



Kawana Waters State College eNewsletter

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KWSC Vocational Education and Training Newsletter - Edition 1 2025

Deputy Principal - Senior Schooling



Welcome to Semester 2!

As we begin Semester 2 at Kawana Waters State College, we'd like to extend a warm welcome back to our students, families, and industry partners. It's been an exciting start to the term, with many fantastic achievements across our Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs.

Year 10 Work Experience – Launching into the Future Congratulations to all Year 10 students who recently completed their work experience placements. These real-world experiences have opened doors to outstanding opportunities, including job offers, school-based traineeships,

and apprenticeships.

We sincerely thank our parents and caregivers for your commitment and support in helping students access and attend their placements. A big thank you also goes to our amazing employers—your willingness to mentor and guide our students is invaluable. These partnerships are the backbone of our VET success, and we truly couldn't do it without you.

Health Services Assistance – Skills in Action

Our Certificate III in Health Services Assistance students have now commenced their 80-hour industry placements—and they are already making a positive impression in healthcare settings across the region. These placements allow students to apply their simulated learning in real-world environments, gaining practical experience, confidence, and a deep understanding of the demands and rewards of working in the health sector.

We extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated trainers, who have ensured that each student is well-prepared with the essential skills, knowledge, and professionalism needed to succeed. Their expert guidance has built students' confidence and set them up to make meaningful contributions during their

placements.

Already, several students have received job offers and expressions of interest from employers impressed by their performance and work ethic. These opportunities mark more than just employment—they represent the beginning of impactful and rewarding careers.

The growing need for skilled healthcare workers in our community and around the world confirms that we are on the right path with our program offerings. From aged care and hospitals to disability support and allied health services, the demand for compassionate, competent, and well-trained professionals continues to rise. At Kawana Waters State College, we're proud to be playing our part in preparing students to step into these vital roles with confidence and purpose.

Diploma of Business – Setting Students Apart

It was wonderful to see our Diploma of Business students finalising their qualifications. This advanced course equips students with a broad and practical skill set that provides a significant edge as they prepare to enter the workforce or pursue further education.

The Diploma is more than just a certificate—it's a launchpad into leadership, entrepreneurship, and professional growth. It prepares our students for life well beyond school, and we are proud of their commitment to achieving excellence in this challenging program.

A Commitment to Customised, Future-Focused Learning

At Kawana Waters State College, we are continually working to personalise student learning pathways to align with individual interests and the needs of industries experiencing workforce shortages. We're committed to pushing boundaries, embracing innovation, and designing programs that stretch our learners and give them every chance to thrive in their chosen fields.

We believe in meeting students where they are, while also looking ahead to where they can go. Our aim is to ensure every VET student leaves school not only with a qualification—but with clarity, confidence, and a head start in their career journey.

Calling All Employers – Partner with Us

If you are an employer interested in supporting school-based traineeships or apprenticeships and would like to better understand how these programs work in conjunction with a student's education, please don't hesitate to reach out. We'd love to connect, collaborate, and grow opportunities together.

Chloe Brown

Deputy Principal – Senior Schooling



Year 12 students who completed their Diploma of Business this year.

Head of Department - Vocational Education and Training



We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements and ongoing efforts within our VET program here at Kawana Waters State College.

A special congratulations goes to our dedicated teacher, Jessica Marrinan, who has recently obtained her Certificate III in Early

Childhood Education and Care. Jessica's commitment shines through as she expertly prepares our students for their upcoming placements in local childcare centres, ensuring they

gain valuable, hands-on experience in their chosen field.

We would also like to sincerely thank all the local businesses that supported our Year 10 students during their work experience in Term 2, Week 10. Your partnership plays a vital role in enriching our students' learning journeys. A special acknowledgement to Karen Healey and Ailsa Austin for their incredible work behind the scenes in organising these placements, making the experience seamless and rewarding for all involved.

As of 1st July, new industry standards for VET have been introduced nationwide. To maintain compliance and continue offering relevant and high-quality training, we are updating our qualifications and staff profiles accordingly.

A gentle reminder to families that VET qualifications should ideally be completed by the end of Term 3—particularly for Year 12 students—to ensure their results contribute to their QCAA accounts in time for graduation.

