



From the Acting Co-ordinator

After 15 years of providing a second chance for disadvantaged youth on the Central Coast, The Haven Education Centre will be closing its doors. In our last term of operation staff have been busy providing positive learning experiences to our students designed to help them on their journey back to mainstream. Some of those activities you will see highlighted in this newsletter such as the indigenous workshops, orienteering day and our Haven Day Out. Our staff as always have done an exceptional job adapting to the changing demands of the students. Wendy has done an amazing job organising the re-integration of all of our 8 students which is not an easy task! At this stage 5 of our 8 students have successfully started reintegration with their mainstream school and are doing well. Paul has been busy providing motivation and inspiration to our students preparing their hearts and minds for the task ahead. Annie has maintained the heart of the school by continuing to shop and provide cooking lessons for our students. Dawn has done an amazing job trying to organise all of the items and paperwork that have been acquired over the years. I would also like to wish Wendy, Annie, Shannon and Paul the very best of luck in their future endeavours outside the Haven. The knowledge and experience you have gained here will make you an asset to any organisation or business! I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Dawn the very best in a well earned retirement as she will be retiring at the end of this term.

I would like to take this opportunity, on Koke's behalf, to thank the numerous sponsors who have supported us over the years. Your help has not only helped to keep our doors open but it has helped provide those extra experiences that engage the kids. Whether it be the camping gear, snorkelling equipment, garden tools, a new kitchen with appliances, the numerous excursions and extra curricular opportunities or the food that was supplied to our students and families in need. It has been a lot more than a school to so many! Chris has been busy over the last term trying to organise these assets to continue helping young disadvantaged youth in our community. On the 29th of June The Haven will be donating the Kayaks, camping gear, musical equipment and cameras to Nutrition Plus who are linked to an indigenous non-for profit organisation Wakagetti who help young people in need. I am sure that the equipment sponsors have donated will go on to provide young people with positive experiences well into the future. I would like to make a special mention to Our Lady Star of the Sea who have supported us over the 15 years by providing us with the building rent free. Without your support we would not be able to have stayed open for so long.

I would also like to thank the staff who have worked here over the last 15 years. When you work at a school like this you give a lot more than your time. Each of the staff that have worked here have given a lot of blood sweat and tears in caring for and educating over 330 disadvantaged youth! Each one of those students leave our doors feeling supported by their community and over 85% of those students will go on to be valuable members of the community entering either full time work or finishing their schooling.

On the 6th of July Breakers Country Club will open its doors to past students and teachers who taught them to exchange stories and celebrate the 15 years where The Haven Education Centre has made a difference. I would like to thank Breakers Country Club for catering for the event.

I hope you have enjoyed reading these newsletters as much as I have enjoyed putting them together. Your generosity in supporting the Haven has made a difference to a lot of individuals. From them I say 'Thank you!'.

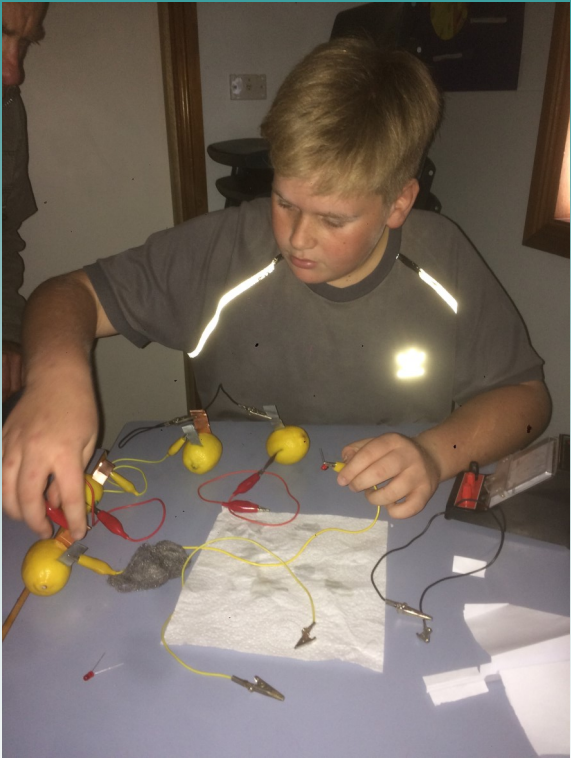
Singing off...

Michael Gentle

Acting Co-ordinator

The following is an excerpt from one of our students

'In conclusion, the haven has been a life changing adventure. The haven gave me an opportunity to change the way I think. I would not ever think to change anything that has happened at the haven because all my mistakes have made me the person I am to this day and I am very grateful for everything this place has done for me.'



