



ISSUE 26

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## From the Principal's Desk

The start of a new school year always brings change, and this year was no different. New timetable, new bus schedule and a new brunch/lunch routine, just to name a few. Over the last 10 weeks, we have also a lot of new faces, both staff and students, to our campuses. The transition to a new school is not always an easy one, but I am pleased to see that everyone has settled in to the "Fairbridge way". On page 2 of this newsletter, our new staff have introduced themselves. Notably, I would like to formally welcome our new Director of Education, Mr. Stephen Lee. Mr. Lee brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience and I have certainly benefited from having him around.

Also, senior school students have engaged with and persevered through round one of OLN testing. They should be commended for their efforts. Additionally, all Fairbridge College students have completed the usual diagnostic tests that take place at the start of every school year. The information gathered through these tests will give staff an idea of student levels and assist with planning students' individualised learning goals. IEP meetings with parents/carers should be taking place over the next month.

I would also like to recognise our VET students for starting the next stage of their learning journey. I'd like to specifically highlight the amazing work being done by Kyle, Eve and Ashton! Additionally, Oscar and Brooklyn have also been given an amazing opportunity to begin their traineeships here at in Fairbridge Village. I want to remind students that over the next three terms, there will be plenty of work experience opportunities up for grabs.

I'd like to close by wishing everyone a safe and relaxing Easter Break. I hope that everyone stays healthy and gets time to indulge in a little (extra) chocolate. And, remember school starts back for students on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April**.

*Jen*

"The secret of  
**CHANGE**  
is to focus all of  
your energy not on  
fighting the old, but  
on building the new."  
-SOCRATES



## Introducing...

### Stephen Lee

Our new Director of Education at Fairbridge is Stephen Lee. He started in the new year and is working to help develop the educational programmes across the schools and the outdoor education sites which Fairbridge operates around the State. Stephen has been a teacher and Principal within many independent schools in NSW and WA including Great Southern Grammar in Albany and MLC in Perth. He recently has returned from Lithuania where he has founded a bilingual Independent school. He is a consultant in change management and we are looking forward to his contribution from his experience.

### John Pearson (JP)

Hello everyone, my name is JP and I am thrilled to be teaching a Year 7/8 class here at Fairbridge College. I bring 12 years of teaching experience in alternative settings to this role, and I am passionate about helping students become the best version of themselves. I grew up in Perth, but I spent the last 12 years living in the UK before returning to the beautiful WA sunshine last year. When I'm not teaching, you'll often find me outdoors, trying out any physical activity that gets my adrenaline pumping. I believe in the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle, and I encourage my students to embrace this mindset as well. I am excited to get to know each of my students and work together to achieve great things this year.

### John Warren (Woz)

Gday, Woz here! As a teacher with over 20 years experience, the majority of this time has been spent working with at risk students in both Lower School and Upper School Engagement Programs. Originally Home Economics trained, throughout my teaching career I have had the pleasure to teach across numerous learning areas, as well as delivering Certificate II Horticulture. With a family of three young children, 10, 8 and 4 years old, a lot of my spare time revolves around kids training and their weekend sport. I certainly don't get enough time to go fishing, surfing, hiking and mountain bike riding as much as I would like to. I'm really looking forward to working with my Vet class to see them reach their potential as they work towards jobs, apprenticeships and TAFE.

### Ben Pearson

I began my journey into carpentry in 1996 and was fully-qualified at 19.5 years of age. Initially, I was self-employed by 20 subcontracting for various builders in the metro area such as Atrium and Collier homes. I specialized in fixing carpentry utilizing my eye for detail and precision. I also worked for a luxury boat company, building million dollar yachts and expanding my knowledge to including steam-bending and carbon fibre. Throughout my career, I also dabbled in training, working with mature age students and apprentices. Eventually, I landed a job at SMYL and a new passion presented itself. I began to make a difference mentoring disengaged students, bringing project based learning to the various cohorts throughout the organization. As I now settle in to Fairbridge I find myself developing a new program for woodwork and blending project based learning with classwork and following the same path of mentorship and helping our young adults develop the skills and knowledge beneficial to having a bright future.

