

Welcome to our Independent School Family!

Welcome back to our returning students and a special welcome to those people who are starting with us this year. We are in partnership with you to make sure that 2016 is a great year of learning, striving to reach your personal and educational goals. We also welcome with open arms the families and carers of our students and our supporters from the wider community. We hope that you will be keen to be involved with our programs this year. Our biggest resource is our local community and we look forward to suggestions you may have to enhance the learning outcomes, and work pathways, for our students.

We have some highly experienced teachers joining the team this year and I hope everyone will be able to come to our **BBQ lunch**. More information about each staff member is provided in their staff profile in this newsletter. We have a great new website that can be accessed via www.awcc.edu.au. Our Annual School Reports and important dates and events are posted on this site as well as copies of our newsletters. We've also set up a closed Facebook page to better communicate with students and parents/guardians so it's really important that you request to join this page so you don't miss out on instant communications. We will also be using email communication as well as snail mail for important documents. It's very important that we know everyone's enrolment and contact details so if you haven't sent in your forms to either **Fiona Roden directly or via Reception: reception@awcc.edu.au please do so ASAP**. The best way to contact **Fiona** is via email fiona@awcc.edu.au or contact **Reception** in the first instance on **02 6043 8200** and they will direct your call.

Student retention and attendance levels are one of our big areas of focus for improvement in 2016. We will be using an electronic roll marking and reporting system to ensure a higher level of student accountability for attendance and participation. By coming to our alternative School your attendance hours are much less than at a mainstream school but in order to stay enrolled with us you must attend as per the timetable. Unexplained absences must be reported by us to government departments, including Centrelink.

While I have managerial oversight of the Independent Schools, the day-to-day operational responsibility of the Schools lies with the Lead Teacher. If students, parents and guardians have any questions about our programs or individual progress that they feel need to be escalated beyond the class teacher then please contact David Pickett in the first instance. We are very fortunate to have a wonderfully supportive Welfare Officer and welfare matters should be discussed in confidence with Fiona Roden.

MONDAY THE 8TH OF FEBRUARY IS THE FIRST DAY BACK AT SCHOOL.
PLEASE BE READY FOR A 9AM START.

I wish everyone a wonderful and productive 2016.

Stephanie King, Executive Officer

Welcome Lunch Invitation



Parents/carers and community supporters of the Independent Schools are warmly invited to attend our catered **'2016' 'Welcome Lunch'** to meet staff and students.

Albury School - Mon 22 February
12:30-1:15pm

Wodonga School - Wed 24 February
12.30 – 1.15pm

Contacting Staff and Students

As teachers are most often found in the classroom teaching they cannot often come to the phone. Our teachers and support staff work across both campuses so leaving messages on a phone is not the most reliable way of contacting them.

The best way to contact a teacher is to send an email which they can access nearly all the time. You could send them a message asking them to call you or if you wish to leave a phone message for a teacher please contact **Reception on 02 6043 8200**. Someone will always be on Reception to answer the phone. They can either pass on the message via email or track someone down if the matter is urgent.

Please do not attempt to call a student on their mobile phone during class time. It's fine to call during the breaks. If you need to urgently contact a student in an emergency, please call: **Reception on 02 6043 8200 or email: reception@awcc.edu.au** and they will quickly get a message through.

Absences from School

Recording daily student attendance and any partial absences is a mandatory requirement of all schools. If you are sick or unable to attend school you must phone or email Reception on reception@awcc.edu.au or 02 6043 8200 to report your absence before 9am that day. Absences must be explained by a medical certificate or note signed by a parent/ guardian. Unexplained absences will be followed up by the Welfare Officer and Lead Teacher. Extended unexplained absences will be reported to the relevant government authorities including Centrelink. Absences from School can result in suspension of Centrelink payments.

Facebook Communication

AWCC Independent Schools Group

Students, parents and guardians, to join the Facebook closed group, you need to search for **AWCC Independent Schools Group in Facebook** and **click on Join Group** at the **bottom of the page**. An administration officer will then accept you to be part of the group.



AWCC Independent Schools - Community

To join this public Facebook Page you need to search for **AWCC Independent Schools - Community in Facebook** and **click on Like the page**.