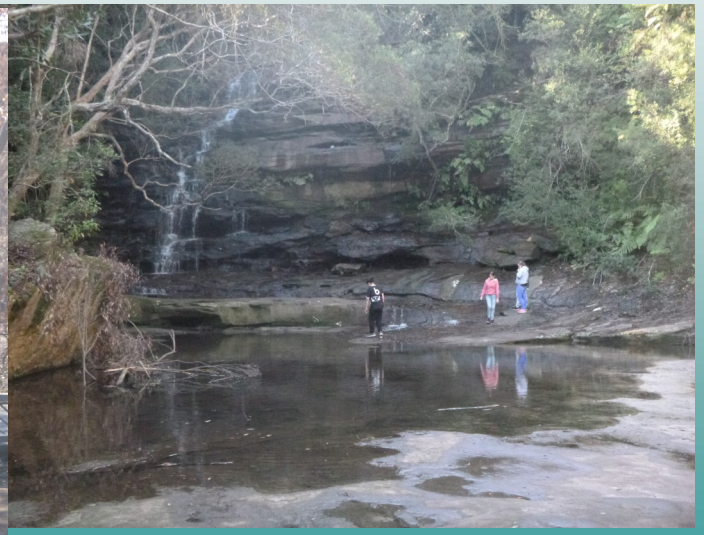


Indigenous PBL

This term we have been doing a hands on Indigenous project, it has been a lot of fun. Thanks so much to Mark Bondfield from St Edwards. He did an awesome job making boomerangs that returned to the thrower; unfortunately, we have not been able to achieve this yet. The students have had a great time throwing them and decorating them. Xavier has done a wonderful job of launching it into the tree's every time.

During this term we have been really lucky to have Uncle Jess, who assisted with an art project with our Indigenous students. Then he took us all to Bulgandry Art site, in the Brisbane Water National Park, near Kariong. Before visiting this sacred Indigenous site Jess did a smoking ceremony, fully engaging our students in the stories and information about the land and the engravings.

We then carried on to Somersby Falls where we had lunch and the students were shown sites where ancient aboriginals sharpened their tools.



GYM

As a learning school community at the Haven we understand the importance of a balance of 'passive' slower activity time and more active physical engagement time.

During 2018 each week started with some form of Gym and exercise challenges. I have to say encouragingly that the students really stepped up to the plate here. They have been very enthusiastic and have participated full of vigour in the gym and bodyweight circuits. More recently this has taken the form of rotation exercise stations utilizing a variety of new equipment introduced this year.

A range of exercise challenges has engaged and tested the fitness levels of everyone. This was evidenced with a greater understanding of the role and function of the heart and lungs during exercise. Consequently, the ability to 'feel' heart and breathing rates before and after physical exertion, now has more meaning. This has led to a greater and better knowledge of the benefits of a fitter and healthy body and how faster recovery rates following physical exertion, is a measure of overall improved general fitness.

Some of the movement challenges were performed with Medicine Balls, Steel Tube Rods, Kettle Bells, Battle Ropes, Tyres, TRX suspension straps, and naturally a variety of Bodyweight resistance.

Whilst the circuits have gained momentum over the year, it would be fair to say that a few students have enjoyed the 'competitive edge' that some exercises invite. Hence some pretty tidy and impressive 'bench marks' on specific challenges have been set. The battle grounds were fought hard and some events have been etched now into haven history. Namely....

Battle Rope Reach... Turbo Tyre Pull... Medicine Ball Wall Toss... Medicine Ball Dunk



Orienteering

This term, as part of their preparation for mainstream, students participated in an orienteering day ran by Luke Wilmott, Master in Orienteering. Students had to work together to find markers in the bush following a map. Students passionately searched for the markers and worked together to be one step ahead of the other teams. When students returned they participated in several team building exercises. In one of the exercises students had to guide their partner through a mind field of obstacles. Students had to trust their partner and follow their directions. Students did this successfully and showed that they are getting more and more prepared for reintegration. Thanks to Luke for volunteering his time on the day.



Chicken Coop Mural

The chicken Coop has been a creative addition to the Haven over 2017-18.

A wonderful learning environment for the students and a terrific 'go to' when students need to seek some respite and calm. It has been an attractive incentive and resource for Project Based learning and achieving specific outcomes of the science Key Learning Area.

During this time we felt it was suitable to design a mural that was significant to the students and the Haven community.

In amongst a caring and safe environment, positive outlook and happiness are integral aspirations of the Haven. So as it should be, the theme for the mural is centred around FUN with iconic Loonie Tune Cartoon characters displayed in a natural landscape environment.

I believe the theme that 'fun brings on happiness' would resonate with parents, grandparents and carers alike.

So with that in mind, the mural centres around a pond on a farmland setting, with that famous rooster Foghorn Leghorn pivotal, ably supported by a few of his cartoon colleagues.

The sketch for the mural was born knowing that the chicken Coop had provided much joy, fun, learning and some welcomed respite and composed time for students on important occasions.

The Chicken Coop and Mural has been another fantastic Haven initiative that focusses on the student at the heart of development and progress and reinforces the Haven community as a most welcoming learning environment.

From the students...

COOKING ON THE FIRE

On the 14/6/18

We went down to the fire place near the garden and we got taught how to cook damper on a stick. We cooked sausages on the smoking hot coals. When the damper was finished we put the sausages into the damper.

The teachers did a good job at teaching us how to cook on the fire for the first time. Personally I had a great day it gave me experience and it tasted really good. It was the best day I have had in a long time.