### Lauren Pearson

Hi I'm Lauren. I've moved over from England where I was working in an SEMH primary school for the past six years. I loved it but have moved over here for the blue skies. I love to travel and have been all over the world. I love photography, being active and being outdoors, especially in the water. I have loved life in Australia so far and enjoyed my first term at Fairbridge.

### Helen Davey

I like to keep busy, sometimes too busy! I run a business making and selling horse hay rings but decided I needed a change, so have come back to my passion of teaching. So at the moment I am juggling and enjoying both. Now that my three children are in their early 20's (and can drive themselves!! Yay!!) I have more time for myself and I enjoy endurance horse riding, swimming, kayaking and cycling. I love camping and just generally being active in the outdoors.



## Lisa's Lovelies

One down and three to go! This term flew by!

It always takes a little time in Term One to find our feet with new students and ,for the students, new teachers. Overall the students have coped quite well with a new routine, longer learning periods, different eating times and higher expectations throughout the week.

Having food served in Com Ed has been great in getting the kids moving at break times and offering them a varied menu.

In the classroom we have been investigating The Industrial Revolution and World War I. The class viewed *All Quiet On the Western Front* which is a hard hitting recount of the war from the viewpoint of a young 17 year old German boy who falsified his age to go on, what he and his friends thought was, a great adventure. This film facilitated some great discussions in class and all the students were able to talk about the use of setting and music throughout the film. We went on to complete individual enquiries about the industrial revolution and one invention of the era. The students all presented their work as a poster report and were encouraged to give an oral presentation of their findings to the class.

In Literacy we studied *The Greatest Showman* which was a welcome relief after the seriousness of WWI. The students all learnt a lot about P.T. Barnum and were able to compare and contrast the real character to the character in the movie played by Hugh Jackman.

Narratives were investigated and written by all the students which was fantastic as the Year 9 NAPLAN prompt was a narrative. All the students engaged in NAPLAN and gave it a go which is all we ask, so well done to those students.

During Science the students investigated flight by building straw rockets and adjusted their rocket design to make it fly further, The students had a great time investigating the surface tension of bubbles and we made non-Newtonian fluid which is a fluid that doesn't follow Newton's law of viscosity – commonly known as *Oobleck*. We also delved into the Scientific Method, writing up hypotheses, listing materials, detailing procedures and collecting data to feed into results. Science and Engineering is by far the favourite in our class with students being able to work in groups and get some hands on experiences.

The class engaged in woodwork classes and cooking classes this term which we are expecting to continue into next term. It's been pretty toasty in the work shed and Com Ed so looking forward to the cooler weather with these electives.

Outside of the classroom we visited Armadale Heritage Museum and the Old Telegraph display. The students were quite interested and surprised by some of the articles there including the washing machines, sewing machines, old engines and so much more. We visited a few parks throughout the term too, its always lovely to relax at a park and just let the students be kids again and just have some fun as a team. Dragonboat racing was a hit, organised by Craig, we also went to the golfing range a couple of times and of course lots of swimming and trips to the pool as well as a great day out at Drakesbrook Weir in Waroona.

A pretty busy term as you can see. I'm expecting Term Two to be just as busy as the weather starts to cool down. Onward and upward!

*Lisa and Jess*





## Shane's World

This term has seen the start of our newest recruits taking on the challenge of moving into a new class and meeting their new teacher. Together we have worked through highs and lows and made it out the other end. It is time now to rest and prepare for what Term 2 has to throw at us.

Looking into English, we finished off our first book for the year. *The Recruit: CHERUB* followed the story of James, a teenager that is recruited into a secret organisation. Students were able to create a portfolio of weekly tasks that they selected each week to complete. Maths gave students an opportunity to dig deeper into the workings and data behind Maths Pathways. Students now understand all their completed data and what they need to do to move forward with more confidence. Science saw us take to space, looking into the workings of our solar system wrapping up with a trip to Scitech. Students were able to take part in a challenge against each other where we looked to minimise the G forces on our test subjects.

