 'Skillset senior college' and 'SC' on it, and a dark blue and orange hoodie. He is making a hand gesture. The student on the right is a young woman with blonde hair, wearing a brown beanie with 'skill college' and a brown and orange hoodie. She is smiling. The background is a brightly lit hallway with wooden floors and white walls.

# Key Dates

## BATHURST

**21 May** | Creative Writing Workshop

**27 May** | Reconciliation Day Activities

**3 -6 June** | YEAR 10 Milestone Week

*Also coming up this term - dates to come...*

**Year 12** | Work Experience

**Year 10** | History Visit

**Skillset's Got Talent!**

## DUBBO

**9 May** | YEAR 12 - Careers Day

**10 May** | Dubbo Show

**21 May** | YEAR 10 - Try a Trade Mudgee

**31 May** | YEAR 11 & 12 - Narrabri Fish Farm

**3 -6 June** | YEAR 10 Milestone Week

**21 June** | YEAR 12 - English & the Experience of Travel

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

**10 June** | King's Birthday Long Weekend

**Thursday, 28 June** | **LAST DAY OF TERM**

**Tuesday, 23 July** | **START OF TERM 3**

# Welcome New Staff!

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest staff members!



**Megan Borger**

Reception &  
Administration Officer  
Dubbo Campus

We're thrilled to introduce Megan to the Dubbo campus. With 16 years of experience as a receptionist in Dubbo, Megan brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to our team. Her transition to education is not just a change of scenery but a testament to her passion for growth and learning.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Megan as she embarks on this exciting journey with us.



**Nell Bilski**

Casual Teacher  
Bathurst Campus

We also welcome the incredible Nell to SSC in Bathurst as our new casual teacher. Nell brings a diverse range of experience with her as well as a holistic and creative flair for teaching. Nell graduated from the University of Notre Dame and has extensive experience as an Inclusions Support Professional aiding early childhood educators.

Welcome to the team Nell!



In Term 1, we had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Kun Yu from the University of Technology Sydney, who has been instrumental in the early stages of our new research project: 'Understanding Student Emotion and Task Behaviour During Mathematics Assessments'.

This study aims to uncover new insights into how students experience and react to assessment tasks.

The findings are expected to help us pinpoint specific aspects of assessments that may cause difficulties, thereby allowing us to mitigate stress and anxiety associated with our termly Milestone tasks.

Furthermore, the insights gained from this research could lead to broader positive changes in the support structures available to students who find assessments particularly challenging.

In collaboration with the UTS team, the necessary documentation was drafted that will be required for the study to commence, pending ethics approval.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our school's initiatives and we look forward to updating you on this project in the future.

**Dr. Martin Hughes**

**Head of Research and Development**



**L-R:** Dr. Martin Hughes, Dr. Kun Yu and Ben Kirkness (SSC IT Administrator)

# Molong SWIMMING CARNIVAL



Our students from across the College made a splash in Term 1 at the most anticipated event of the year, the annual swimming carnival in Molong. True to SSC's ethos of being 'School... but not as you know it', the carnival always offers a refreshing twist on competitions. Instead of the usual races, students dived into the spirit of the day with our splash championships and hilarious teacher versus student relays. Laughter and camaraderie filled the air as everyone joined in the fun, creating lasting memories and fostering strong bonds between everyone!

Our swimming carnival is about creating a sense of community and belonging. It's a day where students and staff can let loose, enjoy each other's company, and celebrate the unique spirit that defines our college.

As the sun set on another successful event, it was clear that the SSC swimming carnival had once again lived up to its reputation as a day of fun and connection for all involved. Here's to making even bigger waves next year!





**THE  
SKILLSET  
SPRINT  
2024**

*Swimming Carnival*



# Didge and STORYTELLING

Dubbo students were treated to a transformative experience when Headspace visited during their Work and Study month. Headspace, known for its focus on youth mental health, brought a diverse array of activities where the students learned about the cultural significance of Aboriginal storytelling, traditional Aboriginal instruments, and their historical and spiritual connections to the land.

The visit left a profound impact on the students, fostering appreciation for culture and diversity. It provided insights into the importance of preserving cultural traditions and the significance of storytelling in connecting individuals to their heritage.





