

Primary entry #49: Wakefield School



The Wakefield Whistler



Students from Wakefield School enjoy a tour at HVTC's Rutherford workshop.

A visit to the top training company

By ROOM 4 STUDENTS

HUNTER Valley Training Company (HVTC) is Australia's oldest group training organisation, having employed and trained more than 20,000 people over the past 34 years.

The group training service provides nearly 200 apprenticeship trade courses and more than 1000 traineeship qualifications including a range of business and community services. HVTC was incorporated as a not-for-profit organisation on June 18, 1981. HVTC was the first of its kind in Australia and was created by the NSW Government in partnership with industry and unions to provide a new approach to apprentice training. HVTC is different to many other providers because it has a specialised skills centre at Rutherford, and delivers training for learners as a Registered Training Organisation.

In Term 2, a group of senior students from Wakefield School visited HVTC to complete a tour of the site and find out more about the metal industry. They met trainers, toured the site facilities, and observed jobs they had completed for their final assessments.

For many of the students at Wakefield, learning is easier if it is delivered with a hands-on approach, with authentic and real outcomes. By working with HVTC students experience real workplace learning and skill development.

By BLADE - ROOM 4

FOOD and Friendship was founded seven years ago in a community hall in Cardiff by John and Helen Delany. Funded and backed by the Baptist Church in Warners Bay, Food and Friendship is run with the assistance of numerous long-serving volunteers.

It has experienced success and transformed a rundown fruit store in a poor state into a grand spectacle that epitomises its name.

John and Helen recently retired from their role as managers of Food and Friendship and Rani Prasad-Ferris has now taken over the position as manager. This is the only paid position of the organisation, but Rani is quick to say she carries the title simply because the organisation requires it. Without her fellow Baptists giving up countless hours, this organisation would not be a success.

Rani puts in considerable time outside of her paid hours, much like her predecessors, and she works with 10 permanent volunteers in addition to students from local high schools.

When asked why she chooses to be involved with this program Rani said she "embraces the opportunity to contribute and make a difference to other people's lives and share the love of God".

Vince Pollock has been involved



Wakefield School students enjoy helping shoppers with their groceries.

with Food and Friendship since its humble beginnings. He explains that the food aspect of this organisation "aims to help people who are having trouble making ends meet, by providing reasonably priced wholesome food".

Once a week a truckload of food from Foodbank in Sydney is delivered, and the shelves are res-

tocked by the volunteers and students from local high schools who seek real world work experience.

The friendship is a big thing for Rani and she says "I am lucky to be amongst people I enjoy". The organisation aims to connect people and provide meaningful and lasting friendships. Food and Friendship is designed in a café

format and supermarket where customers are encouraged to take time to have a barista-made coffee, by three students from a local high school, and a slice of cake for a very reasonable price.

Vince explains that establishing connections with the unknown as well each other is "quite beneficial for all".



Cade and Todd with day-old chickens.

New chicks at Cluckingham Palace

By CADE - ROOM 1

THE hens woke early and started on their usual routine. They scratched around, always busy, pecking at the worms and new weeds before them. But something was different this morning - the eggs were slowly hatching to welcome six new chicks to 'Cluckingham Palace'.

Students at Wakefield School have learned how to

look after the chicks and watched them grow into young teenagers over the last few months.

The school is situated in a bushland setting and students learnt to protect the chicks from bush rats, foxes and other wild animals.

Milo and Milky have settled into the pecking order and are sharing the nest with their new friends. It seems Milo needs to figure out the

time of dawn - it's definitely not when students are walking into class.

To own your own 'Cluckingham Palace' with a small brood in your backyard, check with council before planning. Chickens are a valuable way to create a sustainable environment with an efficient compost system, easy pest management, rich fertiliser for the garden and nutritious eggs.



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