

FAIRBRIDGE  
COLLEGE

P I N J A R R A

# NEWSLETTER

TERM 4  
2024

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# From the Principal's Desk

## **Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,**

As we approach the end of 2024, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredible first full term as Principal of Fairbridge College. It has been a privilege to witness the dedication and passion of our students, staff, and parents.

I am thrilled to welcome our new Deputy Principal, Sheridan Harrison, who joined us at the start of Term 4. Sheridan brings a wealth of experience and fresh perspectives to our leadership team.

Our senior students had a fantastic time at the Dampier school camp, forging lasting friendships and creating unforgettable memories. We were also delighted to host our first annual formal dinner dance, a wonderful occasion that celebrated the achievements of our students.

As we look ahead to 2025, we have exciting plans to enhance our students' learning experiences. We are proud to be part of an environmental activism documentary project, culminating in a launch event in Term 2. Additionally, we will be offering more camp opportunities, participating in the Big Picture project, and expanding access to certificate courses.

I have been truly inspired by the progress our students have made this year. Their positive attitude and commitment to learning have contributed to a calm and supportive learning environment for all.

To our Year 12 students who are leaving us, we wish you all the best in your future endeavours. May you continue to strive for excellence and achieve your dreams. Likewise, we want to extend our sincere thanks to Helen Davey and Gillian Lofthouse for their significant contributions to Fairbridge. As they embark on new adventures, we wish them all the best.

As we prepare for the festive season, please remember to stay safe and healthy. Remember to slip, slop, slap and be mindful of water safety when enjoying the summer months.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our students, staff, and parents for their hard work and dedication. I look forward to seeing you all in the new year, ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities.

Happy and safe holidays!

**John Pearson**

## Peter's Paddling, Punting, and Progress

What a splashy end to the year! Term 4 has been all about soaking up knowledge and sun—sometimes literally. Between beach trips, lake excursions, and countless pool days, we've probably spent more time in the water than on land. (Pro tip: soggy math worksheets are not ideal!)



The treasure hunts kept our adventurers busy, and the treasures were just as varied as our students—some found "gold," others found...sand. As for the flies? Let's just say Lord of the Flies wasn't supposed to be a live-action experience. They were relentless, but so were we.

Back in the classroom, we dived into English, Math, and Life Skills, making incredible progress. From cracking the code of algebra to tackling life's bigger challenges (like why optimism is key and why anxiety always seems to show up uninvited), we've been busy sharpening our minds and building resilience. And don't even get me started on our athletic progress—soccer, basketball, and dodgeball were the real game changers. Some of our students kicked goals, shot hoops, and dodged balls with the precision of future sports stars.

Oh, and let's not forget the PAT tests—our version of the ultimate boss battle. Spoiler: everyone absolutely leveled up.

As the year closes, we look back at all the laughs, learning, and, yes, fly-swatting, and can't help but feel proud. Peter's class has shown they can weather any storm—or swarm! Bring on next year; we are buzzing with potential!

**Peter**



## Magda's Managerie

Term 4 has been a truly eventful and rewarding period for our class, combining academic growth with hands-on activities and community spirit, all while I've been adjusting to 35 degrees Celsius (again!) when back in Poland, they're building snowmen!

It's certainly been a term to remember, and I'm incredibly proud of the growth, collaboration, and community spirit all of my students have shown.

In Maths, students tackled challenging concepts like fractions, shapes, and statistics, making great strides through the Math Pathways program. In English, our exploration of biographies, figurative language, and visual literacy was both engaging and fun. Our students especially enjoyed distinguishing truth from fake news in humorous mock biographies of fellow staff, sharpening critical thinking skills. Their ability to distinguish truth from fake news has me confident they won't be fooled by stories like "Polish teacher brings snow to Fairbridge."

Our Life Skills lessons focused on resilience and gratitude, and these were often complemented by our real-world actions, such as de-littering Fairbridge and scavenger hunts. These efforts gave students a chance to actively contribute to our community while reflecting on the importance of environmental care.