In HASS, students dived into different parts of the world, exploring their geographical state, climate and economy. This was all wrapped into a project called *The Amazing Race*, where students were able to partner their chosen cities with some kind of challenge. Moving over to Life Skills, students have started peering into the world of careers and employability whilst also taking another look into our Berry Street model.

Additionally this term, students have pushed their limits with our rock climbing program. They have also been whipping up a storm in the kitchen with Linda and working on their handiwork in the work shop with Ben. Looking forward to a well earned break and coming back ready to roll for next term.

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## Room 1 with Ross

This term the students have been learning in HASS about Landforms and Landscapes. They have learned that the Earth's surface is made up of a vast number of elements that have been brought together to create amazing shapes and formations and that there are many different types of natural landscapes on Earth. The class visited the Thrombolites at Lake Clifton as part of studying Landforms and landscapes.

In STEM the students have looked at how the Earth interacts with the Sun and Moon. The learning provided a hands-on learning experience which gave the students an understanding of the day-night cycle, seasons, and the phases of the moon.

In Literacy the students have been reading the story, *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, by Dorris Pilkington. In reading *Rabbit-Proof Fence* students have learned how the Swan River Settlement came to be established, how Aboriginal peoples reacted to the arrival of the colonists, and how the Aboriginal peoples suffered at the hands of the white people.

The students have also been on many excursions, including a visit to The Giant Sculpture at Lake Clifton, Dragon Boating, and visits to the golf driving range in Rockingham.

It has been a busy term, one with lots of topics covered and some great learning. I wish all my students a happy and a safe holiday. See you all next term.

### *Ross & Jackie*





## Maddi's Marvelous Mayhem

Term 1 has been about getting to know one another, brushing up on our self-regulation skills, team building, building class culture and starting our units of work, particularly in English and HASS.

### Tri Wizard Cup

In order to show off our strengths and identify strengths in one another, we got into teams and engaged in a range of competitive and fun games and activities that we called the Tri Wizard Cup – thanks Harry Potter. We learnt who had the most Pokémon knowledge, who had the best vocabulary knowledge and who was a strong leader in the stack cupping challenge as well as many other strengths in different activities.

### Rock Climbing

Each fortnight we joint forces with Shane's class to push ourselves outside of our comfort zones and cheer our peers on. We engaged in harnessed climbs, speed climbs, metal pipe climbs and climbs without a harness! It was a pleasure to see students face their fears and stretch out their comfort zones each time and to watch them support one another.

### English and HASS

This term our integrated English and HASS unit focused on immigration. We started the unit by watching: *Casually Explained: Life as a Video Game* and looking at how we have very little choice over our "starting region" but how different countries in the world have differing "difficulty settings". We engaged in an activity where we had to use a cup and counters to represent the people of different cultural backgrounds that we interact with on a regular basis. We then compared this to statistics on the most common countries people migrate to Australia from. We then read stories of immigrants who fled different places around the world and learnt the first lot likely came from Indonesia long before the first fleet and came to Australia, by a land bridge connected to Papua New Guinea. We examined the amazing illustrations in *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan, and looked at experiences that can invoke a sense of despair and those that can invoke a sense of hope in those forced to flee their home countries. We also experienced the difficult choices refugees face for ourselves by engaging in the Red Cross Interactive Online Activities. We discovered that many refugees end up lost at sea or stranded in other 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries with even fewer money than they began their journey with. We also each chose a region to research and present as a PowerPoint presentation in order to share our knowledge with the class and also learn about the livability in different regions around the world. Students are now creating their own worlds using Minecraft Education. Their challenge is to write an essay, similar to one we examined on Canada and the one we created as a class on Australia, persuading readers to live there.

It has been a great to get to know Lauren and the new students as well as get to know some of our old ones even better and watch the inclusivity, respect and support they show one another. Have great holidays and see you next term!

### *Maddi and Lauren*



## Room 2 with JP

During Term 1, JP's Year 7/8 class welcomed new students and focused on establishing classroom routines and structures. Throughout the term, the class explored the core values of Fairbridge College, including Grit, Inclusivity, Safety, and Growth, and worked on applying these values to their individual learning journeys.