Lastly, we want to highlight the recent update regarding Career Ready funding. Originally set to begin on January 1st, 2026, this funding has now been extended by 12 months following extensive feedback from schools. This extension allows continued access to VET in Schools (VETiS) funding, supporting our students' vocational education pathways.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to making our VET program a success. Together, we are preparing our students for a bright and capable future.

Mel Colquhoun

Head of Department - Vocational Education and Training

Industry Liaison Officer



At Kawana Waters State College, our aim is to assist all students in gaining a meaningful career pathway, whereby students can follow their passion and work towards their chosen career pathways.

In Semester 1, twenty students commenced school based traineeships

and apprenticeships in a variety of industries. We have seen an increased interest in students seeking apprenticeships in Carpentry, whilst the Electrotechnology pathway continues to be favoured by many students seeking a trade pathway. For those students seeking a VET pathway, we strongly encourage students to consider completing VET qualifications either at KWSC, the Sunshine Coast Technical Trade Training Centre, Tafe or other registered training organisations and most importantly 'trying before they buy' by doing work experience in an industry that they may be interested in. Work experience is highly valued at KWSC as students are able to gain 'real world' experience. All students in Year 10 are required to complete five days of compulsory work experience and with Deputy Principal approval can do further work experience on a case-by-case basis.

If you would like to discuss work experience (Years 10-12 students), school based apprenticeships or traineeships, please don't hesitate to contact me at kheal48@eq.edu.au or 07 5436 9370.

Karen Healey

Industry Liaison Officer

School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Twenty students across Years 10, 11 and 12 secured School Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships in the first half of 2025, learning and working in variety of industries. Congratulations to all of these students for pursuing your passions and interests! We look forward to watching you develop and grow in your chosen industries.



Oskah Holden

***Certificate III Cabinet Making
&
Timber Technology***



Zeb Berding

Certificate III Concreting



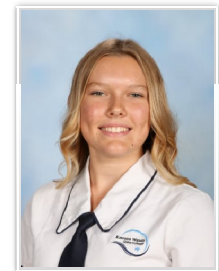
Liam Campagna

***Certificate III
Electrotechnology
Electrician***



Angus McDonald

***Certificate III
Electrotechnology
Electrician***



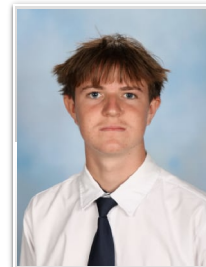
Mylee Melville

Certificate III Carpentry



Evelyn Castillo

Certificate III Hairdressing



Nate Mortimer

Certificate III Commercial Cookery



William Fawcett

Certificate III Plumbing

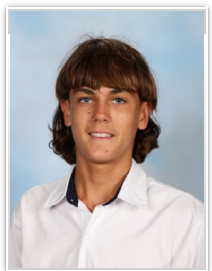


Parker Hills-Vink

***Certificate III Wall and Floor
Tiling***



Madonna



Billy Stewart



Cohen Myers

Certificate III Hairdressing Certificate III Carpentry



Indhi Summerville

Certificate III Hairdressing

**Certificate III Sport,
Aquatics and Recreation**



Henry Robbins



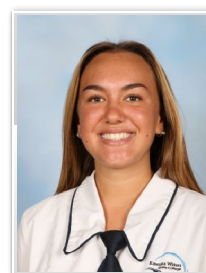
Amelia Stevens

**Certificate III Bicycle Certificate III Business
Mechanical Technology**



Airor Brown

**Certificate II Animal
Care**



Willow

**Certificate III Dental
Assisting**



Olivia Dawson

**Certificate III Community
Pharmacy**



Ellie Watson

Certificate III Hospitality

Year 10 Work Experience Program - student article



During Week 10 of Term 2, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to complete my work experience at Kawana Private Hospital with Sunshine Coast Anaesthetics Group. My aspirations for this career only grew, as I was able to have firsthand experience in the surgery rooms. I talked to patients before

their surgery that ranged from children to the elderly. This gave me a greater understanding of how to communicate with patients, as my supervisor gave me wonderful advice that I will use in the future.