# Storytelling

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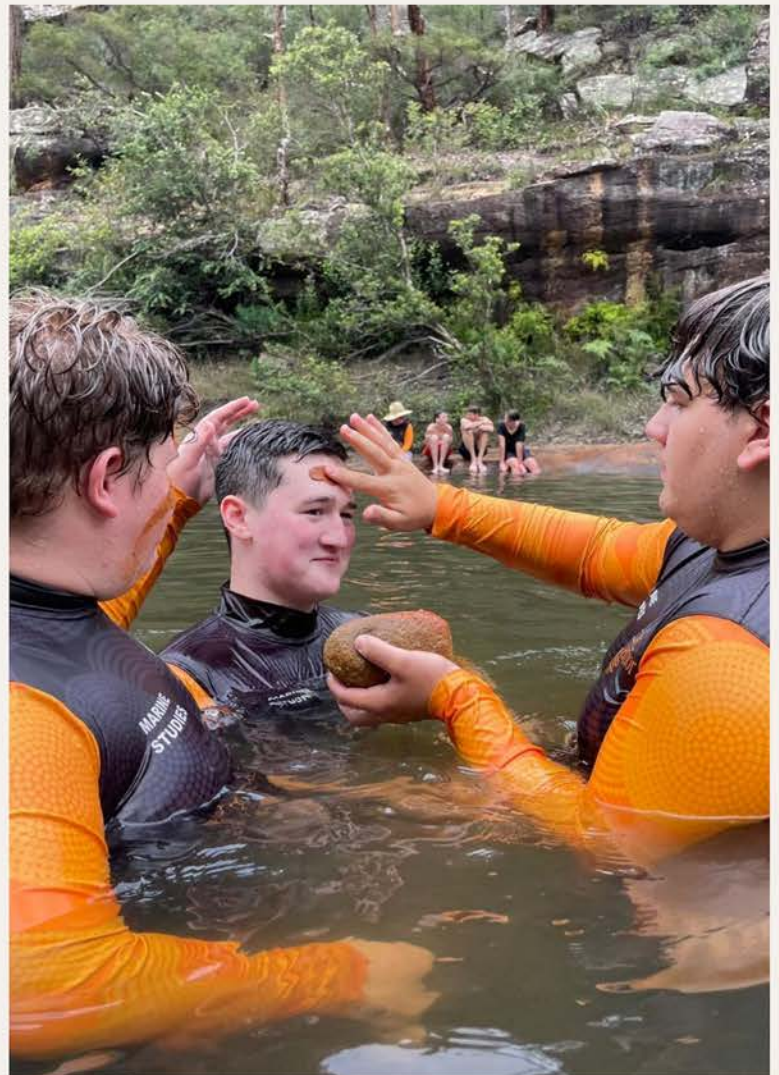
# JELLYBEAN *Pool*



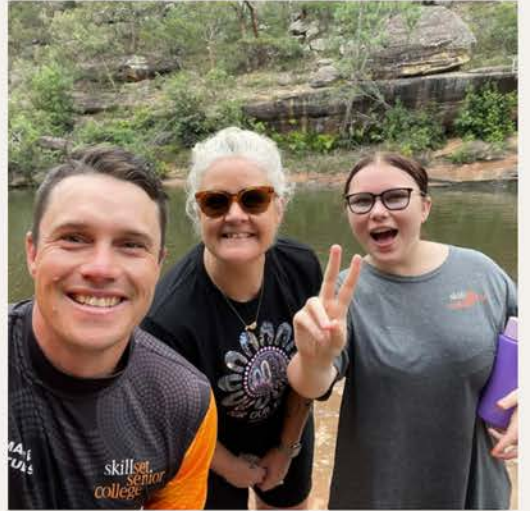
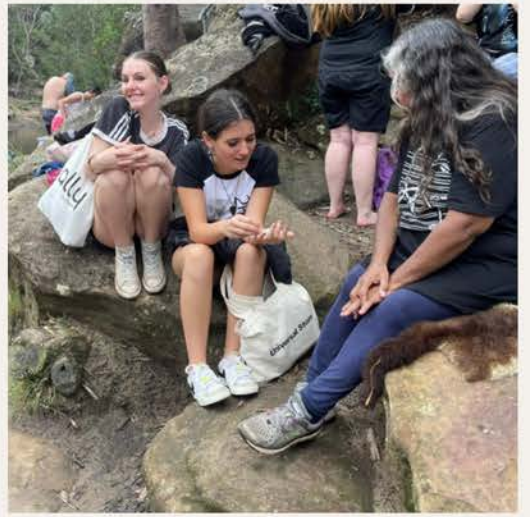
Our Bathurst students took part in our annual excursion to the Jellybean Pool in the Blue Mountains during Term 1.