In addition to developing their social and emotional skills, students also delved into academic subjects, including literacy and numeracy, and prepared for NAPLAN assessments. To provide students with practical experiences, the class participated in a variety of excursions throughout the term.

One excursion included a trip to the picturesque Drakesbrook Weir, where students enjoyed swimming, jumping off the pontoon, and a delicious barbeque. The outing provided an opportunity for students to develop positive relationships with their classmates and teachers while engaging in outdoor activities.

Another excursion was a visit to the Rockingham Gold driving range, where many students played golf for the first time, learning the basics and gaining confidence to give it a try. This experience encouraged students to step out of their comfort zones and develop a growth mindset.

Lastly, the class took part in a dragon boating excursion, working together as a team to propel their vessel through the water. This activity provided an opportunity for students to develop communication and teamwork skills while engaging in a fun and unique experience.

Overall, JP's class had an exciting and fulfilling Term 1, with a focus on both academic and social-emotional growth. The variety of excursions provided students with practical experiences to apply their learning and develop important life skills.

*JP & Gill*



## Sports with Craig

Welcome back sports fans!

This year kicked off with a lot of new students and a lot of interest in football. Not the Australian Football, however football (soccer) of the international variety.

The school gym was packed at break times with students young and old engaged in games and practicing their skills. We will apply for funding in term 3 and try and get some coaches to visit our students and develop their skills.

We used the Sporting Schools funding this term to take our students to Rockingham golf driving range to practice and get some tips from the coaches there. The students had a chance to practice their driving and putting on site. It was a good way for the new students and staff to all get to know each other.

The staff at the driving range have continued to welcome our staff and students and they have a great facility with lots of targets to aim at.

For the second half of the term, we participated in a new program, DRACADEMY, run by Mandurah Vikings Dragon Boat club.

DRACADEMY aims to introduce young people to the activity of dragon boat. Participants will be able to learn the basic dragon boating skills, but more importantly, form a positive sense of community with the group as well as learn grit and perseverance through the activities and challenges!

Thanks very much to the great team of staff and volunteers at the club for having us. If you are interested in joining or would like to know more the club welcome new members of all ages.

Looking ahead to next term we will be hitting the waves in Mandurah for four weeks and then the community coaches will come out to school and teach the students about AFL 9's.

Game on!!

*Craig*  
(is awesome!)





## Music Musings with Dave

Music has started for the year and we have a new teacher on staff that has a passion for music and a world of knowledge when it comes to guitars (and repairing them!) and making music. Ben has helped out with the new kids on the block that have given music a go.

There have been a few standout music lovers in the upper school Alex and Joel who have been very excited to be involved in practising at home and wanting to take up a new challenge in their life. Alex has been an outstanding talent learning new songs and guitar techniques, learning how to restring a guitar and play complete songs.

Zach, one of our previous year musicians is doing more work experience with the local music shop on the weekends and learning how to work within the retail outlet.

Joel has picked up the bass and is running with it and his vocals have improved so quickly.

The band is formed! " SPIDER FINGERS " is the name, loud and fast is the sound.



We have had a few new students having a tryout with instruments and enjoying it, so Jacob said.



Next term we'll be doing some recording and production with the band " SPIDER FINGERS " and going on a field trip to the Leederville TAFE as we did last year with a previous student.

*Dave*

## Senior Secondary News

### From Ben...

The students welcomed me to Fairbridge and we quickly bonded as a group, the characters all with their own personalities fitting a bright and eager year 11 class. We have covered a lot of ground so far this term in both CGEA and aptitude testing to further develop individualized learning pathways for each student. The class have supported each other and grown so much in such a short space of time with all students on track to achieve their goals as the year progresses. Helen has been such a positive influence on myself and the students, we have been able to work cohesively to cover all bases.

Woodwork classes are proving to be a favorite with the students who benefit with a more hands on approach to learning. We have started with the basic hand tool skills and knowledge to hone the students hand eye coordination and finer motor skills. The projects I have planned will be incorporated into other class activities such as art easels and bee hives. We are hoping to use the fully constructed hives when the seasons turn and we can successfully split our existing hives . And the easels are to be given to the art department for use on campus.