We broke the classroom routine a few times this term. CSI Science was a highlight as we transformed into detectives, solving the mystery of a stolen artifact from the Fairbridge Museum. Using sharp observation and reasoning skills, our clever students cracked the case with enthusiasm and teamwork. Then the sandy beaches of Rockingham and cold waters of Drakesbrook provided a welcome break from the classroom. We enjoyed the water sports and sizzling sausages under the sun. These outings were memorable moments of fun, bonding, and appreciation for our local environment.

We were delighted to welcome two new students to our class this term. They settled in wonderfully, bringing fresh energy and proving to be a perfect match for our group.

Our Woodwork students also deserve a special mention for their outstanding creations this term. From crafting stylish garden furniture for the school to building a beautiful bookshelf for our classroom, their hard work and creativity have left a lasting legacy.

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## Magda's Managerie (cont'd)

As the school year draws to a close, I must say goodbye to some of our oldest students as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. Though I didn't have the honour of teaching you directly, it has been a privilege to call you my students. From the smiles you greeted me with to your kindness throughout the year, I am so grateful to have shared this time with you. Thank you! You will be deeply missed!

Finally, as I experience my first Christmas in such high temperatures, I have to admit, I'm utterly baffled. Seeing Christmas decorations sparkling in the blazing sun while I'm sweating feels like a festive fever dream. Koala hanging off a candy cane in a shop window? Kangaroo in a Santa Claus hat? It's truly a mind-boggling experience to celebrate the "most wonderful time of the year" while applying sunscreen! That said, I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—whether you're building snowmen or lounging at the beach, may it be joyful and bright!

### Magda





## Room 6 with Ross and Fern

This term, Room Six students have continued to develop their skills in mathematics through the Math Pathways program. This online platform provides multiple entry points and alternative learning pathways, making math more accessible and engaging for all students, particularly those who may find it challenging. The program fosters a more inclusive and student-centered approach to math education, empowering each learner to progress at their own pace.



In literacy, students have been actively engaging with various texts, drawing meaningful parallels between their own experiences and the stories and themes presented in literary works. A significant focus has been on understanding how sentence structure influences the message within a text. Students are discovering that the starting point of a sentence plays a critical role in setting the tone and shaping the direction of their writing. These skills are helping them predict how texts will unfold, enhancing their comprehension and critical thinking abilities.

Beyond the classroom, students have had opportunities to broaden their learning experiences through excursions. They visited Wellington Dam to explore its cultural significance and view the stunning mural. Another outing took them to the Dolphin Discovery Centre, where they learned about marine life and sustainability. These hands-on experiences complemented their classroom learning, fostering a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Unfortunately, the planned class trip to Darwin was replaced with an alternative excursion involving other students from the college. Not all Room Six students were able to participate, which was disappointing for some. However, those who joined the excursion made the most of the experience.

As we wrap up the term, I hope all Room Six students and their families have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break. May the holiday season bring rest, joy, and time to recharge for the year ahead!

**Ross and Fern**



## Construction and Woodwork

Well, it has been a busy term with many projects nearing completion and others still under meticulous construction. It is so amazing to see the development of student's hand skills with power tools and eye for detail, ensuring projects are finished in a professional manner.

This term students from all year groups completed an excellent set of mesh boards for the SSEN Special education program.

These mesh boards can be used underneath standard paper. When drawn on with crayon, the lines are slightly raised and textured. The raised lines allow blind students to access diagrams tactually, especially if diagrams are being drawn in class and the student doesn't have the diagram provided in the usual methods.

Our beehive production moved onto the tricky process of wiring up the frames ready for the wax foundations. Students persevered with frames clamped in a jig to aid tensioning the wire which was a test to say the least.

We created templates for students to machine some ornamental boomerangs that could be pre-cut then finished off to perfection every time.

We also began a little project inspired by the Fairy theme of the "wild-tribe" event held this year at Fairbridge. We prepared templates to create fairy house kits which are still under construction. Charli was the first to receive a kit which she has worked so hard on decorating beautifully.

