



Kawana Waters State College
eNewsletter

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KWSC Vocational Education and Training Newsletter - Edition 2 2025

Deputy Principal - Senior Schooling



Vocational Education Year in Review

As we bring another remarkable year to a close, I am proud to reflect on what has been one of our most successful years in Vocational Education at Kawana Waters State College. Our students have embraced every opportunity, engaging deeply with industry partners, employers, and real-world learning experiences that continue to strengthen their pathways beyond school.

A key focus this year has been the promotion of flexible, personalised pathways for our young people. More than ever,

we have worked to customise schooling programs to allow students to engage in nationally recognised training, develop workplace skills, and explore careers that ignite their passions. This commitment to individualised futures has paid dividends, with outstanding achievements across all vocational programs.

To our graduating Class of 2025, we offer a heartfelt farewell. We celebrate your hard work, your resilience, and the futures you are stepping into with confidence. Many of you have already secured Early Offers to further study based on the vocational qualifications you have worked so diligently to achieve. Others have transitioned directly into full-time apprenticeships—an incredible milestone that speaks to your dedication and readiness for the workforce.

These outcomes would not be possible without the unwavering support of our incredible community of business owners and industry partners. Your mentorship, your time, and your belief in our students are truly valued. Thank you for continuing to invest in the next generation of skilled and capable young people.

Health Education Unit Update

Looking ahead, 2026 is shaping up to be our biggest

year yet for the Health Education Unit. We are thrilled to share that we will soon be training almost 500 students from across Queensland—our largest cohort to date. This growth is a testament to the outstanding work of our specialised Health Education team, whose expertise and passion continue to inspire students and open doors in one of the state's fastest-growing industries.

We are incredibly grateful for their commitment to skilling students and sparking lifelong interest in the health sector.

A Final Message for 2025

As you read through this final edition for 2025, I want to take the time to thank you—our parents, our community members, and our students. **None of this would be achievable without your engagement, your trust, and your continued support for our senior schooling model.**

I cannot wait to tackle 2026 and help more of our young people design the best version of their incredible future.

Yours in Vocational Excellence,

Chloe Brown

Deputy Principal

Head of Department - Vocational Education and Training



As we approach the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the outstanding achievements of our students and acknowledge the tireless efforts of our VET teachers.

Year 12 Success Over 70% of our Year 12 students will graduate with a Certificate

III qualification or higher. This achievement demonstrates the dedication of our

students and the invaluable impact of vocational education in shaping their future pathways. Additionally, we are thrilled to share that many of our Year 12 students are using their VET qualifications as a springboard to university. This is a fantastic outcome and a testament to the diverse opportunities available through VET education.

Year 10 Achievement

A huge congratulations to our Year 10 students who have achieved an incredible 97% success rate in completing their Certificate II qualifications. This outstanding result highlights the strong foundation being laid for their future studies and careers.

Reminder for 2026 TAFE Applications

For families who have applied for TAFE courses in 2026, please remember to accept any offers you may receive. These qualifications play a key role in enhancing your child's career opportunities and further education.

Welcome to Our New Health Education Partners

We are excited to welcome Palmview State College and Sunshine Coast Grammar School to our Health Education Unit for 2026. We look forward to working closely with these schools to continue providing excellent VET pathways in the health sector.

Thank You to Our VET Teachers

Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the VET teachers here at Kawana Waters State College. Your dedication to shaping our students' pathways, managing the complexities of compliance, and handling the ever-growing demands of marking does not go unnoticed. Your hard work and passion are deeply appreciated.

Wishing everyone a successful and rewarding finish to the year!

Melanie Colquhoun

Head of Department - Vocational Education and Training

School Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships



This year thirty students have commenced school based apprenticeships and traineeship with ten students commencing this semester. Industries ranging from civil construction to mechanical, hospitality, sports, aquatic and recreation. A further seven students will commence school based

apprenticeships and traineeships at the beginning of 2026 after securing these positions in the latter part of 2025.