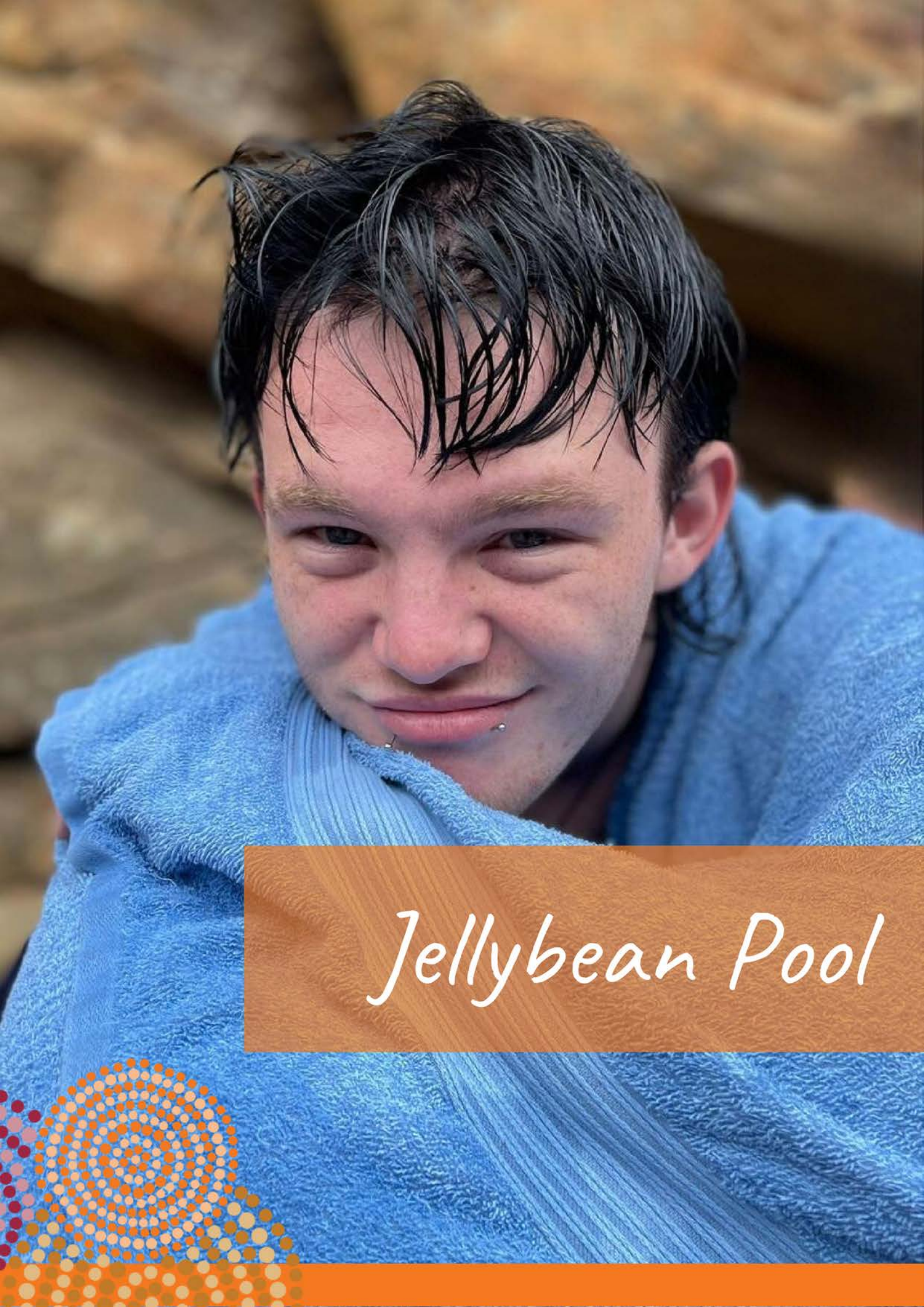
Jellybean Pool offered the perfect backdrop for students to connect with country while forging relationships with both the land and each other.

This beloved tradition not only provided an opportunity for students to escape the confines of the classroom but also served as a poignant reminder of the importance of cherishing our natural surroundings and the enriching connections they offer.

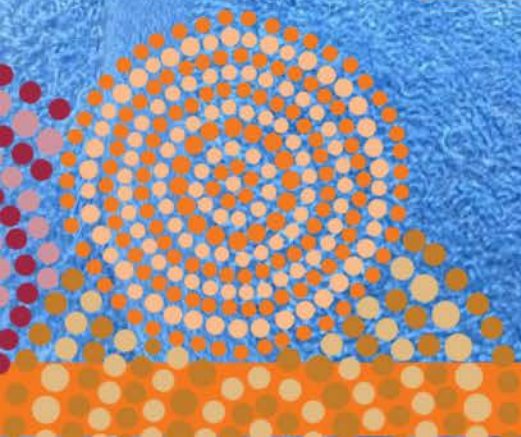








*Jellybean Pool*



# Ultimate FRISBEE



In our first term of the year, the SSC Ultimate Frisbee team has flown off like a disc at the South Dubbo ovals on Monday evenings! A huge shoutout to our Ultimate Frisbee team and all who have run ends for the mighty grey and orange.