Our electric guitar "luthiers" discovered the need for patience and focus to ensure the smooth progression of each step. Jacob created a sled to surface his wide guitar body flat with a router, it turned out very precise. Dante created an excellent template for his "mustang" style axe which he is continuing with. Angus has progressed with determination, sanding detailing and creating the templates to cut the voids and recesses to fix hardware and the neck.

Students who completed their Construction Industry, Induction Whitecard course did so in a very professional manner. It was a pleasure to run the course successfully over one day when behaviour was mature, and engagement was high.

Cert 2 in construction students also made great steps towards completing the full qualification, attaining many of the skills and knowledge that will stand them in good stead should they take up an apprenticeship in a chosen trade in the future.

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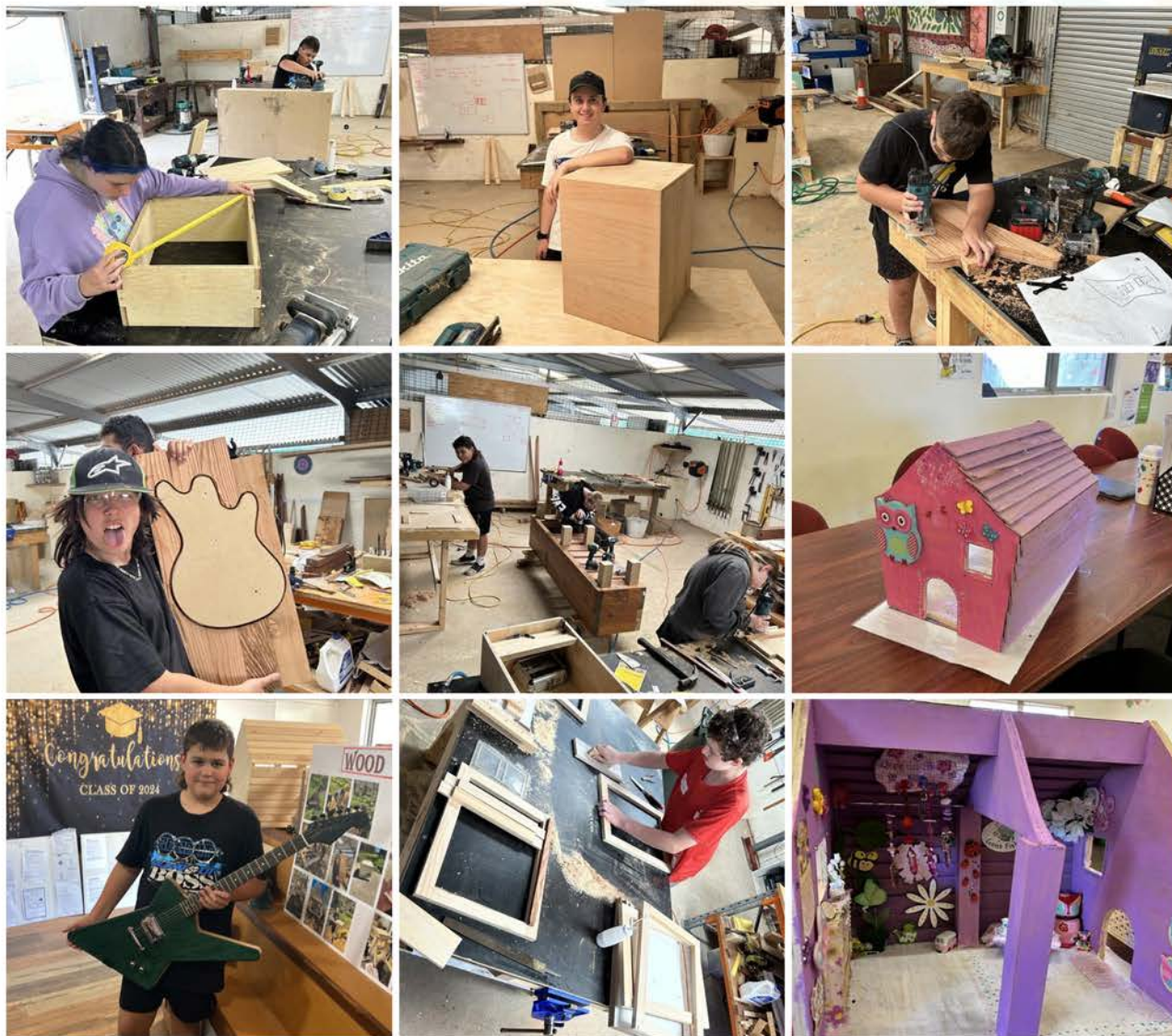