Individual Learning Plans - (ILPS)

An Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is a document co-created with the school's Welfare Officer, Lead Teacher, student and parent/guardian.

The ILP outlines curriculum learning areas to be adjusted. **Assessment** and **reporting** of these individual goals is against the achievement standard, of the curriculum identified in the ILP. Developmental, social, behavioural and attendance can also be implemented as goals, in the ILP.

Academic testing, past schooling history and planned conversations will be the process followed when establishing the document. The goals will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis, with adjustments made when needed.

2016 Student Handbook

Important information and school processes and procedures are outlined in this document and you should refer to it for further information. The School also has a number of policies that are regularly reviewed that will be posted on our Website and can be requested from the Lead Teacher.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not permitted in the classroom. They are too distracting and interrupt the class and everyone's learning. From 2016 there will be an Independent School wide policy where students will surrender their phone to the teacher at the start of the class and get it back when the class is over. It's much more adult to hand your phone in. You are welcome to use your phones during your breaks.

WIFI Access

Everyone will be very pleased to know that we have upgraded our WIFI access for students. Students will be able to log onto their own device to access the internet when they are on school premises. Passwords will be provided at the start of the year.

No Smoking Environment

Both campuses of the Albury Wodonga Community College are now total smoke free zones. Due to changes in smoking laws, smoking is no longer allowed on both school premises.

Staff Profiles

Rodney Wangman, Principal



Rod is the CEO of the Albury Wodonga Community College and the Principal of both our Independent Schools. Rod has been at AWCC for 15 years. He is a former Mayor of Wodonga and a current Local Government Councillor. Rod has a Masters of Educational Studies, Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies, Bachelor of Science – Business Management/Computing. Rod is busy working across the organisation and you might only see him on special occasions but he is very interested in the Independent School programs and progress of students and he receives regular reports about the Schools.

Stephanie King, Executive Officer



Stephanie is the Executive Officer of Albury Wodonga Community College and has oversight of the Management of a number of AWCC departments including the Independent Schools. Stephanie joined AWCC in September 2015 after relocating to Wodonga from Sydney. Previously Stephanie was the General Manager and Principal of Brent Street Performing Arts School in Moore Park, Sydney. Prior roles in education and service sector industries include Marketing Director, National Account Manager and Director of Community Relations, English Teacher (Years 7 – 12). Stephanie's qualifications include

Grad Dip Marketing, Grad Dip Management, Grad Dip Education (Secondary), Bachelor of Arts, TAE40110 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. Stephanie can be contacted via email: stephanieking@awcc.edu.au or on 02 6043 8200.

David Pickett, Lead Teacher



David is the newly appointed Lead Teacher of the Independent Schools. Graduating with a Bachelor of Business and a Graduate Diploma of Education, I am qualified and registered to teach P-12, with the capacity to deliver across all Key Learning Areas. I have been a classroom teacher for ten years and spent the majority of this time teaching at a school with 600-700 students, including students with English as a second language, refugees, Aboriginal and families from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

I have developed leadership and organisational skills as a cognitive coach, initiating and implementing new teaching strategies across the school. I have spent three years as a Science Coordinator organising resources, budgets and school based activities. I have been a member of school teams developing curriculum content across literacy, numeracy, thinking curriculums and ICT and assessment. I have conducted school based professional development sessions based on the implementation and analysis of student & staff generated data.

Anna Bownds, Teacher



Anna has worked at the Community College since 2010 as a Teacher accepting different roles enthusiastically, also taking on the responsibility as Lead Teacher.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts, double major in English and Sociology in 2005, Diploma of Education in 2006 to teach P-12. Anna has done all of her studies at La Trobe University Wodonga.

Anna was an English Teacher from 2007-2009 at Wodonga Senior College.

Graeme Bray, Teacher



While my specific subject training is Agricultural Science, I have also taught General Science, Science, Mathematics, Woodwork, Design & Technology and Physical Education.

During my career I have taught students with a wide range of abilities and have at all times endeavored to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to learn and strive to reach their potential. I apply a variety of teaching methods and strategies to achieve positive learning outcomes.

My teaching style is always flexible allowing me to meet the needs and requirements of both the students and subject. I have a good sense of humour and I trust that my energy, enthusiasm and professional experience will bring another dimension to students at Albury Wodonga Community College. I am looking forward to meeting everyone in Term 1!