I look forward to co teaching this keen group of young adults into term two and to help them achieve all that they aspire to.



### Helen's View...

After being out of a classroom for a few years I decided it was time to get back into it and decided Fairbridge was the place I wanted to be. I have a shared class with Ben and we are pleased with the progress of our students in Term 1.

Our students are working their way through the CGEA I and the Keeping Safe curriculum. In preparation for writing the CGEA report on space, the students chose a topic of their own to do a practice report. Most of them chose to investigate how drugs can affect the short term and long term health of young people. A few students are now ready to research space and how satellites affect our daily lives.

We explore a country regularly and so far have covered Mongolia, Canada, Poland and Germany. The students have a great interest in the world and are full of good questions that lead to further discussions.

We also do current affairs and watch news programs or read news articles. The students are always up for a good discussion and we often happily get off topic and discuss all kinds of things!

The students have really opened up since the start of term and it's a joy to engage with them each day (ok, so some days are more joyful than others!). I love that every day is different and there is never a dull moment.

## Senior Secondary News

### Woz's Recap...

The students welcomed me to Fairbridge College and we quickly bonded as a class, with a day at Drakesbrook Wier an early opportunity to get to know each other and the rest of the Upper School kids outside the school environment. In amongst investigating individual learning styles students have been getting busy working their way through CGEA.

A number of students were lucky enough to gain work experience in the Village, with Ethan and Oskar getting a taste of Hospitality and Housekeeping. Zach has also managed to secure work experience at World of Music in Greenfields. Caitlin and Maddie are both juggling TAFE and Work Experience in Hair-dressing and Childcare 2 days a week along with their studies at Fairbridge College. As the year progresses it is hoped that as the students gain more confidence it is hoped that they all get to experience work experience in an area they are interested in.

While it hasn't all been smooth sailing with the different personalities in the class this term, the group is well on it's way to growing and supporting each other to achieve their goals for the year. I look forward to continuing to build on the start to the year, it's a case of onwards and upwards for Term Two!

### Horticulture

Throughout Term 1 I have been lucky to work with two of the most enthusiastic boys in Noah and Cody. No job is too big or too small for these Guns!

So far sessions have included pulling out the dead and dying plants that didn't survive the long hot summer in the garden as well as the shade house. Fixing the retic and getting it working properly, propagating autumn and winter vegetables as well as tidying up the entire area with several trips made to the tip.

In amongst all of this was the need to fix up damage caused by numerous limbs which have managed to destroy parts of the shade house.

Term 2 should see more and more produce being harvested from the garden to be used in the production of brunch and lunch over in Com Ed!

### *Woz & JB*





## Cooking with Linda

Great to see the engagement with the students grow over the term. Interactions with the students during brunch and lunch is the highlight of the day. This term focused on what we can do with eggs and dough. Each student got individual time to cook a selected dish of their choice to present. We were also able to develop our knife skills over the course of the term with help from our Hospitality Trainee, Eve.

Lorraine and I wish to thank the students for their excellent behaviour in Com Ed and their exemplary manners when receiving their food. Special mention to the students doing work experience in the kitchen with us, we love spending time with you and helping you grow. Enjoy the school break and we are looking forward to cooking up a storm with you all next term.

### *Linda & Lorraine*



## Work Experience, Trainees, & Apprentices

We have seen lots of achievement in VET this term!

### Work Experience

A unique advantage for our students is direct access to work experience opportunities in Fairbridge Village. After submitting written applications and presenting at interviews, students gained placements as follows:

- ⇒ Hospitality – Renisha, Ethan, Oskar, Cole
- ⇒ Outdoor Recreation – Charlotte
- ⇒ Grounds Maintenance – Brendan
- ⇒ Carpentry – Steven
- ⇒ Housekeeping – Oskar

Beyond Fairbridge Village, students gained work experience placements with businesses in the wider community. Some have linked their work experience with studies in TAFE.

- ⇒ Joel is working with a building and construction company and doing preparatory study to apply for a TAFE course in carpentry.
- ⇒ Zach is doing work experience at a music store.
- ⇒ Maddie is working at an early childhood education centre and studying at TAFE.
- ⇒ Caitlin is working at a hair salon and studying at TAFE.
- ⇒ Tex is studying a carpentry course at TAFE and works for a building company.