We extend a warm welcome to newcomers to the team, all of whom have made huge contributions to games and the culture around frisbee in Dubbo. Teacher, Benny Palmer extends his gratitude for the people everyone who continuously show up week after week and to all of the original players - they would already know how appreciated they are!

The Autumn league wrapped up with some of the most challenging games the team has tackled - it was the teamwork, red frogs and good times that carried up

While this season has come to an end, there is more frisbee on the horizon this year - we welcome all who would like to join our winter league! Just come and see Benny to have a chat!



# Bathurst SHOW



Check out the remarkable accomplishments of our students as they proudly exhibited our Corriedale sheep at the 2024 Royal Bathurst Show. They displayed courage, teamwork, and great work ethic during the day and came away with a couple of noteworthy achievements! Our beloved sheep, Lucky, clinched the title of Reserve Champion Corriedale Ram while Year 12 student, Savannah, and Year 11 student, Ollie, secured 2nd and 3rd place, respectively, in the handler classes!

The Bathurst Show holds a special place in the heart of our school community and is a cherished tradition - especially the annual Skillset Senior College Scavenger Hunt!

Congratulations to all participants for their outstanding contributions! We can't wait until next year!







# Bathurst Show



# CONNECTION *Workshop*



Dubbo students have been engaging in Connection Workshops at the RFBI Masonic Village during the term. Their weekly visits are filled with diverse activities like painting, cooking, and putt-putt, creating avenues for intergenerational interaction and learning.

Through these interactions, students not only offer companionship but also gain valuable insights and wisdom from their new friends. This initiative not only enriches the lives of the residents but also nurtures empathy, compassion, and community spirit among the students!



## NSW JUNIOR *Chess League*

During Term 1, our chess team of Noah Cooper, Norah Wheatley, Tyrell Lane Bergan, Marcus Delaney, and Jet Robinson travelled to Scots All Saints College to compete in the first round of the NSW Junior Chess League.

While we didn't come away with the win, our players gained valuable experience and represented the school with pride. In Term 2, students will be back in action for the second round of the tournament. Players of all skill levels are encouraged to join in by playing a social game with their peers or see Mr Woollett (Woolly) who is happy to help students to find appropriate match ups.



# What's happening NEAR YOU

## Bathurst



### Little Pantry

The Little Pantry is run out of Greens on Williams every Thursday and has a range of free food to help you out if you are in need. See one of the Wellbeing Team to find out more and how you can access this service.

[Click Here](#)



### Relationship and Family Forums

There are a number of programs for families, women and teens coming up soon in Bathurst.

Click below to read more about Managing Strong Emotions Women's Choice & Change and Learning About Your Teen.

[Click Here](#)

## Dubbo



### Help Me Read!

In this 1-day practical workshop we introduce a range of strategies to support struggling readers.

This course will give you some specific strategies to help you provide targeted support to your students.

[Click Here](#)



### Second Bite Food Pantry

Dubbo also offers a food service through SecondBite Food Pantry.

This service is available most Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-3pm.

Click the link below to find out more!

[Click Here](#)

## Sexual Health Clinics

### Bathurst & Dubbo



As our students know, our school bring in sexual health nurses periodically to the campuses.

But did you know that you can access the services in town too?

Whether you have questions, concerns, or simply need confidential advice, these clinics offer a safe and supportive environment.

From contraception options to STI testing and treatment, their professional staff provides comprehensive services tailored to your needs.

Remember, your sexual health matters, and seeking help is a proactive step towards a healthy future.

Don't hesitate to visit a Sexual Health Clinic near you for confidential and compassionate care.

[Bathurst](#)

[Click Here](#)

[Dubbo](#)

[Click Here](#)

## School Bus Tracking App



Never be late for a bus again!

School buses can now be tracked live via apps such as **Next There** of **Any Trip** which can be downloaded from your app store for free!

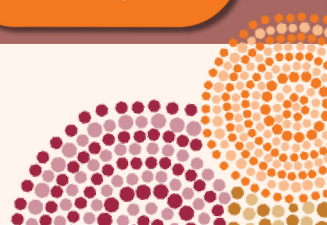
## Follow us on Facebook...



Don't miss any exciting news!

There is so much to share at Skillset Senior College so make sure you are following to see every memorable moment!

[Click Here](#)







## *Acknowledgement of Country*

*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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