## Construction & Woodwork (cont'd)

Jai was the first to complete the Cajon project, its now ready for staining and finishing. He agreed he would wait until the bright coloured stains arriving for the guitars would be a great finish to a very nice percussion instrument, hopefully he will be able to display the finished product at presentation night.

All in all a very productive year, I have had such an awesome time watching and nurturing the enthusiastic creators develop their skills and ideas. I look forward to 2025 and all the amazing projects to come!

### Ben





## Reminiscing with Rhodes

As we close out another year I would like to thank all the students for persevering in a term of some big events and challenges. A big thank you to the staff that have supported us in Rhodes as well, may everyone have a much-needed rest and break.

Congratulations to the students who have been able to culminate their hard efforts over the year and achieve a full Certificate in their chosen courses. I also want to recognise those efforts that have been interrupted or more intermitted over time, I hope those students can take this year as a learning experience and find the motivation to commit to something of their choosing next year.

This term has seen us tackle two new firsts, that being a Senior Dinner Dance and a Senior School Camp! Both came with challenges and moments of struggle but have shown just how sticking with it, giving things a go and building a community have made for incredible experiences. They were just some of the many great moments that we have had as a group this term.

I want to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a safe New Year, make sure to spend some time with those that matter and stay safe. For those leaving us, we hope that you stay in touch and let us know of your success, of which we hope there are many. For those coming back, get some rest and get ready for a bigger and better year in which we will face new challenges.

### Shane



*Thank you, Helen, for your hard work, passion, and dedication as a teacher at Fairbridge College Pinjarra. Wishing you all the best as you move on to exciting new pastures – you will be missed!*



## Debbie & Gill's Newsletter

This term, Deb's has had an incredibly productive and exciting journey, filled with opportunities to showcase our creativity and hard work. One of the highlights was our trip to Creative Schools in Perth, where students presented their work to a wider audience. It was inspiring to see so many people impressed by and complimentary of the effort and thought that went into our masks. Additionally, we explored practical life skills during our op-shopping excursion in Mandurah, where students practiced budgeting and making thoughtful choices in a fun, real-world context.

In preparation for the end of the year, the class has been busy creating our trifold, which will proudly showcase the projects, learning, and achievements we have completed throughout 2024. These trifolds are a fantastic reflection of the dedication and creativity of PC4, and we are all excited to share them with our families during the upcoming presentation afternoon. In the classroom, we have also delved into meaningful studies, including a film analysis of *The Truman Show*, where students explored themes of ethics and manipulation, and a research project on Greek gods, which sparked curiosity and engagement with ancient mythology.

With the warmer weather arriving, we've also taken advantage of the school pool, enjoying refreshing swims that encourage physical activity and a sense of community. Term 4 has been a remarkable time for PC4, filled with hands-on experiences, creativity, and personal growth. The class should be incredibly proud of their achievements and the enthusiasm they have brought to every activity this term!

### Deb & Gill



*Thank you, Gill, for your incredible dedication and care as a teacher at Fairbridge College Pinjarra. Wishing you all the best in your well-deserved retirement – may it be filled with joy, relaxation, and wonderful adventures ahead!*



## Music 2024 (Semester 3)

We have two students that should be commended for their improvement and dedication over the last two semesters. Angus Stonham, who has only recently picked up guitar and has improved immensely, is learning new riffs, and has completed a full song that the band has rehearsed. Well done Angus and next year he will be coming in strong with some amazing skills developed over a brief period of time.