If you would like to speak to me regarding work experience, school-based apprenticeships or traineeships, please don't hesitate to contact me at kheal48@eq.edu.au or 07 5436 9370.

Karen Healey

Industry and Vocational Training Officer



Chelsea C - Cert III Mechanic



Cooper C - Cert III Civil Construction



Ella E - Certificate III Education Support



Kiahna H - Certificate III Accounts and Administration



Marshall H - Certificate III Mechanic



Chelsea I - Certificate III Business

2025 Health Education Unit Student of the Year - Neve Deakin



**Ryan K - Certificate III Sports
Aquatic and Recreation**



**Koby McAtamney - Certificate III
Marine Mechanical Technology**



Emmi Walker - Certificate III Hospitality



Nate W - Certificate III Sports Aquatic and Recreation



Over the past two years, completing both my Certificate II and Certificate III through the VET program at Kawana Waters State College's Health Education Unit has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my schooling education. The program offered a balance of theory and hands-on learning that

made every lesson feel purposeful. From the very beginning, I felt supported and encouraged to push myself, and the practical assessments helped me build real confidence in my abilities.

The guidance I received from my teacher; Ms Helen Knowles, cannot be thanked enough. Their knowledge, patience, and genuine passion for health made a huge difference to my learning. She created an environment where I felt safe to ask questions, make mistakes, and grow. Having someone so dedicated to helping students succeed made every challenge feel like an opportunity rather than a setback. The environment at the Health Education Unit is genuinely positive and being surrounded by people who want to help and lift each other up made each early Friday morning feel meaningful.

My placement at Rockpool Pelican Waters was another unforgettable part of the course. Being able to see aged care in action gave me a real glimpse into the responsibilities, compassion, and dedication required in the field. I'm genuinely grateful for the chance to work alongside staff who treated residents with dignity and kindness. It opened my eyes to the impact we can have on people's lives and made me even more excited about pursuing a future in healthcare.

Overall, the Health Education Unit has given me opportunities I never expected at this stage of my life. It has

helped me grow not only as a student but as a person. I'm incredibly thankful for the experiences, the support, and the skills I've gained. This course truly inspires students like me to step forward with confidence and enthusiasm into a meaningful career.

Neve Deakin

Year 12 student - Pacific Lutheran College

School Based Trainee - Keeley Balfe



For the past year, I have been completing a School Based Traineeship doing a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education. The program is really well put together as I am able to leave school for a day each week and work at a childcare centre whilst getting paid. I learn under managers and lead educators being taught how to work with children aged 1-5. I do my theory work under KKTC which is an amazing company, students are allocated a trainer who is able to help you with anything you need while completing assessments every 4 weeks. A trainer will then come visit you to see how you are going in the industry while giving you as much support as needed. The school-based traineeships are truly an amazing way to experience work as well as gaining a qualification for your career while also maintaining extra QCE points for year 12.

Keeley Balfe

Year 11 Student

School Based Apprentice - Angus McDonald



I am completing a School Based Apprenticeship to become an Electrician. I work with senior qualified electricians at newly built houses. I learn practical skills like installing wiring, power points and lighting with the guidance of the qualified electricians. I also attend TAFE to study the theory and safety side of electrical work, which helps me understand what I'm doing when I'm on site. This electrical apprentice helps me gain real life experience while earning money, going to school and working towards my qualification. Any students interested in this apprenticeship, should consider doing work experience first. This is what I did to make sure it was the trade I wanted to work in as my career.

Angus McDonald

Year 11 Student

Meet the staff featuring Jessica Marrinan



It is a true privilege to be a teacher at Kawana Waters State College. I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity to teach a diverse range of subjects, including Business, Mathematics, Early Childhood, and Food Specialisations. Teaching across such varied areas

allows me to bring creativity, energy, and real-world experiences into every lesson.