I was able to watch how the needles were prepared before the patient came in and learnt about all the different drugs that are used in anaesthesia. I also learnt how to feel

the patient's breathing and could see their breath filling the oxygen bag. One of my favourite parts that gave me skills for the future was watching how the anaesthetist put the breathing tube down the patient's throat once they were asleep. It is so interesting to see how they skilfully manoeuvre the flexible laryngeal mask into the patient's hypopharynx to make a seal, which creates an airway so they can easily ventilate the patient.

Through work experience, I was able to see what my life might look like if I pursued this career and was able to ask deep questions that only a real anaesthetist could answer. I loved hearing everyone's unique stories about the different pathways they took to get to where they are now. It was extremely insightful and gave me lots of ideas that I hadn't considered about which pathway I want to take. I observed many different types of surgeries including cataracts in the eyes, grommets in the ears, wisdom teeth removals and plastic surgeries. The knowledge I have gained from my work experience is truly invaluable. This experience has confirmed for me that I definitely would like a career in medicine!

Brisbane Paczensky

Year 10 student

Year 10 Work Experience Program - student article



During my time at the Oakey Army Base, I had the amazing chance to dive into the world of Army Aviation. One of the standout moments was getting to hop into the helicopter simulators, where I witnessed firsthand how pilots prepare for real missions—it was both thrilling and enlightening. I

also joined physical training (PT) sessions with military personnel, which really gave me a feel for the discipline and fitness levels expected in the Army. I was lucky enough to dine in the Sergeants' Mess, offering a peek into the everyday

lives of senior enlisted members. Another unforgettable experience was observing the engineering and maintenance work on Blackhawk helicopters; the precision and teamwork on display were truly remarkable. All in all, this experience deepened my appreciation for the dedication, skills, and collaboration that define Army Aviation.

Aiden Bowman

Year 10 Student

In Week 10 of Term 2, our Year 10 cohort completed their compulsory work experience placement. We received tremendous feedback from employers with some students being offered casual jobs along with some potential school based apprenticeships in the pipeline. We extend a warm thanks to those parents who have advised that the following students have been offered casual jobs or school based apprenticeships/traineeships:

- Brent W - casual job
- Keo H - casual job
- Marshall H - School Based Apprenticeship
- Indigo E - School Based Apprenticeship

Employer Shout Outs - Year 10 Work Experience

- Pleasure to have Ronan, hopefully he enjoys his pictures (framing gallery) and we wish him all the best
- Tallulah is a very capable young lady. She is enthusiastic and works diligently. She is very articulate and relates well with adults.
- Thanks for a fabulous week, Wil. I have enjoyed the enthusiasm and energy and all the questions you have asked.
- We believe Oliver would make a good apprentice one day. He has shown great work ethic and motivation.
- Levi has been great to have at The Pump House, lovely kid, it was a pleasure.
- It was a pleasure to have Madeline with us for her work experience, we hope she enjoyed the experience.
- Hero should be a great tradesman with time and training.
- Elijah was an absolute pleasure to have in the laboratory with us. Don't change, exemplary performance. Thankyou from Amber, Lynn and Michelle.

- Brisbane showed maturity beyond her years. Engaged well, read up on procedures without being prompted. It was an absolute pleasure.
- Isaac had a great week. He has become fully engaged in the classes he is in and I have heard very positive feedback from the staff. He is punctual and signs in at the office each day. He is polite and professional as he walks through the school. He has displayed great enthusiasm, engaging with the students and has really enjoyed playing games such as football with them. He has been a great asset to our LOTE teacher. He has shown great respect to both staff and students.
- Aimee was a pleasure to have at the workplace. She exceeded expectations, was polite and completed all tasks diligently.
- It was a pleasure having Flynn with us. He proved to be an enthusiastic and dedicated participant.
- Taylah was a very impressive young person, she has an excellent work ethic and more than willing to give anything a try, everybody enjoyed working with her.
- Sophie is an outstanding student that shows initiative and enthusiasm. I hope she continues with her passion.
- Makayla was an absolute joy and asset. I was so impressed with her focus and work ethic. Makayla has absorbed her role, constantly looking and listening for ways to help, asked for guidance only when needed and showed amazing initiative.
- Lacey was a pleasure to host at Learn for Life - we were impressed by her maturity, initiative, and ability to engage with our clients.
- A pleasure to have – Zahra was polite and enthusiastic always. Zahra will go far with her chosen studies, good luck!
- Linkin follows instructions, listens well and shows initiative. He has been a great help.
- It has been an absolute pleasure mentoring Izzy this week. I have partnered her with our Fish class and Educators, and they are singing her praise. I have definitely observed Izzy being punctual, kind and nurturing to all children and actively participating in maintaining a safe and clean learning environment throughout the day. Isabelle has attended every day and displayed professionalism and enthusiasm.