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Jai Manns on the drums, his dedication and consistency has been noted and will be coming into next year having a solid understanding of tempo and timing with a song under his belt ready for the next instalment.

Charlie Standen has taken up the position as singer in the band, this has been a huge step for Charlie, singing in front of others takes a lot of courage and she has enjoyed the growth. Overall, there has been some growth but due to time restraints the focus has been on individual playing, and we will be focusing on band performances, song writing and hopefully recording in the next school year.

In the new school year, we will have a more structured time frame and focus on improvement on both the individual instrument and playing as a band. Thanks, Ben Pearson, for the amazing support for the students with both playing music with the band and increasing their interest in instruments by building guitars in woodwork.

Looking forward to next year as there's some exciting new developments and opportunities for creative people who want to work in the creative industries at Fairbridge College in 2025.

### Dave





# Wellbeing Corner

## Hello from the Wellbeing Team!

Some exciting news this term. We have welcomed a new member to the Wellbeing Team. Theo is a social worker who has worked across Australia and Europe for 25 years! Our students have been enjoying getting to know Theo and have affectionately nicknamed him "The Viking". Stick around to hear from Theo the Viking!



**Back on the Farm:** This term we have had a lot of fun getting out in nature for wellbeing excursions. Research tells us that being in the outdoors helps with attention, brain function, and all-round wellness, so, we have been doing our best to get out and about with the students. Check out these pictures.

Gal The Wellbeing Dog has been busy at work too. This term she scored a new bed to take a well-deserved rest in the afternoons.

## A note from Theo the Social Worker

As a new member of the Wellbeing Team, I have had a pleasure of getting to know most of the students and staff alike. I can safely say that Fairbridge is an amazing place, and I am excited to continue my new journey with all of you. A few fun facts about me: love anything and everything related to the Viking age (obviously), in my spare time I ride motorcycles, do mixed martial arts, go to music festivals and collect tattoos. And yes, I am a huge Lord of the Rings nerd, too. I look forward to seeing you in 2025.

## A note from Kate the Wellbeing Officer

We have done it FRIENDS, another year! What a year it has been. I have been privileged to be a part of some of the Wellbeing excursions this term, we have had Remi the visiting pup, and a transformation in the Wellbeing space. As always lots of laughs, some tears and the thing we love the most.... Lots of personal growth. Congratulations to our students who are graduating, I look forward to seeing the students returning in 2025 and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. Signing off for the year.

Thanks for great year. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2025!

## Jayne, Kate, Theo and Bridget





# Traineeships and Apprenticeships

## 2024 Wrap-Up: VET at Fairbridge

What a year it's been for VET (Vocational Education and Training) at Fairbridge! We've had some big wins in 2024, from streamlining processes to building stronger partnerships, all with one goal in mind—helping our students succeed.



## Making Workplaces Work

We kicked off the year by rolling out a brand-new Workplace Learning Procedure. What does that mean for you? Clearer, smoother processes that make jumping into the workforce less daunting. Whether it's students, staff, or employers, everyone's on the same page now—and that means better results all around.

We also made applying for VET Delivered to Secondary Students (VET DSS) and work experience programs a whole lot easier. Less paperwork, fewer headaches, and more focus on getting into the programs that matter to you.

## Keeping Things Relevant

Let's be real—what's the point of training if it's not useful in the real world? That's why we teamed up with our RTO (Registered Training Organisation) to refresh our VET programs for next year. The result? Courses packed with the in-demand skills employers are looking for.

## Trainee and Apprentice

We know that balancing study, work, and life can be tricky. That's why we introduced the Trainee and Apprentice Wellbeing Procedure this year. It's all about making sure you're supported—whether it's with mental health or just navigating the ups and downs of training.