Before beginning my teaching career, I spent several years working as an accountant in the taxation industry. During this time, I gained extensive experience in financial management, compliance, and business advisory services. Combined with my business and commerce degree, this professional background enables me to bring practical, real-world applications into the classroom. I enjoy sharing insights from actual workplace scenarios, guiding students through complex business concepts, and demonstrating how theory translates into everyday business practices. This approach helps students studying the Certificate III in Business, develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed in real business environments.

I have also recently completed a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education, which has allowed me to support the introduction of the Certificate III in Early Childhood here at Kawana Waters State College. This qualification has provided me with hands on experience that I can bring directly into the classroom. In these lessons, students gain practical skills such as working with simulated babies, including feeding, nappy changes, burping, and other essential childcare practices. I also regularly visit students on placement to support and guide them, ensuring they gain the best possible learning experience, equipping them to confidently step into early childhood roles.

Outside of school, I have spent considerable time traveling overseas, including an extended period in London. These experiences have broadened my perspective, enhanced my cultural awareness, and given me insight into how business practices vary across countries.

It is always rewarding to teach in classes where students feel confident to take risks, explore new skills, and understand that mistakes are a natural part of learning. Whether guiding students through the Certificate III in Business or helping them develop hands on skills in the Early Childhood Certificate, my goal is to equip them with practical, real-world skills they can carry beyond the classroom.

Jessica Marrinan

Teacher – Business, Mathematics, Early Childhood, and Food Specialisations

Where Are They Now?



1. Why did you choose to become a nurse?

I view myself as quite an empathetic person and find joy in caring for others. I find it particularly rewarding being involved in the process of nursing someone back to

good

health or even making their health journey somewhat more pleasant. Through many accounts, I recall visiting family members in hospital throughout my childhood and feeling so 'at home' when I walked through those wards. Whether my passion sparked from exposure during those pivotal years or due to my love for people, I still feel the same amount of gratitude for my job now as I did when my career began.

2. Tell us about your experience completing the Health Education course at KWSC?

I looked forward to every Friday at school when I attended the Health Education course as it was a subject I had particular interest in and wanted to learn more about. Every detail, from the teachers to the curriculum were second to none. I loved that I was able to attend my normal schooling day whilst working toward my certification in the field I planned to spend the rest of my working life in. This certification gave me automatic entry into USC which was a huge advantage for me.

3. Favourite part of your job?

My favourite part of my job, as aforementioned, would be having the ability to nurse people back to good health and seeing them walk away either more able, happier, lighter,

or more optimistic than before. To be involved in peoples' lives at such a vulnerable timewhere trust and rapport are established and carried into each and every day of my own life, is extremely special.

4. Least favourite part of your job?

I can't say I have a least favourite part of my job at current. When I was working in hospital I didn't love shift work as I am a person who likes routine and structure, so this was a downfall. Though, we all have our pet peeves in nursing as far as smells and visuals that make our skin crawl – I'll let your imagination do the rest!

5. How long have you been a nurse for?

I graduated from UniSC in 2021 so have been a nurse for 4 years this year.

6. Did you work in aged care whilst you were at Uni or in another job?

I did not work in aged care whilst I was at university, though I did work at a GP Practice as a receptionist with the occasional opportunity to hang in the nurses rooms which I feel was beneficial as it subjected me to the language and environment of the medical field.

7. What job did you do when you finished university?

I completed a graduate year with QLD Health upon finishing university in which I worked in a Renal Dialysis Unit. Around the same time, I completed a Graduate Diploma in Cosmetic Nursing and Injectables and had been working as a Cosmetic Nurse for the past 3 years. I missed clinical nursing a little too much and resorted back to where I am currently at a Plastic Surgery clinic, where I have the best of both worlds as far as Injectables and clinical nursing goes.

Abby Murray

Registered Nurse and Cosmetic Injector