Year 12 Hospitality Students Make a Splash at Sea World!



Our Year 12 Certificate II in Hospitality students recently swapped the classroom for the real world of hospitality, taking part in the Sea World H.O.T.E.L School program. Staying onsite at the Sea World Resort, students got

a real taste of life in the industry.

Over two jam-packed days, the students rotated through key hotel departments including Food and Beverage, Kitchen, Concierge, and Housekeeping. From front of house breakfast shifts to kitchen preparation, and assisting with guest check-ins at concierge, they immersed themselves in hands-on learning with enthusiasm and professionalism. The Sea World coordinators were quick to commend the group for their high-level skills, teamwork, and positive attitude.

Of course, it wasn't all work and no play! The students were also lucky enough to have time to explore the theme park and enjoy the rides - a perfect reward for a job well done!

This hands-on experience helped consolidate their hospitality skills, boosted their confidence in real-world settings, and create some great memories.

Meet The Staff featuring Claudia Bracco-Philp



I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of the Kawana Waters State College community. My teaching areas span Food and Nutrition, Hospitality, Sports Coaching, Health and Physical Education, and Business, which allows me to bring variety and energy to each day in the classroom.

I spent years teaching and travelling overseas, with my longest stints in Japan and Indonesia. Those experiences broadened my perspective and shaped the way I teach – bringing a sense of curiosity, cultural awareness and real-world connection to my lessons. Growing up in an Italian family who ran the restaurant Bruno's (yep, Bruno is my dad!) sneaks into my teaching too. It taught me how to make learning feel like a shared meal: practical, a bit messy, and always better together.

Outside of school, you'll find me surfing, at the beach, or on some type of outdoor adventure with my two little boys and husband. They love to explore, and it keeps me busy - but in the best kind of way. We just recently conquered Girraween National Park 'Pyramid' climb, with my 4 year old determined to get to the top on his own. What a mission!

It's always fun to be in a class where you feel comfortable to take risks, try new skills, and understand that mistakes are part of learning. Whether it's running the class Coastal Waters Café, navigating the world of nutrition, or coaching on the field, I hope to give students practical, real-life skills that they'll carry long after they leave school.

Claudia Bracco-Philp

Teacher - Food and Nutrition, Hospitality, Sports Coaching, Health and Physical Education and Business



Where Are They Now? Featuring KWSC Alumni - Tas Chamberlain



1. Why did you choose a School Based Greenskeeper Apprenticeship?

When I was first looking at starting an apprenticeship becoming a greens keeper didn't really come to mind. I had really wanted to do a landscape construction apprenticeship, as that's

what I did for my week of work experience in Year 10 and I thoroughly enjoyed it. At the start of Year 11 someone I knew worked at Pelican Waters Golf Course and asked if I would be interested in starting a school-based apprenticeship. I decided being able to get out of school one day per week and being outdoors was a good idea, so I took the job.

2. Favourite part of your job?

Seeing the sun rising throughout the colder months is awesome - most people are still in bed but I'm already at work. Another thing would be seeing the hard work and time you put into completing a job and then being able to step back and admire the task you just completed.

3. Least favourite part of your job?

Because you are the apprentice you do get given all the jobs that no one else likes doing. You get used to being in bunkers (the sand pit things) multiple times a week, all day in the middle of summer makes for a very long hot day. However, you have to do your time before you start to get the good jobs.

4. When do you finish your apprenticeship?

I will be a fully qualified greens keeper by April next year with a Certificate III in Sports Turf Management.

5. Any advice for current students to consider if they are considering being a Greenskeeper?

Do it. Having a qualification means you can travel anywhere in the world and get a job. By having a Certificate III in Sports Turf Management doesn't mean you can only work on golf courses; you can get jobs anywhere. From a racetrack, to stadiums, athletic centres. Having a qualification that covers such a wide variety of work locations means you always have an opportunity to change it up.

Tas' workplace at Pelican Waters Golf Club

