

Semester 1, 2015

# Links to Learning

at Boorowa Central School



## Morning Tea at Burrowa House

Whilst visiting the Burrowa House Retirement Village the Links to Learning students enjoyed interesting discussions and sharing their homemade chocolate muffins with the residents.

The boys also learnt the game of Rummy, as the residents explained the rules and gave them some tough competition. The students learnt many life skills in the process; patience, numeracy, communication and strategy.

This experience has helped develop the students communication skills, self-esteem and confidence as they navigated a different situation. Their personal reflections showed the boys enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in a different part of the community.

The program aims to empower students to become active community members.



## Tie a Tie Competition

After discussion and research into "How to get a job," and the interview process it was established that first impressions are a vital part. A clean and ironed

shirt and tie are a good place to start for any young job seeker. So the students had a couple of weeks of demonstration and practice time before they were set with the challenge of becoming the Ultimate Tie Tying Champion, which was decided by a self selected panel of students. The students had to make the neatest tie in the shortest time frame and the winner was highly contested with many heats and an intense final. This task encouraged engagement with learning a new life skill while also developing team work and collaboration in a positive atmosphere.



## A Garden Edge

The boys were asked to help dig and build a garden edge at Boorowa Central School, behind the primary play equipment. The students were keen and eager to be involved and enjoyed the physical aspect of this task. The group used picks and shovels to dig trenches, taking turns and encouraging each other. They then put in the wooden slabs and had to make them fit and straight.



They developed confidence while using the drill to secure the garden edge in place. Using team work skills and communication the boys experienced what it might be like to work in landscaping and construction in an outdoor physical career. Most enjoyed the experience while others realised that such jobs are not their aspirations.



### Program Facilitator

Susan Fagan hails from Cowra, but has experienced much of Australia. She has relocated to Boorowa. Her background is in creative arts and she enjoys hands on experiences and projects. Susan is a qualified secondary visual arts teacher and appreciates getting to know the youth of today. She is at Boorowa Central School every Tuesday.





## Local Council Tour

The Links to Learning Class had an great day out and about in Boorowa hosted by Gerard Dunn from the Boorowa Council.

The day started in the Meeting room where the students got to sit in the councillors' chairs while Gerard taught them about the role of Council, their responsibilities and the boundaries. The boys were then introduced to Anthony McMahon, the General Manager who explained his role and the many career paths offered at Council. Nick Dwyer was also there to explain his position as a Council apprentice and the opportunities it has given him.

The group then headed out to the Water and Sewerage Treatment Plants. Rohan Vernon explained the processes for water filtration for town use, including filtering through sand, testing of bugs and adding chemicals. At the Sewerage Treatment Plant the boys saw some interesting waste and the process of filtering the water to enable it to be put back in the river.

At the Waste Depot Danny Cassells explained the recycling systems and the increased need to reuse and recycle. Then we moved onto the Council Depot where the boys learnt about how staff are assigned jobs, uniform allocation and storage of supplies. The students also enjoyed the large machines and talking to the mechanics about what it is

like to work for the local council.

The day helped the Links to Learning students broaden their career aspirations and understanding of opportunities within their community.



## Amazing Race

The streets of Boorowa provided the perfect backdrop for an 'Amazing Race' scavenger hunt as Boorowa Central School students completed their Links to Learning program.

The Amazing Race challenge saw students interact with local businesses to complete challenges. At the Boorowa Pharmacy they had to find something to help with



snoring issues. At Landmark they had a crash course in wool grades and uses. At the Boorowa Post Office they calculated the cost of sending a parcel to Dubbo and at Boorowa Real Estate they calculated the cost of an average rental in town.

They were sent to the Bendigo Community Bank to find the right forms to open a bank account and at the Boorowa Ambulance station they found further clues. They then headed to the Visitors Information Centre and Arts and Craft Co-Op to find the tourism guide and answer questions.

This activity summed up the program as it gave the boys an opportunity to show off their team work and communication skills, confidence and community understanding while also learning lots of new things about their town.



new

links to learning

The Links to Learning Program is funded by the NSW Government and administered by the NSW Department of Education.

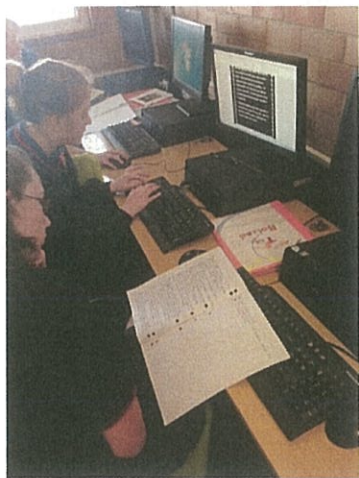


## Burrowa House residents share their stories

Students learnt about the lives of residents and created books of their stories. Every second Tuesday of Term 4 the year 7 girls visited their resident buddy to sit, chat and ask about their histories, families and how the world has changed. The students then worked on putting together all the information they had gathered to create personalised books for each of the residents.

The girls then made Christmas cards especially for their buddy resident and wrapped the gifts to give during a Christmas morning tea.

This project allowed the Links to Learning students to become involved in the community while also giving back. They learnt about history while developing manners, patience, confidence, relationships with others and communication skills. The program aims to empower students to become active citizens.



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Semester 2, 2015

# Links to Learning

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## Girls Day

The Year 7 Links to Learning Class had a Fabulous Girls day.

With special guest Madeleine Birdsall from Bliss Hair and Beauty, the girls started the day learning about hair, the science behind how the hair follicles hold together, what a split end is and what dyes really do to your hair.

The girls learnt the simple but correct steps to washing their hair and how everyone's hair is different and thus needs different care.

The day moved onto skin care and hygiene. Many fun facts were learnt, such as that you can go blind if an eyelash gets in your eye during sleep, and this is ten times more likely if you leave mascara on., teaching the important reason for make up removal.

The girls even had hands on experience of washing their faces correctly under Maddy's fantastic supervision.

The afternoon saw the girls start to understand the need for a less is best make up look, and how to achieve that. Learning about face shapes and different skin tones the girls then had to practically apply this knowledge to do their own day look make up.

All girls learnt many life skills and built confidence and self-esteem as they now know how to care for themselves and present themselves appropriately depending on the function.

The day ended with every girl looking and feeling their best, equipped with an amazing amount of knowledge, and even taking home a health and hygiene goodies bag, thanks to generous donations from the Boorowa Pharmacy.



## Card Making for Burrowa House

During the program the girls developed the skill of card making and learnt about visual aesthetics. This activity had the girls supporting and helping each other while building confidence in their decisions and ideas.



They made over 62 gift cards for all occasions, which were sold at a street stall raising \$170 for Burrowa House. This was a fantastic effort for a group of year 7 girls.



## Stepping Back in Time

After our many visits to Burrowa House the girls were keen to learn about the region's history. We were fortunate to have the help of Marilyn Miller and Joy Nelson from the Boorowa Historical Museum, who opened the museum for the girls and explained the interesting parts of local history.

The students had interesting questions and were fascinated by the amazing detail in the Hume family wedding dress and bridesmaid dresses.

The outside laundry and antique washing machines were also a highlight of the visit. The girls saw and learnt about a copper and its many different uses, which enabled them to further understand stories from the residents at Burrowa house and imagine the lifestyle of many throughout history.



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