John Kirby, Teacher



Graduated 1980 from Adelaide CAE, double major in Geography and Physical Education. 1980 to 1985 employed as a PE Teacher in New Zealand.

1986 to 1993 employed at The Scots School, Bathurst. Teaching Geography, PE, Commerce and a Boarding Supervisor. 1994 to 1996 employed at St Edmund's College, Canberra. Teaching Geography and PE.

1997 to 2014 employed at The Scots School, Albury. Initial appointment was as Head of Geography.

Married to Vicki, a Chartered Accountant, with two children Alice, 25 & Michael, 21.

I am looking forward to my time at AWCC and an exciting 2016.

**Andrea Taylor,
VCAL Teacher (Wodonga)**



My name is Andrea Taylor and I have been teaching VCAL at the Wodonga School for the past six years. Prior to this, I was an Integration Aide at Catholic College Wodonga. I have also been a Coordinator of the Out of School Hours Care at Wodonga West Primary School and St Augustine's Wodonga. I thoroughly enjoy teaching at the AWCC, and get a great deal of satisfaction in helping students achieve their goals of completing Years 11 and 12.

**Margaret Crisp,
Education Support Officer**



Marg Crisp has extensive experience in the education field over 45 years. She has been a teacher, business manager, teacher educator, trainer and a CEO of a small not for profit organisation. She brings a breadth of experience to her current role as Education Support Officer.

**Kylie Steltschenko,
Enrolments Officer**



I have been a part of the Albury Wodonga Community College for the past 7 years working in Reception/ Administration and General Programs Coordinator. Over the previous twelve months I have taken on an additional role of Enrolments Officer. I am enjoying organising the enrolments, meeting and helping people with the diverse range of courses that are available.

Fiona Roden, Welfare Officer



Hi, my name is Fiona. I am the Student Welfare Officer and Pathways Co-ordinator at the Community College. I have worked in the Community Services field for about 25 years, having worked as a Manager and Case Manager in the early childhood, aged care, youth, homelessness, and domestic violence sectors over the years. My role at the Community College is spread across both the Wodonga and Albury campuses in which I provide students with a non-judgemental, supportive, and safe counselling environment. The other role I undertake is enrolments for new students. I am going into my fourth year with the Community College and thoroughly enjoy my role and my work with the students especially when I witness subtle, yet continued growth, in their self-worth, self-esteem, and self-belief.

Gayle Mundy, Teacher



I have lived in North East Victoria for 34 years and taught at Rutherglen High School for 28 years. During that time I taught in the Science, Maths and Humanities learning areas as well as VCE Biology and Environmental Science. I have held a number of positions of responsibility including Well-Being Coordinator. I was Year 7 Coordinator for the last 6 years of my time at Rutherglen and have always enjoyed helping young students during this transition stage. I also taught at Wangaratta for a brief time and at the Corowa Tafe. I retired from Rutherglen High twelve months ago. My husband and I moved to Wodonga and I have been renovating our home. I have two sons, one is a boiler maker and the other is a diesel mechanic. I am really looking forward to meeting the staff and students at the Community College.

AWCC School Website

You are welcome to visit our **AWCC School Website** and have a browse to find out information that you need to know about the **AWCC School**.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Albury Wodonga Community College website. The header features the college's name and logo, with the tagline 'An Independent School'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links to HOME, ABOUT US, ENROLMENTS, COURSES, NEWS & EVENTS, and CONTACT US. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a large image of four students (three girls and one boy) looking at a laptop, with a 'WELCOME' heading and a brief description of the college as a registered and accredited non-government school. The right column contains three buttons: 'Apply Now', 'Contact Us', and 'Events'. Below the main content area, there are three sections: 'The Albury Wodonga Community College teachers are committed to changing the lives of young people.', 'CONTACT US' (with address, phone number, and email), and 'SCHOOL NEWS' (with a 'New in 2016!' announcement). At the bottom, there is a 'FOLLOW US' section with a Facebook icon and a row of icons representing various programs: Short Courses, Vocational Training, Registered School, Youth School, Children's Centre, and Creative Learning & Arts.