On top of that, our new Monitoring Procedure helps keep everything on track with your training plans, so if any bumps in the road pop up, we can tackle them together.

## Your Voice, Your Future

This year, we have started to put the power in your hands with our Student Voice initiative. You've had the chance to share ideas and shape the way VET programs are designed and delivered. It's been amazing to see students step up and help create courses that truly reflect what they want and need for their futures.

## Teaming Up for Success

Partnerships have been a massive highlight this year. We've worked closely with ALCOA through the Alcoa Sustainable Employment and Life Outcomes Initiative 2024 to strengthen our connection. From careers site tours to morning teas celebrating our awesome trainees and apprentices, it's been a great collaboration that benefits everyone and our heartfelt thanks go to our friends at ALCOA.

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## Traineeships and Apprenticeships (cont'd)

We also had Jobs and Skills WA swing by for one-on-one career sessions. These were a game-changer for students, offering tips on everything from resumes to job applications.

Bendigo bank came in to discuss all things financial and provided extremely valuable information for our students who are looking to open bank accounts and become finance savvy.

### What's Next?

2024 has been one for the books, but we're not slowing down! With updated programs and better support systems, we're setting you up for even bigger and better opportunities in 2025.

Thanks to all our students, staff, and partners for making this year such a success. Here's to smashing goals and chasing dreams in the year ahead!

Dan





## Our Learning Coordinator: Linda Noonan

Hi, my name is Linda Noonan and I am the Online Learning Coordinator for Fairbridge College in Pinjarra. I have taught at schools, TAFE and Edith Cowan University and look forward to bringing this knowledge to my new role.

I am passionate about creating a safe online classroom where students can learn, connect and support each other. Next year the focus will be on students exploring their interests and possible career directions. Linked to this will be inquiry-based projects to assist students to research what knowledge and skills are connected to their focus areas. Embedded in this learning will be support and encouragement to further develop literacy and numeracy skills. I am looking forward to engaging with our online students in 2025.



## Welcome Back, Linda!

Hi everyone,

It's great to be back at Fairbridge! My name is Linda, and I'm excited to be your new Hospitality Trainer. Some of you may remember me from a few years ago.

I did some traveling in my time off and went to Ireland to visit family. It was an amazing experience, but I'm thrilled to be back and part of the Fairbridge community once again.

Starting in February, I'll be joining you in the kitchen for some fun and practical cooking classes. We'll be learning new skills, trying new recipes, and most importantly, having a great time! I'm passionate about food and I can't wait to share my love of cooking with all of you.

I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you.

**Linda O'Connor**





# Attendance Stars

**90% and over:**

Cody Smith  
Charli Standen  
Allanah Godfrey  
Jacob McIntyre  
Connor Platt  
Rocco Carnuccio  
Jarvis Hooper





# Graduation Day 2024



- *Charli Standen receiving the Principal's Award.*
- *Congratulations to all those students who received awards and certificates at our Exhibition and Graduation Day. For those moving on to new adventures we wish you well for the rest of you we'll see you in 2025!*



# Important News

## 2025 Term Dates

Wednesday, 29 January Thursday, 30 January Friday, 31 January Monday, 3 February	<b>Staff Development Day</b>
Tuesday, 4 February	<b>New students only start date</b>
Wednesday, 5 February	<b>Returning students start date</b>
<b>TERM 1</b> Start: Wednesday, 5 February Finish: Friday, 11 April	<b>TERM 2</b> Start: Tuesday, 29 April Finish: Friday, 4 July
<b>TERM 3</b> Start: Tuesday, 29 July Finish: Friday, 26 September	<b>TERM 4</b> Start: Tuesday, 14 October Finish: Wednesday, 10 December





FAIRBRIDGE

We wish you a

*Merry Christmas*

& HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE *Village*  
AT FAIRBRIDGE

FAIRBRIDGE  
COLLEGE

FAIRBRIDGE  
EDUCATION

CAMP  
FAIRBRIDGE



SHINE

experience  
become *grow*

FLOURISH

LEARN *be*