I like how it was past students who built the fire place that we enjoy today.

From Billy



BULGANDRY

On Tuesday 7th of June we went to the Bulgandry Aboriginal Site. Everyone was very excited to learn about what the aboriginals did in their time. When we arrived at the site we all had some food before we took off into the bush. We even got to eat a plant from the bush. Even though it didn't taste very nice it was fun to try something new.

Then we started walking through the bush. It was an interesting experience. I loved being out in the nature. When we got to this open place we all collected sticks and Jeremy had got a bunch of green leaves before. We put all the sticks together and lit it. We were talking and Jeremy even sung an indigenous song. After that he put the green leaves on the fire and smoke filled the air. We then closed our eyes for a few minutes. Jeremy was saying how the smoke would cleanse us and that all the bad things that had happened the ancestors would take them away.

After that we went to like a bridge area and there were carvings in the rocks it was amazing to see what the aboriginals could do with just a rock and a stick. He told us about what each of them were and what they meant. It was funny to see what the national park had tried to explain what it was and that they were completely off. After that we walked back to the bus. The best thing about the walk was learning about aboriginal's culture and what they did in their spare time. It was a fun experience and I would definitely go again. Olivia



I liked bowling at the Gosford bowling club because it is a fun thing. I like competing to get the highest score and getting strikes and spares are satisfying. Charlie was learning how the ball spun but mostly failed. He did get strikes with it. I can get strikes but it's rare mostly 7 8 9 pins. I can get spares more often than strikes. Mick was getting double strikes and turkeys. **Chris**



Gratitude...

The Haven

There are many things that I am grateful for at The Haven. I am grateful for the fitness that Brigga gives us. It is challenging and the haven has good supportive system to all of the students

We have cooking which help us fend for ourselves. It teaches us new things to cook which gives us experience. At the Haven there are good students we all get along, sometimes we fight but deep inside we are still friends.

The haven staff give us challenging work and they also give us choices. The haven has a good environment; it is a safe place. We all have people to go to at the haven. All the staff are kind and supportive.

I would have liked it to stay open so they could help other kids.

Overall, the school is great! It helped me in many different ways. The Haven helps me when I have ups and down.

I think that everyone would agree with me we will all miss the Haven we will miss all the teachers.

We will always be part of the haven clan no matter what happens

From; Billy

The Haven Education Centre

The Haven Education Centre addresses the complex set of individual problems presented by students which result in them being unable to cope with mainstream education. In my opinion it is a remarkable school for myself and many other students past and present

Firstly, staff members of the haven are outstanding and their highly trained and the support they can give you is astonishing they helped me so much to overcome my behavioural issues due to resorting to violence. Now I NEVER use violence unless in a self defence situation and they have helped so many others similar to me. I thank the staff for all their help even though I know sometimes us students are stubborn and I give so much gratitude for that.

Secondly, the environment of the haven has a very homey feel as the haven is located in a house and it's much more relaxed and laid back than mainstream schools. In mainstream schools there is a lot of pressure with uniforms, which are quite expensive, and homework (excluding assignments) which I believe shouldn't be given out. The haven also has a sensory room which is very helpful if students are feeling agitated or upset etc, there is also a gym which students get to relieve anger or just want to be strong or get into shape

In Conclusion, I think The Haven is an extraordinary school with wonderful outlets and support systems that's incredible. I'll forever be so thankful to the haven and It will last in my memory day and night as I grow as a person in the future

Haven Happenings

At the haven I'm grateful for the teachers for the support and the help they have given me to help me develop friendships.

Firstly, I am grateful for the teachers that have helped me throughout my time here. They have helped me make good decisions in my life. They have also helped me develop kindness to my peers. They have also taught me to respect myself and others. Even though I was a handful at the start, they have helped me change so much they have taught me to control my actions. I am also grateful for all the support the teachers have given me. They have helped me through many things in life and have given me the opportunity to change my ways in life. Without the support they have given me I probably wouldn't be who I am today and I am very grateful for that. As a result, the haven staff have not been the only people who have helped me but also my peers. They have helped me by showing me the support I needed in life.

Most of all, the haven has helped me develop friends. At my primary school it was hard to make friends and if I got friends it was hard to keep them. However, when I came to the haven it was a lot harder, people were different in many ways. I had also changed and become a bit more aggressive in my choice of words but, the teachers helped me make friends and taught me how to keep them. As a result, I have developed many friendships along the way of my time at the haven.

In conclusion, the haven has been a life changing adventure. The haven gave me an opportunity to change the way I think. I would not ever think to change anything that has happened at the haven because all my mistakes have made me the person I am to this day and I am very grateful for everything this place has done for me.

What am I grateful for

I am grateful for the education.

I am grateful for the opportunity to meet amazing teachers like the ones that I am working with at the haven and *to wake up and feel proud in my education.*

I am grateful for being able to go back to Mackillop. I came to the haven education centre in term 2 2017. In that time, I have learnt to calm my anger down and take myself out of a situation or an argument that puts me in a bad mindset.



Haven Day Out