### Traineeships and Apprenticeships

Congratulations go to Oscar and Brooklyn for recently achieving Fairbridge traineeships!

Oscar is enrolled in a Certificate II carpentry course at TAFE, works with the maintenance team in the village and continues with his school studies.

Brooklyn aims to enrol in a Certificate II course in painting and decorating at TAFE in semester two. He continues with his school studies and works for the maintenance team.

Eve studies a Certificate III hospitality course at TAFE and works as a trainee at Fairbridge Village and Point Peron.

Kyle continues in his second year as a trainee. He studies a Certificate III course in conservation and ecosystems management at the college and works in grounds maintenance at the village.

Ashton is in the second year of his carpentry apprenticeship. He studies a Certificate III course at TAFE and works in the village maintenance team. Ashton is congratulated for recently completing his skipper's ticket with outstanding results.

### A big thank you to Alcoa

Kyle, Oscar, Brooklyn and Ashton are supported in their traineeships / apprenticeship by an Alcoa Community Partnership - the 'Fairbridge Sustainable Employment and Life Outcomes Initiative'. This initiative provides opportunities for young people in the Peel region to undertake a traineeship or apprenticeship with Fairbridge WA. Together with our students and their families, we are grateful for this important support from Alcoa. It can help our young people achieve their goals in study, work and their future lives.

*Gary*



## Wellbeing Team



Happy Easter everyone! Well done making it through the term. We hope we could be a part of your success. Kate has joined our Pinjarra team as a Student Wellbeing Officer, and for a brief period we had Donna on the team this Term supporting Bridget and Jayne with admin. Donna has started her own business outside of Fairbridge now, so we wish her well, and look forward to welcoming a new team member next term.

This year the birds of Fairbridge have become friendlier than ever. Jack the Pinjarra peacock invited himself into the gym and a classroom recently, and as you'll see in the attached photos, one of the Magpie adolescents joined a Community meeting and sang joyfully despite our attempts to speak over the top of them! Would the chickens in Kalgoorlie join class if the door were left open for them, I wonder?

Our wildlife at Fairbridge are one of the additional benefits of this particular school environment. We have a great team of teachers and SSO's (and welcome all those new this Term). We have the best school officer in Mandy and of course an experienced and caring wellbeing team. It's a unique benefit at Fairbridge that in Pinjarra we're in a beautiful landscape, but even in Kalgoorlie we can see animals like the friendly birds wherever we look.

We suggest you add that to your "Ready-To-Learn" Plan's. If you're feeling flat, unmotivated, frustrated, irritated or sad NOTICE the wildlife. Spend a few minutes watching the Pinjarra kangaroos grazing. Listen to the birds singing outside your classroom. Try hiding a sausage from Dug or Gal! Go share an apple with the chooks. Watch the ants carry their supplied back to their nest.

In less than a minute of taking your mind away from your thoughts, you will start to feel less sad, less irritated or frustrated. Give it time, and you may feel motivated to move, to try again. If not, take some more time, but LOOK for something to help you FEEL better.

Next Term we're starting some group wellbeing activities developed from science, but based in nature. We couldn't have a better place to do so.

*Jayne, Bridget, Kate, Dug & Gal*





# Important Dates and INFORMATION

26th April 2023	Term 2 Starts (Students)
5th June 2023	Public Holiday
30th June 2023	Last day of term for students and staff

## Attendance Stars

These students had attendance of **90% or above**:

Alexander Burnett	90%	Oscar Romaines	96%
Lincoln Robinson	91%	Taylan Cook	98%
Ethan Lawford	91%	Donavan McMaster	98%
Matilda McNamara-Norton	91%	Oskar Santospirito	98%
Cody Smith	91%	Noah Farr	100%
Felicity Wiley	91%	Amy Richardson	100%
Angus Stoneham	95%	Charlotte Watson	100%
Cooper Jackson	96%		

you  
are  
awesome

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up to date with things at Fairbridge College!

